

Suffering from lack of interest

The Outings Program needs a leader as well as trip participants

Help is needed for the Outings Program for 2003. Claudia Blalock has resigned as Outings Chairperson after serving in this position for the last four years and a replacement is needed. This position oversees the coordination of the Fort Worth Outings to ensure that they follow the guidelines set by the National Sierra Club Outings Department.

Other duties include scheduling of monthly or bimonthly outings meetings for the club, planning and conducting a beginner backpacking class 1-2 times each year, planning outings for the group, and preparing a list of outings for the newsletter and web page each month.

Claudia will continue to participate

in outings as a leader, but needs a relief from these duties as chairperson.

Membership in the Fort Worth Sierra Club has grown to almost 1800 persons/households this year, but this total does not reflect the number of members who are active in the club. That number totals less than 50 persons. As a result, the Outings Program is dying.

Claudia noted that for the seven fall 2002 outings listed in our newsletter, over 90% of the participants were from the Dallas Sierra Club. At least three trips earlier in the year were cancelled due to lack of participation.

"Although we do not lead trips during hot weather, I like to think that our weekends trips, in particular, offer a better alternative than TV watching,"

Claudia noted. "I am discouraged by the lack of interest in our trips. It is terribly disappointing for a leader to plan a trip and volunteer his entire weekend, but have no one interested in the trip."

Some persons may question that the "wrong" type of trips are being offered. If you do not see a destination or type of trip you would like on our calendar, please help us plan. This is done at the monthly Outings meeting.

The next meetings are Jan. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Claudia and Feb. 5 at 7:00 at the Great Outdoors. Please mark these dates on your new Sierra Club calendar and make a commitment to be active this year! Call Claudia to volunteer to take her place or for more information at 817-924-6242.

Incumbent, three new members elected to ExCom

It was almost seemed as if it might be a case of "What if they held an election and nobody bothered to vote."

After all, there were no contested races and no real issues to stir the imagination of potential voters in the recent ExCom election.

While ballots were slow coming in through the mails, however, the majority of votes cast were submitted in person at the Group's annual Christmas Party.

When the results were all in, three new members and one holdover were elected to the Executive Committee of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

The tabulation of the vote and an-

nouncement of the results was made at the Christmas Party, which replaces the December meeting each year. .

New ExCom members are Jeneanne Carson, Susan Robinson, and Jim Nelson. Returning for a second term on the Group's decision-making board is Dan Smith.

All four have been active in various club activities for some time.

Carson is a frequent volunteer at Sierra Club events or events staffed by Sierra Club members. She's also somewhat of a regular on outings. "

Smith, a Sierra Club member since 1975, is currently program chairman for the Group as well as an outings leader. He is active in camping, hik-

ing, backpacking, bicycling and canoe trips.

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

Nelson both leads and participates in outings of the Group.

The membership elected a majority to the seven-member board this year.

These four will join ExCom members Tolbert Greenwood, Jenny Lehman, and James Moody.

At the January ExCom meeting, members will elect a new slate of officers and work on a plan of action for the upcoming year.

Program Notes

January: Spencer Newman, Energy Conservation Specialist with the City of Fort Worth will discuss alternative energy sources from a functional viewpoint (what can WE do?). Specifically, he'll discuss geothermal, wind, and solar energy available in this area.

February: Martha Ohlson will present a slide show and description of her trip to Namibia and Botswana in southern Africa. Included are some excellent wildlife photos.

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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

Executive Committee

Chair	Tolbert Greenwood	346-3140
Vice-chair	Jenny Lehman	263-1357
Treasurer	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Secretary	Russell Andrew	561-7628
	Claudia Blalock	924-6242
	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	Marsha Malinsky	292-3998
Assistant	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Programs	Dan Smith	410-2955

Newsletter Staff

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



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Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

Web Pages

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

National, Lone Star www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

The Planet www.sierraclub.org/planet

Political page www.sierraclub.org/politics

Action Alert

To subscribe, send message to: majordomo@igc.apc.org with the following command in the body of your e-mail message: `subscribe sc-action`

More Outings Information

Sierra Singles Events

On Monday, Jan. 20, at 7:00, join us for dinner at Papaya Garden, 1202 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 100 (at Industrial Blvd) in Euless. Come early and mingle with other Sierra Singles in the bar before we sit down for dinner.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9-12 a.m. join us for a service project with MediSend, a non-profit organization that donates medical equipment to Third World countries. MediSend needs help in its warehouse sorting through the donated supplies and organizing them.

This event is indoors so don't let cold or rainy weather stop you from helping out! Optional lunch afterwards. Details/directions TBA.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trailhead. You may just show up at an event unless specifically told to RSVP. The general rule is that you may show up for day hikes and dinners, and you need to

RSVP for weekend camping trips.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or lehje30@hotmail.com.

—Outings CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

railway 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

Thanks to our many volunteers

Gary Kriedeman would like to extend a special thanks to Joe Briggs, Marianne Herman, Susan Robinson, Wendy Lambert, Russell Andrew, and Jeneanne Carson for donating their time during these holidays to man the table for the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club at the Alternative Bazaar.

The first Saturday, at Unity Church, the Group volunteers sold 14 t-shirts, a cap, and 23 calendars for a total of \$454.

The second Saturday, at First Jefferson, volunteers sold 15 t-shirts, a cap, and seven calendars for a total of \$341.

Total for both Saturday's sales was \$785.

James Moody, who coordinated a

work day at the Fort Worth Nature Center in mid-November, would also like to thank those who helped out in that project.

Volunteers were Russell Andrew, John Hambek, Claudia Blalock, Jeneanne Carson, Jennifer Sheetz, and Karen Green, who brought along her son to help out.

At that project, which Moody hopes to make into a twice-a-year event in the fall and spring, volunteers concentrated on restoration efforts. They gathered native seeds and plants and replanted them and cleared an area in the buffalo range by cutting down mesquite and dragging them to a shredder.

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Coming Events

January 9, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

January 15, 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

General Meeting Wednesday, January 15

Program: See Pg. 1 for information on January 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).

er 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 jmood166@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.

February 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.

February 5, Sunday

Outings Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., at Great Outdoors. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

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.

January 5, Sunday

Get the New Year off with a renewed commitment to hike! Dayhike with Molly (Doberman) and Claudia on a leisurely stroll along the Trinity Trail beginning at the parking lot adjacent to the Trail just south of Hoffbrau Steak House on S. University in Fort Worth. Meet at 3 p.m. in the parking lot and look for a red Doberman. Bring water, rain gear (if rain is forecast), and wear sturdy shoes. Just show up. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

January 11, Saturday

Join us to hike the Keller portion of the Bear Creek Greenbelt. Meet Jim and Jane Nelson at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot just south and west of the intersection of Rufe Snow and Bear Creek Parkway in Keller, Texas. (The intersection is about 1/2 mile south of FM 1709 on Rufe Snow.) We will hike

approximately 6 miles, stopping for a light snack/lunch at picnic tables along the creek, so bring drinking water and a light snack. Phone number: (817) 379-5723 or email jnelson1@charter.net. We will cancel in the event of rain or severe weather.

January 16, 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 6:30 PM at the entrance to the gift shop inside the museum. Carter Museum is located at 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth 76107.

January 25, Saturday

Bike ride on the Trinity Trail. Meet at 8 a.m. at Memorial Oak Park, near Benbrook. Take 1-20 West toward Weatherford and exit at Winscott and head south. Take a left on Memorial Oak near the Soap Box Derby hill. This is mapsco 87V and is just north of Lake Benbrook Dam. If you get to Lakeside, you have gone 1/2 mile too far. We will ride about 10 miles with bird watching enroute. Leader: Tolbert Greenwood: 817-346-3140 or tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com

Jan 31-Feb 2, Friday-Sunday

Decatur Nat'l Grasslands about 2 hours

north of Fort Worth. Backpack or car-camp trip, depending on what the participants want to do". We'll arrive at the grasslands on Friday evening and car camp. Then, if folks want to backpack, we'll head out on Saturday morning (some may want to arrive on Saturday morning anyway) and hike out a few miles to a remote site, returning on Sunday morning. Otherwise, we'll car camp both nights and take a longer day hike on Saturday. Sunday morning we can do a shorter day hike before returning home. This is a "new moon" weekend, so plan to see some stars! Leader: Dan Smith, 817 410-2955, or email RiverdogDan@aol.com

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.

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

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club
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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.

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