

Volunteers carried message of hope

Thousands went door to door proclaiming 'America Can Do Better'

Sierra Club volunteers organized Earth Day campaigns across America to encourage local, state, and federal public officials to "do better," by cleaning up our air and water, protecting our families from toxic pollution, and conserving the land we love.

Volunteers put up over 14,000 localized yard signs proclaiming "we can do better," in reference to America's 33 years of progress in clearing soot and smog from our air, removing pollution from our streams and keeping toxic chemicals out of our communities. Earth Day campaigns also demanded that the Bush Administration stop allowing polluting corporations to defy our laws, dodge responsibility for their pollution, and profit at the public's expense.

"Since the first Earth Day, our environmental safeguards have drastically improved pollution control technology and our quality of life," said Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. "So why, when these safeguards are clearly working, is the Bush administration making it a priority to let polluting industries off the hook from their responsibility to obey clean air and clean water laws?"

Nationwide, Sierra Club volunteers spent several weekends carrying out face-to-face communication with community members through a door-to-door program. The goal of the program was to identify and engage over 300,000 Americans in local environmental campaigns in the next year.

Local campaigns that aimed to acti-

vate at least 10,000 community members included:

–Kentucky Sierra Club's effort to require a merchant coal power plant supported by the Bush administration to use modern pollution control technology to protect public health and reduce haze in nearby Mammoth Cave National Park;

–Arkansas Sierra Club's campaign to protect wild forests and oppose the Bush Administration's fire plan, which dismantles important environmental laws without protecting communities at risk;

–Michigan Sierra Club's fight to

keep pollution from Canadian waste out of Michigan landfills and out of the Great Lakes.

"The Bush administration is allowing the polluting companies to benefit at the expense of public health and safety," said Pope. "But we can do better; we have the technology to clean up our air and water, all that we lack is the will to use it."

"Americans overwhelmingly believe that we can continue cleaning up our air and water, as long as the environmental laws on the books are implemented," said Pope. "The Bush

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Program
Notes

May Program: Dotty Woodson, Extension Horticulturist with the Tarrant County Extension Agency, and Shannon Stigler will present a program on "Smart-scape." The program basically deals with landscaping with native plants to reduce landscaping labor and reduce water over-use.

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

Sierra Club, Staples team up to recycle mobile electronics

As of late last month, you no longer had to wonder how to dispose of your old mobile electronic equipment. On April 27, the Sierra Club, Staples and CollectiveGood, a socially responsible mobile electronics recycling company, teamed up to unveil a new program that makes it easy for consumers to recycle their used cell phones, PDAs, and pagers.

In the U.S. alone, there are an estimated 250-300 million used cell phones, and many millions of other used mobile devices that should be recycled rather than disposed of in landfills.

Recycling mobile electronics prevents hazardous elements like mercury, cadmium and lead from contaminating the earth through incineration and landfill disposal.

The new program makes recycling easy: simply drop off used cell phones, PDAs, and pagers, as well as chargers, in collection tubes conveniently located near the cell phone display in every Staples store.

CollectiveGood will refurbish the collected devices for reuse, or recycle them according to federal and local environmental standards. In addition to keeping toxic wastes out of America's landfills, Staples will give a portion of the proceeds from qualified mobile electronics to the Sierra Club. The donation will be used to support environmental education and conservation programs.

"This program gives people the opportunity to do something good for the environment just by making a trip to their local Staples. And with their broad

market reach, Staples will be connecting with a wide variety of consumers beyond those already involved in environmental causes." said Johanna O'Kelley, Director of the Sierra Club's licensing program. Seth Heine, President of CollectiveGood, agreed, "This is the most comprehensive initiative of its kind and is also the most consumer friendly."

Mark Buckley, Vice President of Environmental Affairs at Staples says, "Our new recycling programs, the latest initiatives in our overall environmental commitment, address the great need to reduce the amount of electronics going into landfills. We're pleased to work with CollectiveGood and the Sierra Club toward this goal.

About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors.

Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

For more information about the Sierra Club go to www.sierraclub.org

About Staples

Staples, Inc. is an \$11.6 billion retailer of office supplies, business services, furniture and technology to consumers and businesses from home-based businesses to Fortune 500 companies in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal.

Headquartered outside Boston, Staples
Please see ELECTRONICS, Page 4

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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.

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 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. 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 marilynturnage@msn.com or Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 cpblalock@msn.com.

May 17-18 Saturday-Sunday

Lake Mineral Wells Car Camp, Hike and Bike Ride- Camp at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, a beautiful park featuring steep hills, deep ravines, open savannah and a lake surrounded by timber-covered hills. This park is about 45 minutes west of Fort Worth. Saturday we will bike the Lake Mineral Wells State Trailway to Weatherford, a fairly easy 30 miles round trip although shorter rides are possible. A Sunday hike of one of the park's scenic trails will be optional. Plan to camp Friday night or arrive Saturday by 10 a.m. for the bike ride. Bring your bike, helmet (required),

May 2003

repair kit and water bottle. You need to reserve your campsite in advance by calling the Texas State Parks and Wildlife office at 512-389-8900 or visit their website for campsite reservations. Contact leader Linda Zombeck zombeck@charter.net. 817-431-2346 to sign up.

June 7-8, Saturday-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.

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

Oh yes, he's the great deceiver

According to the League of Conservation Voters, there was an attempt by the Bush Administration to appear pro-environment before the November elections.

But in the first three months subsequent to the elections, there have been 14 anti-environment rollbacks including (among others): (1) New regulations that ease up on power plants and will increase smog and lung disease; (2) a new forest management plan that is a giveaway to the timber industry; and (3) a budget proposal that cuts environmental enforcement, water quality programs, and other conservation programs by \$1.6 billion.

The new "Clear Skies Initiative" (CSI) proposed by the Bush Administration would lead to higher levels of toxic mercury in our environment according to the National Wildlife Federation. Current law requires power plants to lower their mercury emissions

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 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.

by 2008, cutting mercury emissions nationwide by 90 percent. But under the CSI proposal, power plants would only have to comply if doing so would be "economically feasible."

Further, the CSI proposal would give power plants another decade before controlling mercury levels, and then would require only a 70 percent reduction by 2018.

Currently, U.S. coal-burning power plants are the largest source of mercury emissions nationwide, 33% of total emissions. Mercury is a heavy metal that descends from polluted air into water. It works its way up the food chain and can cause brain and nerve damage. It is especially dangerous to people and wildlife.

Forty four states have had to warn people to restrict or avoid eating fish caught from lakes, streams and coastal waters.

Please see A (VERY), Page 4

Coming Events

May 6 and June 3, 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.

May 21, 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, May 21

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 2, 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.

May 6, June 3, 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.

Earth Day a message that environmental laws are to be enforced

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FROM PAGE 1*

administration unfortunately disagrees over the importance of our environmental safeguards, and that's why Americans used Earth Day to demand that our environmental laws are enforced, not weakened."

In stark contrast to public opinion, the Bush administration has consistently weakened safeguards for our air, water, forests, wildlands, wetlands, wildlife, and public health. One recent New York Times/CBS News poll found that Americans prefer protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by a margin of 55 to 39, but the Bush administration is still favoring the oil industry, which aims to open the wildlife sanctuary to oil drilling. In contrast, a March Gallup poll found that 75% of Americans support setting higher fuel economy standards, which could save more oil than America currently imports from the entire Persian Gulf.

The same Gallup poll found that 80% of Americans favor setting higher emissions and pollution standards for business and industry. Instead, fulfilling a pledge to energy utilities and oil companies, the Bush administration has proposed weakening a key Clean Air Act program that has eliminated millions of pounds of soot and smog forming pollutants from our air by forcing industrial facilities to adopt modern pollution clean-up measures when they

undertake major changes that significantly increase air emissions.

For more information on local issues affecting Fort Worth, Dallas, Arlington,

and the North Texas area, check out the new local information source of the Sierra Club at <http://www.sierraclub.org/zoomer/>.

A (very) little good news

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The Center for Disease Control reports that one in 12 women of child-bearing age has mercury levels above those considered safe for protection of fetuses. Approximately 320,000 newborns are at risk of developmental delays.

Mercury exposure through breast milk can cause memory problems, impaired motor function and even mental retardation in infants. Elevated exposure in adults could cause infertil-

ity and heart disease.

NOTE: In addition to weakening control of mercury emissions, the CSI also avoids regulating carbon dioxide emissions - a major contributor to global warming.

However, one bone for us dogs: The Administration has recently proposed rules that would deeply cut the soot, sulfur and smog-forming pollution from diesel engines in construction, farm and other industrial equipment.

Electronics recycling promoted

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ties invented the office superstore concept and today is the largest operator of office superstores in the world. The company has 58,000 associates serving customers in approximately 1,500 office superstores, mail order catalogs, e-commerce and a contract business. More information about the company is available at www.staples.com.

About CollectiveGood

CollectiveGood is the nation's pre-

mier mobile phone recycling company, seeking to convert millions of idle, yet functional mobile phones back into reuse, typically in the developing world. CollectiveGood refurbishes and recycles mobile phones in an environmentally friendly manner, and generates substantial funds for charities in the process. For more information, visit www.collectivegood.com, or call 770-856-9021.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Sierra Singles Events

On Monday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. (note new time!) join us for dinner at Italianni's restaurant, located at 1601 Precinct Line Road in Hurst (north of 183 aka Airport Freeway). Gather in the bar at 7:15 to mingle before being seated. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Friday, July 18 learn about wines at a wine tasting at Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas at 2904 Oak Lawn (214-520-9463) at 8:45 p.m. This is a 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 for the wine tasting by July 10. Please make checks for \$20 per person to the Dallas Sierra Club and contact Jenny for her mailing address; phone (817) 263-1357 or email avidhiker@killerfrogs.com for more 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

Visit us on-line

Keep up with the latest outings and read the newsletter at least a week earlier than it comes in the mail. Fort Worth Group's web site: <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>.

The newsletter can generally be read online two-four weeks before it is delivered to you by mail. Up-to-date outings information is also displayed.

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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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