

# SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

MARCH 2002

## Thoroughfare would disrupt Trinity Park

■ **The cheapest distance between two points? Through a park, naturally**

The Fort Worth Public Works and Parks directors on Jan. 15 proposed a thoroughfare through Trinity Park. If approved, it would follow the route of the present park drive beginning on Seventh Street and going south and west to meet University Drive at Harley Street.

This is not a park improvement project; rather, it's for the benefit of a developer.

The "Fast road past the duck pond" proposal sounds like a fat ball, something easy to bat out of the park. Actually, however, it may not be so easy to dislodge that bad idea from city officials. It will take work to preserve this land heritage for our great grandchildren.

The Trinity Parkway has been in the Master Thoroughfare Plan and the Cultural District Master Plan for about

ten years as a four lane divided boulevard linking Montgomery to University Drive and then to Seventh Street.

In the long-standing plan, as the road would go east and north from University Drive, mostly avoiding Trinity Park. The road would have been in the park from University until the road passed the Army Reserve Center and Goldwaite's (Toro Equipment Distributorship) which is on Foch Street.

That plan would put the road through the private property that is just west of Trinity Park on Seventh Street.

Fortunately converting park land for thoroughfare use requires city council action and some minimal consideration of reasonable alternatives.

The Jan. 15 plan accommodates a Dallas developer who wants to put a mixed use high density owner occupied development on the private land west of the Trinity Park Shelter on Seventh. There would also be some commercial development. It is in the general area proposed to be an "urban

village" which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The developer, who wants to start construction early this year, claims he cannot succeed if the proposed road goes through his property.

The Park Board's vote on this new alignment was scheduled for Feb. 19 but was pulled from the agenda.

Since the army reserve center has been demolished and the Goldwaite's site is vacant, environmentalists and other park space proponents believe that the use of those sites as an alternate route for the thoroughfare would fit the needs of the developer while having minimal impact on the park.

According to a city official, that alignment is a possibility, but so is "putting the proper share of traffic on the park drive."

The proposal was a major topic of discussion at the last conservation committee meeting of the Fort Worth Sierra Club. For more information, contact Don Callaway, 214-674-5636.

## You could have read this a week or more ago!

There's no implied implication that you're reading great journalism here, but you are reading it – reading it when it could be old news to you by now.

The Crier is posted to the web site of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club in pdf format each month approximately a week before you receive the printed copy in your mailbox.

For example, this issue of the newsletter was posted to the web site on the morning of Feb. 28. The labeling party was held on March 4 so the earliest the newsletters could have got to the post office is March 5.

Since The Crier is entered as third class mailing material, it's somewhat less than a priority to the postal service. It can – and often does – sit at the post office for several days before it is delivered.

Action alerts, outings, and other events of interest that occur before the 10th of the month are rarely included in the newsletter because, in most cases, they will be after the fact by the time they are read.

Anyone, whether or not they're a member of the Group, has always been able to read the newsletter on line. And now you can not only read the newsletter on line, but you can practice what we constantly preach: conservation.

By signing up for our email list, you can keep the six pages in this issue of The Crier from ever ending up in a landfill.

**What are the anti-environmentalists up to today, I wonder.**

Here's how it works: email the circulation director of The Crier, Steve Turner, at [stevet@dfwdomains.net](mailto:stevet@dfwdomains.net). He'll take you off the subscriber list and put you on an email list. You'll be notified when the newsletter is online and receive Group news in a more timely manner.

And, over the course of a year, the Fort Worth Group will save a buck or two in reduced printing and postage costs for every person who is removed from the mailing list..



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
	Don Callaway	214-674-5636
	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	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



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

## Web Pages

Fort Worth Group	<a href="http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tw/fortworth/index.html">http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tw/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`

# Change in Wetlands permitting rules threaten our streams and wetlands

America's wetlands provide something for everyone – they filter harmful pollutants from our drinking water, protect communities from flooding, and provide life-sustaining habitat to fish and wildlife.

The values and functions wetlands provide to our environment and our economy, while not easily quantified, are immense. Yet, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service statistics, the nation is still losing 58,500 acres of wetlands, on average, every year.

Unfortunately, recent actions by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and inaction by the Bush Administration may even accelerate those losses. On January 15, the Bush Administration, notwithstanding objections from the EPA, wetlands scientists, and the environmental community, weakened the Clean Water Act's Nationwide Permit (NWP) program.

The new nationwide permits allow the Corps to waive many of the environmental conditions adopted in March 2000 that were meant to limit the use of these permits, and they continue activities that damage or destroy

thousands of acres of wetlands and miles of streams every year.

The NWP program provides expedited permitting, without full environmental review or public notice, for certain activities that damage and destroy wetlands and streams.

The Clean Water Act gives the Corps the authority to use general permits, such as the NWPs, to authorize activities that result in minimal individual and cumulative impacts to the environment.

But many of the permits often authorize activities that have more than a minimal impact on the environment, including road building, sprawl development projects and mountain top removal mining.

The good news is that there are still ways to limit the damage that Naps cause at the regional and state level. To find out more information and how you can effect wetlands rules in your state, please visit [http://www.sierraclub.org/wetlands/permit\\_rules.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/wetlands/permit_rules.asp), or contact George Sorvalis at [george.sorvalis@sierraclub.org](mailto:george.sorvalis@sierraclub.org).

# Organized labor endorses 'smart growth'

The AFL-CIO passed its first-ever resolution on urban sprawl and smart growth in at its national convention. The resolution links sprawl to many ills harming working families, reminds us all that some unions have been doing things for decades that are now called "smart growth," and authorizes the federation's leadership to weigh in on the rapidly-emerging smart growth debate.

The Sierra Club's National Challenge to Sprawl Campaign works to stop

sprawl by promoting transportation reform, land use planning, open space protection and community revitalization.

Many of these smart growth solutions are consistent with good labor practices. For more information and to view a copy of the resolution go to [www.goodjobsfirst.org](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org). For more information about the Sierra Club's Challenge to Sprawl Campaign go to [www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/](http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/).

# Sierra Club plans to sue over 'fowl' odor

The Sierra Club plans to sue food giant Tyson Foods for not reporting hazardous releases of ammonia from four of its Kentucky chicken factories.

The factories are said to release over 100 pounds of ammonia per day, levels that must be reported under both the Superfund law and Community-Right-to-Know laws.

Ammonia is toxic. In addition to the stench it creates, it can trigger respiratory problems and can even be fatal

when people breathe it in.

On Feb. 5, Sierra activists and local citizens created a stink of their own, gathering on the steps of the Louisville federal courthouse in gas masks to highlight the problem. They carried signs that read, "Clean Up Big Chicken" and "We All Need Clean Air".

"Americans ought to know when factory farms are spewing plumes of toxic gases into their community," said Sierra Club attorney Barclay Rogers.

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.*

## 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 day hike 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 morning 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 2002

## 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 [wlambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:wlambert@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 rail bed. Sunday will be day hikes in the park. Contact Dan Smith at 817-410-2955 for more information or email [RiverdogDan@aol.com](mailto:RiverdogDan@aol.com).

## April 7, 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. For further information, or to check on questionable weather, call Pat Leach 817-295-5009. Dogs are welcome.

## April 20-21, Saturday-Sunday

Hike, bike, and car 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 web site 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.

## April 24-28, Wednesday-Sunday

Guadalupe Mts. Backpack – 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 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).

## May 11, Saturday

Walking tour of Clymer Meadow. Tour this 1,000-acre virgin Blackland Prairie on the rolling hills of northwestern Hunt County, near Greenville. Join our Nature Conservancy guide as we explore one of the largest and most diverse remnants of the Blackland Prairie and one of the most scenic areas in North Central Texas. On this easy day hike we will learn about the meadow's plants, history and efforts to preserve it. A \$5 per person donation to the Nature Conservancy will be collected to help further their conservation efforts. Contact Mark and Jeanni Capell to sign up. [Capells@earthlink.net](mailto:Capells@earthlink.net) or 214-821-7557.

# Coming Events

**March 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.

**March 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 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 Saturday, March 16 at 10 a.m. join us for a day hike at the Dallas Nature Center, 7171 Mountain Creek Pkwy.

## Biking, German food, and other festivities in Muenster

Join your fellow Sierra Club bikers for a scenic bike ride followed by festivities in the park at the finish line, including great Germanfest refreshments and cold beer (not furnished).

The occasion is the Metric Century Bicycle Rally on Saturday, April 27, at Muenster, Texas.

The start time for the ride is 11 a.m. and events are 22, 40, and 60 miles. A preregistration of \$20 is required or \$25 at the event.

The road is all on paved roads with rest stops 10-15 miles apart. Depart at 9 a.m. from the Cactus Flower at I-35N, by Alliance Airport. Exit at Westport Fwy (you'll see a Mobil station sign). Turn left at the exit and the restaurant is on our right in the small shopping center.

Return to the Metroplex about 4 p.m.

For more information, email Don Bowles at [wdbowles@aol.com](mailto:wdbowles@aol.com). He can send you the registration form.

## General Meeting

**Wednesday, March 20**

**Program:** Nicole Holt from Sierra Club National will present a program on Global Warming

**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).

(exit Mt. Creek Pkwy. from I-20 in Grand Prairie and head south). Plan to hike at a brisk pace for 6-7 miles. No reservations necessary. Rain will cancel. Leaders: Jenny Lehman, [lehje30@hotmail.com](mailto:lehje30@hotmail.com) or (817) 263-1357, and Jeff Schmidt, [sierra\\_outdoors@hotmail.com](mailto:sierra_outdoors@hotmail.com) or (972) 228-1908.

On Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m., join us for dinner at Marco Polo Italian restaurant, located at 1001 NE Green Oaks (corner of Collins and NE Green Oaks) in north Arlington. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Saturday, April 13 join us for a 2 - 3 hour hike at Tandy Hills Park in east Fort Worth. Meet in the Tandy Hills parking lot at 10 a.m. Bring water, snacks, or sack lunch. If you bring chocolate to share, you may find yourself very popular. Wear sturdy hiking shoes that firmly support the ankles. We will not always be hiking on the trail. If the weather looks cold and rainy, be sure to bring rain wear and warm clothes. Optional: compass to play with. After

the hike, we may stop for eats.

Directions to Tandy Hills: From I 30, take Oakland Exit, travel south. Go west on Meadowbrook, and north on Tandy to the park. Leader: Rebecca Mehrer, 214-904-8184 or [capnbec@netscape.net](mailto:capnbec@netscape.net). Co-leader: Jenny Lehman.

On Friday -Sunday, May 10-12, join us at Caddo Lake for a canoe/camping trip. We will camp in shelters at Caddo Lake State Park. Canoe rentals are available for \$30 per canoe. Maximum 24 people, including leaders, allowed on this trip so sign up early! RSVP to DeAnn by March 29 and pay a deposit of \$15. After you officially sign up you will receive a more detailed trip description. Leader: DeAnn McDaniel, 469-467-7007 or [ouraybelle@yahoo.com](mailto:ouraybelle@yahoo.com); co-leaders Jenny Lehman, Larry Shindel and Beth Burgeson.

All events officially begin at the event site/trailhead. Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, 817-263-1357 or [lehje30@hotmail.com](mailto:lehje30@hotmail.com).

## March 26, 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.

## April 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.

# Milk weeds, butterflies, and other program trivia

Did you know that the lowly milk weed gives both pasteurized and chocolate milk?

OK, it doesn't do either, but it does play an important role in nature.

The milk weed is the place – the only place – where the female monarch butterfly lays her eggs.

No milk weed; no monarch butterflies.

That's only one of many interesting tidbits of information concerning the beautiful butterflies that are already making their presence known, and seen, in the Metroplex.

Some other interesting, and little known, facts about butterflies brought out at the February meeting include:

–The female monarch dies shortly after laying her eggs and it's the next generation of monarchs that continues the migration. In other words, the butterflies that fly back to the nesting sight have never been there before.

–Birds will not eat monarch butterflies. Are they sympathetic to a fellow flier? Not hardly. Monarchs are toxic to birds and, while they're not deadly, a monarch will make a bird sick if said

monarch becomes consumed by all the birds.

–Other butterflies have evolved to look like monarchs so they will get the same protection from hungry birds.

–Know how to tell the difference between a butterfly and a pretty moth? No? Then be glad you're a moth or a butterfly looking for a mate. Look at the antenna. All butterflies have a clubbed antenna. No moths do.

–Many butterflies overwinter in this area. That's why it's important to have early blooming plants in your garden.

Topics of interest to environmentalists are presented at every meeting of the Sierra Club of Greater Fort Worth.

## 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.*

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)

... 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

Return Service requested

Fort Worth, Texas 76101

P.O. Box 1925

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

Fort Worth, TX 76101

Permit No. 714

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Nonprofit Organization

# GEAR UP FOR ADVENTURE!

Save up to

# 50%

on technical and outdoor apparel from:

- The North Face
- Marmot
- Kelty
- Moonstone
- Patagonia
- Sierra Design

5% of All Purchases Benefit  
The Sierra Club

Just mention group tracking number (0602) at time of purchase.

Prices effective through 3/31/02



# 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](http://www.sunandski.com)