

## Top environmental stories of 2002

### *Bush Administration roll back of environmental protections tops list*

The closing of 2002 offers an opportunity to review the most significant environmental stories of this past year and catch a glimpse of the major issues to be expected in 2003.

#### **Bush Administration Rolls Back Environmental Protections**

This past year, the Bush Administration led a direct assault on the laws that protect America's water, air, and natural treasures. The record is astounding: relaxing clean air protections for dirty power plants; reducing toxic waste clean-up; pursuing oil and gas development in National Parks and other natural treasures such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and attempting to revoke protections on remaining roadless areas on national forests. And those are just some of the issues that have been made public. Offering sober look behind the scenes, Eric Schaeffer, the highly regarded Enforcement Director at the Environmental Protection Agency, resigned last February because of the White House's deliberate attempts to undermine EPA lawsuits against 9 power companies who were flagrantly violating the Clean Air Act. The Administration's efforts to roll back basic environmental safeguards will inevitably continue in 2003, with a Congress that has empowered notorious, anti-environmental legislators to key leadership positions.

#### **National Security Debate Reveals Dangerous Dependence On Oil**

"We have an insane approach to energy right now at a time when we're enormously dependent on our energy

from this unstable region of the world," states Thomas Friedman, New York Times foreign-affairs columnist. Not since the 1970's have we seen so much attention on energy use in America, especially for automobiles. For yet another year, the average "miles per gallon" of new cars and trucks actually got worse, not better. Despite the fact that we have existing, proven technologies to dramatically improve fuel economy, Congress and the Bush Ad-

ministration, under pressure from some auto makers, missed an opportunity to increase fuel efficiency standards in the National Energy Bill, which will be revisited in 2003.

The silver lining from 2002 is that while the "Big Three" car companies remained stuck in the slow lane, Honda and Toyota broke from the pack and found success with their new hybrid vehicles.

*Please see SOME, Page 2*

## Smith elected Fort Worth Group Executive Committee chairman

At its organizational meeting/mini-retreat in January, the Executive Committee of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club elected Dan Smith as its chairman.

Smith, a Sierra Club member since 1975, is also program chairman for the Group as well as an outings leader. He is active in camping, hiking, backpacking, bicycling, and canoe trips.

Smith was elected for his second two-year term on the Group's governing committee in the recent ExCom election.

New on the board as a result of that election are Susan Robinson, who will serve as vice-chairman; Jeneanne Carson, who assumes the secretarial duties of the committee; and Jim Nelson.

Tolbert Greenwood, a holdover on the ExCom, had served as chairman for the previous two years but declined

to seek that position again.

He was selected as the Group's representative to the Lone Star Chapter.

Robinson served as program chairman before Smith took over those duties and can also be seen at meetings selling t-shirts, caps, and other Sierra Club memorabilia for the Group.

Carson is a frequent volunteer at Sierra Club events or events staffed by Sierra Club members. She's also a frequent outings participant.

Nelson both leads and participates in outings of the Group.

ExCom member Jenny Lehman is the leader of the Sierra Singles for both the Fort Worth and Dallas Groups and James Moody is newsletter editor and an outings leader.

The ExCom also moved its meetings to the first Tuesday of each month and will change locations in March.

**Program Notes**

**February Program:** Martha Ohlson will present a slide show and description of her trip to Namibia and Botswana in southern Africa at the February Program of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club. Included in her presentation will be some excellent wildlife photos.

# 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

<b>Chair</b>	Dan Smith	
	410-2955	riverdogdan@aol.com
<b>Vice-chair</b>	Susan Robinson	
	254-582-8228	srobinson@shitneytx.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Jeanne Carson	
	860-1870	jcars@flash.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Wendy Lambert	
	251-0016	wlambert@concrete-pipe.org

## Members

Jenny Lehman	263-1357	avidhiker@killerfrogs.com
James Moody	295-1623	jmoody166@aol.com
Tolbert Greenwood	346-3140	tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com
Jim Nelson	379-5723	jfnelson1@charter.net

## Campaign Coordinators

<b>Conservation</b>	Earl Burnam	244-2328
	Bob Scott	282-1372

## Outings Contacts

<b>Chair</b>	Claudia Blalock	924-6242
<b>Canoeing</b>	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
<b>Bicycle</b>	Don Bowles	571-9778
<b>Backpacking</b>	Claudia Blalock	924-6242

## Administrative Contacts

<b>Membership</b>	Marsha Malinsky	292-3998
<b>Programs</b>	Dan Smith	410-2955

## Newsletter Staff

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



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## Web Pages

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

National, Lone [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)

# Some good environmental news came from 2002

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## California Marches Ahead To Reduce Global Warming

While Canada recently became the 100th country to commit to modest greenhouse gas reductions under the Kyoto Treaty, the U.S., which emits far more carbon than any other nation, is punting on the issue by merely calling for more research. The Most Valuable Player Award, however, goes to California, which passed a landmark bill to regulate carbon dioxide emissions in cars. Forty percent of the Golden State's carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse gases come from cars. As you would expect, auto companies, with the support of the Bush Administration, are doing everything they can to block the new law from going into effect.

## Vice President Plays Hide And Seek With Energy Documents

Despite a campaign pledge to "restore trust in government" and a banner year for corporate scandals in the energy industry, Vice President Dick Cheney continued to withhold documents from his Energy Task Force meetings with energy executives. Arguing that withholding such evidence is a violation of federal law, the Sierra Club filed a high profile lawsuit against the Vice President, and in November, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ordered the Vice President to turn over the documents. We'll have to wait until 2003 to see whether the Vice President complies.

## U.S. Cuts Aid To Family Planning

In a move that affects the health of women and children and the global environment, the Bush Administration sabotaged successful family planning programs in 160 countries when it cut

all U.S. support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The UNFPA estimates this funding could have prevented the premature deaths of 4,700 mothers and 77,000 children.

At the recent Asian and Pacific Conference on Population, the Administration also raised quite a stir when it tried to insert controversial anti-abortion provisions in an international agreement on family planning. Fortunately, all of the more than 30 other countries in attendance overwhelmingly rejected the Administration's changes.

(And for a little more good news...)

## Wilderness Quietly Squeaks Through

With help from the Sierra Club, three new wilderness bills passed Congress: for James Peak in Colorado (20,000 acres), Clark County in Southern Nevada (450,000 acres), and the Black Hills of South Dakota (3,600 wilderness addition). In 2003, the Sierra Club will be working to pass other wilderness bills including the Wild Sky Wilderness bill for Washington State and California Wild Heritage Wilderness and Wild Rivers bill.

## Campaign Finance Reform

Elections and the environment will get a little bit cleaner since Congress passed a landmark bill to eliminate soft money from campaigns. As a result, polluting industries will no longer be able to dump unlimited funds into their candidates' campaigns. Instead of being influenced by dollars, candidates and political parties will be influenced by voters. The story will continue in 2003 as both Republicans and Democrats work to create giant loopholes in the new law.

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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.

## February 15-16, Saturday-Sunday

Couples Cabin Weekend at Beavers Bend State Park. Spend a weekend in one of the most beautiful parks in Oklahoma. Hike Sat. on the Indian Nations Trail, share a potluck dinner that night, and hike Sun. morning. Hikes are about 5 miles over hilly terrain. If you and a significant other are interested in spending Valentine's weekend in this beautiful area, come join the fun. Leader: Wendy Lambert 817-251-0016.

## February 21-24, (Friday-Monday)

Big Bend Ranch State Park. Join Sierrans on a trip to one of Texas State Park's hidden jewels. This state park is to the northwest of Big Bend National Park, and fronts on the Rio Grande almost all the way to Presidio, and is a 10-11 hour drive from Fort Worth. We are planning an easy trip, arriving by 5 PM on Friday (gates are locked after that) and taking a guided tour of the remote ranch areas in a 4-wheel vehicle on Saturday conducted by the park staff (cost \$75.00 per person). This tour goes to areas closed to the general public, is limited to 12 persons, and must be reserved immediately by calling the state park at 915-229-3416. Sunday will be for a day hike of approximately 9 miles or less. Lodging will be in the bunkhouse (\$15 per night) and meals can be arranged at a cost of \$21.00 per day. Bunkhouse has separate accommodations for male/female. Lodging and the tour must be reserved in advance. Applications (available from the leader) must be sent in with reservations for the bunkhouse. Bunkhouse can be reserved by phone, at 915-229-3416. Leader: Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 or

February 2003

marilynturnage@msn.com

## February 27, Thursday

Join other Sierrans in a docent led tour of the new Eliot Porter exhibit, the Color of Wildness at the Amon Carter Museum. Porter, a world renown nature photographer, was a prominent leader in the Sierra Club during the 1960's and published several books in conjunction with the club to publicize preservation of our natural areas. Meet at 6:20 PM at the entrance to the gift shop inside the museum so that tour can begin promptly at 6:30 PM. Carter Museum is located at 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth 76107.

## March, 15, Saturday

Join other Sierrans in a docent led tour of the new Eliot Porter exhibit, the Color of Wildness at the Amon Carter Museum. Porter, a world renown nature photographer, was a prominent leader in the Sierra Club during the 1960's and published several books in conjunction with the club to publicize preservation of our natural areas. Meet at 10:50 AM at the entrance to the gift shop inside the museum so that tour can begin promptly at 11:00 AM. Carter Museum is located at 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth 76107.

## March 28-30, Friday-Sunday

Car camp and kayak the Lighthouse Lakes Trail near Aransas Pass, TX. This is a new trip for the Sierra Club to explore a kayak trail on the Texas coast near Port Aransas, TX on Sat. March 29. The trip requires use of a GPS and good navigational skills. Must be good swimmer and skilled kayaker or canoeist for trip. The Lighthouse Lake Trail is approximately 6 miles and winds through bay and mangrove areas. Kayak rental will be handled through Capt. Sally's Rockport Kayak Outfitters (rockportkayakoutfi@sbcglobal.net or (361) 729-1505 and should be made in advance by individual trip participant. Kayak rental is \$50 per day for single kayak and \$60 per day for double kayak. These are open cockpit sea kayaks. Shuttle fee to Lighthouse Trail will be \$25.00 for group. To make reservation,, please identify yourself as part of the Fort Worth Sierra Club group. Camping will be at Goose Island State Park and requires a fee. You must make your own campsite reservations by contacting the Texas Parks and Wildlife

([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park)) or calling their office at 512/389-8900. Sunday will be reserved for a whooping crane tour and visits to other nearby coastal natural areas. Participation requires prior approval of leader due to navigational and aquatic skills required. Leader: Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 or marilynturnage@msn.com.

## April 11-13, Friday-Sunday

2nd annual Caprock Canyon State Park and Trailway We'll travel to Caprock Canyon on Friday night and establish base camp at Little Red Tent Camping area. Saturday's bike trip will be approx 25 miles from the west end of the trail riding back toward 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. Number of bikers limited to 12 persons. Sunday morning will be optional bike rides or hikes within the park. Cost of the trip will be \$10.00 per person to include campground reservations and trail fees. Leader: Dan Smith, 817 410-2955, or email RiverdogDan@aol.com.

## April 11-13, (Friday-Sunday)

Backpack trip to Caney Creek/Buckeye Mountain. . Enjoy a spring backpack trip in western Arkansas. This is a favorite of the Sierra Club. We'll backpack a total of about 9 miles. The hike to camp is on a ridge and offers excellent views of the Caney Creek Wilderness. We'll set up camp near a waterfall. Friday night camp will be at Shady Oaks Campground nearby. Leaders: Marcos Jorge (972) 394-2546 (mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com) and Faith Mauk.

## May 8-11, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe a section of the Buffalo National River in central Arkansas on Friday and Saturday for a total distance of less than 20 miles on this national wild and scenic river. This river is crystal clear and surrounded by beautiful cliffs and trees. Camp each night at Tyler Bend Park in Arkansas which is located at the midpoint of the canoe trail. You must

Please see STILL Page 4

# Coming Events

## February 4, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at La Madeleine. In March, the meeting site will become BJ Keefers at 909 W. Magnolia. For more information, contact Dan Smith, 410-2955.

## February 19, 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

## General Meeting Wednesday, February 19

**Program:** See Pg. 1 for information on February 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).

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).

## Conservation Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee normally meets the last Tuesday of the month at 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, to verify location and date.

## March 3, 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.

## March 4, Tuesday

Outings Committee Meeting, 5:45 p.m., at BJ Keefers, just prior to the February ExCom meeting. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

## March 16, Sunday

Learn about wines at a wine tasting just for Sierrans at Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas at 2904 Oak Lawn (214-520-9463) 2:45 - 4:30 PM This is fund raiser for the Sierra Club. You will taste approximately 15 different wines and champagne and learn about their characteristics. You must sign-up and pay in advance by March 10. Please mail checks for \$20 per person to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76109 (phone 817-924-6242)

# Still more outings for spring and beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

leave on Thursday afternoon due to the 7 hour drive to the campsite. Shuttle service and canoe rental must be arranged in advance by contacting the outfitter at 870-439-2888. The number of canoes available is very limited. The website is [www.gilbertsstore.com](http://www.gilbertsstore.com). No shuttles are provided by the canoe outfitter for personal craft. This trip is open to experienced canoeists and requires approval of trip leader. This is not a technical river, but there is a current and basic canoeing skills are needed. Leader: Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 (email [marilynturnage@msn.com](mailto:marilynturnage@msn.com)) or Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 email [cplalock@msn.com](mailto:cplalock@msn.com)

## September 7-12 (Sunday-Friday)

High Sierra Fly fishing. The search of the elusive California golden trout requires a strenuous backpack of about 35 miles 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 as strenuous and is 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 check must be received by Feb. 21, to meet the permit deadline. The trip is limited to 6 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.

## Sierra Singles Events

On Saturday, Feb. 22 join us for Games N Snacks in McKinney at 7 p.m. Come to this unique winter indoors outing! Bring your fun game-playing self. Bring a delicious snack or dessert to share. Bring your own beverage. Optionally, bring your favorite game to play. We'll eat and compete!

Host is Stephanie Smith at her house in McKinney. Email [Stephaniegeek@gwij.com](mailto:Stephaniegeek@gwij.com) or call 214 544-1503 for exact directions.

On Saturday, March 15 join other Sierrans in a docent led tour of the new Eliot Porter photography exhibit, the Color of Wildness at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth. Meet at 11 a.m. at the entrance to the gift shop inside the museum. See more details above under "Upcoming Events." For more information, see Carter's website at [www.cartermuseum.org](http://www.cartermuseum.org)

On Sunday, March 16 learn about wines at a wine tasting just for Sierrans

at Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas at 2904 Oak Lawn (214-520-9463) 2:45 - 4:30 p.m. Additional information for this event is also listed above under "Upcoming Events."

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](mailto:lehje30@hotmail.com).

## Mid-week outings companions sought

Pat Leach, a Fort Worth outings leader, is hoping to find other campers and hikers who can do outdoor activities such as camping and hiking during the week.

Often, state parks and other trails are almost empty during the week and begging to be used. If you would like to join her, please contact Pat at 817-295-5009 or email her at [pakale@att.net](mailto:pakale@att.net).

## Visit our web site

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/>

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

# Air quality and the new Federal Energy Bill

A new energy bill will be started early this session that will greatly affect the quality of our air. Environmentalists want Congress to improve the Energy Bill to include a mandatory requirement and funding for 10% renewable energy, especially since that renewable energy, and wind energy in particular, have been very successful in Texas. No state stands to benefit economically more than Texas from passage of a strong national renewable policy.

Fuel cell development should be given stronger emphasis, and tax rebates should be funded for consumers who buy the cleanest cars sold in the U.S. and for energy efficiency investments in their homes, including solar panels.

Realistic measures for addressing global warming gases should be included and implemented, and carbon emissions should be set at 1990 levels, which is an achievable and essential goal. Congress must recognize and address the reality of global warming and its impacts on crops, coastlines, weather, and increasing disease.

Power plant clean up should be addressed using a multi-pollutant approach that includes reductions in nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides

(SOx), carbon dioxide and mercury. Carbon dioxide is a high contributor to global warming and emissions should be reduced. Mercury is highly toxic, and coal-burning power plants are the largest sources of mercury pollution. Power plants should be required to reduce mercury by 90%, the same as other industries have been required. "Trading" of credits should not be allowed as this could mean more mercury pollution in Texas.

Please write The Honorable Joe Bar-

ton, Chair of Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-4306. Ask him to include the following in the Energy Bill: (1) a mandatory requirement for 10% renewable energy and funding to support the effort, (2) stronger emphasis on fuel cell development, (3) tax rebates for purchase of energy-efficient cars, solar panels, etc. (4) realistic measures for addressing global warming, and (5) power plant clean-up.

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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.*

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