



# PRAIRIE SIERRA CLUB DISPATCH

FOUNDED 1892

No. 29 Vol. 1

Newsletter of the Sierra Club, Cimarron Group

Jan.-Feb. 2006

## OKC Mounds

by James Martin, Conservation Chair

Oklahoma City has become a lot more topographic lately. Outdoor enthusiasts have silo climbing, boating the Bricktown canal or the Oklahoma River. And the city is developing an extensive network of hike and bike trails around town. These are all well publicized natural enhancements, touted for tourism.

Less touted are enhancements to the city's elevation. Close to my home, rising above the eastern end of the Oklahoma River, is what I call the Oklahoma Mountain. Home to various species of semi-wildlife, it is a remarkable addition to the landscape. There are a few of these mountains – more like mounds, reminiscent of the pre-Columbian culture of Spiro and points east – popping up around town. Composed of stratified deposits of solid waste material, they grow at a rate of 800 tons per day. That is the daily trash volume collected by the city's Solid Waste Management Division.

Then, there are materials collected from the city's curbside recycling program. Those account for only about 25 tons per day, or 3% of the total. They aren't deposited on top of the Oklahoma Mountain, but are sold to manufacturers and reabsorbed in the economic process. This reduces the volume the city has to deal with, and creates a more sustainable economy.

See Conservation Corner, next page

### Next Meeting: January 19th, 7:30pm

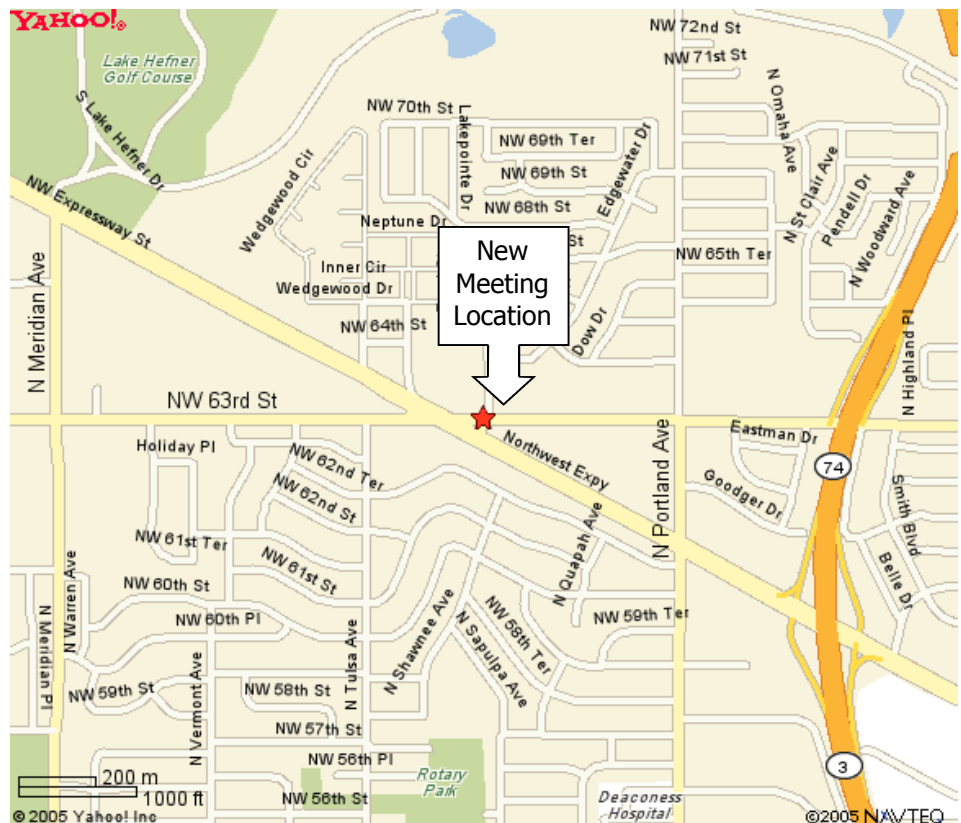
We're changing our meeting location and day. Beginning in January '06 we will meet the **third Thursday of every month** at the Mayflower Congregational Church on NW 63rd between Portland and NW Expressway. Across the street from Hometown Buffet.

**Please Join Us!**

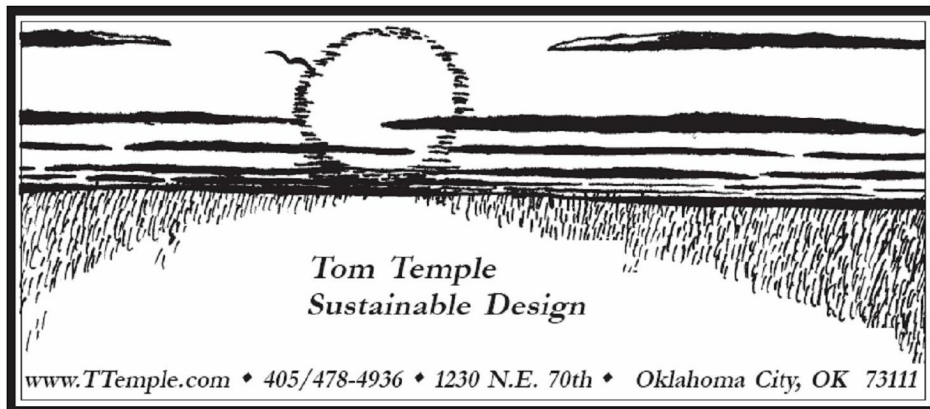
**Thursday January 19th** - Join Chris Corbett as he brings us a presentation on his travels through Kyrgyzstan.

**Thursday February 16** - Join Jay Trenary as he presents a program about our Inner City Outings program. Learn more about the program in advance in the article on the next page.

**Thursday March 16th** - Join Olivia Waldkoetter as she brings us a presentation about her month long trip to India.



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## ICO Spring Schedule

by Jay Trenary, ICO Chair

**I**nner City Outings (ICO) is a community outreach program of the Sierra Club. Our volunteer leaders, trained in recreational, outdoor and safety skills as well as environmental education, provide wilderness adventures for people who wouldn't otherwise have them. To introduce people to the wilderness, ICO volunteers donate their time to community agencies that want to provide an outings program for their members. The agencies may include schools, churches and neighborhood youth groups. Adults volunteers are always needed to help facilitate the trips.

For the 2005-2006 school year OKC-ICO is working with 5th graders from Britton Elementary.

Adult volunteers meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Britton Elementary School which is located 2 blocks north and 1 block west of the intersection of Britton Road and N. Western Avenue. The outing will leave the school at 8:30 a.m. sharp. The outing will return to the school at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Adult volunteers will need the following:

1. footwear and clothing appropriate for the anticipated weather conditions and for rugged trail conditions;
2. plenty of water for themselves;
3. a lunch that can be carried on the trail;
4. transportation for themselves from the school to the trailhead (carpooling with other adults is encouraged).

Unless otherwise noted, the difficulty level for all Inner City Outings is MODERATE. Participants should be able to easily walk 3 miles in less than an hour. It is important that trip leaders be able to focus on the safety of the children and should not be distracted by adults having difficulty on the trail. If you have any doubt about your ability to hike the trail, you should not go on an ICO until you have gone on a moderate rated adult outing without difficulty.

To volunteer or learn more about how to help, contact Jay Trenary at [jay@lawyer.com](mailto:jay@lawyer.com), call 831-5535 or go to <http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org/ico>

Upcoming Trips (*dates subject to change, advance sign-up is required*)

- ✓ January 21st
- ✓ February 11th
- ✓ March 25th
- ✓ April 22nd
- ✓ May 6th

The outing will be canceled if on the morning of the outing the forecast for Lawton, OK meets any of the following criteria:

- A probability of thunderstorms greater than 60%;
- A forecast high temperature of less than 50 degrees with a probability of precipitation greater than 50%
- A forecast high temperature of less than 40 degrees.

## Conservation Corner, Continued

There are environmental benefits, too. Recycling reduces use of virgin materials, which saves the natural environment and promotes biodiversity. It reduces pollution in the extraction and production processes, saves energy and mitigates global warming. And it costs nothing. It is freely available at the curb for Oklahoma City residents. What a deal, huh?

There is one little catch. Recycling demands responsible consumers. On the one hand, the consumer has to make the distinction between what goes in the recycling bin and what goes in the trash. Many plastics, aluminum, glass and paper can all be recycled, the consumer just has to make an effort to separate them out. On the other hand, it doesn't matter how much the consumer separates materials, or how generous the city is to pick them up, if no one buys recycled products. So, the consumer has to create demand by looking for recycled products and packaging, and selecting them where available. The consumer, then, has to both push and pull the recycling stream. Or, we just grow bigger mountains.

Check out the Conservation Committee sometime and join our effort to promote recycling in the Cimarron Group area. We meet at 7pm, the second Wednesday of each month, at the Gold Dome, NW 23rd and Classen, in Oklahoma City.

## Annual Auction

by Kathy Scurlock, Treasurer

**O**ur annual auction was a big success! Special thanks go out to Jeanie Herndon, our party's planner. This year we raised \$1,073 via our auction and raffle dollars. This total does not include the merchandise sales and calendar sales made in December. The cost of the event was just under \$500 for room rental, turkey and awards. Thanks go out to everyone who brought merchandise for the auction and those who brought their checkbooks. Check out party pictures on-line at [oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron](http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron) - Photos by David Franklin, Kathy Scurlock and Bob Douglas.

# Congratulations to our 2005 Award Winners!

by David Franklin, Award Committee member

Congratulations to our 2005 award winners! The Sierran of the Year award winner was Kathy Cunningham. The Sierran of the Year is our highest award. It recognizes a volunteer who has made significant contributions to the local group, normally in more than one area. Only one of these awards is given each year. Kathy was recognized for her long-time service to the group. She has served on the Executive Committee for several years and is now in her third term. She is always one of the first people to volunteer to help out wherever needed, and currently serves as the executive committee secretary.

The Lehman Holder award winner was Jim Hood. This award is given to recognize an outstanding volunteer contribution to the Group's outing program. Jim is a long-term member of the group who thinks big when it comes time to plan outings! He has led multiple trips to Yosemite and other outstanding areas. Jim is certified in Wilderness First Aid and recently attended the National Sierra Club's Outing Leader Training held at Lake Murray this

past November. You can look for more great outings led by Jim in '06!

Martha Holland was recognized with a special award to recognize her first year activism. This is a new award but we hope this is the first of many we give out. Martha received this award because even though this is her first year to be active with the local group, she serves on the executive committee, serves as membership chair, and represented our group at the National Sierra Club summit held this past September.

The Sierra Club, like any grassroots organization, relies on the efforts of a few motivated volunteers to promote the Club's mission. Sometimes we struggle against odds and sometimes we lose. But, occasionally, due to extraordinary dedication and perseverance, we sometimes win. The recipients of this year's service awards demonstrated those qualities and helped safeguard the forest at Lake Atoka.

Tom Lucas was given our "Perseverance" award. Tom, building on a personal relationship with his city council member, was able to

persuade him to raise hard questions to the mayor and other members of the Water Utilities Trust. Demonstrating personal integrity and a commitment to the cause, Tom could not be dismissed as, perhaps, a more combative spokesperson would have been. His small contacts may have had more of an impact on this issue than years of confrontation that preceded him.

Nor did it hurt that Tom proffered hard questions put forward by member and professional forester, Mike Scharrer, who won our "Teamwork" award. Due to Mike's expertise, the Mayor and Council were forced to question assumptions and recommendations of WUT's contract forester. That put the whole logging plan in question and managed to, at least, stall the project another year or two. It is through volunteer efforts and teamwork and through small victories like this that the natural environment may be preserved a few more years for future generations. It is the least we can do for those that will come after us.

*Award winner's photos are online at [oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron](http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron)*



Editor's Note: Enjoy a new Rustle the Leaf Cartoon each Sunday on our chapter website, [oklahoma.sierraclub.org](http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org)

## Don't be the family in Rustle the Leaf, Get Outdoors!

We're having an Outings Planning Party. Join us on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Panera Bread on Northwest Expressway just east of the Lake Hefner Parkway (across from Integris Hospital). We will plan our spring and summer outings calendar. You do not have to be an outing leader to attend, just have an interest in outings! Bring your calendar. Please rsvp to group outings chair Bill Scimeca at [wscim@swbell.net](mailto:wscim@swbell.net) / 879-2040 or chapter outings chair David Franklin at [dfranklin@ussok.com](mailto:dfranklin@ussok.com) / 789-5377. See you there!

OKLA. CITY: Town & Country Village,  
122nd & N. May Ave. ▲ (405) 751-7376

# Backwoods



**PATAGONIA**  
**VASQUE**  
**MOUNTAIN**  
**HARDWEAR**  
**ASOLO**  
**BLUEWATER**  
**SAGE**



## Volunteer Directory

### Executive Committee (ExCom)

The ExCom meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. All Club Members are welcome to attend. Please contact any ExCom member for the current month's meeting location.

Chair	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304
Vice-Chair	Bill Scimeca	879-2040
Secretary	Kathy Cunningham	942-6911
Treasurer	Kathy Scurlock	942-6343
Member	Susie Shields	297-0179
Member	James Martin	361-2373
Member	Martha Holland	946-4692
Member	Lois Pokorny	728-0832
Member	Jay Trenary	831-5535
Member	Bill Dinger	323-1297

### Committee Heads

For more information on an activity, contact the respective committee head listed below.

Conservation	James Martin	361-2373
Conservation Vice-Chair	Esther Houser	282-8074
Outings	Bill Scimeca	879-2040
Inner City Outings	Jay Trenary	831-5535
Social	Carolyn Ford	843-2278
Legislative	Susie Shields	297-0179
Membership	Martha Holland	946-4962
Enviro. Educ.	Susie Shields	297-0179
Programs	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304
Volunteer Coordinator	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304

The **PRAIRIE DISPATCH** is published for the benefit of the members of the Cimarron Group of the Sierra Club. Group members receive this publication free. Non-members may subscribe at the rate of \$10 per year. Send subscription requests to Andy Scurlock, 3333 NW 20th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 (Ph:942-6343) or [tascurlock@cox.net](mailto:tascurlock@cox.net).

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See our website for more info: [oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron](http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron)

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

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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

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