

A small commitment's all we ask

You pay your dues every year! What else can you do to help your group of the Sierra Club that is fairly painless?

Make a commitment to come to at least one meeting in 2003. Just one!

The Fort Worth Group has about 1,600 members. Somewhat less than that come to each month's meetings.

"Give us a chance!" urged ExCom Member Dan Smith. "Our members come from all walks of life. We have lawyers, salespeople, engineers, construction workers – you name it. We have long hairs, short hairs, some who have lost most of their hair.

"We have folks with a good sense of humor; we have a few old crabby coots as well," he added. "Most of all, we would like to see you there, too.

"We won't bug you to volunteer for things, but we'll welcome you with open arms if you do. We just want you

to come and meet new friends., Bring some friends! Bring your kids. We don't have many kids at the meetings and that's a shame. We need to get children interested and involved.

"We'd also love to have you come

on some Sierra Club outings," he said. "Kids are welcome as well." So come on. Commit to one meeting. You might enjoy it so much that you'll come back.

Help us out. Fill out and return the brief survey on Page 5 of this issue.

Eliot Porter exhibit continues through March

Eliot Porter: The Color of Wildness, Dec. 7-March 23. The first in-depth assessment of the artistic legacy of photographer Eliot Porter (1901-1990) examines his central role in forging an acceptance of color photography and reveals how his work has come to define our view of the natural world. Drawn from the Amon Carter Museum's extensive Eliot Porter archive, the exhibition presents approximately 165 prints and related collection ephemera. Besides revealing the artist's roots and working methods, the show analyzes Porter's meticulous manipulation of color to express his emotional response to the world and his long-standing emphasis on producing evocative, multiple-print studies of diverse environments around the world. A superb 85-plate catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

The Sierra Club published several books of Eliot Porter's photography during the 1960s, in part to publicize the loss of Glen Canyon. Porter was an avid birder, traveler, and supporter of natural habitats throughout his life.

Democrats should get some backbone and play to win elections

By JAMES MODY, *Crier* Editor

The Republicans, with their active courtship of religion – fundamentalist religion in particular – set out years ago to prove that politics and religion do indeed mix.

Even though many Democrats may think of it as an unholy alliance, the GOP think tank was right. Even some mainstream religions now seem to fervently believe you have to be a Republican, and especially a right wing Republican, to have character, be trustworthy, or believe in God.

It's a marriage that's worked out well for right wing politicians and their agendas, hidden and otherwise.

Not to be outdone, the Democrats have taken a lesson from the sports playbook to prove that politics and sports also mix well. Unfortunately, the play they chose works about as well in politics as it does in sports.

We've all seen it used by football coaches who lack confidence in their

Commentary

quarterback. They play extremely conservative, trying to make sure the QB doesn't lose the game for them.

The problem is – they're so intent on him not losing the game that they fail to give him the opportunity to win the game.

For the same reason, the Senate and the House are now in the hands of Republicans. The Democrats didn't play to win. They played not to lose and they lost anyway.

In all fairness, the patriotic frenzy the Republicans worked up nationwide was a tough offense to beat. Whether we did or not, they had many people convinced we had actually accomplished something in the war on ter-

rorism.

Or that beating our chest and thumbing our nose at the rest of the world in defense of what many feel is an ill-begotten war on Iraq was in our own best interests.

But the Democrats had plenty of offensive weapons as well. They just never took the offensive.

They seemed afraid to oppose the war, even though most of them thought it was a bad idea. They halfheartedly tried to shift the nation's focus to a sinking Republican economy, but offered no real alternatives.

With Republicans in general, and Bush and Cheney in particular, wearing a heavy layer of egg on their faces over corporate misdeeds, the GOP should have been vulnerable on trust,

Please see ENVIRONMENT, Page 2



**See Page 3
for details.**

The *Sierra Club Crier* is published monthly by the

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 <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>

National, Lone Star www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

The Planet www.sierraclub.org/planet

Political page www.sierraclub.org/politics

Action Alert

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

History, adventure in one trip

On June 29, seven Sierra Club members visited the past with a trip to Grand Portage prior to experiencing the Boundary Water Canoe Area (BWCA). From 1774-1821, Grand Portage was the major gateway into the interior of North America for exploration, trade, and commerce. Known as the Kitchi Onigaming, Grand Portage connected the summer headquarters compound of the North West Company and other French and English fur trade businesses on Lake Superior to smaller posts on the Pigeon River. The river in turn linked to the pays dien haut, the up-country of northwest North America. The North West Company competed with the Hudson Bay Company in the exchange of trade goods for furs. Kitchi Onigaming also was a summer rendezvous for Indians, French voyagers, Scottish clerks, pays dien haut wintering partners and Montreal and London agents.

But this account is about the BWCA, one million acres, 1,200 canoe miles and over a thousand lakes. Our seven voyagers set out from Round Lake to canoe a circle route through 20 lakes (980 more lakes to do). We crossed two of what Robert Beymer characterizes in the Spring edition of the Boundary Waters Journal, as the top 10 portages in the BWCA. Beymer has written two guides to the BWCA.

The first was the 214-foot portage between Seahorse and French Lake. The trail drops 25 feet as it skirts close to scenic rapids and a small waterfall draining Seahorse Lake. This portage provided one of our most relaxed moments as we indulged in a natural jacuzzi under one of the smaller waterfalls, letting the water massage our weary bones (and this was only day two!)

The second top 10 portage is the 742-foot portage between Little Saganaga Lake and Mora Lake. Here, an excel-

lent path parallels a shallow stream of rushing rapids you can see at every point along the portage as you gradually descend (or climb as we did) from Mora Lake to Little Saganaga Lake.

In between these portages, we lolled in comfortable splendor for two nights on Little Saganaga at a beautiful campsite. The first morning, we followed a beaver that swam by our campsite. For a mile and a half we waited for him to exit onto shore but he never did. A side trip to Elm Lake later to look for moose was futile but beautiful. On our return, we were forced to wait out the wind and were visited by an inquisitive squirrel who tapped dozing Sierrans on the shoulder. He briefly debated jumping onto a camera totting Sierran but decided against it.

Of course, we saved the best for last – making our own portage trail across a short peninsula to avoid high winds and waves so that we could do the infamous Tuscarora portage of 366 rods. When we arrived back at the Tuscarora outfitters, we learned the truth. The 366-rod Tuscarora portage was actually 437 rods (a mere 7,210 feet). Ask about my "I survived the Tuscarora Portage" t-shirt.

Did I mention the 100-step wooden stairway to Flying Lake? Or looking over Gabimichigami Lake? Or the moose (prints) chasing the wolf (prints) on that portage trail? The Chub River portage? Battling head winds on Peter Lake? An eagle's nest on Little Saganaga? Friendly flies, (genus, flesh flies)?

Marilyn Turnage, with daughter Brynne Bryan and granddaughter Amber Carver, led the hardy troupe. Others included Karen Brashear, Max Ratheal, Kathy Trotter and Jim Walling, all of whom are probably not ready for a summer sausage and cheddar cheese sandwich just yet.

Double M Canoe

Sales and Rentals

Authorized

Old Town Canoe and Kayak Dealer

Trinity and Brazos River Trips

www.doublemcanoe.com

817-282-3135 or 817-268-0270 (metro) Madeline & Max Armstrong

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.

Sierra Singles Events

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

December 15, Sunday

Dayhike on the Trinity Trail with your canine significant other. Join Molly (Doberman) and Claudia on a leisurely stroll along the Trinity Trail beginning at the parking lot adjacent to the Trinity Trail just south of the Hoffbrau Steak House on S. University Dr. in Fort Worth. Meet at 3 p.m. in the parking lot and look for a red Doberman. Bring water, rain gear (if rain is forecast), and wear sturdy shoes. Just show up. Hike will be short (< 3 mi) due to age of dog. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

December 18, Wednesday

Christmas Party at Miller Brewing Company Brewkettle Museum and Hospitality Center, 7001 S. Freeway, Fort Worth. Party with all the club members since we do not have a formal program. Bring desserts and snacks to share. Beverages including beer will be provided at no charge. From downtown Fort Worth, head south on I-35 S. Exit at Sycamore School Exit (2 exits south of I-20). From access road, turn left to head east under the freeway. You are then on access road in front of Mrs. Baird's Bread. Just north of Mrs. Baird's is the brewkettle museum. If you drive past the brewery, you missed the museum. The parking lot is south of the brewery and specific parking for the museum is marked.

January 5, Sunday

Get the New Year off with a renewed commitment to hike! Dayhike with Molly (Doberman) and Claudia on a leisurely stroll along the Trinity Trail
December 2002

beginning at the parking lot adjacent to the Trail just south of Hoffbrau Steak House on S. University in Fort Worth. Meet at 3 p.m. in the parking lot and look for a red Doberman. Bring water, rain gear (if rain is forecast), and wear sturdy shoes. Just show up. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

January 25, Saturday

Bike ride on the Trinity Trail. Meet at 8 a.m. at Memorial Oak Park, near Benbrook. Take 1-20 West toward Weatherford and exit at Winscott and head south. Take a left on Memorial Oak near the Soap Box Derby hill. This is mapsco 87V and is just north of Lake Benbrook Dam. If you get to Lakeside,

you have gone 1/2 mile too far. We will ride about 10 miles with bird watching enroute. Leader: Tolbert Greenwood: 817-346-3140 or tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com

February 15-16, Saturday-Sunday

Couples Cabin Weekend at Beavers Bend State Park. Spend a weekend in one of the most beautiful parks in Oklahoma. Hike Sat. on the Indian Nations Trail, share a potluck dinner that night, and hike Sun. morning. Hikes are about 5 miles over hilly terrain. If you and a significant other are interested in spending Valentine's weekend in this beautiful area, come join the fun. Leader: Wendy Lambert 817-251-0016.



NO BOUNDARIES!: Marilyn Turnage, Amber Carver, Brynne Bryan, Karen Brashear, Max Ratheal, Kathy Trotter, and Jim Walling had a great canoe adventure in the Boundary Waters this summer. See story by Jim Walling, Page 2.

The 2003 Sierra Club Calendars Are Here!



Wilderness Wall Calendars \$12/\$3 postage
Engagement Calendars \$13/\$3 postage

*These calendars make great gifts to friends,
family and business associates.*

817/429-3346

Make check payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club.
Mail to Gary Kriedeman, 3819 Rochelle Drive, Arlington, Texas 76016

Coming Events

December 12, 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.

December 18, 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 oth-

General Meeting Wednesday, December 18

Program: See Pg. 1 for information on December Christmas party.

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).

er 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.

Sierra Singles Events

Contact for Sierra Singles information:

Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or lehje30@hotmail.com.

Conservation Committee Meeting

No December meeting. Committee normally meets the last Tuesday of the month at 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.

December 30, 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.

January 5, Sunday

Outings Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

Environment should have been a major issue

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

character, and honesty. But these were issues Democrats failed to exploit.

And how about the tax cuts pushed by the right wing? It's bad enough when Republicans seem to think we can't figure out that most of the cuts go to the very wealthy. By their reluctance to oppose it vigorously, now the Democrats also seem to question our ability to see through that smoke screen.

No one, not even Republicans with their incessant photo ops, could defend the right wing's environmental record. After all, the nation's two highest office holders thumbed their noses at none other than the Supreme Court when ordered to produce documents

showing oil industry involvement in writing the nation's energy bill. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Our air and our water are not exactly cleaner since the advent of the Bush Administration. In fact, actions taken by the president right after the election are bound to make them even worse. Nor are our public lands any safer from special interests.

Certainly our vehicles don't get better gas mileage.

Why didn't the Democrats take the initiative on that issue? Especially when on overwhelming majority of Americans claim to be concerned over the environment.

For the Democrats, this was no election to be low key or to refrain from a spirited dialogue of the issues.

The choice before voters was immense, but largely undefined by the Democratic Party, which seems to have moved to the right in deference to politics and fear.

What happened to the old Democratic Party that wasn't afraid to have a strong liberal wing? That put principles above politics; that was the champion of the oppressed, of women and minorities; of the environment; of common people?

If it doesn't revitalize, and provide loyal but aggressive opposition, the same thing is going to happen on the national level as has already happened in Texas.

By no stretch of the imagination were Ron Kirk or Tony Sanchez really Democrats. That's why, with apologies to Shakespeare, the campaigns were all sound and fury and signified virtually nothing. There was little difference between the candidates.

Republicans were elected because they openly called themselves Republicans and Texas is going to elect Republicans without giving it a second thought.

Which is exactly what is going to happen at the national level if the Democrats don't rethink their playbook.

There's too much at stake to merely play not to lose.

They need to get some backbone and play to win.



Do you attend Sierra Club meetings? Circle One: Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never
Why or why not?

Comments, criticisms, suggestions:

Suggestions for programs

What types of outings would you attend (circle all that apply)

Day hikes Overnights Pot lucks Backpack Bike rides Canoe trips Other

Email your response to Dan Smith at RiverdogDan@aol.com or mail to Fort Worth Sierra Club, P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth, Texas 76101.

Add additional sheets if necessary. See story on Page 1.

Visit us on-line

Keep up with the latest outings and read the newsletter at least a week earlier than it comes in the mail. Fort Worth Group's web site: <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>.

The newsletter can generally be read online two-four weeks before it is delivered to you by mail. Up-to-date outings information is also displayed.

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

BEST Service

BEST Selection

BEST Prices

2025 W. Pioneer Parkway • Arlington

METRO (817) 461-4503

We will match any advertised price including mail order or sale price!

www.mountainsports.com

SILVER CREEK MATERIALS RECYCLING & COMPOST



*Recipient of the 1997 Governor's
Award for Environmental Excellence*

100% Money-Back Guarantee

- Compost
- Premium soil mix rich with compost
- Lava sand mix including mother Earth's own life-giving volcanic sand
- Native tree mulch
- Pecan mulch
- Organic fertilizer
- Lawn rejuvenation services
- Sand and gravel

246-2426

225 Silver Creek Rd. Delivery or pickup available
Open Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

Return Service requested

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.

PACK IT IN FOR X-MAS!



Marmot
FOR LIFE

JANSPORT



ARC'TERYX

MOUNTAINSMITH

All Backpacks are 20% off!

Check out our selection of
Technical Backpacks and Daypacks!

5% of All Purchases Benefit the Sierra Club.
Just mention group tracking number (0602) at time of purchase.

 **SUN & SKI SPORTS**
The Gear. The Advice. The Price.

Grapevine Mills - Hwy 121 (Just North of D/FW Airport)
972-355-9424 • www.sunandski.com

20%



SUN & SKI SPORTS 20%

THE MOST AWESOME OUTDOOR STORE ON THE PLANET!

Additional 20% off All Technical Backpacks and Daypacks

*Includes already reduced merchandise!

20%

Must bring in this coupon for discount. 1 coupon per family.
Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12/31/02.

20%