

Conference call —

Lone Star Chapter to address park land, habitat

On Saturday, July 20, the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club will host its sixth annual Conservation Conference at the Armand Bayou Nature Center in Houston. The Nature Center is located along the banks of Armand Bayou.

The day-long conference will feature an array of speakers on current parkland and habitat conservation issues facing Texas.

The conference will also highlight the statewide land and water conservation plan that is currently being developed by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

In addition, the conference will feature two of the special places that the Sierra Club and other organizations are trying to protect in southeast Texas — the beautiful Katy Prairie and the Trinity River bottomland hardwood forests.

For more information about the conference, check the Lone Star Chapter web site at www.texas.sierraclub.org or contact the Sierra Club State Conservation Office in Austin at 512-477-1729.

Conservation Conference Speakers

Texas at the Crossroads: A Historical Perspective on the Biological Diversity of Texas — Dr. David Schmidly, President, Texas Tech University.

Statewide Land & Water Conservation Planning — Jeff Francell, Acquisition Director, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Citizen Participation in Land Conservation — The Honorable Edmund Kuempel, Chair, Texas House State Recreational Resources.

Protecting Wildlife Habitat On Private Lands — Julie Shackelford, Field Director, American Farmland Trust.

Managing Growth to Protect Open Space — The Honorable Jay Millikan, Commissioner, Precinct 1, Comal

County.

Conserving Bottomland Hardwood Forest — Stuart Marcus, Refuge Manager, Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge.

Habitat Conservation on the Katy Prairie — Mary Anne Piacentini, Executive Director, Katy Prairie Conservancy.

Conference Information

The pre-registration fee for attending the conference is \$15, which will include all conference materials, and

lunch. A vegetarian option is available for lunch.

In order to get this special pre-registration price, the Lone Star Chapter must receive your registration by Tuesday, July 16. After that the registration fee increases to \$25.

Check-in/registration for the conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. on July 20 with the conference concluding by 4:15 p.m.

A pre-registration form may be found on Page 2.

Carl Pope statement on clearcutting in Alaska's Tongrass Nat'l Forest

Following is a statement from Carl Pope, Executive Director of Sierra Club, on the Bush administration's decision to leave wild areas of the Tongrass open to clearcut logging:

"Despite overwhelming public support for protecting the last wild areas of Alaska's Tongrass National Forest, the Forest Service has instead chosen a timber industry-favored plan for the Tongrass. The Bush Administration's plan does not recommend protecting a single acre of wild forest land as Wilderness.

"The Tongrass -- home to grizzly bears, salmon and wolves -- is the largest remaining temperate rainforest on Earth. But 700 square miles of the Tongrass have already been clearcut, and

logging continues to threaten the remaining wildlands and wildlife.

"With this decision, the Bush Administration has given the green light to the timber industry to forge ahead with destructive logging projects in this pristine rainforest.

"Right now, the Forest Service is planning 33 large-scale, industrial timber sales in roadless areas of the Tongrass National Forest.

"This decision was made in spite of the overwhelming support of the American people who want our last wild forests protected for future generations. Now is the time for the American people to weigh in again to call for a plan that protects millions of acres of Alaska's last remaining rainforests."

This month's program

Suzanne Tuttle will be presenting a program on Ecological Restoration. Don't know what ecological restoration is? Then be the first on your block to find out. Join us at the June meeting. For the time and place of the Fort Worth Group's monthly meeting, see Page 4.

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

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Conservation	Don Callaway	214-674-5636
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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	Dan Smith	410-2955

Newsletter Staff

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



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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

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Action Alert

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Don't contribute to an overdose of pesticides in your neighborhood

Don't overdo it with pesticides. It can be as bad as any other chemical overdose.

All pesticides pollute our neighborhood creeks, rivers, and lakes when they are applied incorrectly, disposed of improperly, or run off into curbs and storm drains during heavy rains or by over-watering.

To protect our water:

-Use pesticides only as a last resort.

-Use pesticides and herbicides that relate only to your problem.

-Read the label and follow directions carefully.

-Don't use pesticides when rain is expected.

-Never pour pesticides down a storm drain, manhole, toilet, or household

drain.

To get rid of leftover pesticides, take them to Fort Worth's Environmental Collection Center (ECC) at 6400 Bridge Street.

There, pesticides and other chemicals are disposed of properly at no charge to Fort Worth residents. The ECC is open Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 817-871-5257 for more information.

There are less toxic ways to get rid of pests. Ask about boric acid, diatomaceous earth, and insecticidal soaps at garden stores. Or consider organic gardening methods, including the use of natural pest predators such as lady beetles.

Pre-Registration Form

Wide Open Spaces Conservation Conference
(6th Annual Lone Star Chapter Conservation Conference)
July 20, 2002 - Armand Bayou Nature Center, Houston

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone (including area code) _____

E-Mail _____

Please register ____ persons at \$15 per person (\$25 per person after July 16)

Please reserve ____ vegetarian lunches (if you prefer the vegetarian option).

____ Enclosed is my check, payable to "Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club"

or please charge my credit card as follows:

____ Visa/MC # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Detach and mail payment to: Conservation Conference

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1931

Austin, TX 78767

Or fax to: Attn: Jennifer Walker at 512/ 477-8526.

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.

Saturday, June 8

How long has it been since you've ridden these northerly parts? Maybe too long. Join Don Bowles for about a 25 mile ride. The ride starts 9 a.m. from the Cactus Flower Restaurant at I-35 and Westport Fwy. near Alliance Airport. We will probably eat somewhere at the end of the ride. Contact Don Bowles: wdbowles@aol.com.

June 22, Saturday

Canoe the backwaters of the Fort Worth Nature Center with veteran canoe guide Jim Walling. Plan to be at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. Signs will be posted at the entrance for the meeting place. We will canoe parts of Lake Worth and the backwaters of the nature center looking for birds, reptiles, and solitude. Canoes furnished by the Nature Center. Some experience canoeing is recommended. Bring water and a snack. We will canoe at least 2 hours. For more information, call Jim Walling at 817-444-4416.

June 23, Sunday

Join us for a 3-mile hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center at 2:45 p.m. We will hike the Oak Motte Trail, an easy flat trail that should have lots of wildflowers by then. Meet at the second buffalo viewing area. Look for a green jeep. Dogs are welcome. For more information, contact the leader: Pat Leach, 817-295-5009. Trip will be cancelled in event of inclement weather.

June 30-July 5, Sunday-Friday

Canoe the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area of northern Minnesota along the US-Canadian border. Get looney with a group of approximately 8 Sier-

rans for a week of canoeing and camping in this pristine wilderness void of motorcraft. Listen to the call of the wild with loons, moose, and wolf. This week-long trip is a repeat of a similar trip in 2000 and will depart from Tuscarora Outfitters on the Gunflint Trail near Grand Marais, Minn. Outfitter will provide food, camping gear, and boats at a cost of less than \$50 per day. Transportation from Fort Worth is not included in this cost and is the responsibility of each person. The trip leader would like to coordinate travel plans to get a group airline rate. Leader: Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 or e-mail marilynturnage@msn.com.

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.

October 18-20, Friday-Sunday

Miss the Halloween trip to Caddo Lake we used to do 10 years ago? It has been revived complete with a full moon. We will camp at Caddo Lake State Park near Marshall in east Texas about 3

hours from Fort Worth 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 are available through Pine Needles Lodge (903-665-2911) and are limited so contact immediately to reserve your canoe. Call Texas State Park Reservations at 512-389-8900 or visit on-line at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> to reserve your campsite for Friday night. This trip is open to families. Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon on Sunday. Leaders: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-346-3140 (tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com) and Marilyn Sumner, 817-491-2382, (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, with one free day for exploring and hiking. For more information check out the trip website: 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.

Letter to the Editor

I want to share the great camping idea of my son-in-law, Eric Green, and it's a neat idea. Of course this only works when you are near your campsite... unless you want to carry extra weight on your back! He purchases a bale of either hay or straw and spreads

a bale under his tent as his mattress and it also keeps the bottom of the tent dry during rainstorms. Additional bales can be used for seating/leaning against and the hay/straw is a good fire starter.

Jan Bills
Cleburne

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.

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

Coming Events

June 13, 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.

June 19, 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.

Beyond nuclear power

You probably do not need a reminder of the long lasting health hazards of radioactive material. Concern for these hazards is not unpatriotic.

Can you be patriotic if you do not share these concerns?

On April 27, a conference of about 45 people from across Texas was held at Lake Whitney State Park to discuss national, state, and local nuclear energy and nuclear waste issues. The conference was co-sponsored by the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Texas League of Women Voters, and several others.

A national overview was given by Dr. Arjun Makhijani and Diane D'Arrigo. Makhijani is president, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research located in Maryland. D'Arrigo is the director, Radioactive Waste Project for NIRS, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Washington, D.C.

Many national organizations depend upon NIRS for accurate nuclear information. Some of the information provided by them and other speakers from around the state are included below.

URANIUM MINING: The nuclear power industry is not pollution free – it produces nuclear waste at every step, starting with uranium mining. The mining and processing of uranium are

General Meeting

Wednesday, June 19

Program: Suzanne Tuttle will be presenting a program on Ecological Restoration.

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).

Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

Sierra Singles Events

On Sunday, June 9 join us at 9 a.m. at Erwin Park in McKinney. Meet at the rotunda/gazebo in Erwin Park. If you want a map of park, \$1 donation would be

welcome. (Maps are in color and cost \$1 each to photocopy). There is no park

shared by both the nuclear power and nuclear weapons industries. Waste from uranium mining and milling comprises the largest volume of radioactive waste--measuring in the range of hundreds of million tons. The main danger to public health from uranium mining and processing is water contamination which leads to ingestion of cancer-causing materials.

Uranium mining in Texas has taken place since the 1960s from San Antonio to Corpus Christi. It was originally strip mined but is now in-situ.

In-situ mining involves the injection of chemicals into an aquifer to leach or extract the uranium. This has led to aquifer contamination due to water contaminated with hazardous chemicals being pumped back into the aquifer after most of the uranium has been filtered out. Nuclear power is not a "green power" or solution to global warming because the enrichment of uranium is a very carbon dioxide-intensive process.

NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ON THE HORIZON: The National Energy bill recently passed by Congress has provisions to build new reactors on federal lands and it extends the Price-Anderson act (limits energy

Please see WASTE, Page 5

entrance fee. Bring: compass and whistle if you are interested in learning more about navigation, plenty of water and some bug spray. Wear sturdy shoes that support your ankles. Bushwhackers: consider wearing long pants and sleeves, and check out websites on poison oak, poison sumac, and chiggers. Everyone always encouraged to wear a whistle. Good habit to get into. We will be on the trail about 2 hours. We will split into groups according to interests (bird watching vs. navigators vs. just plain hiking). We will adjourn afterwards to Cafe Brazil in Richardson for lunch. For more information, contact Becky Mehrer: capnbec@netscape.net or 214-904-8184.

On Monday, June 17 at 7 p.m. join us for dinner at Champs, located at 5910 N. MacArthur in Las Colinas (same complex as BD's Mongolian). Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Monday, July 22 at 7 p.m. join us for dinner at Boston's Italian, located at 1100 Market Place Blvd (NW corner of MacArthur and 635) in Irving. 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.

June 25, Tuesday

Conservation Committee meeting, 7 p.m., at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Library Building, Room 306. Contact: Don Callaway, 214-674-5636.

July 1, 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.

July 3, 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.

—Waste would go through metro areas

CONTINUED
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industry to liability to \$9-10 billion for accident clean-up) to these new reactors. US tax payers would pay for the balance.

HIGH LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN: Scientific evidence shows the Yucca Mountain site would probably have earthquake, hydrologic, and volcanic activity before the waste has reached a safe level. Closer to home, waste from the South Texas Nuclear Project near Houston would be transported through the DFW area on its way to Yucca Mountain. Waste from Comanche Peak would miss DFW area but would go through other populated areas of Texas.

PANTEX NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANT: Approximately 13,000 plutonium pits from nuclear bombs are stored at Pantex. About 50% of them are considered to be "national security assets" and 50% are slated for disposition as mixed oxide (MOX) fuel for nuclear reactors.

FEDERAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMPACT BILL: The COMPACT bill, which was passed by

Texas, Maine and Vermont and ratified by Congress in 1998, attempted to establish a joint disposal site for the three states' waste in Texas. Some elected officials said the bill would protect Texas from waste generated in areas other than these three states. But a loophole in the Compact bill would allow a Texas disposal facility to receive low level radioactive waste from states across the nation, and also from U.S. Department of Energy facilities.

Texas legislators should close the loophole in the upcoming session by deleting the section that allows Governor-appointed Commissioners to contract with other states or companies to import unlimited amounts of waste for disposal in Texas. This could be possible because Congress is obligated to review the Compact every five years after its effective date. The compact was ratified in 1998, making it subject to Congressional review in 2003.

The State of Maine has withdrawn from the Compact. Therefore there could be other states or companies out there eyeing the Texas-Vermont Com-

pact.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE ACTION: During the last legislative session, 2001, Waste Control Specialists (WCS) was nearly able to pass a bill allowing private companies to own and operate (supposedly low-level) radioactive waste dumps in Texas. (Current law allows only a PUBLIC entity to obtain a radioactive waste disposal license.) The bill would have allowed the private company to obtain a license and import unlimited amounts of waste from contaminated nuclear weapons projects around the county. The bill passed in the Senate and had been passed by the House Environmental Regulations committee but was killed by the House Calendars committee in the last hours (or minutes) of the session before reaching the House floor for final vote. Because of redistricting, next year's legislature will be completely different than last session. There probably will be an unbalanced membership leaning toward pro-nuclear power.

For more information, call 817-244-2328 or email aeburnam@airmail.net

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

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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