



# SIERRA CLUB

## DALLAS GROUP

## NEWSLETTER April 2024

### Musings From The Chair...

With Earth Day and all its festivities upon us this month, I took a walk (or a read, as it were) down memory lane and reminded myself how Earth Day got started in the first place. It is remarkable to think that much like Margaret Mead's famous quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." Earth Day, too, was predominantly created by everyday people spurred by former Senator, Gaylord Nelson, who had enough and wanted something better for the environment.

If you, too, want a reminder of Earth Day's origins, consider reading National Geographic's article, "[How the first Earth Day ushered in a golden age of activism](#)" authored by Emily Martin.

It was refreshing for me to be reminded of the activism that went into creating the day that is now almost taken for granted. For those of us who have been longtime environmentalists, we are always recycling, turning off lights, conserving fuel, etc., but for some, the celebration of Earth Day may be the first introduction to an awareness of how small actions can have big effects on protecting our environment.

For those wanting to get out and enjoy the myriad of local Earth Day festivities around town, please consider stopping by [Oak Cliff Earth Day on Sunday, April 21st at Lake Cliff Park \(300 Colorado Blvd-Dallas, Texas\)](#). The Dallas Sierra Club, as well as many other environmentally focused groups and businesses, will have a booth there. We would love to meet you and see what a new, modern group of "thoughtful committed individuals" wanting change can create!

Cheers,  
Victoria

*A Better Environment, A Better Tomorrow*

# The Dallas Zoo brings you: **Oak Cliff Earth Day** a celebration of people & planet

**21 April 2024**

Lake Cliff Park 300 E. Colorado Blvd,  
Dallas, Tx 75201

Rain or shine

**Bandan Koro, African Dance & Drum Ensemble**  
**Alegre Ballet Folklorico**  
**Featured Performers by Dallas' Community Artist Program**  
Dallas Arts & Culture

**Vendors, food trucks, performers, & speakers**



Oak Cliff Garden Forum

[oakcliffearthday.com](http://oakcliffearthday.com)

## **Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom**

Explore Bears Ears National Monument with our long-time outings leader Arthur Kuehne's slides of the recently established preserve in southern Utah. Find fantastic scenery, breathtaking views and a huge area full of Native American ruins and rock art.

**7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 9 via Zoom**

From 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. you can log in to the meeting, chat, and ask questions. The

meeting will begin at 7:00 with announcements, followed by our speaker's presentation.

[Register here for the meeting via Zoom.](#)

Everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member.

For more information, contact Victoria Howard, [Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org](mailto:Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org).



Photo by Daniel Vasquez

## COLORADO BEND STATE PARK CAMPOUT

**Still space - reservations due by Wed, Apr 10!**

Escape city life and relax camping under the stars near bluebonnets and the Colorado River. Join us at this premier state park known for its beauty, scenic hiking trails, natural springs, swimming hole, birding, and even a waterfall! Our campout **April 12-14** is for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. Enjoy a hike, relax in our large, grassy campsite, even an optional stop in Bend for a hot meal, cold beer or ice cream, and live music on the outdoor patio. Our campsite has plenty of room for any size tent, camp chairs, even lawn games. Colorado Bend is a true Texas gem, nestled in the north end of the hill country about 3 to 3 1/2-hour drive southwest of Dallas. This outing is perfect for beginner and experienced campers alike, singles, families, friends, anyone wanting to try out new gear, everyone will enjoy Colorado Bend! **Pre-registration is required.** [Complete details and trip reservation forms are in the pdf here.](#) **Payment online now available.** Trip Coordinator: Liz Wheelan, [Liz@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:Liz@dallassierraclub.org)

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Camping is something I've always wanted to do. But I've heard it's really in tents

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## City of Dallas Budget Survey

Live, work or play in Dallas? Care about the environment and are proud of [Dallas'](#)



Solar panels on Fretz Park Recreation Center

[Comprehensive and Environment Action Plan](#), passed in 2020? Tell the city to support that plan financially by taking the [budget survey](#) and selecting **environment as the one service area for which you would increase funding**.

To help plan the city's budget for the next two years, please take the survey, available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese at <https://dallascityhall.com/departments/budget/financialtransparency/Pages/Budget-Priorities-Survey.aspx>.

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## National Phenology Network

Phenology is the study of nature's timing: when plants bloom, when birds migrate. You can contribute to climate research when you are outside each week by recording your observations on your phone. Read about [Nature's Notebook](#), NPN data and forecasts.

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## DSC Speaks

Want a Sierra Club speaker or have a talk to offer? Contact [dan@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:dan@dallassierraclub.org). In March, Dan Moulton presented "Introducing Environmental Science and Sustainability" to about 10 students from the Environmental Conservation Organization of UT Dallas. He talked to about 12 people at the public library in The Colony, TX, about "Texas Nature & Environmental Centers."

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## Eco Club Coppell Promotes Sustainable Shopping

Ashia Agarwal

Sustainable shopping is all the rage these days, and for good reason. It's all about

making choices that are kinder to the environment and support ethical practices. When you shop sustainably, you're not just buying stuff – you're making a statement about what matters to you and the world around you.

Take a stroll down the aisles of your local grocery store, and you'll see it everywhere – products boasting about being organic, fair trade, or eco-friendly. These labels aren't just for show; they signify a commitment to sustainability. Whether it's reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water, or protecting biodiversity, sustainable shopping is all about minimizing our impact on the planet.

But it's not just about the environment – it's also about people. Sustainable shopping promotes fair labor practices, ensuring that workers are treated with dignity and respect. By supporting companies that prioritize ethical standards, you're standing up for social justice and human rights.

Furthermore, many sustainable products are cruelty-free, meaning they haven't been tested on animals or made with animal-derived ingredients. By choosing these products, you're saying no to animal cruelty and yes to compassion.

So, what can you do to shop sustainably? It's simple, really. Educate yourself about the products you buy and the companies you support. Look for certifications like Fair Trade or USDA Organic, which indicate that a product meets certain sustainability standards. Opt for products with minimal packaging to reduce waste, and try to buy locally whenever possible to support your community and reduce carbon emissions. In the end, sustainable shopping isn't just about what you buy – it's about the impact you make. So why not make it a positive one? By choosing to shop sustainably, you're not just making a purchase – you're making a difference.

Here is a [list of items](#) you can use.

EXPLORE. ENJOY. PROTECT.



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