

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

FEBRUARY 2002

## Sierra Club to Bush: Preserve as well as protect

In response to President Bush's State of the Union address, the Sierra Club urged the President to match his commitment to safeguard our borders against terrorism with a renewed effort to protect our homeland – and the wild places that make it so special – against pollution, drilling and other development by the energy, mining, and logging industries.

"After leading the war on terrorism, we're asking Bush to use that leadership at home to protect and care for the land we all love," said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "At a time when Americans feel a special connection to our country, the Bush Administration stands poised to destroy the wild areas in our National Forests and Monuments, weaken clean air standards that protect our families, and open up the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Rather than destroying one of the last unique and unspoiled natural places left on

earth for six months worth of oil, we could create jobs just as effectively by investing in renewables and alternative sources of energy."

During its first year, the Bush Administration drew frequent criticism from Americans who care about environmental protection. Its energy plan, drafted after secret consultations with energy companies including Enron, relies heavily on outdated, polluting forms of power like coal, oil, gas, and nuclear, and puts little emphasis on alternative fuels or conservation.

The plan calls for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, despite clear evidence that destroying the Refuge would provide only six months worth of oil, which would not be available for at least ten years. The President could provide Americans with a cleaner, cheaper, and safer energy future – and could create jobs for working Americans – by developing renewable and alternative sources of

power, and by increasing efficiency and conservation.

In addition, the White House is set to weaken attempts to keep asthma-triggering soot and smog from dirty power plants out of the air Americans breathe, and is considering allowing increased road-building and logging in our National Forests. President Bush is also seeking so-called "Fast Track" trading authority to bypass Congress's ability to fix trade deals, even when they threaten the environment or worker safety.

"Now, more than ever, Americans want to defend the land that shapes our character, nourishes our spirit, and needs our protection," said Pope. "We call on the President, as Chief Steward, to care about and care for America, to show leadership and independence in protecting this unique heritage - for our families, for our future."

For more on the Sierra Club's positions, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org>.

## SC Board of Directors election coming up in March

The annual election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, members will receive in the mail the national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on each of the candidates.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels that requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels – such as the recent Ex-Com election in the Fort Worth Group – is a major membership obligation.

The board of directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the staff to run the Club.

Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should



**The only "animals" in this election are wildlife and endangered species!**

grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. They can learn more by asking questions of their group and chapter leadership and other experienced members

they may know.

They may also acquire additional information by visiting the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2002election> – which this year will include candidate responses to questions posted by various Club entities.

All Sierra Club members should use their own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate, making their choices, and then casting their votes.

Members will find the ballot to be quite straightforward and easy to mark. They can even cast their votes electronically.

# VOTE!

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
	Paula Thomson	860-4441
	Jim Walling	444-4416
	Dan Smith	410-2955

## Campaign Coordinators

Conservation	Bob Scott	282-1372
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	Claudia Blalock	924-6242
Assistant	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Programs	Susan Robinson	582-8228

## Newsletter Staff

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



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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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

Lone Star Chapter [www.texas.sierraclub.org](http://www.texas.sierraclub.org)

The Planet [www.sierraclub.org/planet](http://www.sierraclub.org/planet)

Political page [www.sierraclub.org/politics](http://www.sierraclub.org/politics)

## 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

# State parks won't increase fees

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission announced it would not move ahead with a controversial fee increase that could have drastically raised the price of visiting Texas state parks. That pushes to the forefront of the Agency's business a long-term, comprehensive plan to address the shortage of parkland and protected wildlife habitat across the state.

In order to meet the growing demand for more park space, and to ensure the protection of wildlife habitat as Texas' cities sprawl outward, TPW is now working on a plan to acquire and protect new lands and waterways. The State Land and Water Resource Conservation Plan is based on recommendations made in a comprehensive study completed at Texas Tech in November. It was authorized by the legislature in the TPW sunset bill passed in May.

"We're facing a real lack of park lands and wildlife habitat in Texas, and as the state population surges over the next two decades that demand is going to get even stronger," said Brian Sybert, Natural Resources Director of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. "There is strong public demand for more green space, and we need to start planning for that because our cities just keep getting bigger and bigger."

The Conservation Plan is currently a work in progress. The agency must complete the draft by May 31, at which

time the TPW Commission will choose whether or not to post the draft plan in the Texas Register for public comment. The public comment period is slated to last between June 1 and July 1. In order to become reality the plan must be adopted by the Commission by Aug. 31.

"This plan is an exciting opportunity to acquire more park space for Texas," said Sybert. "We have a beautiful state, but not enough public places for ordinary Texans to get out and enjoy the great outdoors."

"Hopefully we can make some serious improvements on that with this new conservation plan."

Some key findings of the Texas Tech study include:

- 94% of all land in Texas is privately owned, while 85% of state residents live in urban areas.

- The state needs to acquire 1.4 million acres of new parkland by 2030 to keep pace with the state's growing population.

- Shortages of recreation lands will be particularly acute around major metropolitan centers of Texas.

- State residents support the acquisition of additional lands for parks by TPW.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting Nick Parker at Texas Tech University: (806) 742-2851. Email: [nparker@ttu.edu](mailto:nparker@ttu.edu).

## February-March

## Fort Worth Sierra Club

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11	12	13	14 ExCom meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Bike ride	17
18	19	20 General Meeting 7 p.m. Newsletter deadline	21	22 Big Bend	23 car camp (through	24 March 25)
25	26 Conservation Committee meeting	27	28	March 1	2 Bear Creek Greenbelt hike	3 Trinity Trail Dog Walk
Newsletter folding/labeling party 6 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9 Ft. Worth Nature Center trail maintenance SE Oklahoma backpack
11	12	13	14 ExCom meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Davy Crockett Nat'l Forest	17 backpack

# 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.*

## February 9, Saturday

Beginner Backpacking Seminar at Fort Worth Nature Center 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Learn how to set up a tent, plan a trip, select the right clothing and the equipment, pack, and enjoy the outdoors in a low impact camping or backpacking style. The Sierra Club Outings Committee, which has a combined experience of over 60 years of camping and hiking, teaches the class. Bring a bag lunch, but beverages are provided. Cost: \$15 per person. Contact person: 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. For Worth, Texas 76109.

## February 16, Saturday

Winter warmup bike ride. Now is the time to get off some extra holiday pounds and get renewed with some fresh air. Ride on the beautiful Trinity Trail. Meet at Starbucks Coffee, University Avenue at 10 am and ride to noon. Easy ride, good for beginners. Road bike or fat tire bikes will be fine. Lunch after the ride if you wish. Approximate 15 miles. No ride if the weather is below 40 or rain. Helmets required. Contact Don Bowles, Leader at: [wdbowles@aol.com](mailto:wdbowles@aol.com).

## February 22-25, Friday-Monday

Car camp in the Chisos Basin Campground of Big Bend National Park. February is the perfect time to see this grand park. Day hikes may include Santa Elena Canyon, Boquillas Canyon, Cattail Falls, Ernst Tinaja, and others. Sunday night will be at the Gage Hotel in Marathon. Call now to reserve

a room at 915-386-4205. The trip was originally to be led by John Parker, who died in December. For more information, contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 or email [cpblalock@msn.com](mailto:cpblalock@msn.com) and [claudia.blalock@alconlabs.com](mailto:claudia.blalock@alconlabs.com). Trip size: 10 participants.

## Saturday, March 2

Hike the Keller portion of the Bear Creek Greenbelt. Meet Jim and Jane Nelson at 10 a.m. at the parking lot just south and west of the intersection of Rufe Snow and Bear Creek Parkway in Keller. (The intersection is about a half mile south of FM 1709 on Rufe Snow.) We will hike approximately 6 miles, stopping at picnic tables along the creek, so bring drinking water and a light snack. Phone: 817-379-5723 or email [jfnelson1@charter.net](mailto:jfnelson1@charter.net). We will cancel in the event of rain or severe weather.

## March 9, Saturday

Join master trail builder and bushwacker Mike Seal in a cleanup at the Fort Worth Nature Center. We will do miscellaneous tasks such as weeding, trash pickup, or trail maintenance. Be at the Nature Center at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and meet at the Hardwicke Interpretative Center. Bring work gloves, hat, and water. Wear clothes appropriate to outdoor work. After approximately 4 hours of work we can catch a lunch on the way home if anyone is interested. For more information, contact Mike Seal, 817-735-4661

## March 9-10, Saturday-Sunday

Beginner Backpack trip in the Beech Creek Scenic Area. Backpack about 10 relatively flat miles in this beautiful area in S.E. Oklahoma. Camp will be near the creek. As time permits, there will be an optional dayhike after setting up camp. Car camp Friday night and return to Dallas about 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. Preference will be given to the graduates of the Beginner Backpack Class. Leaders: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 or [cpblalock@msn.com](mailto:cpblalock@msn.com) and Marcos Jorge, 972-394-2546; email: [mkkj@hotmail.com](mailto:mkkj@hotmail.com)

## March 16- 17 Saturday- Sunday

Backpack the Piney Woods of the Davy Crockett National Forest. The 4 C's Trail is flat and heavily wooded. We will car camp at Ratcliff Recreational Area Friday night or meet on Saturday morn-

ing at the trailhead. Call Tolbert Greenwood at 877-2842 (w) or 346-3140 (h) for more details or email him at [tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com](mailto:tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com).

## March 23-24 Saturday-Sunday

Beginners Backpack at Inks Lake State Park. The Inks Lake area is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Texas because of the scenic diversity and wealth of minerals, water, and wildlife. We will backpack three miles to a primitive camping area Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon we will day hike four-five miles. Possible two-mile day hike Sunday at Longhorn Caverns. Leader: Wendy Lambert (817) 251-0016 (H) or [w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org).

## April 5-7, Friday-Sunday

Car camp at Caprock Canyon State Park and bicycle the Caprock Canyons Trailway. Arrive at the state park on Friday evening for a two-night camp. Saturday morning we will shuttle to the west end of the Caprock Canyons Trailway for a 25-30 mile ride back to the state park. The trailway is a converted rail trail, and the west to east trek is mostly downhill, though the grade is very gentle. It is extremely scenic, traversing red rock canyons over several railway trestles and through the Clarity Tunnel with its population of Brazilian Free-tailed bats. Fat tired bikes are necessary for this trip due to conditions of the railbed. Sunday will be dayhikes in the park. Contact Dan Smith at 817-410-2955 for more information or email [RiverdogDan@aol.com](mailto:RiverdogDan@aol.com).

## April 20-21, Saturday-Sunday

Camp at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, a beautiful nearby park featuring steep hills, deep ravines, open savannah, and a lake surrounded by timber-covered hills. Saturday we will bike the Lake Mineral Wells State Trailway to Weatherford, about 30 miles round trip. Sunday we will hike one of the park's scenic trails. Plan to camp Friday night as well or arrive Saturday by 10 a.m. for the bike ride. Bring your bike, helmet (required), repair kit, and water bottle. Call 512-389-8900 or visit the Texas State Park website for campsite reservations. Leaders Mark and Jeanni Capell, 214-821-7557 or email [capells@earthlink.net](mailto:capells@earthlink.net) or call Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 to sign up.

Another outing listed on Pg. 4

# Coming Events

February 14, 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.

February 20, 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

## General Meeting

Wednesday, February 20

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).

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 Singles Events

On Monday, Feb.11 at 7 p.m., join us for dinner at Mercado Juarez Mexican restaurant, 1901 W. Northwest Highway. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. join us for a TCU Jazz Band big band tribute/alternative Valentine's option. Concert

begins at 7:30 in Ed Landreth Hall on the TCU campus (corner of University and Cantey) in Fort Worth and tickets are \$10 general admission, available the night of the show. Contact Jenny Lehman if you plan to attend and want to sit with the group.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trail head. Information about mass transit is provided as a courtesy but is not part of the official Sierra Club outing.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or [lehje30@hotmail.com](mailto:lehje30@hotmail.com). Web page: [http://texas.sierraclub.org/fortworth/Singles/sierra\\_singles.htm](http://texas.sierraclub.org/fortworth/Singles/sierra_singles.htm).

### March 4, 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.

## Sierra Club reaction to Cheney's claims of support

Claims made by Vice President Cheney, Mary Matalin, Senator Mitch McConnell, or anyone else in the Bush Administration that the Enron-Cheney Energy Plan includes 11 of 12 Sierra Club recommendations are simply not true. But no reporters are calling them on it.

A full comparison and analysis of Sierra Club's "12" points and the Enron energy plan is available at: [http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/bush\\_plan/12pointsofenergy.PDF](http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/bush_plan/12pointsofenergy.PDF)

Additionally, when Cheney mentions the Sierra Club in response to questions about his Enron contacts, Americans deserve to know that we never met with the White House or the Cheney Energy Task Force before they released their plan last May; media reports say Cheney met six times with Enron CEO Ken Lay last spring.

Here are some quick examples to use that would make for some good follow-up questions whenever a member of the Bush Administration tries to make this ridiculous claim.

Fuel Economy: The Sierra Club fact

### Sleeping bag left on bus

Someone left a Black Kelty sleeping bag on the bus at Thanksgiving and needs to claim it.

If it's yours, contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

**"If the Bush Administration really thinks their energy plan includes 11 of 12 Sierra Club solutions, then Arthur Andersen must be checking their math."**

*Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club*

sheet that Cheney references ("A Balanced Energy Plan" at [http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/bush\\_plan/factsheet.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/bush_plan/factsheet.asp)) calls for an increase in miles per gallon standards to 40 mpg

for all cars, SUVs, and light trucks. The energy plan released last spring from the Administration suggested studying and providing recommendations on

*Please See PLANS, Page 5*

## And yet another outing listing, aka an overflow from the outings page

What: Guadalupe Mts. Backpack  
When: April 24-28  
Where: Guadalupe Mts. Nat'l Park  
Why: Cause the mountains are there  
Who: You, of course  
How: One step at a time

Explore Texas' highest mountain range and famed McKittrick Canyon on a three-and-a-half day backpack. Leave Fort Worth area around noon on April 24 and spend the night in Odessa (or leave earlier and make it all the way to the Pine Springs campground). Either way, we'll get our permit at 8 a.m. (mt. time) and start up the Tejas Trail into the high country after we've left at least one vehicle in the McKittrick Canyon parking lot. Since any trip in the Guads begins by going straight up, we'll limit

our mileage that first day. We'll camp at the Tejas primitive campsite Thursday night and either sit around the campsite exhausted or make a side trip into The Bowl and climb Hunter Peak. Friday, we'll make an easy climb of Bush Mt., the state's second highest peak, and be treated to some gorgeous views off Blue Ridge. We'll camp at Blue Ridge campsite. We'll end up Saturday night at the top of McKittrick Ridge and hike out through McKittrick Canyon on Sunday for the return trip home. Because of the elevation gain and lack of water availability, any backpack in the Guadalupe Mts. must be rated strenuous. Leader: James Moody, 817-295-1623 (H); 817-688-3656 (M); or email [JM Moody166@aol.com](mailto:JM Moody166@aol.com).

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

# Plans are different as night and day

Continued from Page 4

fuel economy standards. While this alone is proof that our plans are not the same, the energy bill that actually passed the House (HR 4) rejected two good fuel economy proposals, and instead included a fuel economy standard increase of less than 1 mile per gallon.

And when the Administration itself had the power to raise fuel economy standards on their own, it refused to do so, claiming a lack of time. Thus, the Administration did not even follow through on the point they claimed we both agreed on.

**Renewable Energy:** The Sierra Club consistently calls for a goal of America producing 20 percent of its electricity from renewable, non-hydro sources like wind and solar power by the year 2020. The Bush plan will achieve 2.8 percent (note the decimal point) of our electricity from non-hydro renewable energy—a difference of 17.2 percent.

**Responsible New Production:** The Sierra Club recommends replacing old, dirty power plants with new, high-efficiency, combined-cycle, gas-fired plants, which are twice as efficient as

older plants. The Cheney plan proposed building 1300 to 1900 new coal, nuclear and gas-fired plants in the next twenty years. While gas-fired plants are found in both plans, there aren't going to be any calls for coal or nuclear plants coming out of the Sierra Club.

Additionally, the administration is poised to announce a review of a provision that could gut part of the Clean Air act pertaining to dirty power

plants.

This is just a quick overview, but it should be enough to start asking some tough questions of the Administration. For more information, call 202-675-6698.

## Visit us on-line

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

### Membership

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

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

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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.

### Mission Statement

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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# Giving back a bit for years of pleasure

In 2002 Sierra Club Outings will be running about 331 outings or trips nationally and internationally; about 80 of these are Service trips to different places in the US; of these 24 or about 8% are Southwest Service trips, including one to the Guadalupe Mountains led by Fort Worth Group member James Moody.

But what are Service trips? How are they different than regular outings or trips?

Service projects generally accomplish a lot of work that needs to be done but because of staff and budget limitations of the National Park Service and Forest Service are not getting done and have been put on the back burner; i.e., general trail maintenance/building, clearing, putting in water breaks and runoffs, constructing trail retaining walls, planting native plants, shrubs and trees and removing nonnative species, seed collecting, sign making, painting, putting up and/or taking down barbed wire fencing, wood or pole structured fencing.

A lot of work, but in any given week of Service only a few priority tasks

designated by the Parks maintenance crew are undertaken.

With few exceptions camp sites are reached by car and a base camp set up near by. In the course of the week there

is sufficient time to day hike and explore. The cost of trip is about \$325 to \$400 for the week. This is about one half of what a general Sierra Club Outing costs.

**Sierra Club**  
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