



Sept-Oct 2017

## Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

# Sierra Sentinel

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### September Monthly Meeting—Wind Energy Wed. Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.

TCU Professor Becky Johnson will speak about the future of wind energy in TX and the US and how wind energy can mitigate climate change. Ms. Johnson will also speak about how we as Sierra Club members can advocate for wind energy in TX.

Ms. Johnson is a Professor of Professional Practice at Texas Christian University (TCU) and is the Director of the Master of Environmental Management for the School of Geology, Energy and the Environment at TCU. She brings real-world experience and expertise to the classroom, preparing TCU students for the workforce in a manner never-before attempted in a university setting. TCU has pioneered the blending of tradition academia with applied science, creating a dynamic and successful program for our future environmental leaders.

We meet at 6:30 for a potluck dinner, so bring a dish or dessert. We meet in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.



**Saturday, Oct. 28  
11:00 AM to 4:00  
PM**—Join the  
Greater FW Sierra  
Club at this fun fall  
festival. This is a  
family friendly  
event welcoming

the community to come purchase goods from local artisans, watch local artists perform, and enjoy kid-friendly games. We will be selling our merchandise and handing out information.

<https://sites.google.com/view/fallfestival/home>



As a non-profit, we rely on YOU, our supporters, to help us provide you with great, educational, and fun programs and to advocate for clean air, clean water and sustainability.

<https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/greater-fort-worth-sierra-club>

North Texas Giving Day is Communities Foundation of Texas' annual 18-hour online giving extravaganza for North Texas non-profits that is powered by creative nonprofits, social media activism, area wide collaboration, and of course you!

## October Monthly Meeting - Permaculture and Sustainable Living

Wed, Oct. 18, 2017 6:30 PM

Come hear from veteran, aviation leader, commander and patriot Kimberly D. Olson, Colonel (retired) United States Air Force. Kim has reshaped the perception of women serving their country. Today, she is influencing the future of sustainable food production through her Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) at the 4K River Ranch, Mineral Wells, Texas.

In working with veterans, nutritious food became the great healer for those struggling with the human heartbreak that is war. Kim, a Natural-Organic Certification from the Texas Organic Research Center and a Texas Master Gardener, provides naturally grown and "beyond organics" food, raises bees, and is committed to sustainable Eco-Agriculture. She grows produce for Texas families, provides training on growing healthy food, and lectures on small scale farming.

We meet at 6:30 pm in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. We will start with a potluck dinner so bring a dish (side, main, or dessert). Drinks are provided.



# Sierra Club August Trip to Davis Mountains State Park

Nancy McVean



When I was a kid my parents would load up a bunch of cousins and me in the back of their pickup and we headed for Galveston to 'camp' on the beach. This was July or August. We slept on cots under the stars with lots of sand in our beds, sand in our food and covered with salt water from swimming in the ocean. After a few days we loaded up and headed for home! What fun - loved every minute of it! Couldn't blink for several days my eyes were so sunburned

Now for a different story. Pack up my air conditioned car, head for Ft. Davis, pitch my water proof tent, pick a camping buddy with a stove to start the day with a hot drink. Thanks Jessie! We wore jackets because it was 50s/60s every morning. About 9:00 head for a hike up or down or both in the magnificent Davis mountains. Next day a hike in the Nature Conservancy land high in the Davis Mountains. Other options were birding in the park or just sitting in your camp site reading a book enjoying the cool mountain air. This is August in Texas - outside - can you imagine that?

Sat. night we had an elegant dinner in our hiking boots with Elizabeth, James and Rock at the Paisano Hotel in Marfa where they filmed GIANT. However, the best company was at our table with the awesome 10 members of our group. We hiked together and we talked, we had meals together and talked, gathered at a campsite and we talked. Not one ring of a phone or meltdown because there is no service in the state or national parks.

The Davis Mountains are remote - whatever major city you live in Texas is a 400 to 1,000 mile trip. You find peace, quiet, flush toilets and hot showers. A family moved in close to our campsite - children were laughing and playing with their dogs. Uh Oh - there goes the quiet. Alice Carter, a woman of great wisdom said, "it is happy noise!" I immediately changed my attitude and was so grateful for parents who take their children outdoors and they learn something about nature and maybe even the importance of preserving our vanishing wilderness that is home to so many creatures they would never see in the city. No service, no wifi - just an enchanted, amazing world!

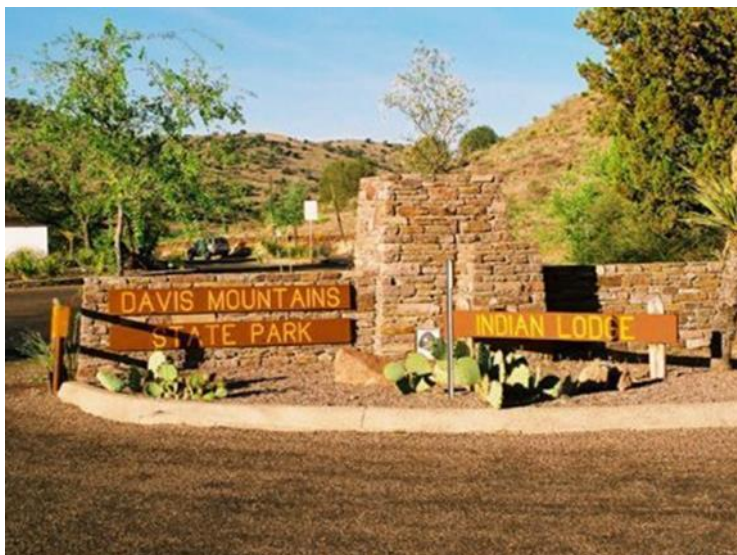
Join us on an outing - you may hear and see things you haven't seen or heard in awhile - birds singing and billions of stars that light and other pollution keep from us. Many options for children of all ages!

By the way - the eclipse from McDonald Observatory or anywhere you could see it was awesome. We could even see it for awhile with the naked eye- clouds were very cooperative. Clouds parted for awhile and we saw it through the big telescope. The eclipse viewer made it possible to see it most of the time. Awesome! It just can't get any better than this!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Fri Sep. 22 - Sun. Sept. 24 - Garner State Park Car Camping.** Join us for a trip to one of Texas' most popular state parks. Garner offers great hiking trails and the beautiful Frio River. On Saturday morning, we will have a moderate hike of between 3-5 miles that will take us up into the hills that overlook the park. Then we will spend the afternoon floating on the river. Saturday evening there is the option to drive 12 miles to the Frio bat cave, provided the bats are still here to view millions of bats as they exit the cave to hunt. Sunday morning we will have a short hike before leaving the park. You must contact the trip leader Lisa Gowan at [lisagsierraclub@yahoo.com](mailto:lisagsierraclub@yahoo.com) to register for this trip.



**Fri. Sept. 29 - Sun. Oct. 1 - Camping at Tyler State Park.** Enjoy a car camping experience in the Piney Woods portion of Texas that will allow time for geocaching, biking, kayaking, day hiking, birding or just plain reading with like-minded people. Maybe even a fireside chat as you begin to learn more and enjoy a different time with your camping neighbors. Come on out and enjoy the time. I am your adventure co-lead: Howard "Davis" Tubre, 817.403.8555 text and cell; I welcome your call/text as needed. Have not experienced wi-fi at the park, but keep my number handy for park contact. Ask the ranger for my site area. I will be in a 2003 Dodge Dakota with a yellow Wilderness Kayak (16.5 feet).

To obtain the details of the park, activities, fees, check-in and check-out, weather, available maps, special notices visit the following URL: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/tyler>

Park Address: 789 Park Road 16, Tyler, TX 75706-9141

Park telephone: 903.597.5338

To make park reservations, please go to [http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/park\\_reservations/](http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/park_reservations/)

I will be at the State Park beginning the day before on Thursday, 28 September. The official outing begins on the 29th. Participants are required to obtain their own campsites. There is a day-fee and a site-fee. A site fee can be shared with another camper, if allowed by the park.

Summer is here so please bring sufficient water and a water container. (A camelbak allows you to have free use of your hands but on the campsite you will probably prefer to use a cup). Hey, do not forget your food. 2 breakfast meals, 1 or 2 lunch meals and 1 or 2 evening meals and snacks. It all depends on how long you are going to camp. Please dress accordingly. It is still summer. Also, bring suntan lotion, chigger and mosquito protection, rain protection and a first aid kit. If the park permits, I look forward to a campfire in the evening. Please bring a couple of cords of firewood if the park is open to campfires.

**Oct. 6-8 (Fri-Sun) - Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Car Camp** This unique wildlife refuge located in southwestern Oklahoma has protected unique wildlife habitats since 1901 and is the oldest managed wildlife facility in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service System. Bison were reintroduced here, along with elk and wild turkey. More recent reintroductions include the prairie dog, the river otter, and burrowing owls. The refuge is approximately 1 hour north of Wichita Falls and a 3 hour drive from Fort Worth. We will car camp both nights in a group campsite and hike on Sat. AM 6-7 miles on dirt trails inside the park. On Sun. morning we will hike 3-4 miles. Hiking in this park is on rugged trails which require climbing over rocks and uneven terrains. Hiking boots are required. Please contact the trip leader, Claudia Blalock (817 924 6242) or [claudia.blalock@att.net](mailto:claudia.blalock@att.net)) immediately to reserve your place and prior to Sept. 29. You must repay your camping fees to hold your place. Campsite fees will be shared among the group and will be approximately \$10.00 per person. Trip limited to 12 participants.

**Oct. 14 (Sat.) - Star Party, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park.** Come out and enjoy the beautiful nighttime skies at Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. Members of the Fort Worth and Dallas Astronomical Society will host this free event. Star Party from 5:00 pm to 5:00 am. Members of the Society are eager to answer questions and give information as to what you are viewing. Great outing for children of all ages! There will be telescopes that you can use to view the stars and constellations. Bring your own telescope if you like. Also a flash light with red light will be helpful. Car lights should be on parking lights when you enter the parking area.

For more fun, meet at the Smokestack Restaurant in Thurber, Texas. We will meet at 6:00 pm for dinner together and then travel to Strawn and the Palo Pinto Mountains State Park for the Star Party. Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, 1915 FM 2372, Strawn, Texas. Exit I 20 at exit 361, go north on Hwy 16 four miles to Strawn. Go west on FM 2372

from Strawn. Go two miles from town and look for the signs - or you can meet everyone at the Smokestack Restaurant in Thurber and follow the leader to the Park.

Tarleton University has a museum and other interesting buildings at the Thurber exit. You might want to come earlier and check it out. Although Thurber has a population of 5, the Smokestack is a very popular place for some West Texans, so we need to make reservations and not take them by surprise. You must contact the leader if you plan on meeting at Strawn. If you don't meet at Strawn, the chances of seeing anyone you know is slim to none.. It is a star party and it will be very, very dark, lots of telescopes. There is no camping at the park, but there is ample parking space. Contact - [nancymcvean@gmail.com](mailto:nancymcvean@gmail.com) - 817 596 5209

**Oct. 27-29 (Fri-Sun) Caney Creek Wilderness Beginner Backpack.** Join the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club for a beginning backpack trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness Area in Central Arkansas. This trip is suitable for beginning backpackers who want to try out their new equipment or for hikers getting back into backpacking. The hike into our primitive campsite is approximately 4 miles of easy terrain through a beautiful wooded area. You must contact the trip leader Lisa Gowan ([lgowan@me.com](mailto:lgowan@me.com)) to participate in this trip. The group size is limited to 10. Learn about the wilderness area [HERE](#).



**Tuesday, September 5, 2017—5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

**T&P Tavern, 221 W Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth, TX**

Need a break from the kids or work? Join us for a Sierra Club/ Green Drinks mixer at the historic T&P Station's T&P Tavern.

Happy Hour specials: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Monday - Friday, \$2.50 Domestic Bottles, \$3.00 Rahr Blonde Draught, \$2.75 Well Drinks, \$4.00 House Wines, Half price appetizers during Happy Hour \*Monday thru Friday only\* <http://www.tptavern.com/>

For a map on where to park for free click below. Instructions on how to get to free parking lot behind the T&P Station are: from Vickery, just west of Main St. enter the parking lot and park under I-30. Enter the T&P Station back entrance and walk to front of building to enter T&P Tavern.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Fort+Worth+T%26P+Station/@32.7441811,-97.3272246,170m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x864e71136b513bd5:0x23e59248277965b1!8m2!3d32.745554!4d-97.328395?hl=en&authuser=0>

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## C'mon, Join the Club!!

Did you know that for only \$15.00, you can join the Sierra Club and enjoy all the benefits of membership? Such as a one-year subscription to the Sierra Magazine and automatic membership in your local chapter. And for a limited time, receive a free gift when you join. So please help support the Sierra Club by joining today!

To join and find out more, please click here → → → →



## Do you Shop at Tom Thumb?

If your answer is yes, how about helping the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club earn money while you shop? Just link your Tom Thumb Reward card to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, and every time you purchase groceries, the store will donate a portion of the purchase amount to the Club. Just go to <http://www.tomthumb.com/IFL/Grocery/Home>, click on "Community Caring" at the bottom of the page, click on "Good Neighbor" in the column on the left, and then click on "Get Application and Start Saving Today." That link will take you to a form you can fill out to link your card to the Club. The Club's number is 4659. If you shop at Tom Thumb, please take advantage of this easy way to contribute. Thanks for your support!



## Do You Shop at Amazon.com?

If so, you can shop and support the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club at the same time. All you have to do is go to our website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/texas/greater-fort-worth>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and you will see a link to the Amazon website. Just click on that link and start shopping away! Amazon.com will automatically gift a portion of the money you spend to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club. How easy is that? I hope you'll remember us next time you shop with Amazon.com. Thanks for your support. We appreciate it!

## Social Connections



Are you on [Facebook](#)? So are we. Like us to stay up to date on outings, conservation issues, and any events we are having.



[Meetup.com?](#) Find us there too and meet others who are interested in the same activities as you.



Visit the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club's [web page](#) and see a list of our outings, events, and upcoming meetings, learn about our bag ban campaign, and find lots of good links!

### How to Join a List Serve and Why Should I?

If you would like to receive current information about club news, outings, and conservation issues, please sign up for our list serves. That way you won't miss out on any important news and will be informed if there are any last-minute changes to any of our outings. Occasionally an outing may be cancelled because of weather conditions, etc., so if you are on our Outings list serve, you'll be the first to know. And if you're on our News list serve, you'll receive a reminder about our general meeting each month. And don't worry, you won't get spammed. We don't distribute email addresses to anyone, so the only organization you'll be getting emails from is us! To sign up, go to the home page of our website or click on these links.

[Lonestar-FTW-News list serve](#)

[Lonestar-FTW-Outings News list serve](#)

[Lonestar-FTW-Conservation Forum list serve](#)

#### Cyberspace Contacts

Webmaster -Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407  
fw.sierra.webmaster@gmail.com

#### How to Volunteer and Where am I Needed?

Volunteers are essential to any organization, especially one that doesn't have a full-time paid staff. Currently the Fort Worth Sierra Club needs help with:

- Outings leaders for car camps, hikes, and backpacks
- Fundraising
- Volunteers to bring light snacks and drinks to our monthly general meetings

If you want more information or are interested in helping us, please contact Claudia at 817-924-6242 or [claudia.blalock@att.net](mailto:claudia.blalock@att.net)

**Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club**  
2905 Benbrook Blvd.  
Fort Worth, TX 76109-2344  
(817) 307-4808  
[ftwsierra@gmail.com](mailto:ftwsierra@gmail.com)



## JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB NOW AND HELP US MAKE HISTORY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to**  
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 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

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