



TCEA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization which was formed to educate the public about the environment and environmental problems and to encourage and facilitate joint environmental efforts.

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Next TCEA Meeting is March 4, 2005 at 11:30am  
Location and other information will be emailed in a later mailing

President sez -

Happy New Year. 2005 is history and for some of us, at least, we are delighted. Of course that delight is tempered with trepidation as who really knows what the coming 12 months will bestow on us. We will address that as it comes, I suppose.

We can look forward to the continuation of challenges and opportunities as we pursue our concerns for our environment. In the mean time, we should continue arming ourselves with information that better prepare us to address the issues we will be facing like improving the air we breathe and protecting our water that we must have. The list can become endless so this paragraph is not the place to list them.

For TCEA, the challenge is to succeed in our chosen goal of providing environmental education. Where we can best do this is in finding venues that allows us to help others understand the issues that confront us. Locally, there are many. There are those issues that the individual cities are facing and many are unique. Then, there are the common issues that we all face regardless of what town we live in. We will be facing choices in the political environment so that we might encourage those that think as we do regarding our environmental concerns. This will be a challenge to get the information out. Fortunately, there are groups that put out unbiased guides that can help us address our goals.

TCEA would very much like to consider, select and implement a project that is in need of attention, and there are many. It will require recruiting participants along the way. Accomplishing this will help the environment.

So, to all you members and everyone else that share our concerns welcome to the New Year and I hope that we all are ready to confront our challenges in 2006.

## Calendar of Events

LWV of Tarrant County Forum on Landscape Ordinance - Bob Riley, Monday February 6, 2006. 7 - 9 pm at the East Regional Library, Fort Worth

TCEA General Meeting, Saturday March 4, 2006. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Location and agenda will be announced in a later mailing.

## Member Organizations Meetings

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. In the Azalea Room of the Botanic Gardens Center at 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard (parallels and is west of University Boulevard, Fort Worth TX

Fort Worth Audubon Society meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, September through May. Gather at 6:45 pm. In MED-ED 2, **Research and Education (RES) Bldg, Everett Hall, Room 100**, at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (formerly Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine) at 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard at Montgomery.

Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Call the Nature Center for information about meetings at 817-237-1111.

Arlington Conservation Council, meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at 313 North Center at Division in Arlington. Enter at the North entrance.

League of Women Voters of Tarrant County Environmental Committee will meet January 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at their office at 3812 Collinsworth St. Fort Worth. For more information call 817-348-8683 Tuesday or Thursday.

### Trinity Park

How can a city council (Fort Worth in this case) convert ANY PARK land to roadway anytime? Simply by (1) buying three small print classified advertisements in a thirty-day period; and then (2) having just one city council meeting for both a hearing and a vote. (Texas Parks & Wildlife Code, Chapter 26). Amazing!

The Park issue in Fort Worth is being addressed a series of meetings. One obvious solution is the pass an amendment to Fort Worth's charter where the taxpayers of Fort Worth make the decision on how their public lands are to be managed. In this case, no encroachment on Trinity Park may be done unless the voters say okay. To the other cities and county wide, we can learn by the result of this what we may do with our respective issues. A list of meetings follow but may be history by the time this appears on the TCEA web page newsletter.

January 24<sup>th</sup> - Fort Worth City Council will consider the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County's Proposed City d Charter Amendment to Require Public Vote before putting major roads in Parks. Time 10:00am in the City Hall at 1000 Throckmorton at 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

January 31<sup>st</sup> - SAVE OUR PARKS group will meet with focusing on the issue which is to require public vote before putting major roads in parks. Time 7:00pm at the Botanic Garden Center in the Camellia Room.

Note for Voters in Fort Worth.

### Fort Worth Citizens Do you prefer Trinity Park to Trinity Uptown?

UNDERSTAND that if we can VOTE on the PARK PROTECTION CHARTER AMENDMENT in May, then candidates for the Tarrant Regional Water District will NOT be asked to choose between TRINITY PARK and Trinity Uptown. The proposed Trinity Park Thoroughfare "Trinity Parkway could get built to serve Trinity Uptown. The city has already spent more than \$160,000 studying this road. Are they just delaying? There are good alternative routes still available, but they won't last long.

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## Membership Information

Membership in TCEA is yearly. The membership form and fees are due January 1 of each year. Note -2006 Dues are Due Now! There are several levels of membership:

Individual Membership	\$15.00
Family Membership	\$25.00
Student Membership	\$10.00
Business (< 5 employees)	\$25.00
Business (> 5 employees)	\$50.00
Non-Profit Organization	\$25.00

Please make your checks payable to TCEA  
You may also attend a meeting or an event and join at that time

Louanne Rice, TCEA Membership Chair  
115 Hilltop Circle  
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## Member Organization Doings

### Fort Worth Audubon Society-

a. FWAS is rapidly approaching their 65<sup>th</sup> year of continuous activity. 1941 to 2006 = 65 years, however, since the activity year starts in September and ends the following May, FWAS considers the 65<sup>th</sup> year to be 9/06-5/07. The celebration planning will be in this time period. There will be more to come as the planning process gets going. Brain storming session number 1 has just happened.

b. FWAS collaboration on projects at the Old Fish Hatchery has been on hold. Recently there have been changes that may allow planning by FWAS and its implementation to resume.

### Greater Fort Worth Sierra Group of the Lone Star Chapter

The General Meeting on January 18 had a program presentation that was about the best that I have ever listened to. Mr. Gary G. Olp of GGOArchitects gave a presentation about sustainable and environmentally-friendly architecture. It was very interesting to see him include in his presentation a layman's explanation of how our typical construction practices result in non energy efficient homes. He presented options to construction that would greatly reduce the environmental impact that a home would have. Doing so has its upfront costs but the reduced energy costs that result are really honest savings of not only money but fuel, etc. If a chance presents itself to anyone to hear this

presentation, I highly recommend it. If you should be curious, you can visit their web site which is [www.ggoarchitects.com](http://www.ggoarchitects.com). On the web site is a narrative "It's Good to be Green" that explains what they do briefly and well.

Unfortunately, the presentation had no suggestions for older home retrofit that might enhance reducing our energy consumption. Perhaps the web site might touch on this in passing?

### Burnam Scholarship Fund

from notes received from Rob Denkhaus, Refuge Manager

The Burnam scholarship was used to benefit 74 individual youth (grades K-8) who attended a total of 172 Summer Natural History Adventures during 2005. As you recall, FWNC&R are using the scholarship to make the entire program more affordable rather than benefiting only a few.

### Scholarship Fund Reminder

The Burnam Scholarship Fund is a yearly activity and now we are in year two. In your giving planning for 2006, please consider contributing to this fund again. The Summer Program at the FWNC&R will be going strong for this 2006 summer. Should you desire to make a contribution, please send your check to Louanne Rice (find her address under the dues section) with a notation on the check or in a cover note stating your wishes.

Related information that might interest you -

The Learning Circle received considerable use both in programs and by casual visitors. The pleasant temperatures that has characterized our winter has caused a lot of people to visit the FWNC&R. Many are using the Circle as another picnic site. Rob Denkhaus and staff members are rather gratified to see the product of their design and construction efforts getting so much use!

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## ISSUES

### AIR

Reporting on the Clean Air Steering Committee [per Glenn Ford, 1/18/06, conservation chair for the greater Fort Worth Sierra Club]

For the last couple of months Glenn has been attending meetings of the Clean Air Steering Committee of the North Central Texas Council of Governments as they struggle with a plan to bring North Texas into compliance. He reports that a couple of things have

become obvious: First of all, the committee is made up of some pretty good players - all the county judges, for example, and it looks like they really want to do the right thing. Secondly, it appears that it will be almost impossible to come into compliance unless the state takes serious steps to regulate proposed coal powered power plants that are presently in the permit process plus needing to put more controls on plants that contribute so much industrial pollutants to our area's air. While it is a fact that vehicle emissions are the main ozone culprits, the committee is doing about all it can with its plans to control this source of pollution. Unfortunately most of these controls are more or less long term. On the other hand, potentially the regional industrial pollution can be quickened if the TCEQ takes action.

With that in mind, the Citizen's Clean Air Network has been formed and there have been two planning meetings. Local and statewide organizations plus concerned individuals are participating in finding ways to solve the problem.

Most of its efforts will be focused in the short term will be aimed at persuading Gov. Rick Perry and the TCEQ to do what they are supposed to do. It is a tough job, but it must be done.

## WATER

WRC - the Water Resource Council met on January 12<sup>th</sup>. It was an information filled agenda. Representatives from TCEQ and EPA were present to a discussion on Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) Initiatives and Relationship to Discharge Permits. The title may seem deadly, but the fact that stricter rules are addressing sewer overflows that get into our surface water and ground water is a serious matter. Their presentation improved understanding on the activities and planning addressing SSO.

The Annual Water quality Management Plan prepared by NCTCOG Update was presented. It has been prepared to the point that the Regional Review Draft is to be complete by early March. In early June there will be a Public Hearing followed by the COG Executive Board Adoption. The final update of the final draft to the State will be presented August 31.

This Plan is an annual activity for the NCTCOG. Next years directions for this plan will use a new simplified format reducing redundancy.

Region C Water Planning Group - There will be no meetings until late spring. The draft approved by a majority vote (3 opposed) has been completed and forwarded to the Texas Water development Board for their review and critique. The report corrections will be made and resubmitted to the planning group for their final approval. This report will ultimately be folded in with the other 15 plans to create the 2007 State Water Plan.