

## GOP environmentalists need to 'green' up their party by talking with elected officials

By DAN SMITH

*Executive Committee Chairman*

Although the majority of Sierrans are most likely Democrats, there must be a large number of Republicans who dutifully pay their Sierra Club dues every year because they support the ideals of our Club.

It must be true. Based on the voting numbers from the last election, Republicans far outnumber Democrats in the Tarrant County area. If all Sierrans were Democrats, then every single Democrat in Tarrant County must be a Sierra Club member (because there couldn't have been many more than 1,600 people who didn't vote Republican in the last election).

So surely we have some Republicans in our ranks. And each one of them is capable of doing one thing better than any Democrat in the Club – get the ear of Republican office holders.

So here is what Republican Sierra Club members can do to help out the environment. Call or write your elected officials.

Be sure and tell them that you are a Republican and have been for "X" number of years. And then tell them that, although you may agree with them on most issues, you disagree with them on their environmental votes.

Tell them that, as a Republican, you support environmental issues and wish that your party would improve its record in regard to the environment.

Better yet, pick some specific environmental issues to tell them about. If

you need some suggestions, sign up for the Sierra Club's new email Action Alert System: <http://lonestar.sierraclubaction.org>.

When you've picked your issue, tell them that you wish the Republican Party would be more supportive of environmental issues.

As a voting Republican you will have more clout with our elected Republican leaders. A Democrat can call or

**Sign up while you still can**

## Big Bend trip just around the corner

You go through the same dilemma every year: do I have a traditional Thanksgiving in the Chihuahuan Desert or should I opt for a long weekend with family, friends, turkey, and football games?

This year it's a no-brainer. You can do both. The annual Thanksgiving Big Bend trip is three weeks before Thanksgiving. But you better sign up quickly. Instead of a sleeper bus, transportation is by passenger vans again this year and sign-ups are running well ahead of last year's pace.

As usual, there's a variety of trips to choose from. There's not a lot of difference in the difficulty level, but all of them are well within the limitations of most hikers.

Most vans will leave the parking lot at the Univ. of North Texas Health Science Center at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 5 and return to Fort Worth by

write, but the Republican official will naturally be less interested in a voting Democrat's opinion since he figures he's lost that vote anyway!

If our Republican Sierra Club members would be more vocal, then maybe the Republican elected officials would turn just a little "greener."

Make that call today. The environment, and the health and safety of us all, shouldn't be a one-party issue.

midnight, Sunday, Nov 9. Most, if not all, the participants in the Desert Sampler trip will leave that same location at 6 a.m. in order to get the camping permits.

Todd Nichols is again coordinating the Big Bend trip and will be the overall leader. 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 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,

*Please see A TRIO, Page 2*

**Program Notes**

**October Program:** Susan Robinson, vice-chair of the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club, will present the October program. Her presentation will be on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. See Page 4 for the time and location of Sierra Club meetings.

# 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** Dan Smith 410-2955 riverdogdan@aol.com

**Vice-chair** Susan Robinson 254-582-8228  
srobinson@whitneytx.net

**Secretary** Jeneanne Carson 860-1870 jcars@flash.net

**Treasurer** 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

Claudia Blalock 924-6242  
claudia.blalock@alconlabs.com

## Conservation Contacts

**Chair** Glenn Ford 469-6540

gfordfortworth@hotmail.com

Earl Burnam 244-2328 aeburnam@airmail.net

Bob Scott 282-1372 roscott@flash.net

## Outings Contacts

**Chair** Tolbert Greenwood 737-9698

**Canoeing** Gary Kriedeman 429-3346

**Bicycle** Don Bowles 571-9778

## Administrative Contacts

**Membership** Ellen Christian 329-4301

**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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## 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)

# A trio of trips offers plenty of variety for Big Bend participants

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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, 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 (on Tornillo Creek) and day hikes throughout the park, which may include The Chimneys, Top of Burro Mesa Pourroff, Pine Canyon, Grapevine Hills, Ernst Tinaja, Apache Canyon,

and/or other similar trips, depending on the preferences of the participants. Dinner in Terlingua at least one night. Moderately Strenuous. Leader: James Moody, 817-295-1623 or 817-688-3656 (cell).

Call the individual trip leaders for more detailed information on each trip. A registration form is conveniently located on Page 3 of this issue of The Crier.

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.



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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.*

## 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)).

## Oct. 26-Nov. 1, Sunday-Saturday

National Sierra Club service project in Guadalupe Mountains National Park led by Fort Worth Group member James Moody. Spend a week in Texas' highest mountain range maintaining trail with some of the state's most spectacular scenery for a background. One free day to explore on your own. This year's trail is the Frijoles Trail, which doesn't involve a significant elevation gain. The group will be staying in comfort at the famed Ship On The Desert, built by millionaire geologist Wallace Pratt for his wife a few miles outside McKittrick Canyon. For detailed information see the Top Of Texas service trip website: [www.thestargroup.com/](http://www.thestargroup.com/)

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[topoftexas.html](http://topoftexas.html) or contact the trip leader. Signup at the national Sierra Club website, [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) and click on Get Outdoors. Then click on Sign Up For A Trip. From that page, click Find A Trip. Once you're there, go

## Renewable energy: We can't wait any longer

Once again, Washington is pushing aside the issue of global warming. The Bush administration recently released a report outlining a 10-year plan to study whether or not human-generated greenhouse gasses have led to abnormal heating of the earth's atmosphere.

This plan was announced despite the fact that a 2001 National Research Committee report confirmed that greenhouse gas emissions significantly contribute to global warming. Further, a 2002 Environmental Protection Agency report stated that the same gases could raise temperatures in the United States by up to 9 degrees this century.

In fact, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent research shows that projections updated in 2001 greatly underestimated the severity of global warming – and the speed with which it will wreak havoc on human society and the environment.

Oil, coal, and natural gas satisfy 85 percent of U.S. energy needs, and are the primary culprits in producing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Without federal leadership, we need state and local governments, corporations, and citizens to take the lead in reducing global warming – which means taking steps to end our reliance on fossil fuels.

A switch to sources like solar, wind, and geothermal power will diminish national fossil fuel dependence while drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewable energy is not a utopian fantasy. At the state and city governmental levels, studies suggest that alternative energy is not as costly as it once was, and may in fact be an economic stimulant.

In Colorado, a study by Economic Research Associates found that by switching to a variety of renewable energy sources, Colorado residents would enjoy a \$1.2 billion energy bill savings by 2010, with a net gain of 8,400 jobs as well.

down to to last blank. It asks for the five-digit trip number. Enter 03357 and click Find A Trip. Leader: James Moody, 817-295-1623 (H) or 817-688-3656 (M) or email [jmoody166@aol.com](mailto:jmoody166@aol.com).

In San Francisco, a renewable energy renovation inside the city's convention center, and a new series of solar panels on the center's roof, are costing the city \$7.4 million, or \$430,000 annually, but the city's utility bill is already \$600,000 lower each year, saving it \$170,000 annually overall!

Currently, solar power cell production is a cottage industry, and if there were a rapid increase in solar panel production, the price of producing solar energy would drop considerably. State governments and corporations working together can create both the increased supply and demand necessary to launch a rapid expansion of solar energy over the next decade.

While large cities, states, and corporations can have the greatest direct impact on global warming, individual consumers can make a real difference too. Luckily, renewable energy is becoming economically feasible as well as convenient for home improvements and personal purchases.

Armed with a grant from the Maryland state government and a home-equity loan, Catherine and Mike Tidwell, a modest income family of Takoma Park, Maryland, installed 36 photovoltaic panels and a solar hot-water system on their roof, as well as a corn-burning stove in their living room.

These renovations now combine to generate 70 percent of the Tidwells' household energy and their energy bill savings equal more than half of each monthly loan payment. The Tidwells' experience is not uncommon, given the increasingly large pool of grants available for solar technology.

To find out about federal and state incentives for alternative energy go to [www.dsireuse.org](http://www.dsireuse.org) to access the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy.

Other environmental pioneers are tapping into alternative energy by purchasing hybrid cars, wind-powered televisions, and outdoor solar lights, or

*Please see INDIVIDUALLY, Page 4*

# Coming Events

## October 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 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 [jmoody166@aol.com](mailto:jmoody166@aol.com).

## November 3, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while

## General Meeting Wednesday, October 15

**Program:** See Page 1 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).

working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

## Oct. 7 & Nov. 4, 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.

## Oct. 14 & Nov. 11, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

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.

## Oct. 7 & Nov. 4, Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Outings Committee Meeting at 6 p.m. 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 Tolbert Greenwood, 817-737-9698.

## October 17-19

Sierra Celebration. Initial planning has been done to hold this year's Sierra Celebration at Bastrop State Park. Cabins, bunkshouses, 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.

## Individually we all need to do our part to curb global warming

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investing in renewable energy through hydrogen and fuel cell companies. Many become more energy efficient by turning off the lights and buying new energy-efficient appliances.

Energy-efficient technologies, like a new refrigerator, pay for themselves in less than five years because of lower utility bills.

As a growing number of consumers and investors see the attractiveness of renewable energy, they will encourage

these industries to develop and will increasingly expect governments – state, local, and federal – to adopt programs that expand renewable energy production.

For now, each of us can do our part to implement renewable energy as it becomes more affordable, sometimes even cheaper than energy from fossil fuels.

So while the federal government puts out more studies debating global warm-

ing, let's do our part to utilize the new and bright option of alternative energy sources.

*Chris Antoun is a media intern at Co-op America, a national nonprofit consumer and investor education organization. Located in Washington, D.C., with more than 52,000 members, the co-op provides practical tools and information for how people can live a saner, greener, and healthier lifestyle. For more information, call 800-58-GREEN or visit [www.coopamerica.org](http://www.coopamerica.org).*

## 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 by Oct. 24 to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, TX 76018-1420

## Sierra Singles events

Join us Oct 19 at River Legacy Park for a beginners hike. This hike is geared for those who haven't hiked much and may feel intimidated by longer trails.

We will hike a 3-mile loop trail (moderate pace) through the woods near the West Fork of the Trinity River. Occasional stops along the level multi-use dirt trail for viewing of potential wildlife may be made. Meet at 10 a.m. in the first parking lot on your right after entering the park (look for large white van with DART logo) or at 8:45 am for carpooling from REI on LBJ Freeway (I-635) near Midway Road. Bring a picnic lunch for after the hike, and we will enjoy a group picnic near the large outdoor pavilion near the parking area. For those who want to hike after lunch, we will do the other part of the trail that runs another 3 miles. The park is located on Green Oaks Blvd, just west of Cooper Street in North Arlington (Fort Worth Mapsco #68M). To enter the park, turn North on Rose Brown May Pkwy from Green Oaks Blvd. No reservations needed. Call for directions or carpool information. Leader: Allan Logan 214-763-4884 or send email to alogan@raytheon.com

On Monday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 join us for dinner at Mulligan's, located at 2115 W. Lovers Lane (near Harry Hines) in Dallas. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Saturday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. join us for a day at the Zoo.

Where: The Fort Worth Zoo. Who: Anyone interested in visiting the Zoo, and getting a wildlife nutritionist's perspective (Mike's) on a short front and back side tour of the Park. Consignment tickets are available at a discounted rate from normal gate costs. Ticket fees go to support the Zoo, its operations, and conservation initiatives. Adults are \$7, kids are \$4.50, and children 2 and under are free. It should be a milder time of year to see the Park, the animals, and chat about cool things going on at the Zoo! After the

tour, there will be time to visit the rest of the animals in the Park, grab some lunch, and/or keep visiting with whoever comes along. Please contact Mike Maslanka at 817.759.7142 (w), 817.738.9115 (h) or mmaslanka@fortworthzoo.org with questions or to sign up. We'll need a solid head count by Oct. 18.

On Saturday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. join us for a 7-mile aerobic hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center. Allow plenty of driving time for construction on Jacksboro Highway (199). Meet at the interpretive center shortly before 10:00. Optional lunch afterwards. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

### Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

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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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