

The good, the bad, and the ugly

Direct from Austin: Tales of the 78th Texas Legislature

How bad was it and where do we go from here?

Be the first person in your block to learn about all of the back room wheelings and dealings of the 78th Legislative Session. You are invited to join us for an overview of the state legislative session, provided in person by Lone Star Chapter Director Ken Kramer at a series of five fundraising events to be held in major cities around the state June 23-27.

At these receptions, the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club will release "Actions & Decisions of the 78th Texas Legislature: An Environmental Impact Statement."

This document will be an overview of the regular session of the Texas Legislature which ended June 2 and will focus on the impact of the Legislature's actions on environmental issues in the state.

Copies of the EIS will be provided to event attendees.

Events in Several Cities – Houston, Dallas, Austin, Fort Worth, and San Antonio scheduled:

Monday, June 23: Austin Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Home of Ginny Agnew and Chuck Herring, 1204 Castle Hill St.

Tuesday, June 24: Fort Worth Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Law offices of Art Brender, 600 8th Ave.

Wednesday, June 25: Dallas Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Home of Mary and Jay Vogleson, 9316 Guernsey Lane

Thursday, June 26: Houston Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Home of Jim and

Garland Blackburn, 2116 Albans.

Friday, June 27: San Antonio Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., To be announced

Cost for attending any of these receptions will be \$35 per person, \$50 per couple. Sponsorships are also available, ranging from \$125 to \$1000.

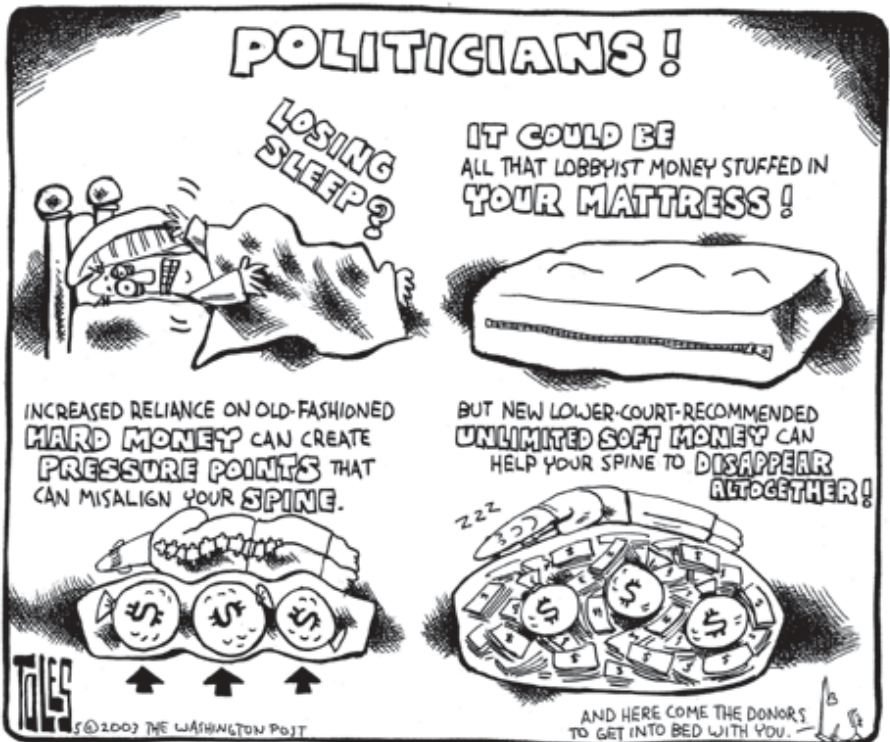
These events will raise money for funding the Lone Star Chapter's legislative lobbying work, both during and between the legislative sessions.

Checks for the receptions should be made payable to the Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club and sent in advance to

Legislative EIS Events, Sierra Club, P. O. Box 1931, Austin, Texas 78767.

Please RSVP to that address no later than Thursday, June 19 if you are planning to attend one of the events. A reservation form for the events is provided in this issue and on the Lone Star Chapter web page: <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org>

For more information about the events or the Legislative EIS, contact Sally Drews at the Sierra Club State Conservation Office in Austin (512/477-1729 or sally.drews@sierraclub.org)



Program Notes

June Program: Amber (granddaughter of Marilyn Turnage) and her parents hiked the 25 mile Inca Trail over several high mountain passes from Cuzco, Peru, to Machu Picchu. They also spent some time exploring Cuzco and the Urubamba river. Amber has traveled a lot more than most of us do in a lifetime and will present a fascinating program for June.

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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Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

Web Pages

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

National, Lone www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

The Planet www.sierraclub.org/planet

Scripting the GOP to deceive

The chief architect of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America is at it again. This time pollster Frank Luntz is advising Republicans how to sound good, but not how to be good, on the environment.

Luntz has dedicated 16 pages in his message book "Straight Talk," to the environment, which Luntz calls "the single issue on which Republicans in general – and President Bush in particular – are most vulnerable." The New York Times explained, "Luntz's remedy is not to change the policy, but to dress it up in warm and fuzzy words."

Republicans began this strategy last fall, when candidates who wouldn't normally campaign on their environmental records, like New Hampshire Senate hopeful John Sununu and Colorado Senator Wayne Allard, did. Their campaigns publicized their one or two good environmental votes and ignored their true anti-environmental record.

Luntz's goal is to shatter the "caricature" that the Republicans are in the pockets of corporate fat cats and sinister companies that "pollute America for fun and profit." In order to cloud the "prism of suspicion" with which voters view Republican lawmakers, Luntz advises them to:

–Assure a skeptical public you care, "tell personal stories" that illustrate your connectedness to the environment.

–Use language that reassures the public, like "preserve," "protect," "safer," "cleaner," and "healthier."

–Say you seek a fair "balance" between the environment and economy.

–Talk about ways to improve the environment in the future. (Bush's hydrogen car initiative is an example: Here's a solution to oil dependency that won't kick in for 16 years so we don't have to tackle it now.)

–Champion national parks and forests.

–Claim that there is scientific uncertainty even when the evidence shows otherwise, as is the case with global warming.

So how does the Sierra Club expose these efforts to deceive?

–Start with our core values, including protecting our families' health and safety. To counter the administration's so-called "Clear Skies Initiative," make an example of a specific local community that will be left at risk from continued or increased air pollution that triggers asthma attacks and causes lung disease. Explain that the Clean Air Act has been extremely effective in cleaning up the air and, compared to enforcing the law, the Bush plan would permit 50 percent more sulfur dioxide pollution and 200 percent more toxic mercury from coal fired power plants, threatening the health of children and pregnant women.

–Promote existing solutions. The Clean Air and Clean Water Acts are working now--why are they being weakened? We can begin to decrease our dependence of fossil fuels now--if we increase fuel economy standards; invest in wind and solar energy.

–Talk about corporations' responsibility to protect our health and safety. A "polluter pays" argument resonates with voters. The fact that Bush won't reauthorize the law to force polluters to pay for the cleanup of toxic sites and shifts costs to the taxpayer outrages citizens because it's not fair and big business is shirking its responsibility.

–Emphasize pattern and history of votes. The record of a candidate who has voted 12 times to strengthen clean air will trump the one anomalous vote cast by the "greenscammer."

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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.

June 6-8, Friday-Sunday

Canoe the South Llano River near Junction, Texas. This is a spring-fed river, flowing over limestone rocks, with great scenery. For those who don't canoe, the river is great for swimming or tubing, or for just keeping cool. We will camp at South Llano River State Park, in the walk-in area, and reservations should be made well in advance for this heavily used park. The park is 250 miles from Ft. Worth, down Hwy 377. We will canoe on Saturday, and rest up on Sunday morning for afternoon drive home. Two good websites: tpwd.state.tx to access the South Llano River SP site, and Canoeman.com for great information on the river. Contact Marilyn Turnage at 817-491-2382 or marilynturnage@msn.com.

June 13, Friday

Night hike on the Trinity Trail. Join Claudia Blalock for a leisurely stroll along the Trinity Trail beginning at the parking lot adjacent to the Trinity Trail just south of the Hoffbrau Steak House on S. University Drive in Fort Worth. We will hike about 3 miles total. Meet at 6:30 PM in the parking lot. Bring water, flashlight, rain gear (if rain is forecast), and wear sturdy shoes. Just show up. Hike is cancelled if it is raining. Optional meal or dessert available after hike. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

July 12, Saturday

Canoeing at the Fort Worth Nature Center. Join leader Jim Walling to canoe from the West Fork of the Trinity River to Eagle Mountain Lake Dam early in the morning. The river has no currents and is shaded for most of the

trip, but bring water, snacks, insect repellent. Wear comfortable and cool clothing. Canoes, paddles, and life jackets will be provided. The Fort Worth Nature Center is located two miles west of the Lake Worth Bridge on State Highway 199 in northwestern Tarrant County. To reserve your place and details, call Jim Walling at 817-444-4416. Space is limited.

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

Leaders' training program in October

The Sierra Club's Outdoor Activity Training Program has recently announced that it is bringing its highly successful Core Outing Leader Workshop to the Lone Star State.

If you're a Sierra Club outing leader or want to become one, this interactive and educational workshop is for you.

Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you're an old hand or have never led before, you're invited to attend a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun. It's all brought to you by the Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP), managed in the Outings Department of the National office. This is the only Core OATP workshop in this region for the year.

The goals of the Core workshop are to learn and enhance leadership skills, bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas, to welcome new outdoor leaders, to learn what it takes to lead for other outings programs of the Sierra Club, and once again, to have a lot of fun.

The purpose of the Core workshop is to bring together new and seasoned leaders from Inner City Outings, Group and Chapter Outing), and National Outings. The agenda for the workshop will encompass an extensive array of leadership topics presented in both group and break-out formats.

"Trying to learn to be a leader by using your intellectual skills only – by sticking to hard-edged, quantifiable stuff – is like owning a TV that tunes to only one channel: there's no way you

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) and Steve Longley, 972-394-2546.

can get the full range of information and insights you need. Making the head/heart connection not only provides information and insights that will make your trips safer and more likely to reach their goals, it also provides richer, fuller, and more personal experiences for everybody involved." – John Graham, author of "Outdoor Leadership."

Registration Information

On-line – <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/> (includes plenty of other information as well).

Three other ways to register (include name(s), address, telephone number, email, membership number, and workshop number – 03996A)

Mail – send check or money order for \$45 to Sierra Club Outings, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94105.

Call – credit card only: 415-977-5588, Monday-Friday, 10:30-7, CST

Fax – credit card only: 415-977-5795, include card number, expiration date, and signature. Workshop is limited to 50 people, first come, first served.

Contact – Steven Shewach, Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager at steven.shewach@sierraclub.org or at (415) 977-5711 for more information.

Where: Austin Sunshine Camp. Located in Zilker Metro Park.

When: October 10-12.

Friday: Check-in and dinner from 6 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., opening program.

Sunday: Ends at 1:15 p.m. with lunch.

Cost: \$45. Includes all meals and bunk-style lodging.

Coming Events

July 1, 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.

June 18, 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

General Meeting

Wednesday, June 18

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

submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

June 30, 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.

Conservation Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee normal-

ly 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.

July 1, Tuesday

Outings Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., prior to the ExCom meeting. 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.

Legislative E.I.S. Event Reservation Form

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (with area code) _____ E-Mail _____

I/we (please specify number of attendees: _____) will be attending the following event (at \$35/person, \$50/couple):

- Austin Reception, June 23
 Fort Worth Reception, June 24
 Houston Reception, June 26
 Dallas Reception, June 25
 San Antonio Reception, June 27

Please count me as a sponsor of the event at the following level (two reservations with each sponsorship):

- Civic-Minded Citizen (\$125) Well-Heeled Lobbyist (\$500)
 Legislative Activist (\$250) Presiding Officer (\$1,000)

Enclosed is a check for \$_____, made payable to Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club.

Charge my credit card for \$_____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Credit Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Exp Date: _____

Please return this reservation form to:
Legislative E.I.S. Event
Sierra Club
P. O. Box 1931
Austin, Texas 78767

Sierra Singles Events

Monday, June 16, at 7:30: dinner at On The Border, by the Irving Mall. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Thursday, June 26, at 6:30: Fort Worth Symphony concert at Botanic Gardens. The concert begins at 8:00 but we need to arrive early. If you can only arrive later, contact Jenny first so she'll save a spot on the lawn for you. Concert theme is "Beach Blanket Beethoven." Tickets are \$15 if you send money ahead of time or \$17 if you buy at the gate. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Sunday, July 13: see the new exhibit at the Kimbell Art Museum: "The Quest for Immortality, The Treasures of Ancient Egypt". Exhibit features sculptures, jewelry, and other masterpieces of funerary art. Meet at the front door at 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. No reservations needed. For more info, email alogan@raytheon.com. Optional afternoon tea follows museum tour.

Friday, July 18, 8:45 p.m.: wine tasting at Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas at 2904 Oak Lawn. This is a fund raiser for the Sierra Club. Taste approximately 15 different wines and learn about their characteristics. You must sign-up and pay in advance by July 10. Make checks for \$20 per person to the Dallas Sierra Club and mail to Jenny Lehman. Phone (817) 263-1357 or email for information.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trail head.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263 1357 or avidhiker@killerfrogs.com

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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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