



BAYOU BANNER

Newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 3

April-May, 2014

houston.sierraclub.org — facebook.com/HSCEnvironment — www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings

ONE-BIN-FOR-ALL? WHAT WE NEED IS A ZERO- WASTE POLICY.

Melanie Scruggs, Program Director
Texas Campaign for the Environment

We believe the One-Bin-for-All proposal by the City of Houston is a mistake. Problems include cost, air pollution, and the likelihood of low levels of recycling.

Gasification, proposed by the City, is an incineration technology that produces dioxins and other air pollutants that are damaging to public health. The companies that have bid on One-

See **ONE-BIN-FOR-ALL? NOT!** on *Page 4*

**The *Bayou Banner* needs editorial and layout help. see *Page 10*.
Environmental Justice Encuentro: see *Page 11*.**

APRIL GENERAL MEETING (APRIL 10, 2013) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

This program features a frank look at Environmental Justice. “Environmental Justice” refers to the fact that environmental hazards are not evenly distributed among all populations. The environmental impact of our culture of convenience largely falls on those least able to defend themselves — our economically depressed communities.

One needs to look no further than Houston’s Manchester community to see the difficulty in question. In short, when it comes to clean water, fresh air, and good land, it’s all about location, location, location — but it shouldn’t be. The program is by representatives of the Houston Peace and Justice Center. 🌍

MAY GENERAL MEETING (MAY 8, 2013) THE NIGHT SKY IN TEXAS

This program explores and the night sky with Debbie Moran, the Education Chair of the Houston Astronomical Society. Debbie will teach us what celestial bodies are hovering overhead in the spring sky of Texas, as well as give an overview of the Astronomical Society’s

latest activities. If you’ve ever looked up and wondered, “is that Venus or Jupiter?” or asked yourself “what a blue moon really is?” then this meeting is for you! Don’t miss this heavenly opportunity. 🌍

**ANNUAL YARD SALE
Your Help Needed!
May 10, 2014 See Page 4**

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS, REVISITED.

by Art Browning

A big, old superfund site east of Houston has popped back into the news, and people living near it are hopping mad that it’s not fixed yet. Defunct Champion Paper Mill of Pasadena dumped waste into pits alongside the San Jacinto River fifty years ago; since then, the area has subsided and is partly underwater. Leaks of toxic material were discovered about 8 years ago, when the EPA designated it a Superfund Site; it was upgraded to the “National Priority List” in 2008. To begin dealing with the situation, a temporary “cap” was installed in 2011, but breaches were found in 2012. Progress seems glacial to some, as evidenced by some impassioned comments at a public town hall in Highlands, Texas early this year.

You may have read or heard about this lately, and in the past, in the Houston Chronicle, or from local TV news outlets. Most recently, on January

See **10% VS 75%** on *Page 8*

St. Stephens Episcopal Church
1805 West Alabama

Enter one parking lot from Woodhead, the other from Sul Ross. Before 7:00 PM, left turns to Woodhead are not allowed. If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlavy, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2ND THURSDAYS,

7:30 PM

April 10, 2014

May 8, 2014

Doors open at 7:00 PM

Join us prior to the meeting for refreshments at the hospitality table and to visit the information tables for Forestry, Outings, and Inner City Outings. Find out how you can volunteer with us.

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Houston, TX 77253-3021

TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

Service

DAVIS HILL STATE PARK Saturday, March 29, 2014

Last year, volunteers spent a beautiful September morning ridding Davis Hill State Park of some of its invasive tallow trees. Davis Hill State Park has never opened to the public, so this is an opportunity to see a truly natural state park while you volunteer control invasive plants and help preserve plant diversity. We'll work with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. staff.

Volunteers should gather at 8 AM in Cleveland in the Subway parking lot located at 140 Truly Plaza in Cleveland, TX.

We'll caravan to Davis Hill SP and arrive about 8:30 AM. It is an easy hike to the work site. We'll spend the morning killing evil tallow trees. The only good tallow is a dead tallow – YES!

After a lunch break from noon to 1 PM, we'll rid the park of more tallows until 2:30 PM and then start back to the vehicles.

Bring a sack lunch and a couple of filled water bottles. Wear long pants, a hat and either hiking boots or old shoes. We will not be on established trails. Although TPWD will bring along loppers and hatchets, please bring along these tools if you have them. It's a good idea to mark your tools to reduce confusion.

Contact Evelyn Merz at 713-644-8228 or elmerz@hal-pc.org for more information. You can also sign up at the Houston Sierra Club Outings Meet-up group.

To get to Subway at 140 Truly Plaza, Cleveland, TX: Go east on Hwy 105 (W. Southline St.) from Hwy 59. Continue to the intersection with S. Washington Ave (Hwy 573) and turn right (south). You will see the Subway in a shopping center on your right. 📍

Service

MARYSEE PRAIRIE WORK DAYS First Saturday most months fall through spring, April 5, 2014, May 3, 2014

The Marysee Prairie is one of the last remnants of tallgrass prairie in the Big Thicket region. Come assist the Texas Land Conservancy in this ongoing effort to revive and maintain the native grasses and wildflowers on this site near Batson, Texas. Work tasks vary by month, but usually involve controlling the regrowth of woody species and keeping the prairie clear for mowing. Tools provided. Check the Meetup site for updates. For more info and to confirm work dates, contact Tom Maddux at 936-697-3425, or Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896.

Big Thicket

BIG THICKET WEEKEND Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6, 2014

Enjoy a spring weekend in the Big Thicket. On Saturday, we will do service work on Marysee Prairie, the only restored tall-grass prairie in the Big Thicket. We will probably cut woody vegetation and inventory blooming wildflowers and prairie grasses. This is a good way to learn some of the grasses and wildflowers that are naturally found in the Big Thicket. After lunch we will visit one of the units of Big Thicket National Preserve (BTNP).

Then we will spend the night at the home of Maxine Johnston, the "Godmother of the Big Thicket," in Batson, Texas. We will have a delicious meal, share stories about the Big Thicket and our other outdoor exploits, and engage in camaraderie with interesting folks. On Sunday we will pick a place in BTNP and enjoy a spring hike.

Come for one day or spend the entire weekend. Bring a daypack, plenty of water, hat, field guides, binoculars, and comfortable hiking shoes and warm clothes. If you stay overnight bring what you need for the evening and a sleeping bag.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a silver-gray Honda Civic with a lot of bumper-stickers on the back.

Contact Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or brandtshnbt@juno.com and reserve a space (leave your name, phone number, and email). 📍



TURTLE BAYOU CANOE/KAYAK Saturday, April 12, 2014

Turtle Bayou flows from north to south, draining some 180 square miles in Liberty and Chambers Counties. During the nineteenth century, it played an important role in events leading up to the Texas Revolution. Later, a combination of natural processes and human actions closed off upper Trinity Bay (known up until then as Turtle Bay), forming Lake Anahuac. Stream diversions and the construction of Interstate-10 brought still other changes. Now, a joint project of the

Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District and the Galveston Bay Foundation will protect over 500 acres of land adjacent to the bayou, between Interstate-10 and Lake Anahuac. Come and see history in the making. Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak, life jackets (required to be worn), and paddles. The trip leader can help you with advice regarding gear rentals from Houston area outfitters, if needed. Paddling time: 3-4 hours, plus breaks for sightseeing and lunch. Difficulty: moderate to strenuous. Recommended donation to the Houston Sierra Club: \$10. Trip size is limited. To register, contact Tom Douglas at baymail@sbcglobal.net or (713) 869-6026. A detailed trip information sheet will be sent by email to registered participants. 📍

Trail Work

LONE STAR HIKING TRAIL Saturday, April 19 and Saturday, May 17, 2014

Enjoy a trail maintenance hike on the Lone Star Hiking Trail in the Sam Houston National Forest. The part of the trail will be chosen depending on the most current needs. Bring your daypack, two quarts of water, snack, hiking shoes, hat, and clothes to fit the weather. Don't forget to bring your sense of camaraderie and adventure!

Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot behind the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) at I-45 North and Greens Road. Look for a maroon and silver F-150 truck. To reach the parking lot, enter the feeder off I-45 North, via the Greens Road exit, and then pass through the traffic signal at Greens Rd. Turn right into the first strip center you come to (look for Brown Sugar's Barbecue) and drive to the end of the strip center. The parking lot behind IHOP is on the right. Contact Darrell Matula at 281-667-7024 or drmatula@verizon.net for additional details. Please supply your name and contact information in case we need to contact you. One can also check the Houston Sierra Club Meetup site on the web for possible updates and sign up there. Because of new Forest Service rules, RSVP is required. 📍

Camping

TRAIL BETWEEN THE LAKES Sabine National Forest Backpacking and Day Hiking Options April 25-27, 2014

Are you ready for some hiking? The Golden Triangle Group of the Sierra Club is celebrating Earth Week with an outing on the Trail Between the Lakes, a 28 mile hiking trail in the Sabine National Forest that extends from Lakeview Recreation

TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

Area on Toledo Bend Reservoir to US 96 within sight of the of Sam Rayburn Reservoir. The Trail was planned and constructed as a joint effort of the Golden Triangle Group of the Sierra Club (Beaumont area) and the US Forest Service.

Participants can hike the entire trail on this outing, or choose from different options to hike portions of the trail each day. For general information on the trail visit: <http://www.toledo-bend.com/national-forest/index.asp?request=trail>

Where to Stay: For the serious hikers you can backpack, or hike to a predetermined campsite with a daypack and camp along the trail. For those who prefer RV camping, there is Mill Creek Park, or any number of other parks near the East Texas lakes. For those who prefer a motel, there are options - check www.lake-resort.com. There are lots of hiking options over this three day outing.

RSVP: It is very important to let us know if you are coming. We need to plan for the correct number of hikers and arrange the shuttle. Donations are appreciated to cover shuttles and other miscellaneous costs. For further details and to sign up, contact Phil Rogers at philarogers@gmail.com or 409-543-4616 cell, or John Paul at jp46832@gt.rr.com or 409-201-0005 cell. 📍

Service

DAVIS HILL STATE PARK Saturday, April 26, 2014

Yet another opportunity to visit Davis Hill State Park, an undeveloped unit of the state park system located approximately 20 miles east of Cleveland Texas, and near units of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. Davis Hill SP has not been open to the public except for very infrequent special tours. Service work at the park will likely be clearing invasive tallow trees in an area that we have not yet worked in. The work will be with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. staff, who will guide our work party.

Further details will be posted to the Houston Sierra Club Outings Meetup website, including start time, rendezvous point, etc. Or contact Evelyn Merz at elmerz@hal-pc.org or 713-644-8228 for complete information. 📍

Beach Cleanup

NORTH JETTY BEACH CLEANUP Saturday, April 26, 2014 9:30am-12:30pm

The Houston Group has adopted this stretch of beach as part of the Texas "Adopt-A-Beach Program". The North Jetty is a popular fishing, crabbing, and birding spot on the Bolivar Peninsula just south of the Audubon Society's Bolivar Flats

Sanctuary. Because this site is heavily used, trash and litter have become a problem. Much of the trash, such as discarded fishing line and plastics, are hazards to area wildlife.

The ferry crossing to Bolivar is usually a good opportunity to observe dolphins and brown pelicans. It is interesting to visit the jetty at different times of year. Since this is spring migration season, after the clean up those interested can drive up to High Island to visit the Audubon Sanctuaries – particularly the rookery at Smith Oaks, a nesting site for snowy egrets, spoonbills, and herons. To sign up, contact Frank Blake, frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896 (e-mail preferred). 📍



CYPRESS WONDERLAND CANOE/KAYAK Saturday, May 3, 2014

Experience the maze of lakes and shaded, winding bayous deep within the heart of the largest cypress forest on the Texas coast. This is one of the most scenic paddling destinations in this part of our state, and it is located only 30 miles east of Houston. Depending on the water and weather conditions, we will focus on one or more of the area's many features: wildlife, river processes, Texas history, and the impact of human interventions. Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak, life jackets (required to be worn), and paddles. The trip leader can help you with advice regarding gear rentals from Houston area outfitters, if needed. Paddling time: 4-5 hours, plus breaks for sightseeing and lunch. Difficulty: moderate to strenuous. Recommended donation to the Houston Sierra Club: \$10. Trip size is limited. To register, contact Tom Douglas at baymail@sbcglobal.net or (713) 869-6026. A detailed trip information sheet will be sent by email to registered participants. 📍

Service

DAVIS HILL STATE PARK SERVICE OUTING -MORE TALLOW TREES! Saturday, May 3, 2014

This is another opportunity to see a truly natural state park while you volunteer control invasive plants and help preserve plant diversity. We'll work with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. staff.

Volunteers should gather at 8 AM in Cleveland in the Subway parking lot located at 140 Truly Plaza

in Cleveland, TX. We'll caravan to Davis Hill SP and arrive about 8:30 AM. It is an easy hike to the work site. We'll spend the morning killing evil tallow trees. The only good tallow is a dead tallow – YES!

After a lunch break from noon to 1 PM, we'll rid the park of more tallows until 2:30 PM and then start back to the vehicles.

Bring a sack lunch and a couple of filled water bottles. Wear long pants, a hat and either hiking boots or old shoes. We will not be on established trails. Although TPWD will bring along loppers and hatchets, please bring along these tools if you have them. Mark your tools to reduce confusion.

Contact Evelyn Merz at 713-644-8228 or elmerz@hal-pc.org for more information, or sign up at our Meet-up site (see top of page 1).

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— Outings continued on page 4 —

See the outings calendar at our website
<http://houston.sierraclub.org>
for possible additions to schedule.
Click **Calendar**, then
scroll down to **Quick Links**.

Also, the calendar is available on our
Meetup site:
www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings

NOTICES

Sierra Club is a California non profit corporation, with "California Seller of Travel" registration number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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 Outings Department at the national Sierra Club office at (415)-977-5528 for a printed version. 📍

LEADER TRAINING

For leader training, contact Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. 📍

— Outings continued from page 3 —

Nature Center

**SHANGRI LA GARDENS IN ORANGE, TEXAS
Saturday, May 10, 2014**

Join us on a walking, birding, botanizing, and just plain fun trip to Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Texas. The 252 acre area contains a cypress swamp, bird blind, botanical gardens, nature center, and outpost tours centered on Ruby Lake and Adams Bayou. An over 1,000 year old Bald Cypress exists on the property.

Bring a daypack, hat, water, lunch/snacks, binoculars, hiking shoes, camera, bug repellent, field guides, and clothes to fit the weather. We will meet to carpool/caravan at 7:30 am in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a silver Honda Civic with lots of bumper stickers. Fee for the gardens/tour is \$10.

Call or email Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or brandtshnbt@juno.com and leave your name, address, phone number, and email. In case of trip cancellation Brandt will either email or call you. 🌐

Sierra Kids

**ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER
Saturday, May 17, 2014**

Join other Sierra Kids and families at the Armand Bayou Nature Center. We'll meet there right as it opens at 9 a.m. to walk the boardwalks in hopes of seeing alligators, turtles and dragonflies. We'll then head over to the children's discovery area for some nature inspired play and a small snack. Admission is charged, so please be prepared to pay between \$2 (kids) and \$4 (adults). Contact Jen Powis at jenniferpowis@yahoo.com with any questions or suggestions for other fun events this summer! 🌐



**CYPRESS CREEK CANOE/KAYAK
Sunday, June 1, 2014**

Along its path through the forested areas of northern Harris County, Cypress Creek passes by several parks and other points of interest. There is likely to be a noticeable current, so that good boat control and some experience with paddling in moving water will be very helpful. Being farther inland, the

river banks are also steeper and higher than we usually encounter in coastal trips. Lowering boats down to river level may be a new experience for some. We highly recommend sturdy shoes that will provide good traction. Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak, life jackets (required to be worn), and paddles. The trip leader can help you with advice regarding gear rentals from Houston area outfitters, if needed. Paddling time: 4-5 hours, plus breaks for sightseeing and lunch. Difficulty: moderate to strenuous. Recommended donation to the Houston Sierra Club: \$10. Trip size is limited. To register, contact Tom Douglas at baymail@sbcglobal.net or (713) 869-6026. A detailed trip information sheet will be sent by email to registered participants. 🌐

ANNUAL YARD SALE

**Saturday, May 10, 2014
2318 Waugh Dr. at Fairview**

Is it time for some spring cleaning? Don't forget the Sierra Club yard sale, and you can 'recycle' those unneeded items. The sale will take place Saturday, May 10, from 8am-4pm at "CORAZON Fair Trade", 2318 Waugh (at the corner with Fairview). We will gladly accept most saleable items, including clothing, knickknacks, furniture, books, etc. We also need help the day of the sale, particularly for the morning set up and the afternoon knock-down. To donate items, either bring them to the General Meeting on May 8, or you may drop off items at CORAZON (713-526-6591, call for current hours), during the week immediately prior to the sale (but NOT before Saturday, May 3). The web address for CORAZON is www.CorazonFairTrade.com. If you need to drop off items before May 3, contact Frank Blake to discuss options (contact info below).

Please bag or box up smaller items. Large objects such as furniture would be best delivered to the site on the morning of the sale. If you have workable appliances, electronics, etc. to donate, securely attach an index card that describes the condition of the item, and any information a potential buyer would need to know. This is important! If we don't know the workability of an item, we are forced to sell it for far less than its potential value. Please DO NOT BRING broken or obsolete computers, computer peripherals, or non-working electronics. Those items should go directly to an e-waste recycling facility.

This event is one of the Houston Group's annual fundraising efforts. All proceeds go to support the Houston Group and its local conservation and educational programs. To volunteer, contact Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. 🌐

ONE-BIN-FOR-ALL? NOT!

Continued from page 1

Bin-for-All have a history of waste incineration. We believe this proposal is a scheme to bring waste incineration to Texas, where we do not have any incinerators for municipal solid waste.

Texas has avoided waste-to-energy schemes because, aside from the pollution threat, they are extremely expensive. Houston currently pays about \$25 per ton to dispose of its waste; a City of San Antonio feasibility study in 2012 estimated that waste-to-energy costs ranged from 120 to 160 dollars per ton. Recycling is far better at creating jobs, and reducing raw material separation; it is better for the environment than waste-to-energy, or as we like to call it, a waste OF energy.

The City says that the \$100+ million facility would reach "75% recycling" rates, but other mixed waste processing facilities in the country only get 25% recycling because mixing trash and recyclables contaminates recyclables, so no machine or low wage labor force can separate them out. The proposal calls for tax exempt financing and 380 agreements, and our organization believes it is a huge mistake to spend tax dollars investing in this kind of dirty, air polluting technology, when for a similar size investment Houston could have one of the greatest recycling programs in the world.

The Mayor has said that by the end of her term, she would expand the current single-stream recycling program to every household in the City service area. In April the City says that they will have finally achieved expansion of the recycling program or "big, green bins" to 75% of all households. Last year, less than half of the City's households had recycling bins. Since the City only collects from houses, we have no accurate data on how many apartments and businesses have recycling through private contracts. Without any incentives for apartment owners or businesses to provide recycling, we estimate that the percentage is extremely low. Our organization would like the city to create a Zero Waste master plan that would create standards or incentives for businesses and apartments to have recycling. Tax exempt institutions should also recycle. We could also create an organics collection program that would divert food waste from landfills and lower greenhouse gases such as methane which are released from landfills. Other cities in Texas have already started collecting organic waste for composting and biofuel production, and we think Houston should consider these alternatives instead of going through with a boondoggle like "One Bin for All."

We have more information on our website and links to email the Mayor and City Council here: http://www.texasenvironment.org/local_campaigns_houston.cfm. 🌐

AIR QUALITY ADVOCATES NEEDED

by Brandt Mannchen

Did you know that the earliest human air pollution problem was due to cooking fires? Did you know that air pollution from coal burning was so bad in 1306 that coal burning was prohibited in London? These are fascinating facts about air pollution. However, the reality in Houston is much more significant. Our air is not clean enough to breathe or to ensure that you and your family's health are protected from disease.

What can you do? The Houston Sierra Club is seeking the participation of its members in the creation of and the active advocacy by an Air Quality Committee.

This includes a chair and members for the Air Quality Committee. Training and mentoring will be provided free! What the Houston Sierra Club expects from volunteers is a willingness to learn about air quality issues, persistence and patience, and active advocacy for clean air. The Houston Sierra Club is looking for people who are willing to:

- 1) Act as advisors to the Houston Sierra Club Executive Committee on air quality issues.
- 2) Discuss and implement issues, priorities, goals, objectives, and strategies.
- 3) Educate members and non-members and encourage their involvement in air quality issues.
- 4) Communicate and work with Sierra Club legislative, lobbying, and political efforts for air quality on the national, chapter, and group levels.

If you want to volunteer for the Houston Sierra Club Air Quality Committee contact either Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 (brandtshnbt@juno.com) or Evelyn Merz at 713-644-8228 (elmerz@hal-pc.org).



ACRONYMS

Sometimes the acronyms and abbreviations appearing in the Bayou Banner seem overwhelming, so this list is included to help our readers (and the editor). -Ed.

Specific to this Issue of the Bayou Banner

ICO	Inner City Outings
General	
BTNP	Big Thicket National Preserve
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ExCom	Executive Committee
FS	U. S. Forest Service
GBASCH	Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston
HSC	Houston Sierra Club
LSHT	Lone Star Hiking Trail
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
PDF	Portable Document Format (computer file)
SC	Sierra Club
SHNF	Sam Houston National Forest
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation

Oh, I like Enchanted Rock SNA - lots of picnic tables.

You had a campfire?

You had neighbors.

I like Boy Scouts. They leave things around picnic tables.

"Cave" makes me think of home - in the ant bed.

Sounds excellent!

Let's go!!

I went to Enchanted Rock SNA with the Sierra Club - my first time. It was great!

After sunset, the sky was black; we could see all of the stars!

Oh, Yes! Warm and reflecting in the eyes of all participants.

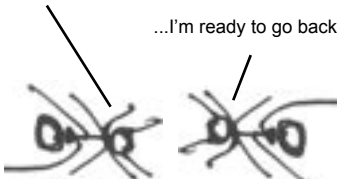
The Boy Scouts got us up early!

We went in caves, then to the top of the Rock with its magnificent views.

Back to camp, supper, out with some cactus needles, the campfire, to bed, then up in the frosty morning...burrr. Then away...

...I'm ready to go back.*

* Comments exerted from those of Craig Kegerreis.



Current numbering of Bayou Banner issues uses odd numbers to correspond, approximately, to the monthly numbering used previously.

SIERRA INFO ON LINE

by John Berlinghoff

Since paper copies of the Bayou Banner are being mailed only every other month, we now have some other options to keep you informed.

- The HSC Website at <http://houston.sierraclub.org> has our Bayou Banner pictures in color, links, etc.
- Monthly Outings Newsletter, a shortened version of the outings list that I send out monthly.
- FaceBook Page for our Group, information on activities and environmental or political news.
- FaceBook page for Houston Sierra Club Outdoors, the latest news on outings and other stuff about the outdoors. Look us up at HscOutdoors.
- Twitter @sierraouting is a work in progress.

For help in finding the Facebook pages or for any other questions contact me. John Berlinghoff: johnb@hal-pc.org, 713/644-8228.

RECYCLE ALMOST ANYTHING

New "Recycle just about anything" website: TCE Fund has re-launched its website www.TexasTakeBack.org, which is designed as a comprehensive guide to give you information for recycling almost anything. Need to recycle your electronics, pharmaceuticals or CFLs? Want to know how to reduce household plastic or paper waste? Check out the new site, and give us your feedback, please!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

1. Explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.
2. Practice and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.
3. Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.
4. Use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Houston Sierra Club gets a small part of your membership renewal fee (the rest of it is used by the National Sierra Club and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club). The amount passed to the Houston Sierra Club is more if you use a credit card and renew on line through our website than if you mail a check.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

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Volume 38, Number 3
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April-May, 2014

The Bayou Banner is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It is published 6 times a year by the Houston Sierra Club. Circulation is 5,000.

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Opinions stated are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Houston Sierra Club.

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Bayou Banner Advertising Information

The *Bayou Banner* is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club (also known as the Houston Sierra Club). It is published 6 times per year (bimonthly, starting with the February-March issue). All advertising must be compatible with the mission of the Sierra Club, and it must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. The circulation is over 4,000 per issue (including electronic deliveries).

Discounts are applied only if an order for all issues is made in advance. Back page and preferred pages may not be available in some issues.

Contact George Batten, Editor:
BayouBanner@gmail.com

Rate Schedule

Full page	\$400.00 per issue
1/3 page	\$160.00 per issue
1/4 page	\$125.00 “ “
1/8 page	\$ 75.00 “ “
1/18 page	\$ 45.00 “ “

(1/18 page is business card size)

Discounts

2 issues	3%
3 issues	5%
4 issues	6%
6 issues	10%
10 issues	15%

Additional

Back page (if available)	+50%
Preferred page (not front or back page)	+25%

Submissions should be images in TIFF, JPEG or PDF format with at least 300 dots per inch. Color shows on the Internet web site; the mailed copies are in black-and-white.

The boxes show the sizes (they are not full size when this is reduced and printed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper). Full page size is 10.5” wide x 11” high, with 0.5” margins.

All advertising (except political ads) is included in the *Bayou Banner* versions which are placed on the Houston Sierra Club’s website.

Those versions, which can be read and printed using the free Adobe Acrobat reader, are in color. They are open to the public.

1/3 Page
3 inches x 9.29 inches

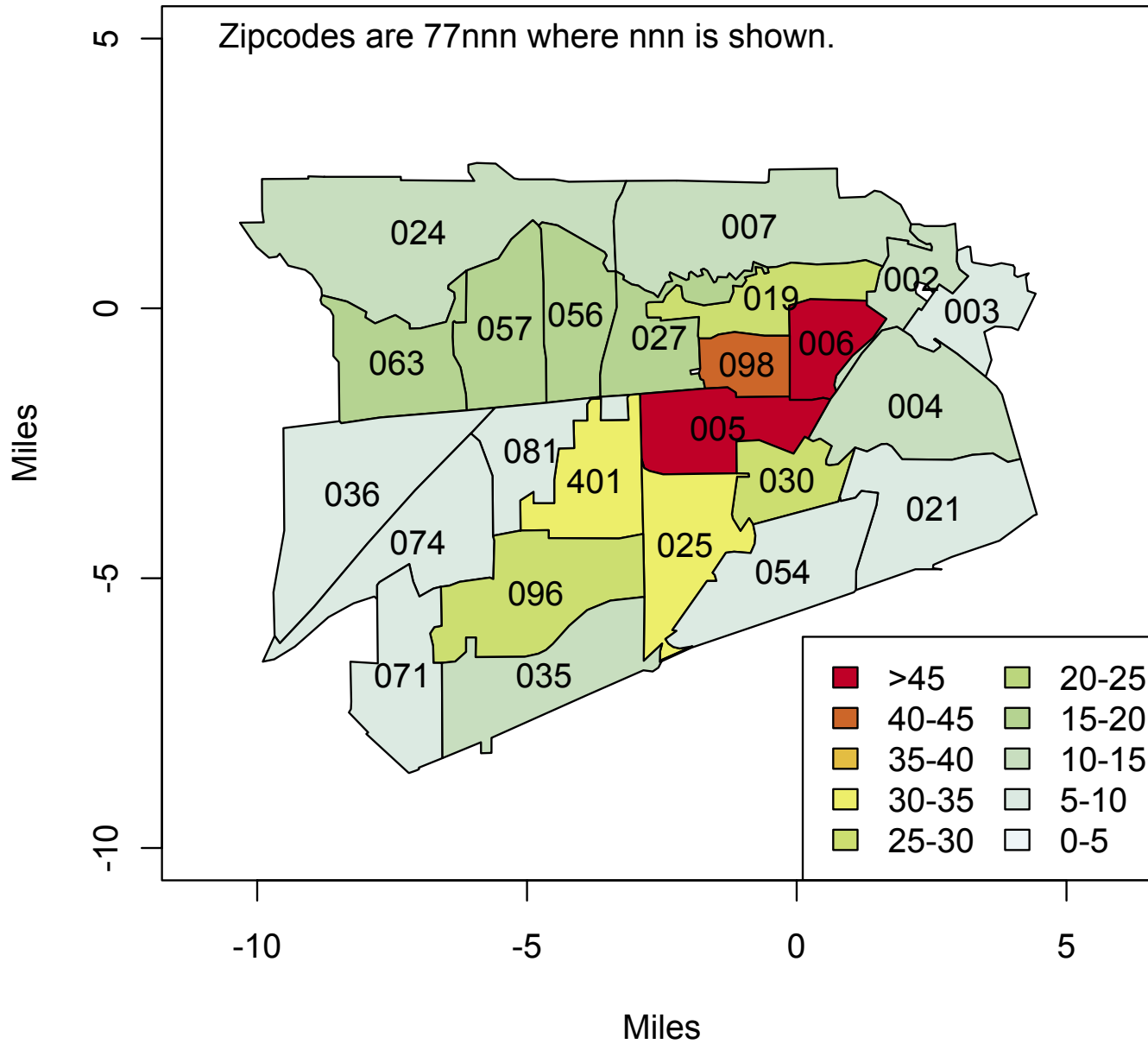
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1/18 Page
3.0 inches x 2.3 inches
“Business Card Size”

SUPPLEMENT

Houston Sierra Club Member Density (members per square mile)



Some west Houston zipcodes: member count = 1400 out of 4969 (28%).

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS, REVISITED.

Continued from Page 1.

30th, EPA Region 6 representatives presented an update and took questions and comments from the public in Highlands (one of a series of such meetings). They began by reviewing the history of



the site and progress to date, more or less as outlined above. Partway through their presentation, some in the audience rose to protest, asking “when something be DONE?” Some

commented about how their neighbors have had skin lesions, multiple myeloma, cancer; others spoke of how family members have died. (From the side of the room, workers with Texas Department of State Health Services asked people telling these stories to talk with them.)

You have driven right past this Superfund Site, probably without realizing it, if you have travelled east along I-10 past Channelview toward Baytown or Beaumont. It looks like it’s completely industrial, but lots and lots of folks live there, and have done so for generations. The pits don’t look like much, especially since they’re half submerged. Here’s a map; you can find others online,

So what, exactly, are these pollution problems? And how can they be addressed?

Dioxins, furans, and mercury are some of the worst chemicals oozing out of the pits. They get into the water, and then into various organisms, some of which turn up on people’s dinner plates. You know the story. Some pollutants work their

way up to the top of the food chain, becoming more concentrated via bioaccumulation so that tuna and swordfish are bad to eat, especially for infants and pregnant women. (See for example, <http://www.ejnet.org/dioxin/>) Some bind to sediment, where bottom-dwelling creatures like oysters ingest and concentrate them. Volatile pollutants can also get into your body if you breathe them; soluble ones can be absorbed by your body if you swim in water containing them. All these sources affect all of us,

mostly unknown to us. Businesses ship seafood from our fisheries to the rest of the planet, proudly; likewise, we get food from everywhere, with who knows what in it. But the people most affected by this particular Superfund site are the families who live, work and recreate near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. Signs such as these have been posted along the river in places near where they live, but too many people ignore them. (Figure 2)

What is to be done? The EPA is studying the matter, with due diligence. They presented six options at the meeting January 30th. The first was to do nothing; the sixth was the most expensive, and might cost 100 to 600 million dollars. (It must be noted that our government would not be paying that, but the “Potentially Responsible Parties” would have to pay. Those “PRPs” are International Paper and Waste Management, largely due to corporate acquisitions of the original polluters.) Past, present and future costs on everyone’s health are practically incalculable if the mess is left in place. The sixth option would be to remove the pollutants to a level meeting standards of 220 nanograms/kilogram (ng/kg, or parts per trillion) of dioxin, the standard used for residential soil. Most people in the room agreed that standards must be set to this level; then Sierra Club activist Brandt Mannchen boldly spoke up, saying we should go even further. He formalized



his words in a follow-up letter to Gary Miller of the EPA: “We must not do a half-way job and use as an excuse that we need to save money or that we don’t have enough money. No one 20, 30, 40, or 50 years from now must be responsible for finishing our job, the job we did not do in the right manner. Delay can only add to the cost of clean-up. I encourage EPA to choose Alternative 6 with a 50 part per trillion target concentration or lower.” (50 ppt is the standard for the protection of the Galveston Bay Estuary, more stringent than for your garden.)

Jacqueline Young of Texans Together agrees that “full remediation” is the only acceptable answer. She is an environmental geologist who grew up in the area. She points out that the most robust plan may take nearly as much as a year and a half, which would go through a hurricane season, possibly subjecting the excavations to storm surges. But

doing that is better than putting it off year after year and risking continual erosion of temporary caps, continued subsidence, recurrent “blue-northers” and gully-washers that spread the pollutants up and down the river, into Trinity and Galveston bays, and on down to the Gulf of Mexico. It’s time to act.

What can we do ourselves? Encourage our government to do the right thing. Some of the most active community organizers on this issue work with the San Jacinto River Coalition (<http://www.sjrc.texasaltogether.org/>) in conjunction with Texans Together. Actions they recommend are to write letters such as Brandt’s to the US EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75202), expressing your concern, or even your personal anecdotes, if you have any. This coming August, the EPA expects to release a proposed solution. It would be best for the public to submit comments before then, and to be prepared to comment further at that time.

The following web sites are somewhat dated, with information up to 2012.

The EPA has information here:

http://www.epa.gov/region6/Gsf/texas/san_jacinto/

with contact information here:

http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/texas/san_jacinto/contacts.html

(The “contacts” page is rich with other links on the right side.)

TCEQ has information here:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/remediation/superfund/epa/sanjacpits>

Finally, here are two reports from a couple of years ago: one from CLEAN (Citizens’ League for Environmental Action Now)

<http://www.cleanhouston.org/business/features/tragedy.htm>

and another from a local newspaper article:

<http://bit.ly/1ejP6dd> 📄

“GIVE 5% TO CONSERVE HOUSTON”

Campaign to Celebrate Earth Day

On Saturday, April 26, to commemorate Earth Day, a number of area businesses will donate five percent of sales to eight local environmental non-profits that work to preserve green space, wildlife habitat, and air and water quality in the Houston region.

The non-profits that will benefit are Galveston Bay Foundation, Bayou Land Conservancy, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston Audubon, Katy Prairie Conservancy, Air Alliance Houston, Bayou Preservation Association, and Texas Campaign for the Environment Fund.

We hope that you will join us at participating businesses on Saturday, April 26. A list of participating businesses and more info about the campaign is available at <http://www.houstongive5.com/>

The listed businesses have agreed to donate 5% of gross sales (or a minimum of \$150 donation) to the Give 5% to Conserve Houston campaign.

For questions on the 2014 campaign, or to become a participating business, contact Michelle Vryn at mvryn@galvbay.org or 281-332-3381 x 213. 🌐

EARTH DAY AT DISCOVERY GREEN

**Saturday, April 12
11am-5pm**

Earth Day Houston is the city's premier Party for Our Planet and celebrates a day of family entertainment, environmental education, and a Green Expo at Discovery Green. This is a good networking event to see what various environmental groups are doing in the region. The Houston Sierra Club will have a booth at the event.

This one-day celebration will focus on the merits of mindful, sustainable living while educating and encouraging Houstonians to preserve, conserve, and enhance our city and the Earth. Developed six years ago by Air Alliance Houston, Earth Day Houston is a community centered, family friendly event open to the public and free for all to attend.

For additional details visit the website by searching for "Earth Day Houston 2014".

If you are interested in helping staff the Houston Sierra Club booth at this event, contact Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. 🌐

2013 AUCTION

The **Bayou Banner** has already commented on last year's Annual Auction, one of our main fundraising activities, which was held at the December General Meeting, but the complete list of donors was not available at press time. Therefore, the following repeats some of what was reported in the previous issue and adds the list of donors.

The auction was quite successful due to contributions of items by club members and others, work by those who managed the operation, and bidding by those who attended. Thank you contributors, workers, and participants! Special thanks to Lorraine Gibson, who oversaw the auction, acquired contributed items, prepared lists for and arranged the silent auction, and managed the financial part of the auction; to Madeleine Crozat Williams, who worked with Lorraine in planning the

live auction, and who was the auctioneer; and to Carol Lee who, as usual, did a great job of preparing and operating the hospitality table.

Donations received from the following are greatly appreciated:

Lilibeth Andre
Dave & Nancy Barziza
George & Barbara Batten
John Berlinghoff
Frank Blake
Lorraine Bonney
Art Browning
Madeleine Crozat-Williams
(as Las Manos Magicas)
Robert Flatt
Lorraine Gibson
Brandt Mannchen
Ken & Judy Margolis
Grace Martinez
Carolyn Mata
Susan Provost-Dubois
Charles Reavis
Jacqueline & Kirk Weaver
Jim Williams
Page Williams
Anneliese Unterharnscheidt
Auction committee
Generous Donor 🌐

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Please relink your KROGER PLUS Card. Using your card helps support the Houston Sierra Club.

To link your KROGER PLUS Card:

Register online at

www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Online customer: Sign In with email & password

- OR -

Not an online Kroger customer:

YOU MUST SIGN UP in the new customer box:

- Enter required information & agree to terms
- Respond to confirmation email & link to the Kroger Community Rewards Program
- Scroll down to "Texas" & click Enroll Now
- Input your Kroger Plus card number - Update or confirm your information
- Enter NPO#: 81991 -or - select Sierra Club Foundation-Houston from list

REMEMBER - Your purchases will not count for the club until you register your card.

If you have questions, contact Lorraine Gibson: by cell phone (281-384-4104) or email raineygib@aol.com. 🌐



ICo Participants and collected trash Photo by Frank Blake

ICO SERVICE OUTING TO NORTH JETTY

by Frank Blake

The Houston Sierra Club re-launched its Inner City Outings program (ICO) on February 15 with a service outing to the North Jetty on the Bolivar Peninsula. Nine students and three staff members from Sanchez Charter School helped clean up a wide range of litter from the beach and portions of the jetty. For most of the students it was their first visit to the jetty and the Bolivar Flats area, so our ICO volunteers provided educational info about the jetty and the adjacent wildlife habitat. Because the tide was unusually low that morning and exposed extensive mud flats, there were large flocks of shore birds feeding very close to shore. This made a big impression and was a great illustration of how important this spot is for wildlife. We also saw sizeable flocks of white pelicans. It was a great group and the students were attentive and enthusiastic helpers.

The purpose of ICO is to provide kids from less privileged communities a range of outdoor experiences and exposure to our natural areas. For those interested in assisting with future Houston ICO outings, please contact Lorraine Gibson at 281-384-4104 or raineygib@aol.com. 🌐



CLEAR LAKE WALKERS

Every Saturday morning at 7:30, rain or shine

Some Bay Area Sierra Club members and friends meet weekly for a three-mile walk, conversation and breakfast. Much of the walk is along the water and we often see a variety of shore birds.

Where: Nassau Bay, meeting in the Dollar Store parking lot across from the Post Office.

Contact: Betty Armstrong at 281-333-5693.

Editor's note: The Clear Lake Walkers have been active for 21 years. 🌐

GBASCH INFORMATION

by Grace Martinez

Our future programs are the following:

1. April 16: Galveston Bay Foundation, "Habitat Restoration" and an "Overview of the Conservation Work" that they do in the Bay Area. GBF is very active in this arena including being selected to do the conservation easement on Exploration Green that is being developed at the old Clear Lake Golf course.

2. May 21: Whooping Cranes. Working with Mary Carter to give us an update on the work being done to protect the whooping cranes' habitat at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. This topic was suggested by our January speaker Peg Hill. And, I as a native of Corpus Christi, have followed the plight of the whooping cranes since the 1970's, am grateful that whooping cranes are being protected yet once again.

3. June 18: Popcorn/Movie Night. Need your suggestions. One movie that I'd like to see is "Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk" for two reasons. First, the movie is about the role of a riverkeeper. As we are getting to appreciate our role of protecting our wetlands it becomes more clear that a many people are passionately involved in protecting our waterways. Secondly, our Bay Keeper, John Jacob, makes the point that we need to protect our "local nature jewels." Like the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, Big Bend which are all important, but WETLANDS is where we live, what we have to protect. Let's watch this movie or another one you suggest and let's get even more inspired.

I hope everyone is having a springy Spring. Shoot me a message or call me at 281-732-1201 if you have questions. SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.



GBASCH OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING (APRIL 16, 2014) GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

Habitat restoration and an overview of Galveston Bay Foundation conservation work.

GBASCH NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING (MAY 21, 2014) PROTECTING THE HABITAT OF WHOOPING CRANES

Mary Carter will give an update on the work being done to protect the whooping cranes' habitat at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

NOTICE

Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston (acronym GBASCH) is part of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club (also called the Houston Sierra Club — acronym HSC). HSC is so large - over 100 miles in diameter - that it is useful to provide local organization of activities for members in outlying areas. GBASCH does that by planning activities and holding general meetings in the Galveston Bay area. These are open to all HSC members. 🌐

BIKE TRAILS COMMITTEE

A bike trails committee was started to explore enhanced hike and bike trail connectivity in the Bay Area. Initially three folks doing this are Debra Goode, Richard Lee, and Doug Peterson. They are brainstorming and investigating breaks in existing trails and systems where it is hazardous to travel by bike, and identifying some of the variables for implementation, other interested parties, local government, sources of funding, etc). Contact Debra Goode at 281-280-9944 if you are interested in participating. 🌐

**Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston
GENERAL MEETINGS: 3RD WEDNESDAYS**
Clear Lake Park - 5002 NASA Parkway
Bay Area Community Center (Blue Roof)

April 16, 2014
May 21, 2014
6:30 -9:00 PM



Whooping Crane flying

from Wikipedia Commons

EXPLORATION GREEN GROUNDBREAKING

April 12, 2014 10:00 AM to Noon

Celebrate Exploration Green Groundbreaking and Earth Day in the Clear Lake Area. All Clear Lake area residents, families, and community leaders are invited.

Location: 16205 Diana Ln, Houston, 2.5 blocks north of Bay Area Blvd and Diana intersection.

Visit www.ExplorationGreen.org for more information. 🌐

Houston Sierra Club

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Bayou Banner (Urgent!)

In June, the editor position will be open. We need volunteers to edit the material and layout the document for printing. Contact Art Browning 281-728-6327 or George Batten 281-381-4990 if you can help.

Air Quality Advocates

The Houston Sierra Club is seeking members to serve on the new Air Quality Committee. Training and mentoring will be provided free! The Club expects from volunteers: a willingness to learn about air quality issues, persistence and patience, and active advocacy for clean air. See page 9 for more information.

Website Help:

We need a couple of people to assist the webmaster with posting material to the Houston Group website. This normally requires a few hours per month. For more information, contact the webmaster at houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ENCUENTRO

Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, 2014

Texas Southern University

by Mary E. Schultz

Two days bringing together grass roots organizers and main-stream environmentalists.

The Encuentro will focus on ways that everyone in the Houston region is affected by environmental justice issues—"the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all in the development and implementation of environmental policies and regulations that impact their lives".. Community leaders living blocks from chemical plants will gather with other environmentally concerned Texans to develop a shared base of support for environmental justice. Leading names in environmental planning, regulation, research and advocacy will be present to engage participants in this "Encuentro". Day 2 will provide training to empower communities to advocate for their own environmental justice with the power of scientific information.

Goals of the event are to:

- Foster dialog, communication and education between conservation groups and residents of areas most affected by severe environmental health risks.

- Enlighten Houstonians with an understanding that environmental injustices suffered by "fence-line" communities affect all Houstonians.

- Empower Houston regional residents to work for the environmental quality they want their families and grandchildren to have.

Sponsors of the Environmental Justice Encuentro include UTMB's Sealy Center, the Houston Peace and Justice Center (of which Houston Sierra Club is a member), Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.E.J.A.S.), Air Alliance-Houston, Dominican Sisters-Houston, Texas Southern University, and Citizens Environmental Coalition.

The event will be held at TSU's Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs where Dr. Robert D. Bullard is the dean. Dr. Bullard, who is often referred to as the "father of environmental justice" will give the keynote address on Friday, May 16. Other speakers and workshop leaders include:

- Antonia Juhasz, oil and energy analyst, journalist, activist and author of [The Tyranny of Oil](#)

- Winifred Hamilton, director of Baylor College of Medicine's Environmental Health Services

- Jim Blackburn, environmental attorney and professor of environmental law at Rice University
- Statistics for Action at TERC, the Technical Education Research Center
- Al Armendariz, past regional administrator for EPA Region 6, now the senior campaign representative for Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign
- Lester King, Rice University's Shell Center for Sustainability
- Hilton Kelly, recipient of the 2011 Goldman Environmental Prize for North America
- Larry Soward, board president of Air Alliance Houston and former administrator for TCEQ
- Riki Ott, author, activist, and expert on the Exxon Valdez oil spill and its aftermath

Dr. Denae King, professor at TSU in the Mickey Leland Center for Environment, Justice and Sustainability, said "we're very excited to be able to host this important gathering of environmentalists, community people directly affected by serious environmental justice problems in their neighborhoods, and others who want to work together to find solutions to serious environmental problems that go beyond just pollution and resource depletion."

Details on the speakers/presenters, the program schedule, [registration](#), location, and more, are located at <http://www.hpjc.org/encuentro2014>.

For more information, contact: Mary Schultz, mschultz@hal-pc.org, or 281-236-2617 (C); <http://www.hpjc.org/encuentro2014> 🌐



MAP: GETTING TO THE GENERAL MEETING

CREDITS

Some photos in the *Bayou Banner* are public domain photos provided by the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The clip-art canoe is from 1st Lancaster Baptist Scouts, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada (<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/3246/index.html>). All photos are used by permission. 🌐

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Just go to our web site
<http://Houston.sierraclub.org/>
and click on
Join or Give/Membership Benefits

For a limited time:

Only \$15
Get a FREE rucksack
See it online

Part of your payment
comes back to support the
Houston Sierra Club

Some activities shown on the Announcements pages are not managed by the Houston Sierra Club.

KPFT 90.1 FM

The station with much for Sierrans:

Explorations, Tuesdays, 5:00 AM

Eco-Ology, Wednesdays, 3:00 PM

Democracy Now (with Amy Goodman),
7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, weekdays.

Progressive Forum (with Wally James)
Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 PM

Of course there is news:

BBC News, 6:00-7:00 AM and 8:00-9:00 AM

KPFT local news, weekdays, 4:00-5:30 PM

Bird Note, 9:58 AM... at the end of
Open Journal, 9:00-10:00 AM

And lots of music, especially on the weekends.

You can see the program schedule at

www.kpft.org

RSS and ATOM web feeds, and
PODCASTS are available.

Revised March 31, 2014



The ant seen on these pages is the fictitious *Sieromeymex houstonensis*, drawn for and named after the Houston Sierra Club by world-famous biologist E. O. Wilson.

VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

MONTHLY MEETINGS

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING:

Second Thursday monthly in Pecore Hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 West Alabama. Enter parking lot from Woodhead. The meeting opens at 7:00 PM, and the program starts at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Before 7:00 PM, left turns are not allowed at Woodhead. If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlavy, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

CONSERVATION:

Second Tuesday monthly, 7:00 PM. Meet in the H-E-B food court at West Alabama and Dunlavy. Contact Evelyn Merz, 713-644-8228, elmerz@hal-pc.org. Come early (6:30) and grab a bite to eat.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Fourth Thursday monthly, 7:00 PM.
Contact Frank Blake frankblake@juno.com.

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO):

Meeting times and place to be determined. Please contact Lorraine Gibson at 281-384-4104 or raineygib@aol.com for more information.

OUTINGS:

Usually the third Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Whole Foods store on Bellaire near Weslayan. Help us plan regional day outings, weekend trips, and air/bus trips to exciting outdoor destinations across the country. Please call to confirm meeting date. Frank Blake, 713-528-2896, frankblake@juno.com.

RECYCLING RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON RECYCLING

The City of Houston has several drop off sites (note: some are specialized for certain items), and provides curbside recycling in many neighborhoods. Principal drop off locations are the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark, and the self serve site at 3602 Center Street in the Heights. For other locations and a complete list of recyclable items, consult the City's recycling web page. One can also phone the City's 311 hotline with recycling questions, or connect to

www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html

BELLAIRE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

This group has a useful website, with a variety of info on recycling activities in the Houston area. Committee phone line is 713-662-8173. bellairerecycles.org/index.html.

HUNTSVILLE

The City of Huntsville's recycling facility — north of town on the I-45 access road — takes cardboard, paper, tin and aluminum cans, glass, used oil, plastics, and has a warehouse for reusable donated construction materials (doors, windows, tile, wood etc). One employee is available Monday-Friday to help you unload; it is self-service on Saturday. The web site is

http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/residents/trash_and_recycling/recycling.asp.

PEARLAND RECYCLING CENTER

5800 Magnolia Road in Pearland, Texas, 77584, 281-489-2795. Takes most recyclable wastes: PC's, TV's, plastics, bottles, cans, paper, etc.

WEST UNIVERSITY RECYCLING CENTER

This facility has closed.

More available at <http://www.h-gac.com/>, especially at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/waste/resources/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2014

10 General Meeting - TBD

May 2014

8 General Meeting - TBD

June 2014

12 General Meeting - TBD

July 2014

10 General Meeting - TBD

August 2014

14 General Meeting - TBD

September 2014

Houston Sierra Club E-MAIL ALERT LIST

Subscribe to the Houston Sierra Club's E-mail alert list to get timely alerts on Houston area conservation issues, and occasional announcements of interest to Houston Sierra Club members. *(Whenever you want to drop from the list it is easy to unsubscribe yourself—those instructions will be included.)*

INSTRUCTIONS:

Send FROM the E-mail address to which you want to direct the messages. Subscribe by sending TO:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Subject: [this line may be left blank]

Message Body:

SUBSCRIBE LONESTAR-HOUSTON-ANNOUNCE FirstName LastName

(Insert YOUR name in place of "FirstName LastName")

That's it. You will receive confirmation messages. from the listserve. Thanks for your interest. If you have any difficulty, contact frankblake@juno.com.

The *Bayou Banner* is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It is published 6 times a year, in odd-numbered months. Circulation is 5500 issues sent to members and distributed through various outlets.

EDITOR: George Batten
email: BayouBanner@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS: The deadline to submit articles is the fifth day of the month before the date of the issue in which the articles are to run (for example, articles for the September issue must be submitted by August 5). All submissions must have the author's name, and contact information (including phone number) even though it will not be printed. Articles may be edited for clarity, accuracy, and space considerations. Opinions stated are those of the author and not necessarily that of the Houston Sierra Club. Get instructions for submitting material, including pictures, by sending a email with the subject line

[BB?]

(capital letters; brackets are required) to the address above. The instructions will be in an automatically-generated email reply. Usually the reply is done in 15 minutes, but it may take longer. Text articles must be in RTF (-.rtf) files. Pictures must be at 300 dpi or greater resolution JPEG (-.jpg) files, except that by special request other file formats (PDF (-.pdf), or TIFF (-.tif) files) may be accepted.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Telephone 415-977-5633 or send address changes to Sierra Club Membership, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322, or via email to address.changes@sierraclub.org.

Include both old and new addresses and allow 6 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Please **DO NOT CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

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See the *Bayou Banner* on the club website:
<http://houston.sierraclub.org/news/index.htm#banner>