



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club, Oklahoma City Regional Group



PRAIRIE DISPATCH

No.26, Vol. 2, Mar/Apr, 2003

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME -

by David Franklin
Oklahoma City Regional Group Chair

The "Oklahoma City Regional Group" of the Sierra Club (that's us) covers Northwest Oklahoma, from basically north of I-40 and roughly west of highway 177 (Stillwater, Ponca City) to the panhandle. See our www.oklahoma.sierraclub.org/okc, which is our website for a map of the area.

As you can tell, our group covers a lot more than Oklahoma City. So, we have decided to change our name, but we need your help! We have kicked around some ideas, but would love to hear your suggestions, send them to dfranklin@ussok.com. FYI, the group meeting in Tulsa is called the Green Country Group and the group meeting in Norman is called the Red Earth Group.

According to a CNN/TIME poll released Feb 17th, 82% of Americans disagreed with the ad campaign linking SUV's to

terrorism. In the same poll, 70% think that Congress should mandate higher fuel economy for SUV's. I tend to agree on both counts. I wasn't really ever on board with the efforts to link SUV's with all the evil in the world. I used to own one, and might again; it got 25 mpg highway; it wasn't a Hummer. However, I also make other choices which I think have an impact on my energy consumption. I work less than 10 miles from my home instead of driving in every day from the country. I walk to places such as the dentist and getting a haircut. I'm not trying to condemn anyone who lives in the country and works in the city, and who has to drive a great distance to get to anything. But I'm also not ready to condemn someone who owns an SUV. It really all comes down to the little choices we make each day on how we use energy. Think about the air in your tires, having a clean fuel filter, carpooling, taking those 200 pounds of junk out of your trunk. The bottom line is: think! The planet appreciates it. ***

March Meeting:
Monday, Mar 17, 7:30pm

April Meeting:
Monday, Apr 21, 7:30pm

Warr Acres Community Center
4301 N. Ann Arbor

(Between Meridian & McArthur Blvds.)
The Oklahoma City Regional Group of the Sierra Club meets the 3rd Monday of each month, **except December.**

>>MAR. & APR. PROGRAMS<<

MARCH 17th

Bruce Johnston will share his secrets for off-the-grid sustainable living at his and Barbara Hagen's homestead in northeast OKC. Bruce and Barbara use a small wind generator and photovoltaic panels, with storage batteries for times when there is no wind or sun. Hot water is provided by a solar water heater. They have an organic garden, fertilized and cultivated by a small flock of laying hens in a mobile coop. Their home was constructed using recycled lumber and inside a composting toilet was

(SEE PROGRAMS, Continued on page 2)

SPRING FLOWER POWER SOCIAL - SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd - 5:00-10:00pm

Directions: 3149 Wilshire Terr. - Turn W. onto Wilshire Blvd. off N. May Ave; then take third street on your left - Wilshire Terr. - Look for the cul-de-sac on the left Larry Swanson's home is in the cul-de-sac.

Spring officially begins March 21st and with it comes the wonders of nature....FLOWERS. Please join to help us celebrate this glorious beauty. Think how fun it will be using our imagination to find our individual "FLOWER CHILD" and dress to represent that unique FLOWER that lies within. Gifts will be handed at the door to the 1st 50 FLOWER CHILDREN to arrive. A gift will be given to the most imaginative "FLOWER CHILD". Wine will be provided and we ask that you share one of your favorite covered dishes. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jeanie at 236-8596 (weekdays) & 474-5754 (weekends) or e-mail to: o2bcampng@yahoo.com **BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!!** **Jeanie Herndon, Group Social**

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the SIERRA CLUB OKC REGIONAL GROUP

Our March and April meetings will be at **6:30pm** just before the regularly scheduled Group meeting on the third **Monday of the month**. Try to be there a few minutes early so we can start promptly on time. Please think about local areas warranting our efforts at protection. See you there.

Thanks! Esther Houser, Conservation Chair

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

Professional Forester Hired

Excerpts from 2002-12-02 The Oklahoman

EDMOND -- Urban forester Carrie Tomlinson joined the city in October, making Edmond the fourth Oklahoma community -- behind Tulsa, Stillwater, and Muskogee -- to put an urban forester on its payroll.

The move follows creation in 1999 of the Urban Forestry Commission in Edmond as the rapidly growing city sought to deal with deforestation resulting from commercial and residential development.

Officials determined that the city's beauty and plant life were important to many Edmond residents, so the commission paved the way for Edmond becoming a Tree City USA the following year in 2000, Charles Lamb said.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry, Tomlinson worked in Stillwater's urban forestry program for almost six years before coming to Edmond. Tomlinson is still getting acclimated to her new position. Because of its novelty, specific goals have not yet been defined or planned.

Tomlinson hopes to preserve Edmond's natural forests for future enjoyment. "Studies have shown that people are happier when they are surrounded by a natural setting," she said. Referring to what some call Edmond's "Chainsaw Massacre" when the severe topping of 16 pear trees at the Market Place Shopping Center got the attention of city planners, Tomlinson thinks urban foresters are better suited to manage city plant life than other traditional forms of management. * * *

(PROGRAMS, Continued from page 1)
installed.

APRIL 21st

Tom Adams of Backwoods will share his insight into the latest trends in outdoor equipment. Information from the Oklahoma Use Less Stuff Campaign will be available at the Conservation table to help "green your life." * * *



BACK- WOODS AD

- Outing Report -

American Horse Lake

by Neil Garrison, Outing Leader

Seventeen persons were signed up for this outing, but unfortunately it snowed the preceding Thursday, and a majority cancelled as the temperature dropped into the teens. Aubrey Arrington, Alan Green and Cindy Stone joined Becky (she was nuptially obligated!) and me for the outing. Starting our hike at the trailhead, we found the prairie buried under a shin-deep blanket of white. After miles of sinuous trekking, we sat down and ate our picnic lunch. Imagine our surprise when another hiker came walking up on our back-trail! We suggested he join our group and follow us back to the trailhead. Come to find out, he is a resident of Ventura, CA. - in Norman, OK for 3 weeks of schooling at the U.S. Postal Service training center. After lunch we all hiked some more and eventually got to an overlook where we could see the cars in the distance, but there was a deep, sheer-walled canyon between us and the cars. Part of our descent was flat on our backs, sliding feet-first down a dry waterfall under a cliff-hugging canopy of tree branches. When we touched down after this harrowing feat, Cindy remarked this was her first actual outing with the Sierra Club. She remarked since this outing was rated as "moderate" she asked "What happens on a Sierra Club outing that is rated as 'strenuous?'; do people die?" Ha! Eventually we got to the cars, hopped in and headed back to civilization and warmth, laughing about our arduous journey in the snow. * * *

NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB ELECTION COMING THIS SPRING

NEED TO BUY SOME USED GEAR?? by Kathy Scurlock

JUL 23 or 24-AUG 3: YOSEMITE HIGH COUNTRY BACKPACKING - Two teams of back packers will leave for the Yosemite High Country to base camp at Vogelsang, six on July 23rd and four on July 24th. Join Yosemite veteran Jim Hood and one of the most popular trails in Yosemite. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous. Fee: \$20 members / \$40 non-members. Limit 10. Contact **Leader: Jim Hood** for further information.

INNER-CITY OUTINGS (ICOs)

ICO CHAIR: JAY TRENARY

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

DAYHIKES: 3/8, 4/12

**OVERNITE, MAY 9-10, CONNORS
RANCH**

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

Elean AINETTE 341-5204 elean1@juno.com
A. Arrington 324-6717, recycleman1@juno.com
John Bass 495-6446, pjbass6446@worldnet.att.net
Dave Franklin 789-5377, dfranklin@ussok.com
Neil Garrison 373-0309, atlatlgarrison@hotmail.com
Lance Harris 364-8028, lharris@tmparch.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, wscm@swbell.net
Jennifer Scimeca 879-2040, jenscim@aol.com
Andy Scurlock 942-6343, tascurllock@cox.net
Kathy Scurlock 942-6343, kascurllock@cox.net
Jay Trenary 831-5535, jay@lawyer.com

OKC GROUP OUTINGS CHAIR - TOM LIBBY

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. A copy of the waiver, as well as a copy of group outing policies, are available at the outings table at the general meetings or at:

<http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org/okc/outings.html>. 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 PURPOSES ONLY. FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE, ALL OUTINGS BEGIN AT**

MAR 8: INNER CITY OUTING (ICO) - RED ROCK CANYON. Go hiking with the ICO Kids from Eisenhower Elementary School. Adult volunteers are always needed to help chaperone the kids. You don't need to be an outing leader to help. **Leader: Jay Trenary.**

MAR 22-23: CAR CAMPING & TRAIL MAINTENANCE - Connors Ranch, Warner, OK. Rating: Easy. No fee. No limit. **Leader: Aubrey Arrington.**

APR 5-6: SERVICE OUTING - Trail Maintenance - Beech Creek National Scenic Area near Big Cedar, OK. Rating: Moderate. Fee: No fee. There will be a \$2 all-you-can-eat breakfast served Saturday and Sunday morning. Limit: No Limit. **Leader: Tom Libby.** Participants will camp at Cedar Lake (showers). Saturday morning we'll eat a \$2 all-you-can-eat group breakfast (pancakes & fruit), be briefed on the trail maintenance issues we'll be facing, trail maintenance techniques we'll be using and get our crew assignments. On Saturday night after showers we'll head in to Mena to eat at the Fish Net. Sunday morning is another \$2 all-you-can-eat group breakfast (biscuits & gravy, hash browns) followed by a special activity. Information and a map of the Beech Creek trails can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/oklahoma/hike/bctrail.html>

APR 12: INNER CITY OUTING (ICO) - Dog Run Hollow, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Go hiking with the ICO kids from Eisenhower Elementary School. Adult volunteers needed to help chaperone the kids. You don't need to be an outing leader to help. **Leader: Jay Trenary**

APR 12-13: CAR CAMPING AND DAY HIKING - Connors Ranch near Warner, OK. Rating: Easy. Fee: \$5 for members/\$10 for non-members. No Limit. **Leader: Aubrey Arrington.** A private campground with fishing lakes, covered pavilion, toilets, water and electric facilities. A great place to test and sharpen your camping and hiking skills and equipment.

APR 19-20: "Wildflower Weekend" -CAR CAMPING AND DAY HIKING - Devils Den State Park, near Winslow, AR. Rating: Easy. Fee: \$5 members/\$10 non-members. No Limit. **Leader: Jana Johnston.** Always a popular trip. This year's outing will be the weekend after the park's main event which will mean little or no crowds. Hikes will be accompanied by amateur wild flower authority Kathy Scurlock. So bring your cameras and your field guides and join us in Arkansas.

APR 26-27: "One Night Stand" BEGINNING BACKPACK - Beech Creek National Scenic Area near Big Cedar, OK. Rating: Easy to Moderate. Fee: \$10 members and nonmembers. No limit. **Leader: Tom Libby.** Whether you're on your first backpack, trying out new techniques/equipment or you just need to "get out before it's too late", this is the trip for you. We'll leave OKC Saturday morning. Leave the trail head around noon. Make camp around 5 PM. And spend a beautiful night near the Cascades on Beech Creek. Sunday morning we'll break camp after breakfast and head back to the cars. We should be on the road home around noon and be home by 6PM after stopping for a late lunch at Pete's Place in Krebs.

MAY 3-4: "Cinco de Quatro" SERVICE OUTING - Trail Maintenance - Indian Nations Trail in Beavers Bend State Park near Broken Bow, OK. Rating: Moderate. Fee: No fee. There will be a \$2 all-you-can-eat breakfast served Saturday and Sunday morning. Limit: No Limit. **Leader: Tom Libby.** Two years ago the Dallas and OKC Groups met at Beaver's Bend to reopen the long neglected and storm damaged 5 miles between the spillway on Broken Bow Lake and Carson Creek Road. More work remains. Participants will camp at Armadillo Circle (showers). Saturday morning we'll be briefed on the trail maintenance issues we'll be facing, trail maintenance techniques we'll be using and get our crew assignments.

MAY 9-10: INNER CITY OUTING (ICO) - Overnight camping trip to Connors Ranch, near Warner, OK. Go hiking with the ICO Kids from Eisenhower Elementary School. Adult volunteers are always needed to help chaperone the kids. You don't need to be an outing leader to help. **Leader: Jay Trenary**

MAY 17-18: WOMEN ONLY BACKPACK on the beautiful OUCHITA TRAIL from Winding Stair Campground to Pashubbe Trail Head. Six miles on Saturday and 4.5 miles on Sunday. Trip limit is 10. It is a women's only trip unless it is not filled by April 1. Rating-easy to moderate. **Leader: Jana Johnston**

MAY 24-25 -GREAT SAND DUNES, COLORADO: Backpacking; (Travel on May 23 & 26) - Join us on an easy backpack along the Sand Ramp Trail between the base of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains and the Great Sand Dunes of Colorado. Rating: Moderate (8,200 feet) Fee: \$10 Members / \$20 Non-members. Limit 12. **Leader: David Franklin.** This will be an easy backpack (at 8,200 feet) as we travel a few miles into the monument to set up a base camp from which to day hike on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Hike back out Monday and head home. We will be camping along the Sand Ramp trail which runs between the Great Sand Dunes and base of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. Dayhike opportunities include moonlit walks into the dunes, trails leading up into the mountains and there are several other trails in the area to hit on the way home. Visitors to the monument are likely to see several types of ducks as well as golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, owls, swifts, western bluebirds, mountain tangers and many other species.

JUN 7-8: SERVICE OUTING - Trail Maintenance - Ouachita Trail in the Kiamichi River Wilderness Area near Big Cedar, OK. Rating: Moderate. Fee: No fee. Limit: No Limit. **Leader: Tom Libby.**

JUN 30-JUL 4 - BACKPACKING - SOUTH SAN JUAN WILDERNESS NEAR PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLO. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous Fee: \$25 members; \$50 non-members. Limit: 12. Contact **Leader: Tom Libby** for further information.

JUL 19-24: HIGHLIGHTS OF YOSEMITE - CAR CAMPING - Join Yosemite veteran Jim Hood and spend six days (five nights) camping in Yosemite Valley Rating: Moderate to Strenuous. Fee: \$25 members / \$50 non-members. Limit 12. We will be driving and day hiking to the various points in the Park. **SATURDAY,** An orientation session will be held that evening. Early arrivals will observe the setting sun shining on Half-Dome - a spectacular site, visit Yosemite Falls, and walk through the world famous Ahwahnee Hotel. **SUNDAY** will be spent exploring the wonders of the Yosemite Valley, acclimating, and shopping. **MONDAY,** We start the day with a drive to the Mariposa Grove of the Giant Sequoias with a stop at the historic Wawona Hotel built in 1876. A tram tour will take us through some of the 500 Sequoias which are 3000 years old and 300 feet high. **TUESDAY** we'll hike the Mist Trail to Vernal and Nevada Falls. This is billed as one of the most scenic trails in the Country. It is the beginning of the John Muir Trail to Mt. Whitney. It is a 7 mile round trip with some 1500 feet elevation gain but the effort is well worth it. **WEDNESDAY** we break camp early this morning and drive to the high country of Tuolumne Meadows with several stops at viewpoints along the way. We'll hike to Parson's Memorial Lodge near where John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson conceived the idea of Yosemite National Park. **THURSDAY** ends the trip with breakfast this morning. Contact **Leader: Jim Hood** for further information. **(See optional continuation of trip at bottom of Page 2, this issue)**

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag



My Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my Mastercard Visa

Exp. Date ____/____
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



F94Q W 1
 Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

2003 OKC Regional Group Volunteer Directory

Executive Committee (ExComm)

The ExComm meets this month at Bill Scimeca's office on Wed.,

January 8th, 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 (non-voting)	Kathy Cunningham	942-6911
Treasurer	Aubrey Arrington	324-6717
Member	Esther Houser	282-8074
Member	Tom Libby	615-6390
Member	James Martin	319-1844
Member	Anita Scott	359-9319
Member	Cindy Stone	942-9340
Member	Jay Trenary	831-5535

Committee Heads

Conservation Chair	Esther Houser	282-8074
Environmental Educ.	Susie Shields	297-0179
Fundraising	Vacant	
Inner City Outings	Jay Trenary	831-5535
Legislative	Vacant	
Membership/V-Mail	Kathy Scurlock	942-6343
Merchandise	Vacant	
Outings Chair	Tom Libby	615-6390
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
Mailing Coordinator	Andy Scurlock	942-6343

SIERRA CLUB
 OKLAHOMA CITY REGIONAL GROUP
 David Franklin, Group Chair
 Post Office Box 22732
 Oklahoma City, OK 73123

THE PRAIRIE DISPATCH

The PRAIRIE DISPATCH is published 6 times a year for the benefit of the members of the Oklahoma City Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Group members receive this publication free. Non-members may subscribe at the rate of \$10 per year. Address subscription requests to Andy Scurlock, 3333 NW 20th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 (Ph:942-6343). Editorial opinions are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Sierra Club or the Oklahoma City Regional Group. Dues, fees and contributions to the Sierra Club are NOT tax deductible. Address correspondence to: EDITOR, P.O.Box 18396, Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0396.

ADVERTISING RATES

\$7 per column inch
 with min. purchase
 of 2 column inches
 must be 2 1/2 or 5 inches wide

Ad deadline: 15th of the preceding month

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 Thurs. of each month). Ed.

Non-Profit Org.
 U. S. Postage
 P A I D
 Okla. City, OK
 Permit No. 1156

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PRINTED ON TREE-FREE PAPER MADE FROM KENAF
 & PRINTED WITH SOY-BASED INK**

**SIERRA CLUB OKLAHOMA CHAPTER HOTLINE: (405) 945-1998
 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE,**