

## Is hazardous waste coming to a highway or rail line near you?

### *Nuclear waste storage facility at Yucca Mountain approved*

The Senate has pushed forward a dangerous measure that would put nuclear waste on trucks and trains destined for storage at Nevada's Yucca Mountain, despite the concerns of scientists and public health officials. The Sierra Club expressed disappointment in Senators who failed to protect Americans from nuclear waste.

"Yucca Mountain isn't a safe place to store radioactive waste," said Sierra Club's Executive Director Carl Pope. "When it recommended Yucca, the Bush Administration ignored more than 250 significant unresolved technical issues with the Yucca Mountain site, including how quickly the waste containers will leak radioactive waste into the aquifer beneath Yucca and the likelihood of seismic activity.

"The Senate has made a grave mistake today, and we hope the courts will halt this unsafe scheme. The Yucca plan puts the wishes of the nuclear industry ahead of Americans' health and safety," Pope continued.

"Americans don't want convoys of nuclear waste on their roads and rails.

"These shipments will thunder right next to our homes, schools, and playgrounds. While the Senate made a terrible decision by approving the Yucca proposal, we are grateful to Senator Harry Reid and the Nevada delegation for standing up to the nuclear industry to protect our communities."

The Yucca plan, backed by the Bush Administration and the nuclear industry, calls for thousands of tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste to be transported across the country on trucks, trains, and barges over the next



38 years. These deadly shipments would pass within half a mile of 50 million Americans. It would then be dumped at Yucca Mountain, just ninety miles from Las Vegas, America's fastest growing city.

Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn vetoed the proposal in April. The House caved to the powerful nuclear industry in May, sending the proposal to the Senate. The state of Nevada and a number of groups have filed lawsuits to protect Nevadans from health

threats of Yucca Mountain.

"Decisions on what to do with the most dangerous substance we have created must be grounded in science, not expedience, and the science shows Yucca is unsafe," continued Pope. "We hope the courts will carefully examine the science behind Yucca Mountain to protect public health. Let's not start moving nuclear waste around until we know we can transport it safely, it's going to the right place and will be safely stored."

### **This month's program**

The August program features Bob Liles, who will take us to Figi via a slide presentation. For the time and place of the Fort Worth Group's monthly meeting, see Page 4. **Next Month** : In September, Lone Star Chapter's Erin Rogers will talk about nuclear waste problems and wind power potential for Fort Worth.

# Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth, TX 76101  
817/588-1167

All the following numbers are Area Code 817 unless otherwise noted

### Executive Committee

Chair	Tolbert Greenwood	346-3140
Vice-chair	Jenny Lehman	263-1357
Treasurer	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Secretary	Russell Andrew	561-7628
	Claudia Blalock	924-6242
	James Moody	295-1623
	Dan Smith	410-2955

### Campaign Coordinators

Conservation	Don Callaway	214-674-5636
Clean Air	Earl Burnam	244-2328
Clean Water	Bob Scott	282-1372

### Outings Contacts

Chair	Claudia Blalock	924-6242
Canoeing	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Bicycle	Don Bowles	571-9778
Backpacking	Claudia Blalock	924-6242

### Administrative Contacts

Membership	Marsha Malinsky	292-3998
Assistant	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Programs	Dan Smith	410-2955

### Newsletter Staff

Editor	James Moody	295-1623
Ad director	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Circulation dir.	Steve Turner	457-7131



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

### Web Pages

Fort Worth Group	<a href="http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html">http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html</a>
National, Lone Star	<a href="http://www.sierraclub.org">www.sierraclub.org</a>
Lone Star Chapter	<a href="http://www.texas.sierraclub.org">www.texas.sierraclub.org</a>
The Planet	<a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/planet">www.sierraclub.org/planet</a>
Political page	<a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/politics">www.sierraclub.org/politics</a>

### Action Alert

To subscribe, send message to: [majordomo@igc.apc.org](mailto:majordomo@igc.apc.org) with the following command in the body of your e-mail message: subscribe sc-action

# A Sawtooth Wilderness outing

By WENDY LAMBERT

The Sawtooth Wilderness consists of 217,088 acres of the 754,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area 90 miles northeast of Boise, Idaho. The Sawtooth Mountains have about 40 10,000-foot peaks, topped by Thompson Peak at 10,776 feet. Portions of the wilderness lie within Sawtooth, Challis, and Boise National Forests.

Within this area lie the headwaters of the North Fork and Middle Fork of the Boise River, the South Fork of the Payette River, and portions of the Salmon River, and an astonishing 300 lakes.

About 85 percent of the water comes from snowmelt. Many visitors come for trout fishing, mountain climbing, hunting, and outstanding camping. In winter, Nordic skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling are popular. I went for the hiking. Forty-two wilderness trails cover about 270 miles. I only got to hike about 17 of those miles and they were beautiful.

The forest is dominated by pine, spruce, and fir. It provides homes for elk and deer, black bears, and mountain goats, and many species of smaller fur-bearing animals. I saw lots of chipmunks, squirrels and a couple of deer. Wildflowers were in bloom and I was surprised to see Indian Paintbrush.

July 4 is early for the hiking season in the Sawtooth. One trail had snow

patches but otherwise the trails were dry. The weather was 38 at night and 78 during the day. As usual, I chose to hike early in the morning and get off the trail by 1:00 when it gets warm. On Friday I hiked the most popular trail from Iron Creek to Sawtooth Lake, 11 miles round trip with a 1,750 foot elevation gain up to two breathtaking subalpine lakes. It was deserted at 6 a.m., but there were a lot of people hiking in as I was coming out. Almost all of the hikers had dogs. This surprised me because they don't allow dogs in some wilderness areas. The Sawtooth just passed a lease law to take effect in July. Most of the dogs were unleashed, but well behaved.

I drove around sightseeing in the afternoon and the next day I hiked to Farley Lake. This trail was difficult to get to on a rough road, but worth every bump. The trail followed a cascading stream to a waterfall, through a granite boulder field and up to beautiful views. I am acquiring the (much needed) skill of crossing creeks on logs. One wet boot attests to my not quite having mastered the technique. I took a guided rafting trip on the Salmon River that afternoon with class III rapids and didn't have to worry about staying dry. It was a great trip and I am so glad that there is wilderness protection to this area.

# A dirty deal on clean air

By JIM HIGHTOWER

"Those who play by the rules . . . are doomed to lose to those who don't."

You won't find this aphorism embroidered in needlepoint and hung on your granny's wall, but this is the cynical principle behind George W's latest assault on our nation's environmental rules.

Christie Whitman, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Bush's official environmental hit woman, has proposed a change in the Clean Air Act that would give a financial advantage to operators of dirty power plants.

Under present law, any new electric power facility has to include anti-pollution devices to prevent smog, soot, toxins, and other contaminants from poisoning the air we breathe. The law also says that if an old power facility is

expanded, its equipment is supposed to be upgraded to meet the same clean air standards.

But the operators of these old, dirty plants have been using a legalistic trick to avoid installing such clean air equipment. They claim that they are not actually "expanding" their facility, but merely increasing their power production through "routine maintenance," which is not subject to the Clean Air Act.

This is like a thief redefining robbery as a "readjustment of assets" and, therefore, not a violation of our robbery laws.

Of course, by whatever name, the thief still takes your money — just as these dirty utilities still are expanding their production of dirty power and profiting from the increased pollution our families have to breathe.

*Please see CLEAN, Page 5*

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

# Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

*Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant. In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.*

## September 5-8, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe the Illinois River in SW Oklahoma with car camping. This is flat water paddling suitable for beginners. Leave the Metroplex on Thursday evening for canoeing all day Friday and Saturday. For details, contact Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 or [marilynturnage@msn.com](mailto:marilynturnage@msn.com).

## September 21, Saturday

Beginner Backpack Training at Fort

Worth Nature Center 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Learn to set up a tent, plan a trip, select the right clothing and equipment, pack, and enjoy the outdoors in a low impact style. The Outings Committee, with a combined experience of over 60 years, teaches the class. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages provided. Cost: \$15 per person. Contact: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Preregistration and payment required in advance with minimum of 10 persons to hold class. Mail checks to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. Ft Worth Texas 76109.

## October 18-20, Friday-Sunday

Miss the Halloween trip to Caddo Lake we used to do 10 years ago? It's been revived complete with full moon. Camp at Caddo Lake State Park near Marshall on Friday night. On Saturday, we canoe about 1 mile to a nearby island to enjoy the seclusion and beauty of Texas' only natural lake. Saturday night meal will be a potluck affair complete with campfire and ghost stories. Canoe rentals available through Pine Needles Lodge (903-665-2911) and are limited so contact immediately to re-

serve your canoe. Call Texas State Park Reservations at 512-389-8900 or visit on-line at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> to reserve a campsite for Friday night. Trip is open to families and ends with a catfish lunch on Sunday. Leaders: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-346-3140 ([tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com](mailto:tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com)) and Marilyn Sumner, 817-491-2382, ([marilynturnage@msn.com](mailto:marilynturnage@msn.com)).

## Oct. 27-Nov. 2

Guadalupe Mountains Service Project. This is a national trip led by Fort Worth Group member James Moody. Work involves trail maintenance, most likely on the Permian Reef Trail, which begins just inside McKittrick Canyon and leads up to the ridge above the canyon. Work load is suitable for anyone in reasonably good shape and there's one free day for exploring and hiking. For more information check out the trip website: [www.thestargroup.com/topoftexas.html](http://www.thestargroup.com/topoftexas.html), search for trip number 02352A on the national website (<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/>), or contact Moody at (H) 817-295-1623 or (M) 817-688-3656.

# You can prove anything with statistics, especially when they're rigged at the request of Congressmen

Bowing to demands from some members of Congress, the U.S. Forest Service has rigged data on forest management projects in an attempt to promote a logging agenda. Unhappy when a nonpartisan General Accounting Office report soundly discredited their accusation that environmental groups were to blame for recent forest fires, members of Congress demanded that the Forest Service skew numbers to arrive at a predetermined conclusion.

"The Forest Service's rigged numbers are the worst kind of cynical politics, trying to confuse Americans about why wildfires are racing across drought-stricken lands. It appears that when the findings of the nonpartisan investigative arm of Congress do not support your allegations, the Forest Service simply cooks up new numbers," said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "The Forest Service is trying to skirt responsibility for failing to properly

---

**"The Forest Service is trying to skirt responsibility for failing to properly manage our national forests."—Carl Pope**

---

manage our National Forests and failing to protect people and property from catastrophic wildfires."

Last summer, the GAO released a report examining the 1,671 Forest Service projects in 2001 aimed at reducing the fire danger in National Forest areas at risk of catastrophic fires. Of these 1,671 projects, environmentalists had appealed only 20 – about 1 percent – and had taken none to court.

This directly contradicted statements by Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and others who want to blame environmentalists.

Then, in the new report, the Forest Service rigged the numbers by including only a small subset of the Forest Service projects the GAO considered – mostly timber sales that do nothing to

negate the risks of forest fires.

Many of these projects involve logging in roadless areas and endangered species habitat and are miles from at-risk communities. The Forest Service report studiously ignored prescribed burns and other measures supported by environmentalists and scientists, thus padding their percentages.

"The Forest Service report ignores the sensible projects such as small prescribed burns that scientists recommend to reduce the risks of fire," continued Pope. "The Forest Service set out to study only the big logging projects on which we disagree and, lo and behold, they found that we disagree. If the Forest Service simply acted in the best interest of our National Forests, they would not feel the need to spend time planning for lawsuits and cooking up new reports. They would instead focus their energies on protecting communities and restoring forests."

# Coming Events

## August 15, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at LaMadeleine's Restaurant, 305 Main St. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

## August 21, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. See box at right for details.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email [jmoody166@aol.com](mailto:jmoody166@aol.com).

## Sierra Club disappointed at House approval of Fast Track trade legislation

The Sierra Club expressed strong disappointment after the House of Representatives narrowly approved dangerous trade legislation. By a razor-thin margin of 215-212, and only after a rare lobbying visit to Capitol Hill by President Bush, the House passed the fast track bill to prevent Congress from fixing future trade deals, even when they threaten the environment.

"Now more than ever, Americans want Congress to hold corporations accountable, not give them more breaks," said Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. "The House's capitulation to powerful business interests could jeopardize many of the environmental protections Americans take for granted."

Fast track will allow the Bush administration to extend NAFTA across the western hemisphere. Provisions in NAFTA allow foreign corporations to sue the U.S. government whenever they feel that our environmental protections affect their profits. Already, a Canadian chemical company has used NAFTA to sue for \$1 billion, jeopardizing a vital California clean water law.

## General Meeting Wednesday, August 21

**Program:** See Page 1 for information on August and September programs.

**7:00** Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

## Sierra Singles Events

Friday, Aug. 16 at 7:15 join us for a night hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center, 9601 Fossil Ridge Rd. off Jacksboro Highway in Fort Worth. Meet inside the interpretive center. Donations to the nature center are welcome. We will begin hiking promptly at 7:30 p.m. The route will be chosen by participants at the site but will most likely be about 4 miles. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring plenty of water! Long pants suggested. Hike may be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Monday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. join us for dinner at The Cheesecake Factory, 7700 W. Northwest Highway (near

er meeting time – this is the latest reservation they will accept). Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. it's a Fort Worth Cats vs. Amarillo baseball game. The game begins at 7:05, tickets are \$9 for the best seats in the stadium, and it's "free stuff night." Meet in front of the ticket window by 6:30 and we'll purchase tickets together. Parking is \$2 and beer is \$3.50. For info and directions see [www.fwcats.com](http://www.fwcats.com). Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. join us for dinner at Bahama Breeze, located near the intersection of 114 and MacArthur in Irving (same complex as Champps and BD's Mongolian). Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Friday - Sunday, Oct. 11-13 is the tentative weekend for our next Caddo Lake outing, to be led by DeAnn McDaniel. Details TBA.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trailhead.

You may just show up at an event unless specifically told to RSVP. The general rule is that you may show up for day hikes and dinners, and you need to RSVP for weekend camping trips.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or [lehje30@hotmail.com](mailto:lehje30@hotmail.com).

## August 17, Saturday

New Member Potluck. Bring a dish to share and any meat you wish to grill. Beverages, plates, and utensils furnished. Location: home of Claudia Blacklock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. Fort Worth. Time: 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. 924-6242.

## August 27, Tuesday

Conservation Committee meeting, 7 p.m., at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Library Building, Room 306. Contact: Earl Burnam, 244-2328 or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

## September 2, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

## September 4, Wednesday

Outings Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Great Outdoors, one block west on Camp Bowie from the Camp Bowie and University Drive intersection in the Cultural District. Contact Claudia Blacklock, 817-924-6242.

# Clean air

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The issue comes down to their profits versus your health. Unlike you, however, the utilities invested megabucks in George W's grab for the White House in 2000, and they expect a big return, which Christie Whitman is now delivering. Her new proposal accepts the industry's "routine maintenance" scam, which would allow them to increase poisonous emissions from their old plants without installing clean air equipment, as new plants have to do.

To fight this dirty deal, contact the Clean Air Trust at 202-785-9625.

Radio talk-show host and author Jim Hightower is a former agricultural commissioner of Texas. His latest book, "If The Gods Had Meant Us To Vote, They Would Have Given Us Candidates" (Harper-Collins), has just been released in a fully revised and updated paperback edition.

## Visit us on-line

Fort Worth Group's web site: <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>.

## Support Your Local Sierra Club

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting the Fort Worth Group of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard.

This makes you an essential part of our work to protect the wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Thank you.

Mail your check to: Ft. Worth Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 1925, Ft. Worth, TX 76101

### Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$35)     Joint (\$43)

Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

**F94QT19002**

-1  
Entity Code

F94Q W99901

Mail to Sierra Club, P.O. BOX 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

# Mountain Sports



[www.mountainsports.com](http://www.mountainsports.com)

**Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 1925  
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

Return Service requested

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 714  
Fort Worth, TX 76101

## **Mission statement**

The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

*. . . dedicated to the conservation and appreciation of our natural world.*