

This one's a no brainer—

Another ho-hum turkey dinner or a wilderness adventure?

Don't wait to be chosen as a participant in Survivor: Big Bend.

Take matters into your own hands and sign up for one of the four "tribes" today. Prove to yourself, and the entire world, that you have the mettle to kiss a rattlesnake, use a cane cholla as a walking stick, and munch down on a plateful of scorpions.

Then, to satisfy the sneaky, conniving side of your personality, you can anonymously vote one of your own off each night in the tribal council.

There's all that, more or less, for just \$160 when you sign up for the annual Big Bend Bus Trip of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

OK, actually there's a lot less than there is more of the aforementioned similarities with the reality TV show Survivor.

But, to paraphrase the words of another television stalwart, the price is certainly right at \$160 for a fun-filled long holiday weekend in the spectacular Chihuahuan Desert mountain scenery of Big Bend National Park.

Included in the price of a ticket is transportation to and from Big Bend in a sleeper bus, all park fees, and dinner on the return trip Sunday.

As always, there's four trips to choose from, although the range of difficulty is somewhat narrowed this year with no strenuous backpack among the offerings. The ratings are from easy to moderate/strenuous.

Among the offerings are three old standbys and one designer trip created especially for this year.

Back by popular demand are:

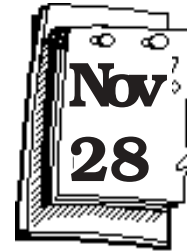
Trip 2, Chisos Backpack: You'll set up camp in the heart of the Chisos Mountains. Then from a camp site almost to beautiful to leave, you'll take easy day hikes to the South Rim, Emory Peak, and Juniper Canyon. The trip

is rated Moderate. Tolbert Greenwood 817-346-3140, is the leader.

Trip 3, Basin Day Hikes: Visit some of the most famous and scenic trails in the park, including The Window, the Lost Mine Trail, and Emory Peak. Return to your base camp in The Basin Campground each evening. This trip is rated Moderate/Strenuous. Jim Walling, 817-444-4416, is the leader.

Trip 4, Rio Grande Village Day Hike: This one's for the shower-a-day gang. Take easy day hikes from the group campsite to the Hot Springs, Old Ore Terminal, and Boquillas Canyon. Easy. Todd Nichols, 817-472-0710 will lead this trip.

New this year will be the roving band of gypsies who car camp at a primitive



**Please
make
the
right
choice!**



site, such as Grapevine Hills, and roam the park in SUVs in search of day hikes each day.

The group will have some say in its daily itinerary, with the likes of The Chimneys, Mule Ears Spring, the Top
Please see REGISTRATION, Pg. 2

Land, water plan better than no plan at all

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission has adopted the Land and Water Conservation and Recreation Plan, which will guide all state acquisitions of parkland and protected wildlife habitat and guide TPW's efforts to protect waterways over the next 10 years.

Thanks to the hundreds of citizens who commented and attended public hearings the final plan was stronger than anticipated. Though the draft plan includes many important recommendations for how TPW will address Texas' rapidly growing conservation and recreation needs, the plan is deficient in some areas.

TPW will open a minimum of four 5,000-acre or larger state parks near

major urban centers of the state and establish wildlife management areas in the Cross Timbers and Prairies ecoregions and the High Plains ecoregion.

The plan also calls for TPW to expand existing priority state parks and wildlife management areas. The state park and wildlife management area recommendations are an important starting point, but they are not adequate for meeting our state's growing need for parkland and habitat conservation. TPW should have adopted the goal of providing 55 acres of state parkland per 1000 people. This goal is based upon population growth and would allow TPWD to take action during the next

Please see NO FUNDING Page 5

This month's program

In October, John Rohrbach, curator of photos at the Amon Carter Museum, will give a program on the upcoming Eliot Porter exhibit, sponsored in part by the Fort Worth Group. NEXT MONTH: In November, Troy Hibbits will present a program on reptiles and amphibians.

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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

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Big Bend Thanksgiving Trip Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- ____ **Vagabond Day Hikes: Easy to Moderate.** James Moody
____ **High Chisos Backpack: Moderate.** Tolbert Greenwood
____ **Basin Day Hikes: Moderate/Strenuous.** Jim Walling
____ **Rio Grande Village Day Hikes: Easy/Moderate.** Todd Nichols

Please send your check for \$160 per person to Todd Nichols,
200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, Texas 766018-1420.

Deadline for reservations Nov. 1

Registration deadline is Nov. 1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
of Burro Mesa Pouroff, Grapevine Hills, Pine Canyon, and Ernst and Carlotta tinajas among the possibilities.

James Moody, 817-295-1623 – who normally leads the strenuous three-and-a-half day backpack is the trip leader.

"I know some members of the Group are still upset with me for going off and leaving the stragglers back in 1998. Others can't seem to put 1999 behind them when I inadvertently rated a killer backpack as Easy Walking," Moody said. "But this is a new century and I no longer have that mean, sadistic streak in me. All the hikes are rated from easy walking to moderate and, if you doubt my new-found honesty and integrity, you can check the Hiker's Guide to Trails of Big Bend," he said.

That trip is limited to eight people unless another person is willing to take a high-clearance vehicle to the park to

help transport people each day.

The sleeper bus will depart Wednesday night before Thanksgiving from Fort Worth and arrive in Big Bend National Park by 6 a.m. After four days of adventure, participants will have the opportunity to wash off the trail dust with a hot shower and be treated to a big Sunday dinner enroute home. The bus will be back in town Monday morning before 5 a.m. As evidenced by the trip descriptions, there's something for everyone, from first time campers to veteran backpackers.

The trip cost is \$160, payable in advance by Nov. 1. Please make checks payable to the Fort Worth Sierra Club and mail to the trip coordinator, Todd Nichols at 200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, Texas 76018-1420.

A minimum of 27 participants is required to have the trip so please commit early.

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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.

October 4-6 Friday-Sunday

Car camp in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge northwest of Lawton, Okla. Leaders will leave early Friday to save first-come, first-serve campsites in Doris Campground. Join us at the campground Friday night, or by 10 a.m. Saturday morning. Optional naturalist-led "Bugling Elk Tour" at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday morning; those interested must call us by 9/4 at 817-379-5723 so that we can make the required reservations. Tour lasts about 3 1/2 hours and is \$3 per person. We will hike the Charons Garden Wilderness on Saturday. Evening options are viewing the sunset from atop Mt. Scott, burgers/barbecue at Meers Country Store, and hiking the campground trails. After breakfast on Sunday, we will hike the Dog Run Hollow Trail System. We will break camp around noon; optional lunch in Lawton, OK before returning to Fort Worth. Jim and Jane Nelson (jfnelson1@charter.net) (817)379-5723.

October 12-13 (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 less than 1 mile to a primitive camping area on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon we will day hike 3-4 miles. Possible 2-mile day hike Sunday at Longhorn Caverns. Optional lunch at the Bluebonnet Cafe in Marble Falls with mile high pies is planned. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 924-6242 or cpblalock@msn.com.

October 18-20, Friday-Sunday

Miss the Halloween trip to Caddo Lake we used to do 10 years ago? It's been

revived complete with full moon. Camp at Caddo Lake State Park near Marshall on Friday night. On Saturday, we canoe about 1 mile to a nearby island to enjoy the seclusion and beauty of Texas' only natural lake. Saturday night meal will be a potluck affair complete with campfire and ghost stories. Canoe rentals available through Pine Needles Lodge (903-665-2911) and are limited so contact immediately to 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 a campsite for Friday night. Trip is open to families and ends with a catfish lunch on Sunday. Leaders: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-346-3140 (tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com) and Marilyn Sumner, 817-491-2382, (marilynturnage@msn.com).

October 26-27 Saturday-Sunday

Halloween beginner backpack trip in the beech Creek scenic area. Backpack about 9 relatively flat miles round trip in this beautiful area in S.E. Oklahoma. Camp will be near the creek. As time permits, there will be an optional day hike. 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. Make sure you bring treats for Trick or Treating. Leaders: Claudia Blalock and Marcos Jorge (972) 394-2546; email: mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com

October 27-November 2

Guadalupe Mts. Service Project. This national trip is officially full, but room will be made for Fort Worth Group members. Contact James Moody at (H) 817-295-1623 or (M) 817-688-3656.

November 9-10 (Saturday-Sunday)

Easy beginner backpack on the Cross Timbers Trail. Drive up to this easy trail on the south shore of Lake Texoma on Saturday morning. This is about a 1.5 hour drive north from Fort Worth. We'll hike about 3 miles to a camp overlooking the lake. We will hike out on Sunday morning and stop on the way home for lunch. Preference given to participants of the Beginner Backpacking Class. Leader: Claudia Blalock and Marcos Jorge (972) 394-2546; email: mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com

Nov. 27-Dec. 2 (Wednesday-Monday)
Annual Big Bend Thanksgiving Bus

Trip. A sleeper bus departs Wed. night before Thanksgiving from Fort Worth and arrives in Big Bend National Park by 6 a.m. After 4 days of adventure, we'll take a hot shower, get a big Sunday supper enroute home and be back in town Monday morning before 5 a.m. Four trips will be offered, varying in experience level from first time campers to veteran backpackers. Trip cost is \$160 payable in advance by Nov. 1. Please make checks payable to the Fort Worth Sierra Club. A minimum of 27 participants is required to have trip so please commit early. Trips include High Chisos Basin Backpack, Chisos Basin Day Hikes, Rio Grande Village Dayhikes and various day hikes in the Park via SUV. Trip coordinator is Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr. Arlington, TX 76018-1420. Phone 817-472-0710 Individual trips and leaders include Trip1 – James Moody, 817-295-1623, various day hikes throughout the park; Trip 2 – Chisos Backpack: Set up camp in the heart of the Chisos mountains. From there take easy day hikes to South Rim, Emory Peak, and Juniper Canyon. Moderate. Tolbert Greenwood, 817-346-3140. Trip 3 – Basin Day Hikes: Visit some of the most famous trails in the park. The Window, the Lost Mine Trail, Emory Peak. Moderate/Strenuous. Jim Walling 817-444-4416. Trip 4 – Rio Grande Village Day Hikes: Take day hikes from the group campsite to the Hot Springs, Old Ore Terminal, and Boquillas Canyon. Easy/Moderate. Todd Nichols 817-472-0710.

November 9-11 Saturday-Monday

Car camp in Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Spend the weekend in one of the most beautiful parks in Texas. Camp will be at the Pine Springs campground. We will meet Saturday morning for a 10-mile day hike in McKittrick Canyon. On Sunday we will day hike 8.4 miles up to Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas at 8,749 feet. Monday morning we will have a short hike before heading back to Texas. Leader: Wendy Lambert (817) 251-0016 (H) or w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org.

November 16 Saturday

Sierra Club work day at the Fort Worth Nature Center. Work hours and more about the project to be announced later. Contact: James Moody, 817-295-1623 (H) or 817-688-3656 (M). JMoody166@aol.com.

Coming Events

October 11, 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.

October 16, 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.

Sierra Singles Events

(Unofficial Sierra Club event): Orienteering/Compass Event Saturday, Oct. 12, 9 a.m.; Erwin Park, McKinney. \$12 fee, an official North Texas Orienteering Association event. Meet us in Gazebo at 9 a.m. Hike 2-3 hours, adjourn to Cafe Brazil in Richardson for lunch. Leaders: Becky Mehrer, 214-904-8184, capnbec@netscape.net) and Connie Griggs.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m., join us for the Heard Museum Day Hike.

General Meeting Wednesday, October 16

Program: See Page 1 for information on October and November programs.

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

Meet in the Museum. Cost discounted to \$3 for 15 or more people, so send email on intentions. Regular price \$5. Wander in the museum, then hike 4 miles through diverse habitats, including tall grass prairie, bottomland hardwood, and limestone escarpment. Visit Raptor Rehabilitation area, with birds of prey. From US 75 in Dallas, take exit 38A east; go 1 mile and turn south on Hwy. 5. Go 3/4 mile and turn left on FM1378. The museum is a mile east of Hwy. 5 on the north side of FM 1378 just past the McKinney Country Club golf course. Leader: Sonny Fee, 972-671-2112 or sonnyf@sprintmail.com

On Monday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. join us for dinner at Mercado Juarez, located at 1901 W. Northwest Hwy. in Irving. If you can, come at 6:45 and mix and mingle in the bar for 15 minutes; it's harder to meet everyone once we sit at a long table. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Saturday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. join us for a day hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center, 9601 Fossil Ridge Road in northwest Fort Worth. Meet in front of the interpretive center to begin hiking promptly at 10:00. There will be two options: an aerobic hike which means we will hike 6-7 miles over a 2-hour

period, and a more leisurely hike for those who prefer to stop and look at birds and flowers. Afterwards we can all enjoy an optional lunch at Harbor One, a really cool seafood place on Boat Club Road where you can park a car or dock a boat and have a view of Eagle Mountain Lake while eating. Leader: Jenny Lehman. Co-leader: Becky Mehrer, capnbec@netscape.net or 214-904-8184.

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.

October 29, Tuesday

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

November 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.

November 6, 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.

Sierra Club report spotlights good and bad of transportation

"Smart Choices, Less Traffic" is Sierra Club's latest report on sprawl and transportation. The report samples some of the best and worst transportation projects around the country. It showcases visionary communities that demonstrate that we can save commuters from traffic jams and air pollution by providing sensible options for getting to work. These include a new high speed rail line in California, new streetcar in Louisiana, car sharing in Oregon, community designed traffic calming in Virginia, and renovation of a historic train station in Colorado.

It also highlights some of the worst transportation projects such as Houston's 4th beltway, the 140 mile extension

of I-69 in Indiana, and a 6-lane highway through New Mexico's National Petroglyph Monument. These projects will destroy natural lands, lead to more traffic, exacerbate air pollution

and induce tremendous sprawling developments.

You can learn more about how transportation impacts the environment at www.sierraclub.org/sprawl.

Will taxpayers foot the clean up bill for polluters?

Later this year, the U.S. Senate will vote on an act that renews the original polluters pays' funding mechanism that Congress enacted in 1995 to pay for the Superfund program. Cleanup for the nation's most toxic waste sites is slowing and, in some cases, suspended, due to President Bush's commitment not to reauthorize the corporate tax on polluting industries to fund the cleanup. Taxpayers should not pay for the clean up of toxic waste sites created by polluters.

While the Superfund program is expected to run out of funding by 2004, more than 1,200 toxic waste sites still await cleanup. One American in four lives within four miles of a Superfund waste site, making this issue far from trivial.

For more information on reinstating the 'polluter pays' funding mechanism for the Superfund program, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/toxics/superfund/>.

No funding recommendations made in plan CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

10 years to meet the state's growing conservation and recreation needs.

The plan recommends that TPW continue to support local park needs through competitive grant programs and that TPW develop programs and identify funding for the establishment of local parks. These recommendations are important, but TPW should have also adopted the goal of working with local governments to provide 25 acres of local parkland per 1000 people.

The plan also recommends that TPW support the establishment of a purchase of development rights program consistent with it's mission in the conservation of natural resources. This is important since it could play a major role in protecting wildlife habitat and watersheds from urban development.

The plan recommends that TPW continue to study the freshwater need of river basins and bays and estuaries and incorporate results of the studies into water planning, development, and management processes. TPW will also encourage the conversion or transfer of existing unused water rights to the Texas Water Trust to protect river flows for wildlife and recreation. The plan

should also have set goals for acquiring water rights to place in the Trust and supported limits on new water diversions so that water ways maintain enough flow to protect water quality and support wildlife and recreation.

Unfortunately, for political reasons the plan did not address how to finance these recommendations. Funding options such as lifting the cap on revenue generated from the sales tax on sporting goods and authorizing the issuance of new bonds should have been

recommended.

Though the plan is deficient in some areas, it includes many recommendations important to address future conservation and recreation needs. Overall it should be seen as a starting point to lay groundwork for more substantive conservation actions in the near future. Now that the plan has been adopted the top priority of the Sierra Club on this issue is to work for additional funding to increase parkland, conserve habitat, and protect waterways.

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