



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Introduction to the Houston Sierra Club

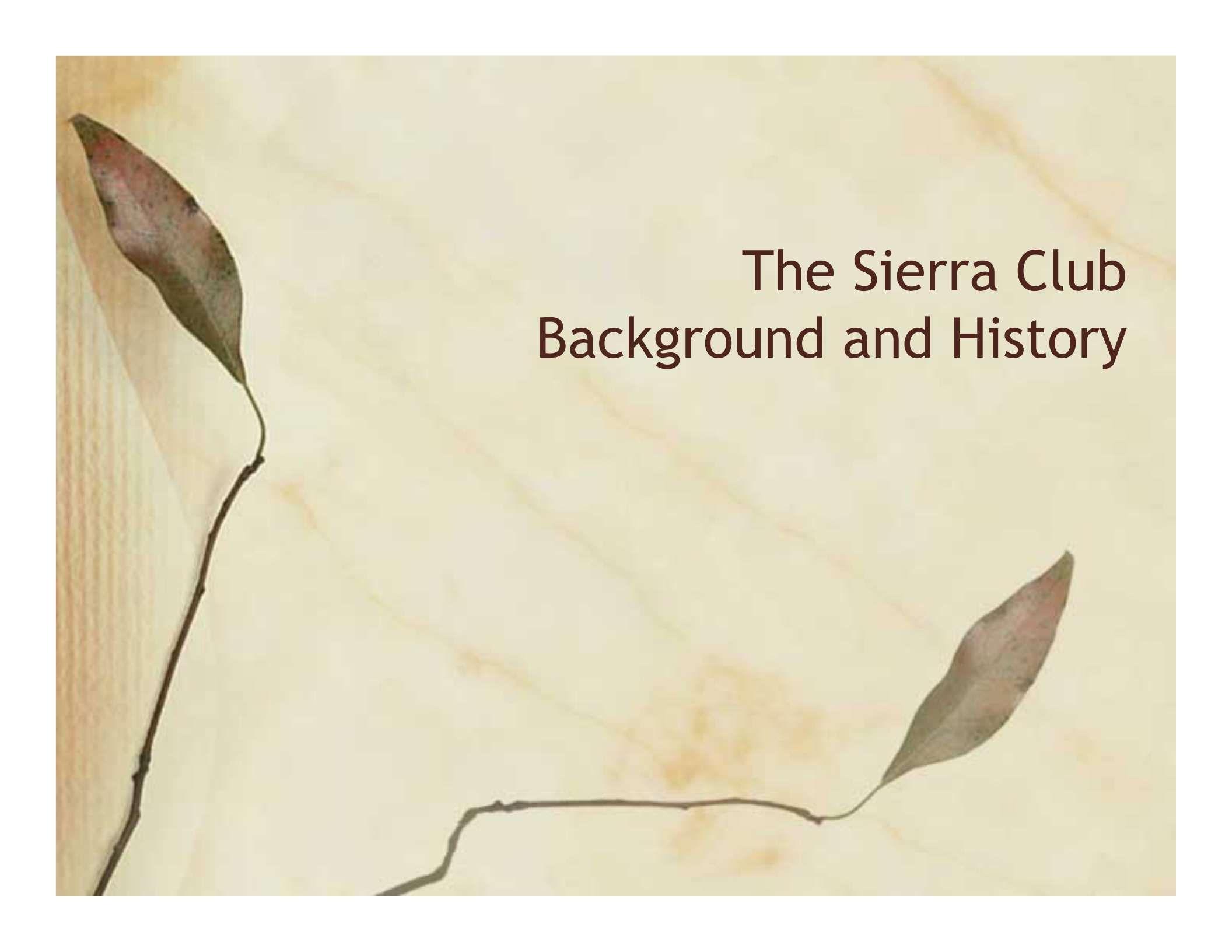
Gary V Stephenson
Houston Sierra Club ExCom Chair
9/08/2018

Outline



- Sierra Club Background and History
- Introduction to the Houston Sierra Club
- Connecting with the Houston Sierra Club





The Sierra Club Background and History



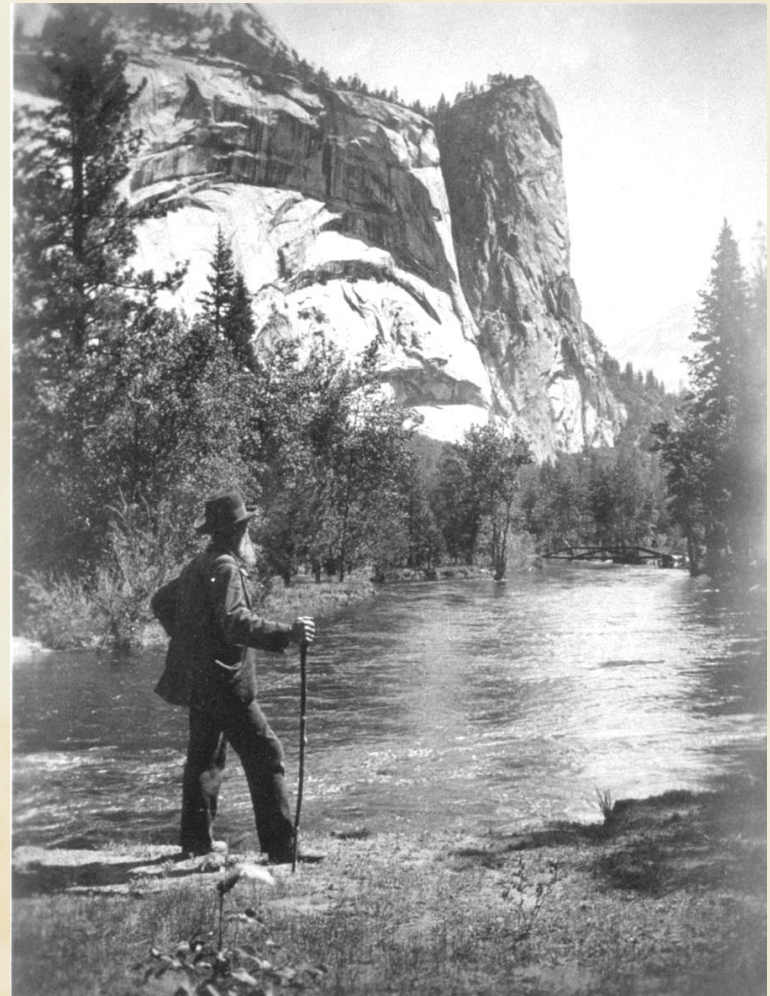
The Sierra Club

- Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet
- The Club is America's oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization
- The Club was founded in 1892 by John Muir
- The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 3.5 Million of your friends and neighbors
- National Web Site:
<https://www.sierraclub.org/>
- Lone Star Chapter Web Site (for the State of TX):
<https://www.sierraclub.org/texas>
- Our successes range from protecting millions of acres of wilderness to helping pass the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act

The stimulus for founding the Sierra Club



- The battle to save the Yosemite valley and federal legislation making it a National Park in 1890, all due to the lobbying efforts of John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson



Sierra Club Timeline

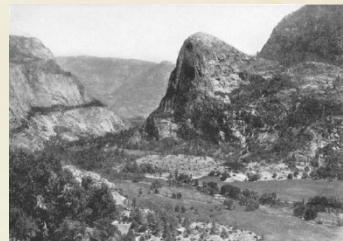
- the early years



- 1892: Our first conservation effort was to defeat a proposed reduction in the boundaries of Yosemite National Park.
- 1899: Worked with Congress to establish Mt. Rainier National Park by legislation based on a statement prepared by the Sierra Club and other organizations.
- 1906: Antiquities Act establishes Devil's Tower as the first National Monument
- 1907: Sierra Club submits resolution to Secretary of the Interior opposing the damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite - lost that battle in 1913



before



after



The Wilderness Act of 1964



- Passed after 8 years of debate in Congress
- 66 different rewrites of the bill
- 18 public hearings that generated over 6,000 pages of testimony



President Johnson signing The Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964:

“If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”

COMPLETE TEXT OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

Public Law 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136)

88th Congress, Second Session

September 3, 1964

A N A C T

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Wilderness Act."

WILDERNESS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED STATEMENT OF POLICY


SECTION 2.(a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation in their natural condition...

The Sierra Club Mission Statement Today



- 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.



The background of the slide features a pressed leaf, likely a bay leaf, on a light-colored, textured surface. The leaf is dark brown and elongated, with a pointed tip. It is positioned on the left side of the slide, with its stem extending downwards and then horizontally towards the right. The surface it rests on has a subtle, wavy pattern in shades of beige and light brown.

Introduction to the Houston Sierra Club

Houston Sierra Club Intro



- Houston Sierra Club (HSC) is a Regional Group of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, a.k.a. the “Houston Regional Group” created in 1966
- Over 25,000 Texans count themselves as Sierra Club members, including nearly 6,000 in the Houston Region
- Houston Regional Group Executive Committee Officers
 - Gary Stephenson (Chair)
gary.stephenson@gmail.com
 - Kristen Schlemmer (Secretary)
kschlemmer@gmail.com
 - Lorraine Gibson (Treasurer)
raineygib@aol.com

The Houston Regional Group serves the following area in the state of Texas:

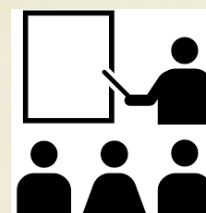


Houston Regional Group

HSC Mission Statement



- The mission of the Houston Sierra Club is to foster the quality of the environment within its territorial limits and to work for the purposes of the Sierra Club, including:
 - To protect and conserve the natural resources of the Houston area, the State of Texas, the United States, and the world
 - To undertake and publish scientific and educational studies concerning all aspects of our environment and the natural ecosystems of our region
 - To educate the public to the need to preserve and restore the quality of our environment and the integrity of our regional ecosystems



HSC Preservation Highlights



- Creation and construction of the Lone Star Hiking Trail in Sam Houston National Forest from 1966 through 1978 and ongoing maintenance thereof
- Creation and protection of Armand Bayou Nature Center in the early 1970s
- Creation and operation of the Big Thicket Coordinating Committee which lobbied and helped pass Big Thicket National Preserve legislation in 1974, and management planning through today, including oversight of land acquisition, oil/gas drilling, and road projects
- Support for the designation, protection, and expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary from 1977 through today
- Support for the protection of the Katy Prairie from the 1980s through today
- Support for the Columbia Bottomlands (Austin's Woods) program from 1992 through today



HSC Environmental Protection



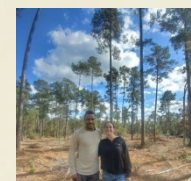
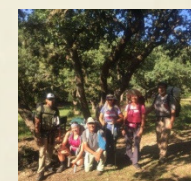
- Support for the designation, protection, and or expansion of national wildlife refuges including Texas Point, McFaddin, Anahuac, Brazoria, San Bernard, Big Boggy, Trinity River, and Attwaters Prairie Chicken from the 1970s through today
- Oversight of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 wetlands permit program from the late 1970s through today
- Air quality work includes the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria ozone state implementation plan
- Long-term commitment to mass transportation improvements, including support for the 1982 Metro heavy rail proposal, support for the Metro 1988 rail proposal, Metro light rail route construction in the 2000s and 2010s, and 1990s and 2010s Houston bike plans



Ongoing HSC Activities



- General Meetings on environmental topics of public interest
- An active Outings Program to explore the scenic natural treasure our region has to offer
- Participation in Service Outings has also been a activity of the Houston Sierra Club
 - These outings have included maintenance and protection of the Lone Star Hiking Trail and other trails
 - Restoration of prairies via planting and burning
 - Planting wetlands
 - Removal of litter from the Texas shoreline
 - All have been important ways that the Houston Group has given back and made the environment a better place for people and wildlife



A photograph of a dried leaf and stem against a light, textured background. The leaf is dark brown and elongated, with a pointed tip. The stem is thin and dark, extending from the leaf towards the bottom left. The background is a light beige color with subtle, wavy patterns, possibly representing a piece of paper or a natural surface.

Connecting with the Houston Sierra Club



Connecting with the Houston Sierra Club (HSC)

- On the Web:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/texas/houston>

- On Meetup:

<https://www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings/>

- On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HSCenvironment>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123755137663951/>

- On Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/houstonsierraclub/>

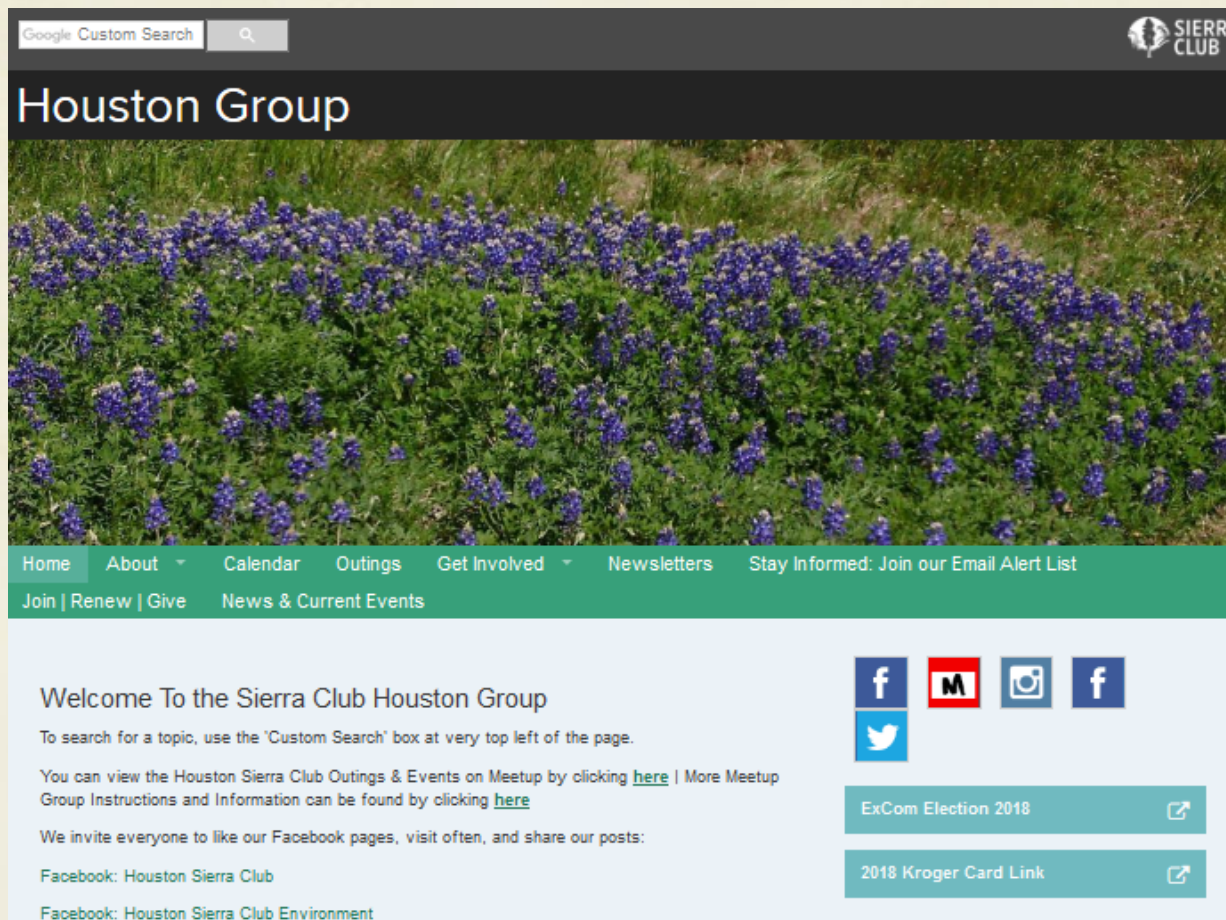
- On Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/hrgsierraclub>

HSC Website



- Contains overview of latest information and events
- Includes links to other social media sites



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Sierra Club Houston Group website. At the top, there is a "Google Custom Search" box and the Sierra Club logo. Below this is a dark header with the text "Houston Group". The main content area features a large photograph of a field of bluebonnets. A green navigation bar contains links for "Home", "About", "Calendar", "Outings", "Get Involved", "Newsletters", and "Stay Informed: Join our Email Alert List". Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "Welcome To the Sierra Club Houston Group" with introductory text and links. To the right of this text are social media icons for Facebook, Meetup, Instagram, and Twitter. At the bottom right, there are two teal buttons: "ExCom Election 2018" and "2018 Kroger Card Link", both with external link icons.

HSC on Meetup



- For meeting announcements, activism, and outings planning
- It is a way to reserve your space for your favorite outing
- 5174 members as of 9/2018

The screenshot shows the Meetup profile for "Houston Sierra Club Outings". At the top left is the Meetup logo, and at the top right are links for "Start a new group" and "Explore". The main header features a photo of hikers on a forest trail, the group name "Houston Sierra Club Outings", and details: "Houston, TX · 5,174 members · Public group". Below this, it says "Organized by Francis Blake and 12 others" with a small profile picture. There are social sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a general share icon. A navigation bar includes "About", "Meetups", "Members", "Photos", "Discussions", and "More", with a "You're a member" button on the right. The "Next Meetup" section is highlighted, showing a date of "Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 7:00 PM" and the title "Noatak Wild: America's Ultimate Wilderness River Adventure, with Beth Johnson". It is hosted by Francis Blake. The description reads: "In 2003, Beth Johnson organized an exciting 'passage to the interior' (translation of 'Noatak' in Inupiat) with three fellow Texans to paddle 436 miles of Alaska's Noatak River from near its source deep in the Brooks Range's vast grandeur to its mouth at Chukchi Sea tidewater on Alaska's west coast. Beth will take us on a photographic journey on what Beth considers America's ultimate, perfect wilderness river adventure that included 30 days in the Land of". To the right of the text is a photo of a person in a blue kayak on a river. A blue "Attend" button is positioned below the photo. At the bottom right, the location is listed as "Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet · Houston, TX".

HSC on Facebook



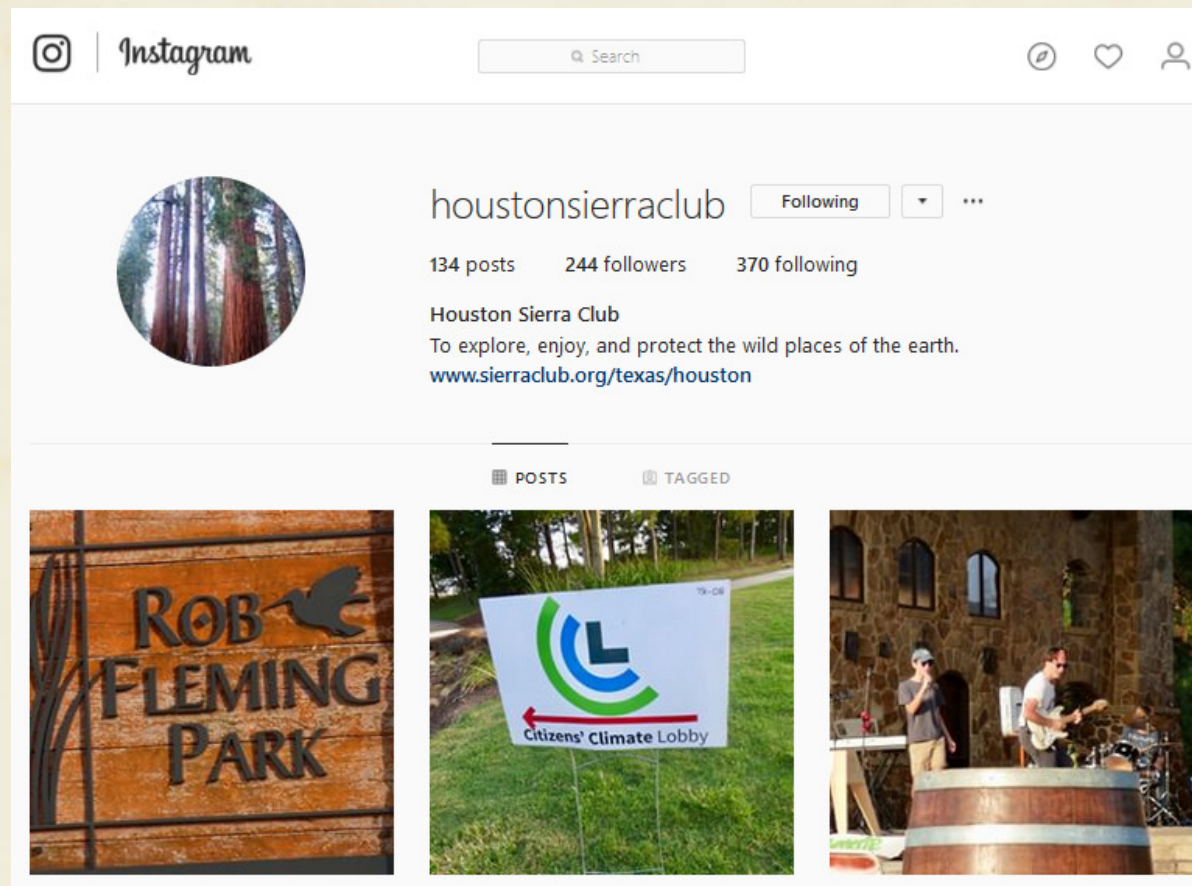
- For sharing latest activism happenings across Houston region
- 473 members, 1170 followers as of 9/2018



HSC on Instagram



- A place to post your favorite photos from HSC outings, meeting, and events
- 244 followers as of 9/2018



HSC on Twitter



- Up to the minute news and activism alerts
- 61 followers as of 9/2018

A screenshot of the Twitter profile for houstonsierraclub. The profile header shows the account name, bio, and statistics: 499 tweets, 76 following, 61 followers, and 10 likes. A tweet from August 30 is displayed, mentioning a monthly meeting at Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. The right sidebar shows a 'Who to follow' section with accounts like THEA, Cypress Woods Science, and One Breath Partnership, along with a 'Trends for you' section listing Kevin Sumlin, Arizona, and Khalil Tate.

Consider becoming a Sierra Club volunteer



- The Houston Sierra Club relies on its volunteers for everything we do.
- Without our volunteer members, we would accomplish nothing.
- Come join us and volunteer. Not only will you meet diverse, fun, and interesting people, breathe cleaner air, see great natural beauty, and refresh and rejuvenate your spirit and body, but you will be happy and proud of you and your Club's actions!
 - Brandt Mannchen, June 25, 2016





Live Well, Do Good

Thank you for your interest!

Questions?