Perspective

by Laurence Gibson

It has been a long time since our last newsletter, just as it has been a long time since our last general meeting. We now tend to use the newsletter for formal announcements such as meetings and elections. We do plan to establish an email list for outings in order to get the word out faster.

It has also been a long time since the El Paso Group met monthly at St. Paul’s Methodist Church on Edgemere with as many as 80 attendees where yours truly served punch and cookies while the iconic Reverend C. Wesley Leonard welcomed folks on the front steps and emceed a meeting covering group activities ranging from our Environmental Center down on Paisano, where Life Member John Sproul followed Mildred Smith in showing the city how to recycle, to outings announcements and reports. In those days we had a 12-person limit on outings and had to enforce it.

There was also a separate Conservation Committee meeting every two weeks where the formation of Franklin Mountains State Park, grazing on public lands and ending commercial logging, especially on the Lincoln and Gila National Forests were hot topics.

So, enough with the history. Your ExCom has been busy on our Priority Issues. Among these are:

Sierra Student Coalition at Americas High School- Neysa Hardin
Glass Recycling for El Paso- Laurence Gibson
Return the Wolf to Texas- Rick LoBello
International Park at Big Bend- Rick LoBello
Plastic Bag Ban- Jim Tolbert (before his resignation/City Council election)

El Paso Group Sierra Club
Fall General Meeting

Summer 2016 Outings

El Paso Group Leaders

Come see pictures from our recent trips. Outings Chair John Walton has just returned from a summer exploring Michigan’s Upper Peninsula as well as Montana’s Glacier National Park. Chair Gibson did another Continental Divide solo through the Aldo Leopold Wilderness in New Mexico’s Black Range. There will also be photos from Crested Butte, Colorado’s annual Wildflower Festival and the Dallas Sierra Club Group’s backpack through our Big Bend State Park. See for yourself the rugged beauty of this area with its rich history. Please arrive early if you wish to order dinner.

Wednesday, October 26 at 7:30 pm
No host Dinner at 7:00
Singapore Cafe
4120 North Mesa Street

Join Team Wolf

Your El Paso Group is joining nationwide efforts to save one of the rarest animals on earth – the Mexican wolf. Our “Return The Wolf To Texas” campaign was launched earlier this year and we need volunteers to support our efforts. For the sake of wilderness and our ecosystem, a growing number of people believe that the Mexican wolf should be given the chance to reclaim its rightful role in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas. To learn more about our efforts read the press release on our website at elpasosierraclub.org. To sign up to learn more about Team Wolf contact Excom member Rick LoBello at ricklobello@gmail.com or call or text 915-474-1456.

Glass in Trouble?

Is El Paso’s long-awaited glass recycling pilot program, to be reviewed in January, in jeopardy? The signs are not good. Check our ex vice-chair Jim Tolbert’s August 8 blog-post at elpasonaturally.blogspot.com. When Jim starts to talk about a program “losing money” we need to worry. Also, the Environmental Service Department under Ellen Smyth is now unwilling to advertise the program with even a flyer in our water bills. Sounds like Reaganomics rearing its head again.

So, the handwriting seems to be on the wall.

We need to see if our City Council Reps will help us keep our glass program. This is a Quality of Life issue. If Las Cruces can do it why can’t we?

www.facebook.com/sierraclubelpaso
Outings

San Mateo Carcamp w/Dayhike
Date: Oct 29-30
Place: Springtime Campground
Magdalena, NM
Contact: John Walton
walton@utep.edu
This little campground provides access to the San Mateo Mountains’ Apache Kid Wilderness. Arrive either Friday evening or Saturday morning and depart Sunday afternoon. San Mateo Peak has an old lookout and cabin with spectacular views. Springtime Canyon is the location of an old mine in the Pankey silver-gold vein of the volcanic rhyolite.

Chiricahua Carcamp
Date: Nov 5-6
Place: Coronado National Forest
Class: Easy
Contact: Laurence Gibson 309-5419
We’ll meet Saturday afternoon at Sunny Flats then drive up to Barfoot Camp on Sunday. This trip offers pleasant fall camping and hiking.

McKittrick Canyon Dayhike
Date: Nov 13
Place: Guadalupe Mountains NP
Class: Moderate
Length: 6.5 round trip

Mt Riley/Cox Carcamp w/Dayhike
Date: Nov 19-20
Place: past Santa Teresa NM
Class: Easy to Moderate
Length: your choice
Contact: John Walton walton@utep.edu
Enjoy our new Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. We will have great star gazing until 10:30 PM when the half moon rises. Potential hikes to Mount Riley, Cox Peak, and/or the archeological site.

El Paso Group Election Dates
Oct 13 Excom approves Nominating Committee (Falknor, LoBello, Walsh) Report. Gibson, Hardin and Walton will run again. Still need to fill two vacancies. Let a Nominating Committee member know of your interest. We do meet early, at 6:30 am
Nov. 25 Mailing of Ballots
Dec 31 Ballot postmark deadline
Jan 12 Ballot count and Election Report

Gila Ultralight Backpack
Date: Dec 7-9
Place: Gila National Forest Wilderness District
Mileage: 18 miles minimum
Contact: Harry Newman
swtraveller@aol.com
Starting near the Gila Visitor Center midweek, the main trip will be from TJ Corral to the Middle Fork/Little Bear intersection. This features beautiful views for 5 miles, until we descend into Little Bear, where the canyon starts narrowing. We will cross the Middle Fork several times. We may also do a sidetrip to Little Creek.

Contact: Carolina Greenfield 526-7884
Come see the beautiful fall color at our nearest National Park.

Save the Date: Feb 3-5, 2017
Big Bend National Park Discovery Trip
For details contact Rick LoBello
ricklobello@gmail.com 915-474-1456

Visit us on the web at:
http://elpasosierraclub.org/