

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

SEPTEMBER 2003

Lone Star Chapter opposes Prop. 12

The Lone Star Chapter Executive Committee adopted a resolution in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution that will appear on the ballot Sept. 13 as Proposition 12.

Chapter ExCom member David Griggs prepared an article to explain the reasons for the opposition. That article follows:

Prop. 12 bad for environment

There is an important election on Saturday, Sept. 13. On that date, voters will consider 22 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. The proposition which has drawn the most attention and criticism is Proposition 12 – an amendment strongly supported by the insurance industry that would give the Legislature power to set limits on jury awards in "civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions."

The Legislature passed a law in its regular session that capped liability for non-economic injury (pain and suffering) in medical malpractice cases. The concern is that lobbyists used the medical malpractice crisis as an excuse to make radical changes to the Texas Constitution that would affect all civil actions, not just medical malpractice cases. The open-ended reference to "other actions" would allow the Legislature in future sessions to restrict other types of damages, including those caused by polluters, drunk drivers, and manufacturers of dangerous drugs and other products.

Many Texas-based citizen, consumer and environmental groups have joined together in opposition to Prop.

12. Given the potential adverse effect on future victims of pollution, toxic torts, and other violations of environmental laws, the Executive Committee unanimously approved a resolution opposing the adoption of Prop. 12.

The resolution states, in part, that "the Lone Star Chapter believes that intentional violators of the environmental laws and irresponsible polluters of the environment who cause property damage, personal injury or death to citizens of Texas should not be protected by limiting the non-economic damages which can be awarded against them, but rather should be legally responsible to fully compensate their victims for all economic and non-economic damages reasonably justified by the facts and evidence under the laws of the State of Texas."

The insurance lobbyists and politicians they helped elect cannot change the Constitution unless the voters of Texas give them the permission to do so by passing this amendment. Don't give them this power by staying home. Every vote counts.

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Big Bend adventure trip at a glance

As usual, there will be a variety of trips for participants to choose from, with all of them well within the limitations of most hikers.

Transportation will be in passenger vans that leave at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 5 and return to Fort Worth by midnight, Sunday, Nov 9.

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, 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 and day hikes throughout the park, which may include The Chimneys, Top of Burro Mesa Pouroff, Devil's Den, Apache Canyon, and/or other similar trips, depending on the preferences of the participants. Moderately Strenuous. Leader: James Moody, 817-295-1623.

Trip cost is \$140 per person, which includes a West Texas dinner on the return trip Sunday.

Mail checks by Oct. 29, payable to the Fort Worth Sierra Club, to: Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, Texas 76018-1420.

Program
Notes

September Program: Fort Worth Group member Bill Zombeck will present the September program to the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club. His presentation will be on biking in Nova Scotia. 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

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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 www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

The Planet www.sierraclub.org/planet

A week in the Canadian Rockies

By WENDY LAMBERT

The Canadian Rockies are nothing less than spectacular, from the green lakes to the towering mountains and waterfalls. I spent a week there over the 4th of July. I got one of those great airfares that pop up and do not allow time to make the trip a Sierra Club outing. I flew to Calgary, rented a car and drove to the Banff area. Going alone brings up some concerns with backpacking and camping. So I decided to go hostelling for a week. Hostels are far more popular overseas and in Canada. I had a lot of flexibility in choice of location and amenities. I stayed in a small hostel between Banff and Lake Louise called Castle Mountain. It was a pleasant visit. My previous experience steers me away from the large hostels with open all night hours, which equates to noise all night. The original plan was 4 hostels, but after nights 2-4 resulted in a lack of adequate sleep, I altered my plans and returned to the Castle Mountain hostel, where I parked myself for the last 3 nights. One evening a very large elk decided to eat the grass next to the hostel and he was within a foot of the windows. He took his time and we enjoyed the viewing.

When I hiked the heavily touristed areas, I did so before others were awake. Usually I had the first car in the parking lot. This worked out great for me because I don't like crowds but wanted to see some of the famous spots. Getting up early also afforded me the opportunity to see more animals. These included black bears, elk, moose, deer, mountain goat and a few marmots. The marmots whistled all night at one location. I kept dreaming that a lifeguard wanted me out of the pool.

The drive from Banff to Jasper was breathtaking. None of the pictures I

took captured the panoramic scenery. After a 2-day visit to the Jasper area, I drove back south to Yoho National Park. Of all the areas I visited, Yoho had some secrets not to be missed. Lake O'Hara is an area that saw 10,000 cars in 1984. The park decided to do something about it and they closed off the area to motor vehicles. There is a gravel fire road and big yellow school buses that take people to the lake where there is a lodge and cabins. The buses only make 5 trips per day. The park follows a daily quota system of 200 people. This includes those staying at the lodge, campers and day hikers. It was insightful planning to make restrictions to limit the use of this area or it would have turned into another Lake Louise. I showed up on a rainy morning and was lucky enough to buy someone's ticket. They preferred to miss the bad weather. Six miles up the fire road the precipitation had fallen as an inch of snow, making the area incredibly beautiful. It was the best hiking I have ever done and it really made the trip a wonderful experience for me. There is a shelter at the lake operated by the Alpine Club to assist the hikers. It is a place to warm up and fuel up on sandwiches, pastries, and hot drinks. Most of the trails are short, so I hiked in the morning, fueled up at the shelter, and hiked again in the afternoon.

The next day I visited Kootenay National Park. But for my last day in Canada, I just had to try to get back into Lake O'Hara. All the day passes were sold out, but I got there at 7:30 in the morning and they took me stand-by. Lucky again, I spend another day in this paradise. I was so busy hiking, I never did get to see the Lake O'Hara lodge.

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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.

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

September 20 Saturday

Mountain bike ride on the Lake Ray Roberts/Lake Lewisville Greenbelt Corridor, just north of Denton. Meet at Hwy. 380 access point just east of Denton at 9 a.m. The trip will take about 3 hours and cover 20 miles over flat terrain. You need a mountain bike for this rough terrain. Bring water, rain gear, helmets, and a snack. Contact leader to sign-up. Leaders: Dan Smith, 817-410-2955 (riverdogdan@aol.com) or Ellen Christian, 817-329-4301, ellen.christian@attbi.com

September 20, Saturday

Used Equipment Sale and Picnic. Need a new tent or camping gear? See what deals are available as Sierrans sell their slightly used gear, including car camp-

ing, water gear, or backpacking equipment. Sale will begin at 5 p.m. followed by a potluck/fundraiser cookout at Tolbert Greenwood's backyard, 6728 Kirkwood, Fort Worth. If you want to sell gear, come by 4:30 p.m. to set up. No folding tables are available for gear display, so bring your own if you want to. There is room for tent set-up as well. All sale items must be priced beforehand. Please provide all accessories and instructions with sale item. Equipment sale will begin at 5 p.m. and dinner/potluck, at 6 p.m. If you plan to eat, bring a dish to share along with your own plate, utensils, cup, and lawn chair. Beverages, ice, and condiments will be provided. Hot dogs are available at \$1 each as a fundraiser for the Outings Program. If you plan to come, call Tolbert at (817) 737-8698 or email tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com so we can anticipate number of attendees

September 27, Saturday

Brazos River day hike in Waco. There's 10 miles of scenic, multi-purpose trails along the Brazos and Bosque rivers in Waco's Cameron Park. We'll do as many of them as we comfortably can in three to four hours of hiking, then we'll take advantage of nearby picnic tables for lunch before returning home. A light pack with water and snacks is all that's needed. We'll be under the canopy of trees along the river much of the time, but don't forget the sunscreen. Tennis shoes and shorts are OK. A cooler of soft drinks and water will be provided at lunch. Bring your own lunch. Meet in the parking lot of the Burleson Star, 319 N. Burleson Blvd. (west service road of I-35W) to caravan to Waco at 7 a.m. Cars may also be left in that parking lot. Call to sign up and for directions to the Burleson Star. Leader: James Moody, 817-295-1623 (H) or 817-688-3656 (M). Or email: jmoody166@aol.com.

October 4, Saturday

Beginner Backpack Training at Fort Worth Nature Center, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Hardwick Interpretative Center. Learn how to set up a tent, plan a trip, select the right clothing and equipment, pack, and enjoy the outdoors in a low impact camping or backpacking style. The Sierra Club Outings Committee, with a combined experience of over 60 years of camping and hiking, teaches

the class. Bring a bag lunch; beverages provided. Cost: \$15 per person. Preregistration and prepayment required with minimum of 10 persons to hold class. Mail checks to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. Fort Worth 76109. Contact: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

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 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) and Marilyn Sumner, 817-491-2382, (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. 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/topoftexas.html or contact the trip leader. Signup at the national Sierra Club website, 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 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

Coming Events

September 17, 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.

September 29, Monday

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

Golf for TREES; creek cleanup in Burleson among coming attractions

A couple of area events are coming up this month and next month. First is the 1st Annual Trees Tee-Off at Tierra Verde Golf Course on Monday, Oct. 6. Contact: Fran Burns (817) 222-7767.

Through its commitment to environ-

Sign up now for Sierra Club Action Alert Email System

Sign up now for the Sierra Club's new email Action Alert System: <http://lonestar.sierraclubaction.org>.

The Lone Star Action Network is a free email network run by the Lone Star

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 17

Program: See story below 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.

October 7, 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.

October 14, 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.

October 7, 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.

mental preservation, Tierra Verde Golf Club became the first golf course in Texas to achieve Audubon Signature status. Its principles include wildlife conservation and habitat enhancement, water quality management and conser-

vation, energy efficiency, waste reduction and integrated pest management.

TREES (Trinity River Environmental Education Society) has evolved from a small committee of participating cities in the annual Trash Bash to an organization ready to empower Texans to preserve and protect the Trinity River Watershed.

And Saturday, Sept. 20 at Warren Park, 200 S.W. Johnson in Burleson, there will be a creek cleanup. Contact Kirk Barnes, KBarnes@burlesontx.com, for more information.

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. 29 to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, TX 76018-1420

Sierra Singles events

On Sunday, Sept. 21, let's visit the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. This year will be the 40th anniversary of the assassination. We'll meet at 2 p.m. near the main entrance, 411 Elm Street in Dallas (www.sixthfloormuseum.com.). The price with the audio tour will be \$13, and \$10 without. Optional lunch before we see the museum and optional afternoon tea following. No reservations necessary, but if you want to participate in the lunch or to make sure you meet up with us, contact Allan Logan at 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.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trail head. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or contact the national Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

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

See the Dallas Sierra Club home page (www.dallassierraclub.org) for instructions on how to subscribe to the Sierra Singles listserv.

Events are often planned far in advance and sometimes changes have to be made. Please check the website or confirm with the leader before attending an event

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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