

## A new twist to an old trip concept

*Big Bend trip won't be on Thanksgiving or use buses this year*

■ Here's a riddle for you: When's a Thanksgiving bus trip to Big Bend not a Thanksgiving bus trip to Big Bend? Give up? Read on

Now you can have your cake and eat it too!

That is, assuming that cake is on the menu for the traditional Thanksgiving dinner at your house. At any rate, you can certainly have your turkey and eat it, too, this Thanksgiving.

And that will be a treat for those hearty Sierrans whose traditional Thanksgiving meal is a scrumptious bowl of freeze-dried chili somewhere on or off a trail in Big Bend National Park.

This year's Thanksgiving trip of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club will be a Beat-The-Rush-Before-Thanksgiving-But-After-Halloween Big Bend Trip. In other words, you can make a fall pilgrimage to Big Bend and still be with family and friends for Thanksgiving.

Factor out the additional turkeys who may be consumed with this arrangement, and it's one of those win-win situations for everyone concerned.

As usual, there will be a variety of trips for participants to choose from, with all of them well within the limitations of most hikers in reasonably good physical condition.

One nearly new twist, however, will be the transportation to and from Big Bend. Instead of buses, the group will



**VIEW FROM THE LOST MINE TRAIL** Views of Casa Grande are spectacular along the Lost Mine Trail, an easy 4.8 mile round trip hike that will be available again this year on the fall Big Bend trip of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

travel in passenger vans. Last year a smaller than normal group of hikers used a van and preferred it to a bus. That does mean leaving earlier in the day in order to get to Big Bend the night before the hiking begins.

Todd Nichols is again coordinating the Big Bend trip and will be the overall leader. He said that three trips within the park are being offered and that, if necessary because of the level of participation, he will lead a fourth trip.

Currently, the trip leaders are Tolbert Greenwood, who will take a group high into the Chisos Mountains; Jim Walling, who will lead day hikes from the Chisos Basin; and James Moody, who will lead a combination backpack/

day hike trip.

All three have been active as leaders of the Big Bend trip since its inception and are thoroughly familiar with the park.

Highlights of each trip follow (registration form on Page 4):

**High Chisos Backpack:** Hike up into the heart of the Chisos Mountains. Visit Boot Springs, the South Rim, Emory Peak, and Juniper Canyon. A base camp will be set up to allow for day hiking each day. Moderate. Leader: Tolbert Greenwood 817-346-3140.

**Basin Day Hikes:** Visit some of the most famous trails and landmarks in the park, including The Lost Mine Trail,

*Please see BIG BEND, Page 4*

Program Notes

**August Program:** The Last Great Wilderness Project, A Multimedia Slideshow Presentation by Jeff Barrie and a Gwich'n tribal member who will talk about their subsistence life in the Arctic. Started in 1987 by nature photographer Lenny Kohm, "The Last Great Wilderness Project" is a multi-media slide show aimed at illustrating the grandeur and beauty of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

# Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth, TX 76101

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## Web Pages

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

National [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)

# Familiar faces take on new roles

If you've been paying attention, you can still tell the players without a program, but there have been a few recent changes in the administrative structure of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

Two of those changes involve Claudia Blalock, who retired from the Ex-Com last year and has been outings leader for a number of years. She's agreed to go back on the Group's governing body, at least until the next election rolls around at the end of the year.

And additional responsibilities at work have forced her to relinquish her duties as outings leader.

She replaces Jim Nelson on the Ex-Com. Nelson was elected last December, but had to resign recently when a career move took him to Austin.

Taking Blalock's place in outings is former ExCom Chair Tolbert Greenwood. Greenwood remains an active member of the ExCom as well taking over the duties of outings coordinator.

The conservation committee also has a new coordinator, Glenn Ford.

"Glen brings new thoughts and guidance to the committee," said Earl Burnam, who has shared conservation duties with Bob Scott. "He urges everyone to come and make suggestions and help the committee plan. We would like to become really effective, and lead our Group to succeed in good conservation measures. We urge you to come and help us. Your ideas and advice might be just what is needed" Burnam said.

Finally, Ellen Christian has taken the reins as Membership Chair.

"We're happy to have these people on board and look for them to build on the many accomplishments of their predecessors," said ExCom Chair Dan Smith.

"Likewise, we appreciate the efforts of those who have been providing these services to our group," he added.



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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.*

## August 9, Saturday

Join us for a short hike at 8 a.m. on the Trinity Trail in Fort Worth. Meet at the parking lot just south of the Hoffbrau Steak House on University Dr. approximately 1 mile south of I-30. Bring water, sunscreen and sunglasses. Leader: Claudia Blalock, [cpblalock@msn.com](mailto:cpblalock@msn.com) or 817-924-6242.

## August 22, Friday

Join us on a night hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center for a star show and adventure along the trails of the prairie of west Fort Worth. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Hardwicke Interpretative Center inside the Nature Center to begin this hike. We will walk about 3-4 miles with frequent stops for star gazing and wildlife encounters. Bring water, flashlight, and insect repellent. Wear sturdy shoes and cool clothing. In event of rain, the hike is cancelled. For directions to the Nature Center, call 237-1111. Hike will be led by park naturalist. Trip organizer is Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

## September 20 Saturday

Mountain bike ride on the Lake Ray Roberts/Lake Lewisville Greenbelt Corridor, just north of Denton. Meet at Hwy. 380 access point just east of Denton at 9 a.m. The trip will take about 3 hours and cover 20 miles over flat terrain. You need a mountain bike for this rough terrain. Bring water, rain gear, helmets, and a snack. Contact leader to sign-up. Leaders: Dan Smith, 817-410-2955 ([riverdogdan@aol.com](mailto:riverdogdan@aol.com)) or Ellen Christian, 817-329-4301, [ellen.christian@attbi.com](mailto:ellen.christian@attbi.com)

## September 20, Saturday

Used Equipment Sale and Picnic. Need a new tent or camping gear? See what

deals are available as Sierrans sell their slightly used gear, including car camping, water gear, or backpacking equipment. Sale will begin at 5 p.m. followed by a potluck/fundraiser cookout at Tolbert Greenwood's backyard, 6728 Kirkwood, Fort Worth. If you want to sell gear, come by 4:30 p.m. to set up. No folding tables are available for gear display, so bring your own if you want to. There is room for tent set-up as well. All sale items must be priced beforehand. Please provide all accessories and instructions with sale item. Equipment sale will begin at 5 p.m. and dinner/potluck, at 6 p.m. If you plan to eat, bring a dish to share along with your own plate, utensils, cup, and lawn chair. Beverages, ice, and condiments will be provided. Hot dogs are available at \$1 each as a fundraiser for the Outings Program. If you plan to come, call Tolbert at (817) 737-8698 or email [tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com](mailto:tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com) so we can anticipate number of attendees

## October 4, Saturday

Beginner Backpack Training at Fort Worth Nature Center, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Hardwick Interpretative Center. Learn how to set up a tent, plan a trip, select the right clothing and equipment, pack, and enjoy the outdoors in a low impact camping or backpacking style. The Sierra Club Outings Committee, with a combined experience of over 60 years of camping and hiking, teaches the class. Bring a bag lunch; beverages provided. Cost: \$15 per person. Preregistration and prepayment required with minimum of 10 persons to hold class. Mail checks to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. Fort Worth 76109. Contact: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

## October 10-12 (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 reserve your canoe now. Call Texas State Park

Reservations at 512-389-8900 or email [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](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](mailto:tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com)) and Marilyn Sumner, 817-491-2382, ([marilynturnage@msn.com](mailto:marilynturnage@msn.com)).

## September 7-12, Sunday-Friday

High Sierra Fly fishing. The search of the elusive California golden trout requires a strenuous 35-mile backpack in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Brookies, rainbows and browns will also be sought. This fly fishing trip is from Devil Post Pile to Tuolumne Meadows on the John Muir Trail. The trip is rated strenuous and only for those who have had extended backpack trips in bear country. Bear resistant canisters are required for food storage. A California nonresident fishing license and trout stamp is required for angling. There is a nonrefundable fee of \$5 for the wilderness permit. The trip is limited to six experienced backpackers. Contact the leaders who will determine if you qualify for the trip. Leaders: Marcos Jorge 972-394-2546 ([mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com](mailto:mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com)) and Steve Longley, 972-394-2546.

## Big Bend adventure trip price unchanged

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

South Rim, Emory Peak, and the Window. Camp in the main campground in The Basin. Moderate/Strenuous. Leader: Jim Walling 817-444-4416.

**Desert Mountain Sampler:** One overnight backpack to Banta Shut In and day hikes throughout the park, which may include The Chimneys, Top of Burro Mesa Pourouff, Devil's Den, Apache Canyon, and/or other similar trips, depending on the choices of the participants. Moderately Strenuous. Leader: James Moody, 817-295-1623.

Trip cost is \$140 per person, which includes a West Texas dinner on the return trip Sunday.

Mail checks, payable to the Fort Worth Sierra Club, to: Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, Texas 76018-1420.

# Coming Events

**Aug. 5 and Sept. 2, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.**  
Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m., at Panera Bread, 1700 S. University Dr. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Dan Smith, 410-2955.

**August 20, Wednesday, 7 p.m.**  
Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting.

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

## General Meeting Wednesday, August 20

**Program:** See story below for information on August program.

**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).

the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email [jmoody166@aol.com](mailto:jmoody166@aol.com).

### September 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.

### August 12 & September 9

The Conservation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Four Star Coffee Bar, 3324 W. 7th St. at 7 p.m. All members are welcome and

encouraged to attend. Contact: Chair Glenn Ford, 469-6540 or Earl Burnam, 244-2328 or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

### September 2, Tuesday

Outings Committee Meeting at 6 PM at Panera Bread on University Drive, 1 block south of I-30 intersection. If you go past the zoo, you are too far south. Discuss and plan past and upcoming outings with leaders. For more information, contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

### October 17-19

Sierra Celebration. Initial planning has been done to hold this year's Sierra Celebration at Bastrop State Park. Cabins, bunkhouses, campsites, and "the great fire ring" have been reserved for the weekend. At this point we have environmental singer/musicians and entertainers Bill Oliver and Frank Meyer scheduled for Saturday evening for our featured entertainment. In addition plans are being made for outings events, including hikes, "casual" orienteering sessions, and "naturalist" hikes as well as social events.

## Next program explores grandeur of Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

Jeff Barrie and a Gwich'n tribal member who will talk about their subsistence life in the Arctic for the August program of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

"The Last Great Wilderness Project," was started in 1987 by nature photographer Lenny Kohm. It is a multi-media slide show aimed at illustrating the grandeur and beauty of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Using his spectacular photographs of the flora and fauna of the coastal plain of the Arctic

Refuge, together with his experiences with the native Gwich'in people, Kohm wove together a compelling presentation to protect the Refuge.

Kohm gave film maker Jeff Barrie his first glimpse of the Arctic Refuge during a slide show in 1995. A year later Barrie traveled to Alaska with his video camera to record life in Gwich'in villages, the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay and the wilderness of the Refuge. His documentary "Arctic Quest: Our

Search for Truth" has been broadcast on PBS stations nationwide. Both men have traveled the country to advocate for protection of the Arctic Refuge, and now Barrie has picked up where Kohm left off, spreading the important message that the Refuge is too wild to waste.

The Refuge consists of more than 19 million acres of pristine mountains, forest, tundra, and coastal plain and is regarded by many as America's last great wilderness.

## Fall Big Bend Bus Trip Reservation

*November 5-9, 2003*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please register \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$140 per person for the trip(s) checked below

\_\_\_\_ Chisos Mountains Backpack      \_\_\_\_ Basin Day Hikes      \_\_\_\_ Desert Mountain Sampler

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to the Fort Worth Sierra Club

Detach and mail payment to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, TX 76018-1420

## Resolution of the executive committee of the Lone Star Chapter opposes Proposition 12

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Texas carefully separates the powers of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of government and has tempered those powers with important checks and balances, including the right of trial by jury; and

WHEREAS, historically and constitutionally, jurors in the courts of the State of Texas have been empowered to award damages for pain and suffering, mental anguish, exemplary damages, and other non-economic damages based upon all of the facts and evidence and common law, and the verdicts of juries have been subject to review by the appellate courts pursuant to the Rule of Law; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature, contrary to its long tradition and public policy, is submitting Proposition 12 to amend Article 3 of the Texas Constitution to deprive the Courts of the State of Texas and the jurors of the State of Texas of the right to award non-economic damages based upon the law and the evidence, and to empower the Texas Legislature to establish a limit of liability for all damages and losses of non-economic damages without regard to the facts and circumstances of the actual damages sustained by injured persons; and

WHEREAS, the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club believes that intentional violators of the environmental laws and

irresponsible polluters of the environment who cause property damage, personal injury or death to the Citizens of Texas should not be protected by limiting the non-economic damages which can be awarded against them, but rather should be legally responsible to fully compensate their victims for all economic and non-economic damages reasonably justified by the facts and evidence under the laws of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 12 would empower the Texas Legislature to establish limits on non-economic damages in not only cases involving medical or

health care providers, but also victims of pollution, toxic torts and other violations of the environmental laws of the State of Texas and of the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes the adoption of the Proposition 12 Constitutional Amendment in the election to be held September 13, 2003.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Executive Committee of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club on this 20th day of July, 2003.

### Membership

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## Mission statement

The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

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