



SIERRA  
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# PRAIRIE DISPATCH

No. 28 Vol. 4

Newsletter of the Sierra Club, Cimarron Group

Sep. - Oct. 2005

## Environmentalists = Kooks?

by James Martin, conservation chair

**E**nvironmentalists are often considered kooks. That is because we have a different operating system. We're like Macs in a PC world. We operate under different rules. The dominant rule nowadays is self-interest. Environment, by definition, is everything that is not self. So environmentalists are other-interested. This makes us seem like kooks.

As kooks, we are at a disadvantage. We're apologetic when addressing a political forum, where we have to compete against the self-interested. Politicians, too, are increasingly self-interested – they want more power and money, which only the rich and powerful can provide. And the rich and powerful will provide, as long it is in their self-interest. Kooks, on the other hand, don't have a lot to offer.

As environmentalists, we have to hide our other-interest behind a façade of self-interest: "I'm here as a taxpayer," we say, instead of, "I'm here for the Sierra Club." For Macs to communicate with PCs, we have to emulate their protocol. In a self-interested operating system, private resources are appreciated; public resources are not.

Self-interest has been growing for the past two hundred years, and really took off over the last quarter century. It's the primary motivation in a capitalist economy, which assumes free agents, under the sway of competitive self-interest, act rationally and efficiently. No need for government regulations. No need for taxes.

Social problems are a symptom of moral corruption, for which we can build more prisons. Or, better yet, we can impose morality, and get everyone singing from the same hymnbook – so to speak. That's cool – except for the part about "free agents."

Alternatively, we should recognize that "self" is an abstraction. The Universe doesn't know of any independent self to be interested about. The Universe is universally interdependent.

For example, your greatest self-interest, perhaps, is your body. Your body is the debris from galaxies thousands of light years away, arranged as the result of a process billions of years long, sustained by breathing, frequent eating, drinking, and regulating temperature through epidermal pores. Forms we see, food we eat, thoughts that popcorn in our mind, we are in continuous dance in relation with others. Our interest is other interest, and other interest is our own. Where do we draw the line?

Environmentalists need to stop apologizing and start articulating. Some of you may know an operating system called "Windows." That's when the PC tried to emulate the Mac. We've got a pretty good system of our own. *Conservation Committee Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at the Gold Dome, NW 23rd and Classen, OKC. Join Us!*

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

Warr Acres Community Center  
4301 N. Ann Arbor

(Between Meridian and MacArthur Blvd.)

We meet the third Monday of every month, except December

**Please Join Us!**

### September Program

**J**oin us on September 19th at 7:30pm as we enjoy one of our most popular programs: Backwoods presents the latest in backpacking gear. A member of Backwoods' knowledgeable staff will show off the newest in tents, backpacks, outdoor gear and high performance clothing for a variety of outdoor activities.

### October Program

**M**onday, October 17th, at 7:30pm. Now that you have seen all the cool stuff to backpack with at our September meeting, we will be showing you a host of places to go enjoy that gear at our October meeting. David Franklin will be showing photos from several club outings to Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Oklahoma. David's photographs have won awards and his photos of the Illinois River Balloon Fest will help illustrate an upcoming math textbook to be published this spring.

see programs, page 3



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Bats need habitat too!

By David Franklin, outing leader

On August 6th, a group of Sierra Club members and I set off to enjoy the planet. We had met up the night before to camp on the University of Central Oklahoma's Selman Living Lab located in northwest Oklahoma and enjoyed looking at the stars at the observatory on site.

The Selman Living Lab consists of 334 acres, two large caves, more than 20 species of prairie fish, and a variety of other wildlife. The day started off early with a plant walk in this Great Plains prairie land which plays host to more than 230 different plant species. Volunteers from the University introduced us to the plants and some of the issues that threatened those species.

Next, it was time for a trip through a wild cave that is a winter home to up to two million bats and is the eighth largest gypsum cave in the world at over two miles long. This hike involved crawling in the mud and squeezing between some narrow sections, but all in all it was amazing to see the sculpted rock. We had to wash the mud off before we enjoyed a nice picnic lunch.

After that it was off to a nearby state park and another cave tour, this time to a "developed" cave with built-in lights. The day ended with watching hundreds of thousands of bats take flight from yet another cave. Between the bats, the plants, and the stars, it was a lot of fun.

*Note: This story, along with dozens of other stories about members doing their part to explore, enjoy and protect the planet, can be found online at <http://sierraclubstories.org/>*

### October 1st: Party!

Come and Go (or Come and Stay) Get Acquainted Party Anytime between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by Mark Derichsweiler and Susie Shields.

- Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005
- 217 N.W. 27th St., OKC (big magnolia tree in front yard)
- Located between Robinson & Harvey Parkway (overflow parking available in Goodholm Park

# Save This Date

Saturday, December 10th, 5-9:00

Elks Lodge - 4711 N Tulsa Ave -

The Group's Christmas Party will be here quicker than you think! It will be in the Main Ballroom of the Elks Lodge, giving us tons of room to socialize, display/view/purchase silent auction items, spread out our delicious food with big round tables on which to eat, and great viewing for the Awards Ceremony.

- Decorations galore
- Great people
- Unbeatable silent auction buys

There are a few things that are needed in preparation for this exciting event.

- Volunteers are needed to cook turkeys to bring and expenses incurred will be reimbursed.
- Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Ballroom from 3:00-5:00pm. Come on! What better way to lend us your creative side and get into the Holiday Spirit. There's nothing like the joy of decorating for Christmas!
- Start planning now for the side dish that you want to bring. We usually have an abundance of store bought pastries.
- AuCTION Items, AuCTION Items, AuCTION Items, AuCTION Items!!!

If you have any suggestions, plan to volunteer or have questions, please feel free to call Jeanie anytime at 474-5754. Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you there!

parking lot at 26th & Robinson or apartment lot on NW corner of 27th & Robinson)

We would like to especially invite our new members to this party to get acquainted with the club and meet our "veteran" members.

Everyone should bring a food item to share; we will provide drinks.

Questions? Contact Susie at [sshields@cox.net](mailto:sshields@cox.net) or 297-0179

## Club Elections Soon

We Want You!

The group executive committee is the body that runs the local Cimarron group. Members are elected to two year terms to serve on this committee and make the day to day decisions about running the group. If elected, members are expected to attend meetings once a month, participate on at least one sub committee and be available via e-mail to help make decisions between meetings. If you are willing to serve and would like to run for a seat on this committee, please contact a member of the nominating committee prior to October 14th. The Nominating committee members are: Kathy Scurlock, Kathy Cunningham, Susie Shields and James Martin. Phone numbers can be found on the back of this newsletter, and e-mails are available at the web site: <http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron>

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Susie Shields at  
[sshields@cox.net](mailto:sshields@cox.net) or  
405-297-0179

### Attn. OKC Residents...

On October 1st, from 9:00AM to 1:00PM, the City of OKC will have a Special Recycling Collection for tires, ammunition and computers at the fairgrounds. Enter at gate 3 from Gordon Cooper Blvd, must show proof of OKC residence.

# Get Outdoors

**1** September 10<sup>th</sup> – Inner City Outing (ICO) to the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. The ICO program introduces 5<sup>th</sup> graders from the Oklahoma City Public Schools to the outdoors via trips and other activities. Advance sign-up is required, contact trip leader Jay Trenary at 831-5535 or [jay@lawyer.com](mailto:jay@lawyer.com)

**2** October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dayhike – Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. Rating: Easy. Join trip leader Bill Scimeca for a dayhike to one of Oklahoma's most popular destinations. Meet at Oklahoma City Community College in the NW parking lot at 9:00 AM. For more information, contact Bill at 879-2040 or [wscim@swbell.net](mailto:wscim@swbell.net)

**3** October 8<sup>th</sup> – Inner City Outing (ICO) to the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. The ICO program introduces 5<sup>th</sup> graders from the Oklahoma City Public Schools to the outdoors via trips and other activities. Advance sign-up is required, contact trip leader Jay Trenary at 831-5535 or [jay@lawyer.com](mailto:jay@lawyer.com)

**4** October 15<sup>th</sup> – Social Event – Join Olivia Waldkoetter for a fun trip to the Bricktown Haunted House. Contact Olivia at 821-2304 or [olivia\\_waldkoetter@yahoo.com](mailto:olivia_waldkoetter@yahoo.com) for details.

**5** October 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Backpack Ouachita Trail. We will backpack from the Winding Stair Campground which is off of the Talimena Drive to the Pashubbe Trailhead (T.H.). The trail starts with a climb, a drop, another shorter climb, and the rest of the first day, mostly downhill for a total of about 6 miles. We plan to camp by Big Cedar Creek Saturday night. On Sunday morning, we continue hiking smaller "ups and downs" another 4.5 miles to the Pashubbe T.H. About 30 minutes into Sunday's hike, we will cross Hwy 259. We hope to reach Pashubbe T.H. by 1 or 2 p.m. Contact leader Jana

Latest outing list is always on-line at [oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron](http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org/cimarron)



Johnston at [janaicpa@hotmail.com](mailto:janaicpa@hotmail.com) or 440-0677 or assistant leader Olivia Waldkoetter at [olivia\\_waldkoetter@yahoo.com](mailto:olivia_waldkoetter@yahoo.com) or 821-2304 for more information. Rated: Moderate. Please note: A minimum of six participants must be signed up by October 14<sup>th</sup> or the trip will be canceled.

**6** November 6<sup>th</sup> – Dayhike – Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. Rating: Easy. Join trip leader Bill Scimeca for a dayhike to one of Oklahoma's most popular destinations. Meet at Oklahoma City Community College in the NW parking lot at 9:00 AM. For more information, contact Bill at 879-2040 or [wscim@swbell.net](mailto:wscim@swbell.net)

**7** November 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> – National Outings Workshop comes to Oklahoma. See full info at <http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org>

**Programs, continued...**

**November Program**

Monday, November 21st, at 7:30pm Please check our website for the November program.

**December - Party!**

There is no program in December, see the Christmas party article, page 2.

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

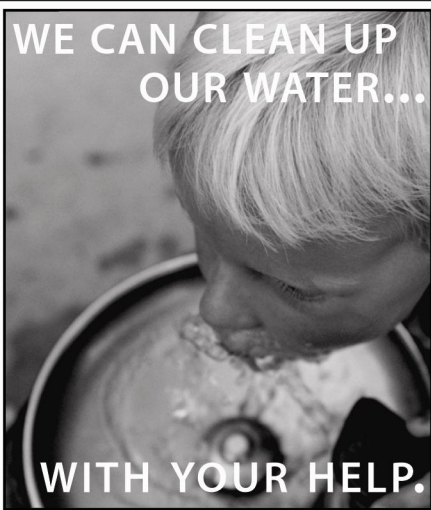
## Backwoods

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

If you have a suggestion for a speaker or program you would like to see, please contact Olivia at [olivia\\_waldkoetter@yahoo.com](mailto:olivia_waldkoetter@yahoo.com) or 821-2304.

Note: In 2006, meetings will once again be held on the third Thursday of every month.

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Join on-line at [oklahoma.sierraclub.org](http://oklahoma.sierraclub.org)

## 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	Ed Hillock	721-8043

### 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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