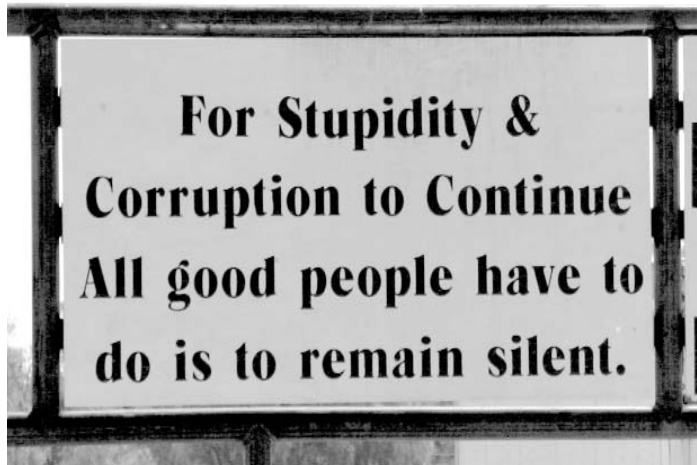


An ode to being unreasonable

View from the Chair by David Franklin

Recently the chapter executive committee took a tour of the Tar Creek superfund site. Along the way, we saw a billboard put up by one of the local business owners across the street from a sinkhole which said, "For stupidity and corruption to continue, all good people have to do is remain silent." This quote stuck with me as I recently was having a conversation with someone about the upcoming election. As tired as I am of talking about the election, one thing that concerns me is that Sierra Club members don't vote in any higher percentage than the general population. By failing to vote, you are remaining silent. I can understand that with all the negative ads being run and the bitter feelings on both sides, the

temptation is to throw your hands in the air and do nothing. But I implore you, do not be silent. George Bernard Shaw, the Nobel Prize winning playwright, said, "The



reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends

on the unreasonable man." My call is for you to be unreasonable this November. Talk about the election issues. Talk to your friends. Stand up and be counted, do not be silent!

There is more happening in the club than just politics. The chapter has launched a new initiative called "Building Environmental Communities." This outreach will better focus our efforts to reach out to other like-minded individuals, including hunters, anglers, birders, the faith community, and other groups that we have not done a good job of communicating our message and goals to, and who can help us explore, enjoy and protect the planet. If you are active in these other groups, and have contact information that would help up reach out to these individuals, please

Continued on page 2

Upcoming General Meeting Programs

September 20 - Tom Adams, manager of Backwoods, will showcase new trends in outdoor equipment and clothing from his store.

October 18 - David Branecky, OG&E, will present a PowerPoint overview explaining details of how his company's windpower program works from A to Z. If you haven't signed up for windpower yet, this meeting will be a great time to do it!

The Cimarron Group of the Sierra Club meets the 3rd Monday of each month, (except Dec.) at 7:30 at the Warr Acres Community Center
4301 N. Ann Arbor
(Between Meridian & MacArthur Blvd.)
Please Join Us!

GROUP OUTINGS

For more information on outings, visit our website: oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron

September

Sept. 26: Family Outing: An afternoon of culture and an evening of music. We will meet at 2:30 to go to the Etruscan Exhibit at the museum on the campus of St. Gregory University in Shawnee, OK. Afterwards we will buy our favorite picnic foods in Norman and attend the Summer Concert at Lyons Park in Norman featuring Byron Berline. The performance by the world-renown fiddler is from 7-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Club donation of \$5.00. Museum admission of \$5.00. Concert is free. Contact: Jennifer Scimeca at: jenscim@swbell.net for more information

October

Oct. 2 & 3: Trail Maintenance. Join us as we work on Saturday in southeast Oklahoma to maintain the Beech Creek Trail area and Sunday we work on the Ouachita Trail. Please contact Rick Bolin at rickus@mac.com for more information.

Oct. 16 & 17: 16-hour Wilderness First Aid Course sponsored by the National Sierra Club and the National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Medicine Institute. Will be held on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. Cost for members, \$75, e-mail dfranklin@ussok.com for more info.

November

November 6 - Trail Maintenance - Join us as we work to maintain the Ouachita Trail in southeast Oklahoma. Please contact Rick Bolin at rickus@mac.com for more information.

Inner City Outings

Sept. 11: day hike/swim at Chickasaw NRA

Oct. 9: visit a cornfield maze near Weatherford

Nov. 13: day hike up Elk Mountain at the Wichita Mountains

Please note: 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. Some trips require a donation of between \$2 and \$5 a day for members and \$10 a day for non members. 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. Trips are lead by trained volunteers, who have final say over who can and cannot participate.

PLEASE NOTE : THE DATES SHOWN FOR EACH EVENT INCLUDE WHOLE TRAVEL DAYS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE, ALL OUTINGS BEGIN AT THE TRAILHEAD.

An ode to being unreasonable Continued from page 1

e-mail me at dfranklin@ussok.com. Also, after three years of talking about it, we have finally arranged to have the National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Medicine Institute come to Oklahoma to teach Wilderness First Aid to our outing leaders. This sixteen-hour course will be held October 16th and 17th on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma at a discount for our members and should help us raise the level of our outing program to even more excellence. For more information on this course, shoot me an e-mail. Also, this is my next to the last column to write, as my term as

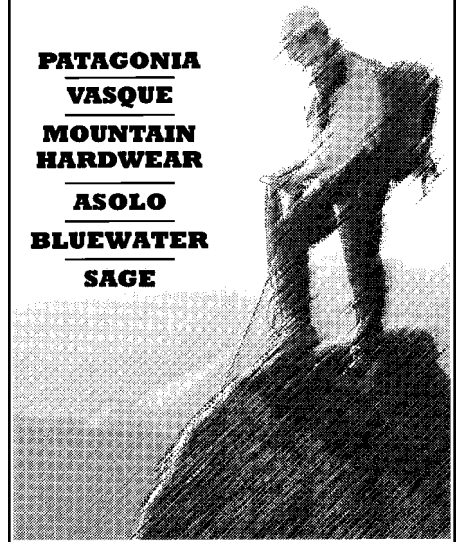
Group Chair is expiring this December. I have served for three and half years (it seems like only yesterday!) and have enjoyed it, most of the time. If you are interested in running for the executive committee (i.e., the board of directors) for the group, please let any current group member know or e-mail Jeanie Herndon at o2bcampng@yahoo.com. We need four enthusiastic individuals to serve a two year term beginning in January, 2005 alongside the five members who are returning for their second year. Finally, I wanted to say thanks to all who came out to the Bethany Balloon Fest and raised money for the group, your efforts are deeply appreciated.

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

Backwoods



PATAGONIA
VASQUE
MOUNTAIN
HARDWEAR
ASOLO
BLUEWATER
SAGE



TIPS from The Plant Detective



Paul Johnson
The Plant Detective

Fall Webworms are starting to appear across the State. Every years companies spew thousands of gallons of poison into the air trying to defeat this minor pest. Fall Webworms only eat

foliage so they are usually an aesthetic problem. If you decide to treat use something specific like Bt or spinosad. Look for products like Dipel and Thuricide. If you are having a professional treat (some of those trees are very tall) ask for a natural biological insecticide.

For more tips on sustainable gardening listen to "The Garden Guide with Paul Johnson" Every Saturday from 9:30am to 10am on AM890 KTLR in Oklahoma City.

FOR SALE

2 years old 6 unit Martin house and pole. \$50 Never used, built by Mac Industries. White with green roof. Come pick it up

Ann Lawson 232 2493 or 946 3755

CONSERVATION CORNER

In concert with the National Sierra Club, the Cimarron Group Conservation Committee has suspended its local campaigns over the next two months, to devote all of our energy to the November 2 presidential election.

National elections are historically decided by less than one-third of registered voters in Oklahoma, half of which simply do not vote. Of the votes cast, forty percent have no bearing on the outcome, which is invariably determined by the prevailing conservative and fundamentalist values of our state.

The only possibility of having any effect at all on the electoral votes, and thus the national election, in Oklahoma is to outreach to new and infrequent voters, perhaps to new communities of voters, who do not share those prevailing values. While allied, in principle, with the Oklahoma Faithful Citizenship Project – a coalition of church and labor organizations working to register

immigrant communities in Oklahoma City – it was evident that the effort was not up to the task.

As a much more leveraged approach, the Sierra Club has instituted the Environmental Voter Education Campaign (EVEC), a "527" effort, which targets environmentally-oriented infrequent voters in key "swing" states. One component of EVEC is the "Road to Somewhere" program. This program seeks volunteers who will make scripted phone calls to a list of infrequent voters in battleground locations. Scripts and lists will both be available from a web site in the near future.

Another component of the "Road to Somewhere" program invites club members in static states to make road trips to and campaign door-to-door in neighboring key swing states. The closest key location to the Cimarron Group is the Albuquerque/Santa Fe area of New Mexico.

The Conservation Committee will host an EVEC/Conservation/Wilderness outing to the Santa Fe area on the weekend of September 18-19. There will be one day of campaigning, to one day of

hiking, and one day of driving each way. Plan to leave Friday, September 17 and return Monday, the 20th. If you are interested in joining the trip, or volunteering to campaign from the convenience of your own cellular phone, contact James Martin, committee chair at james_e_martin@yahoo.com

The committee always meets just before the group's general meeting on the third Monday of each month at the Warr Acres Community Center. We try to start around 6:30pm.



Enjoy a
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For sale at the Cimarron Group
meetings the 3rd Monday of each
month or from sshields@cox.net

From the Social Chair

• *Our Swimming Pool Social held on JULY 24TH turned out very interesting!* By the end of the evening we sat around a fire, roasting food with jackets on! Who would have guessed the weather to be so cool this time of year. We made the best of it and loved being able to enjoy a fire while we roasted food.... Felt like we were camping. What an unexpected treat!

• Remember to mark your calendars!!! *"Moonlight Serenade Garden Party"* Fall Social Sat., Sept. 25th from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. 7516 Northway Ct., off Council & NW 102nd St. (Northaven Add'n) 596-8288. To go along with our theme, we have arranged a special surprise awaiting your enjoyment!!! Bring a folding chair, insect repellent and your favorite dish to share. Libations will be provided!

• *The date for the Christmas Party has been changed to Sunday, Dec. 12th* from 5:00pm to around 9ish at the Elks Lodge, 4711 N Tulsa Ave., 942-0101 or call Jeanie 474-5754. For your convenience, Jeanie will be glad to house any silent auction items until then.) We're very excited! We were able to reserve the Main Ballroom! This means tons of room to socialize, display/view/purchase silent auction items, spread out our delicious food w/big round tables on which to eat, great viewing for the Awards Ceremony & last but not least, a verrrry long OPEN bar. Decorations galore.... Great people.... Unbeatable silent auction buys.... Please join us!!!

OUTING LEADERS WANTED!

We need more trip leaders to continue to offer the variety and quantity of trips that help people explore and enjoy the planet. If you want to learn more, contact Bill Scimeca at wscim@swbell.net or 879-2040.

SIERRA CLUB MEMBER RECOGNIZED

Long time member and ICO volunteer Karen Carothers has been recognized by the Contact Crisis Helpline as an outstanding community leader at their Festival of Hope 2004 for her significant contributions in the areas of physical, mental and spiritual wellness. Active in her church, several other organizations and a speech pathologist for the Oklahoma City Public Schools, we are proud to count Karen among our members.

Volunteer Directory

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Weekender Bag!**



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Address _____

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Phone # _____

email _____

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

Exp. Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories **INDIVIDUAL** **JOINT**

INTRODUCTORY \$25

REGULAR \$39 \$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.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W3804**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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	David Franklin	789-5377
Vice-Chair	Bill Scimeca	879-2040
Secretary	Kathy Cunningham	942-6911
Treasurer	Kathy Scurlock	942-6343
Member	Esther Houser	282-8074
Member	James Martin	361-2373
Member	Cindy Stone	942-9340
Member	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304
Member	Jay Trenary	831-5535
Member	Brian Brandert	596-8288

Committee Heads

For more information on a 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	Jeanie Herndon	474-5754
Legislative	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304
Membership	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304
Enviro. Educ.	Susie Shields	297-0179
Programs	Susie Shields	297-0179
Volunteer Coordinator	Susie Shields	297-0179

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.

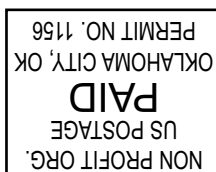
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