

Sierra Club, Oklahoma City Regional Group



PRAIRIE DISPATCH

No.26, Vol. 3, May/June, 2003

DEAR GEORGE,

No, not THAT one! George F. Will, the columnist.

In the April 28th issue of Newsweek, George, you devoted your column to profiling Oklahoma's own Senator, Jim Inhofe. It was difficult for me to understand from reading your column whether you admired Senator Inhofe's tactics or were simply reporting his tunnel vision when it comes to the environment. However, the thing that caught my eye, in the big bold print, was the statement that "The environmental movement is resistant to good news." George, as I read through the article, I noticed that you cited Gregg Easterbrook saying that "arguably the greatest postwar achievement of the U.S. government and of the policy community is ever cleaner air and water accomplished amidst population and economic growth." You go on to point out that today's cars emit less than one percent of the pollution per mile traveled as did 1970 new cars. Thank you for succinctly pointing out why Inhofe is wrong! The facts of the case are that we do have cleaner air than what we had 30 years ago. We do have cleaner water than we did 30 years ago. I haven't noticed any rivers catching on fire lately. As Easterbrook said, this was the achievement of the U.S. Government; it took regulation. Do you believe for one second that the major automakers would spend as much as they do on pollution control if it weren't for Federal regulation? Would cities have done as much as they have to clean up their wastewater discharges if it weren't for the Clean Water Act? I think you know the answer. No entity volunteers to build cost into their products. Private businesses, city government, even the military, have to be compelled to take action on the environment.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR by David Franklin

As someone who is into accountability, especially where it concerns the government, George, you of all people should be ecstatic over the readily documentable results achieved by government regulation of the environment and cited in your own column. What are also easily documented are the failures of Federal programs that did not take into account the environmental impact of their actions. Inhofe derides environmentalists because he says we fail to take into account cost-benefit analysis of regulation. Corp of Engineers and Bureau of Land Management projects that have cost billions have required additional billions to correct. Ignoring for a minute the damage caused to the Florida Everglades, and the

(See VIEW, Continued on page 2)

May Meeting:
Monday, May 19, 7:30pm
Warr Acres Community Center
4301 N. Ann Arbor
(Between Meridian & McArthur Blvds.)

June Meeting:
Monday, Jun 16, 7:30pm
Martin Nature Park
5000 West Memorial Road
The Oklahoma City Regional Group of
the Sierra Club meets the 3rd Monday of
each month, **except December.**

>>MAY & JUNE PROGRAMS<<

MAY:

Sustainable Architectural Design by Jay Yowell, AIA, Project architect for Elliott + Associates and Chair of the Oklahoma Sustainability Network. Jay will present his study on architectural projects in regard to the following architectural criteria: urban context (urban areas are where environmental problems affect the most peoples' quality of life), successful fulfillment of environmental issues, and aesthetically pleasing design.

JUNE:

We'll meet at MARTIN NATURE

(See PROGRAMS, Continued on page 2)

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Our Oklahoma City Group Conservation Chair, **Esther Houser**, was recently inducted into the **Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame** for her exemplary work as a long term care advocate for the Oklahoma Department of Health & Human Services.

AND, a bunch of kudos to **Susie Shields!** The Oklahoma Sustainability Network initiated a new "**GREEN SHIELD AWARD**"; it's **FIRST**, and is given to an individual who has shown outstanding commitment to protecting the environment in Oklahoma. The first recipient is our own cherished **SUSIE SHIELDS**. Way to go Susie!!! May you be with us always!

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the SIERRA CLUB OKC REGIONAL GROUP

Our May and June meetings will be at **6:15pm** 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. See you there.

Thanks! Esther Houser, Conservation Chair

SIERRA CLUB & STAPLES TEAM UP TO RECYCLE MOBILE ELECTRONICS

San Francisco, CA -

Starting April 27th you will no longer have to wonder how to dispose of your old cell phone, PDA or pager. The Sierra Club, Staples and CollectiveGood, a socially responsible mobile electronics recycling company, are teaming up to unveil a new program that makes it easy for consumers to recycle their used cell phones, PDAs and pagers.

The new program makes recycling easy: simply drop off used cell phones, PDAs and pagers, as well as chargers, in collection tubes conveniently located near the cell phone display in every Staples store. CollectiveGood will refurbish the collected devices for reuse, or recycle them according to federal and local environmental standards. In addition to keeping toxic

wastes out of America's landfills, Staples will give a portion of the proceeds from qualified mobile electronics to the Sierra Club. The donation will be used to support environmental education and conservation programs.

"This program gives people the opportunity to do something good for the environment just by making a trip to their local Staples" says Johanna

O'Kelley, Director of the Sierra Club's licensing program. The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization

Staples, Inc. is an \$11.6 billion retailer of office supplies, business services, furniture and technology to consumers and businesses around the world.

CollectiveGood is the nation's premier mobile phone recycling company, seeking to convert millions of idle, yet functional mobile phones back into reuse, typically in the developing world.

* * *

(PROGRAMS, Continued from page 1)

PARK for "Wildscaping Your Yard" by Pearl Pearson, OKC Zoo horticulturist. Pearl will talk about both the plants and the animals they could potentially attract from planting them in your yard (butterflies, birds, etc.). * * *

(VIEW, Continued from page 1)

flooding problems caused by flood control projects along the Mississippi, you need only look to our own state of Oklahoma to find a massive dam ("Lake" Optima) that holds back a trickle of water instead of the mighty reservoir that was planned. Cost-benefit analysis on water projects? The history seems to be "if it can cost the taxpayer lots of money, it benefits us to build it." What is the cost of ozone alerts in additional patients taken to already overburdened hospitals? Your column pointed out that Los Angeles has gone from 80 "stage one" ozone alerts per year in the 80's to none in the last two years. I would submit that the benefit of cleaner air far outweighs the cost.

George, it is rare to read a column on a controversial topic such as environmental regulation in which the author's own words point out the folly of their position. Thus I would end by answering the question I posed above: You must have been pointing out Senator Inhofe's tunnel vision, and not agreeing with him, because we can see that even if Senator Inhofe feels passionately about what he believes, the emperor has no clothes.

* * * *

>>>>SIERRA CLUB FUND RAISERS<<<<<

CERTIFIED ORGANIC, SHADE GROWN, FAIR TRADE COFFEE FOR SALE

Proceeds Benefit the Oklahoma City Group of the Sierra Club

Types Available: (price shown is per 12 oz. bag):

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Available at Oklahoma City Group meetings

the 3rd Monday of each month or from <sshields@cox.net>

NEED TO BUY SOME USED GEAR?? by Kathy Scurlock

Many members have items for sale. Call Kathy to place your want ad. If item is purchased, give a 15% finder's fee to the Group.

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.

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 2-3, 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 3730309atlatlgarrison@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
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Bill Scimeca 879-2040, wscm@swbell.net
Jennifer Scimeca 879-2040, jenscim@aol.com
Andy Scurlock 942-6343, tascurl@cox.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. 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

>>>>DONATIONS<<<<

The Oklahoma City Inner City Outing's program wishes to thank the employees at **Dunlap, Coddling & Rogers, P.C.** for their donation in memory of Chris Corbett's mother, Betty Joan Corbett.

The Oklahoma City Group of the Sierra Club wishes to thank **Larken and Jean Warner** for their recent contribution in memory of Mr. Herman Vickers, with acknowledgment to Adena Warner, Mr. Vickers' step-daughter.

MAY 2-3: 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 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 mornig 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 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 wife Karen)** in several days of camping in Yosemite National Park, Calif.. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous. Fee: \$50 members / \$75 non-members. Limit 10. We will be driving and day hiking to various points in the Park. **SATURDAY** (July 19) Evening orientation session. **SUNDAY** will be spent exploring the wonders of Yosemite Valley, acclimating, and shopping. **MONDAY**, We will hike the Mist Trail to Vernal and Nevada Falls. **TUESDAY**, 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. Then spend sunset at Glacier Point. **WEDNESDAY**, We break camp early this morning and drive to the high country of Tuolumne Meadows with several stops at viewpoints along the way. **THURSDAY**, The trip ends with breakfast. Contact Jim Hood at jimhood@cox.net.

JUL 23 - AUG 2: YOSEMITE HIGH COUNTRY BACKPACKING - This trip immediately follows the Car Camping Trip and participation in that trip is required for this backpack. Rating: Strenuous. Limit 8. Fee: \$30 members/ \$45 non-members. Due to permit restrictions, one group will depart on July 23 and second group will depart on July 24. Both groups will backpack from Tuolumne Meadows to Vogelsang High Sierra Camp on one of the most popular trails in Yosemite. Contact Jim Hood at

BACK- WOODS AD

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

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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.



SIERRA CLUB
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 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	3 2 4 - 6717
Member	Esther Houser	282-8074
Member	Tom Libby	6 1 5 - 6390
Member	James Martin	319-1844
Member	Anita Scott	3 5 9 - 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	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

SIERRA CLUB
 OKLAHOMA CITY REGIONAL GROUP
 David Franklin, Group Chair
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 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.

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Inquiries:

EDITOR: Larry Swanson 840-2161

Notice to authors:

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