



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club, Oklahoma City Regional Group



PRAIRIE DISPATCH

No.27, Vol. 1, Jan-Feb, 2004

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2004

By the time you read this column, the fact that American and Iraqi forces have captured Saddam Hussein will be old news. The economy is doing whatever it is that economies do. Education leaders will be arguing for, and against, No Child Left Behind. The flu shots are gone, but the flu will probably still be raging by the time this goes to press. But for the Sierra Club, the upcoming presidential election in 2004 is not about Foreign Policy, the Economy, Education or Health Care. It is about the environment. Period, end of sentence. And in 2004, that focus on the environment means that the Sierra Club has front and center on it's agenda getting someone other than George Bush into the White House. You can expect to see a lot more on that in the upcoming year. Whomever you support in the election, writer Elizabeth Kolbert stated the situation well in The New Yorker a year ago: "The Bush Administration, with remarkable single-mindedness, has set about undoing more than thirty years of work to protect the nation's air, water and shrinking wilderness." Since then,

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

by David Franklin

conditions have only deteriorated. We have a "Clear Skies" proposal that would degrade the nation's air quality, a "Healthy Forests" proposal that would loot our natural legacy to future generations by increasing logging in the national forests, and innumerable other assaults on our water, lands, and our health all cynically packaged in ways to fool the American public." The Oklahoma City group did a great job of pulling together in 2003 to bolster its finances, do good work for the environment and have some fun in the process with parties and outings from Yosemite to Colorado, to New Mexico and of course, Oklahoma. Our Inner City Outings program is going strong, our conservation committee is developing their action plan for 2004 and our other committees are going strong. But we will move the bar a little higher in 2004 as we work to accomplish even more. We will do this is by working together more with the state, regional and national resorces to move forward as one club with local action for a national purpose.

Recently, the Oklahoma City group
(See VIEW, Continued on page two)

January Meeting:
Monday, Jan. 26, 7:30pm
Warr Acres Community Center
4301 N. Ann Arbor
(Between Meridian & McArthur Blvds.)
ATTN: PLEASE - -
!!JAN. MEETING IS THE 26TH!!
(This month only)

The Oklahoma City Regional Group of the Sierra Club normally meets the 3rd Monday of each month, **except December.**

>>>JAN-FEB PROGRAMS<<<

JANUARY 26TH

Kim Baker, a Sierra Club member and nature photographer, will share her photos of Oklahoma rivers which have recently been exhibited in the North Gallery at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Kim hopes to raise awareness about our rivers and motivate "concerned citizens who will be inspired to inform their legislators that they want Oklahoma's rivers managed in the best possible manner."

FEBRUARY 16TH

(Still tentative; check the website in February for final program information.) A representative of the
(See PROGRAMS, Continued on page 3)

>>>>>2003 AWARDS PRESENTED <<<<<

Sierran of the Year Award: Oklahoma City Group: Jeanie Herndon

Lehman Holder Award Outstanding Contributions to the Outings Program: Jay Trenary

Award of Appreciation: Susie Shields, for all she does with our local & state organizations.

Outstanding Service Award Winners: Kathy Cunningham, James Martin, Jim Hood, Jana Johnston, and Neil Garrison.

Also, just an FYI, the Oklahoma Chapter has hired Billie Brown to be our new EPEC (Environmental Public Education Campaign) employee. She started December 1st and will office in Norman near OU. This is good news for several reasons. She brings a wealth of volunteer coordinator experience to the position. She has practical experience in politics and lobbying, and since the office is relatively nearby, we will be better positioned to work with her than that of the former EPEC employee.

HOTLINE: REPORT POLLUTION COMPLAINTS TO OKLAHOMA DEQ - 1/800/522-0206

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the SIERRA CLUB OKC REGIONAL GROUP

Our **January 26th** meeting will be at **6:15pm** just before the regularly scheduled Group meeting.. Try to be there a few minutes early so we can start promptly on time. See you there.

Thanks! James Martin - Chair / Esther Houser - Asst. Chair

CONSERVATION CORNER

The conservation committee of the Oklahoma City Group has focused on the Edmond area over the past year. The objective in the long term is to make Edmond a local showcase of a Smart Growth initiative. The immediate concern, however, is the location of a Walmart Supercenter above Fox Lake - a forested residential area and watershed upstream of Lake Arcadia. The committee has agreed to join with the local Neighborhood Association in protecting this forest habitat. Walmart is on a fast-track to start bulldozing, so we need to act quickly. Your help would be appreciated.

The committee will bezt a retreat over the weekend of January 10&11 to plan our campaigns for 2004. We'll look at a variety of national issues that apply locally. If interested in attending, contact James Martin at [james_e_martin@yahoo.com]

SPECIES AND HABITAT

Whether it's a recreational fisherman casting for a coho salmon, a day hiker staring in awe at a grizzly bear, or a child watching as our nation's majestic symbol, the bald eagle, soars overhead, Americans appreciate the rich abundance of wildlife with which our nation was blessed. They want to conserve plants, fish and other wildlife and help restore those that are threatened or endangered.

Spotlight on Species

The wildlife with which we share our country are not only sources of beauty and enjoyment; they are also integral to our strength and survival. As species are lost, we threaten the very natural processes on which our quality of life depends. Believe in the interconnectedness of all living things, great and small.

Habitat Report

The ongoing loss of habitat to development, suburban sprawl, population pressure, unsustainable logging and other activities are leading to declines in species on which we depend for everything from food to medicinal drugs to recreation. The interconnectedness of all things, great and small.

News Releases

Our nation's efforts to conserve endangered species should be expanded and improved upon to promote a higher quality of life for all Americans and eventually, the world. Learn what the Sierra Club is doing today. The word; Interconnectedness!!

(VIEW, Continued from page 1)

completed a self assessment survey to look back on what we do, why we do it and how we do it. It's interesting to see what motivates people to be active in the group leadership, and what they see as challenges. I also had the opportunity to facilitate the survey for groups in Denton, TX and Dallas, TX. Comparing our groups to other groups is not always practical, but it's fun nonetheless to see what we have in common with our fellow members south of the Red River. The most interesting thing to me that came out of the surveys was that most leaders identify a lack of time as their biggest challenge to getting more accomplished for the club. What that tells me is that they enjoy what they are doing, but just wish they could do more of it. You can help by giving some of your time to the group. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, from social activities, to conservation activities, to outings and of course, legislative and political. There are lots of plaes you can play a part, big or small, and the club provides training for you. Every volunteer leadership position has some type of regional or national training program available, and sometimes both. From learning how to be a better activist to learning how to reach out to new members, the club will work with you to make you successful in your volunteer activities. Speaking of volunteers, be sure to check out the 2003 award winners in this newsletter, and a big thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas party and silent auction a huge success!

>>>>>FUND RAISERS by the OKC GROUP of the OKLA. SIERRA CLUB - <<<<<

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Available at Oklahoma City Group meetings the 3rd Monday of each month or from <sshields@cox.net>

RECYCLE PRINTER AND COPIER CARTRIDGES

Bring your expired inkjet and copier cartridges for recycling to our meetings, or give them to any active Group member. We receive from \$1 to \$5 as a fund raising benefit for the Oklahoma City Group of the Sierra Club. See Larry Swanson for info.

INNER-CITY OUTINGS (ICOs)

ICO CHAIR: JAY TRENARY

The following dates are set for outings with
Eisenhower Elementary School:

DAYHIKES: Jan 10, '04

To reach the school, go east on Britton Road to a stopsign about 1/2 mile east of the Broadway Extension; turn north about 1/4 mile. The school is on the right and sets back from the road a bit.

These trips will all leave from the school at 8:30am (Adults please arrive by 8:15) and return at approximately 5:00pm.

Prior registration is needed to go on any of these trips and which ones you will try to make. It greatly helps my planning if I know how many adults I have to work with as far in advance as possible.

Outings , Etc.

CONTACTING OUTINGS LEADERS

A. Arrington 324-6717, recycleman1@juno.com
John Bass 495-

6446, pjbass6446@worldnet.att.net
Dave Franklin 789-5377, dfranklin@ussok.com

Neil
Garrison 3730309atlatlgarrison@hotmail.com

L. Harris 364-
8028Lance.Harris@chguernsey.com

Jim Hood 732-6131, jimhood@cox.net
Jana Johnston 751-1571, janajcpa@hotmail.com

Tom Libby 615-6390, tomlibby@yahoo.com
James Martin 319-1844, frazelberry@yahoo.com

Alan Morris 720-8934, DRMorris40@aol.com
Bill Scimeca 879-2040, wscim@swbell.net

Jennifer Scimeca 879-2040, jenscim@swbell.net

OKC GROUP OUTINGS CHAIR - BILL SCIMECA

Sierra Club outings are open to members and non-members alike. In order to participate on an outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver.

Copies can also be obtained from the Group Outings Chair. Transportation is not a part of the outing. While it is customary for participants to make carpooling arrangements for outings, the Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, and assumes no liability for them.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DATES SHOWN FOR EACH EVENT INCLUDE WHOLE TRAVEL DAYS FOR PLANNING

FOR THE LATEST ON OUTINGS, GO TO: WWW.OKLAHOMA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OKC

JAN 10: ICO TRIP. JAY TRENARY ALABASTER CAVERNS STATE PARK. Volunteers ALWAYS needed!

JAN 24: TULSA MUSEUM DAY TRIP. Learn about historical events of northeast Oklahoma. Meet at the Love's parking lot at I-44 and 122nd (just before the turnpike entrance) at 7:45 am. We will leave at 8 am. We will go first to the Gilcrease Art Museum and eat lunch there. Then we will drive to Claremore to the Will Rogers Memorial for a few hours. We will head home around 4:30 pm. Fee \$2. Trip will be cancelled in case of icy road. Check with leader. Kathy Scurlock

JAN 26: !!!NOTICE!!! JANUARY'S MEETING IS MONDAY, THE 26TH DUE TO CONFLICTING ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER -

(PROGRAMS, Continued from page 1)

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will provide a presentation about Oklahoma's endangered and threatened species. (An endangered species is a native species whose prospects of survival or recruitment within the state is in imminent jeopardy. A threatened species is a native species that, although not presently in danger of extirpation, is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in the absence of special protection and management efforts.)

BACK- WOODS AD

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense." — *John Muir*

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REGULAR \$39 \$47

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2004 OKC Regional Group Volunteer Directory

Executive Committee (ExComm)

The ExComm meets this month at Bill Scimeca's office on Wed., January 7th, 7:30 pm. Call Bill for directions.

ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!!

Group Chair	David Franklin	789-5377
Vice Chair	Bill Scimeca	879-2040
Secretary	Kathy Cunningham	942-6911
Treasurer (non voting)	Aubrey Arrington	3 2 4 - 6717
Member	Esther Houser	282-8074
Member	James Martin	361-2373
Member	Cindy Stone	942-9340
Member	Larry Swanson	840-2161
Member	Jay Trenary	831-5535
Member	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304

Committee Heads

Conservation Chair	James Martin	361-2373
Asst. Chair	Esther Houser	282-8074
Environmental Educ.	Susie Shields	297-0179
Fundraising	Vacant	
Inner City Outings	Jay Trenary	831-5535
Legislative	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304
Membership/V-Mail	Kathy Scurlock	942-6343
Merchandise	Vacant	
Outings Chair	Bill Scimeca	879-2040
Political	Vacant	
Programs	Susie Shields	297-0179
Social	Jeanie Herndon	474-5754
Volunteer Coord.	Susie Shields	297-0179
Webmaster	David Franklin	789-5377

Prairie Dispatch Newsletter

Managing Editor	Larry Swanson	840-2161
Assistant Editor	Kathy Scurlock	942-6343
Advertising	Larry Swanson	840-2161

SIERRA CLUB
 OKLAHOMA CITY REGIONAL GROUP
 David Franklin, Group Chair
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 Oklahoma City, OK 73123

THE PRAIRIE DISPATCH

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Inquiries:

EDITOR: Larry Swanson 840-2161

Notice to authors:

Articles submitted for the Prairie Dispatch can be in cursive, typed, on disk or sent e-mail (LNSWANSON@JUNO.COM). If disk, please write your name on the diskette, and write the name and version of the word processor used. Please save in ASCII format, as well. Your name will help to get the diskette back to you - and please, observe the deadline which is officially the nite of the monthly general meeting (3rd Monday of each

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