

ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

General membership meets 6:30 p.m., third Tuesday each month, Witte Museum, 3801 Broadway.

Tues., Feb. 15: Net Zero Energy Home

Recognized in 2003 for designing the greenest home in America, Peter Pfeiffer, FAIA, comes to San Antonio to share a lifetime of expertise in green architecture/construction. In 2006, *Residential Architect* cited Pfeiffer as one of the most influential architects of the past decade.

Come early as we expect a crowd. Pfeiffer's appearance at our meeting is co-sponsored by Bexar Audubon Society, Build San Antonio Green, Solar San Antonio, US Green Building Council, and Texas Public Radio.

Tues., Mar. 15: Frac'ing Effects

Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, will discuss the potential impacts to San Antonio and surrounding areas of hydraulic fracturing in the Eagle Ford formation in south Texas.

SIERRA SOCIALS

Drinks, food, fun. If planning to attend, contact Loyd Cortez, 674-9489, loydcor-tez@earthlink.net.

Fri., Feb 25: Mad Hatters Tea House, 320 Beauregard, 6-8 p.m.

Fri., Mar 25: Blue Star Brewing Co., 1414 South Alamo, 6-8 p.m.

The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

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World's Oil Supply: All Down Hill from Here?

If we don't start seriously conserving energy, specifically oil, then Alan Montemayor, former principal engineer for Southwest Research Institute, predicts a bleak future: continual warfare, long-term economic decline, societal breakdown, and mass death from starvation and disease.

Montemayor presented his "Peak Oil" analysis at the Alamo Group's January meeting in the Witte Museum. Basing his predictions on the 1950s research by M. King Hubbert, a petroleum geologist, Montemayor says world oil production probably peaked last year and will steadily decline until about 2065, when it will all be gone. (Hubbert also made the prediction that the United States would pass peak oil production in the 1970s – a prediction that has proved correct.)

"We've gotten the easy stuff," Montemayor said. "The rest will be harder to get, more expensive to extract, and the extraction will cause greater damage to the environment."

The reason this is so worrisome, said Montemayor, is that our globalized economy relies on cheap fossil fuel, mainly oil. The "green revolution" that has allowed agribusiness to feed billions of people was made possible by petroleum based fertilizer and other petro-

chemicals. Cheap oil has also allowed for cheap transportation of food and other goods. This in turn has allowed world population to far exceed the world's "carrying capacity," said Montemayor.

(Story Continued on Page Two.)

New Ex-Com Members Seated

It's official. Denali Endicott, Scott Wolfe, and Karen Seal have been voted by our membership into three-year terms on the Alamo Group's Executive Committee. The members of the Ex-Com formally accepted the election results at their Jan. 20 meeting.

Wolfe and Endicott continue on the board after previous terms. Seal is new to the Ex-Com, and continues as an active member of the club's Political Committee. The new members begin serving immediately.

Also at the January meeting, the Ex-Com approved the current

membership of the Political Committee, as required by club rules.

Members include Chair Russel Seal, Loretta Van Coppenolle, Jerry Morrisey, Karen Dalglish Seal, Dave Wells, Dave Klar, Christel Villareal, Wendell Fuqua.

City elections are gearing up for spring, and Political Committee members will be busy interviewing candidates for the various races, evaluating their replies to questionnaires, and recommending endorsements. Please contact any member of the committee if you have suggestions or comments on the candidates.

Alamo Group outings continue through the winter months. So, on Saturday, Jan. 22, outings leader Jerry Morrisey (far left) and these hardy hikers gathered at O. P. Schnabel Park to enjoy a brisk walk on the Leon Creek Greenway. To the right of the sign are Linda Higby, Wendy Thornton, and Ed Codina. The day started out below freezing, but the wind was calm and the sky was clear, as they gathered for this photo just prior to departure.



(Mission Verde's) goals are to provide an economic approach to sustainability, to position San Antonio to be a leader in the 21st Century global economy.

The Lone Star Chapter and Alamo Group... would like to credit TPWD officials and the many generous private donors who pulled off this major coup.

City Gives Update on Mission Verde Plan

In January San Antonio Office of Environmental Policy Director Laurence Doxsey gave an update on Mission Verde, the city's sustainability plan, to the COSA Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee. Advancements cited included:

1. An invitation for bid has been posted for a solar installation at the Mission Verde Center.
2. The OEP is working on a pilot downtown carshare program based on a recently completed car share study.
3. Participation in the Green Shade Tree Rebate Program is increasing. As of early January the number of "treebates" awarded was 796 with another 93 pending.

4. The city's five Priuses have been converted to plug-ins, with mileage reaching 99.9 mpg.

5. As of early January, CasaVerde SA had weatherized over 1,515 homes with approved applications that will allow the program to reach its goal of 2,300 homes weatherized with federal stimulus money.

6. A 50 kW solar installation is pending at the West Side Senior Center.

7. The OEP was seeking City Council approval for an agreement with Bexar County for a San Antonio Food Bank Solar Water Harvesting Project.

Mission Verde was launched in January 2009 and later approved by City Council. Its

goals are to provide an economic approach to sustainability, to position San Antonio to be a leader in the 21st century global economy, and to create new jobs and industries in a time of economic downturn.

The Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee, on which serve several Sierra Club members, was approved by Council in April 2009. The committee's purview is to "provide recommendations on effective environmental projects, programs and policies to city staff and City Council and [to] serve as a forum for the community to offer input concerning environmental sustainability."

The meetings occur at 7:30 am the first Friday of each month. A citizens-to-be-heard segment precedes each meeting.

Devil's River "Miracle" Aided by Sierra Club Action

At the October 26 San Antonio hearing over swapping the Devils River State Natural Area for Devil's River Ranch, a miracle happened.

Instead of the exchange, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was able to add the ranch's 18,000 acres and

10 miles of river frontage to Texas public property as part of a now 38,000 acre DRSNA.

A panel, the Devils River Working Group, composed of department personnel, landowners, conservation organizations and river users will

soon begin to develop management plans for the river.

The Lone Star Chapter and Alamo Group protested the hurried swap, and we would like to credit TPWD officials and the many generous private donors who pulled off this major coup.

(Continued from Page 1: World Peak Poil Point Already Passed)

Current world population is almost 7 billion. Montemayor contends that the carrying capacity of the earth, in the absence of abundant fossil fuels, would be 1 to 2 billion people.

Montemayor also warns that currently available alternative energy sources won't take the place of oil, which delivers an enormous amount of energy per gallon. For example, there is no source of energy – other than petroleum – that is light enough and "energy dense" enough to power our current air

fleet. And, if we grew enough plants to replace petroleum with ethanol and biodiesel, we would have to commit all our cropland to producing fuel rather than food.

Natural gas, coal, nuclear, solar, wind – all suffer from serious deficiencies when compared to petroleum. There just is no viable substitute for oil, said Montemayor. And, people who contend that scientists will come up with a "magic elixir" to replace petroleum have little basis for such optimism.

What to do? First, conserve, said Montemayor. The longer we make our oil last, the longer we will have to develop new sources of energy, substitutes for petrochemicals, and new economic models that don't rely on enormous amounts of cheap fuel.

We also must educate ourselves, said Montemayor. We must learn about the problem, and we must learn sustainable, low-energy lifestyle strategies that will allow our communities to live within their available resources. To not do so courts disaster.

A Word from the Alamo Group Chair

By Margaret "Peggy" Day

As you know, the Sierra Club's prime conservation priority is clean energy. The Alamo Group continues to focus on this effort locally and feels that we are making an impact. We want to acknowledge and commend CPS Energy for its progress. New CPS CEO Doyle BENEBY appears to represent a new era of openness and sincere commitment to renewable energy.

Early after coming on board, BENEBY conceded quarterly meetings with the Alamo Group and our partners, to report and answer questions. CPS is now more allied with local

institutions such as UTSA through a \$50 million research grant and with the City of San Antonio to focus on aligning more green energy investments to promote educational and economic opportunities that enhance the business case and position San Antonio as a hub for clean energy.

We are cautiously optimistic about BENEBY's report that many of CPS's old assumptions are being reevaluated. This includes the Deely coal-fired power plants with old permits that allow damaging levels of air pollutants. Under a 2005 agreement, scrubbers were one of the promised

reforms for Deely's problems, which now may cost a whopping \$565 million.

With numerous regulatory changes pending, CPS is prudently studying options, which include possibly scuttling the scrubbers and investing this money instead in solar and other green energy options, meanwhile shifting to lower sulfur coal for an as yet undetermined number of years and then early retirement for "Dirty Deely." We intend to follow up on the issue's history and possible future scenarios with CPS.

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Spring is Coming: Join These Alamo Group Outings

Sunday, Feb. 20: Searching for Spring in Eisenhower Park (Dog Friendly)

We will be looking for the first spring blooms perhaps on elbow bush or agarita as we tour the trails of the park which is located on NW Military Drive outside Hwy 1604.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the picnic table at the start of the park trail system. We will hike about 3 miles at a moderate to leisurely pace that will allow us identify some of the plants, trees and birds. There will be a few steep rocky climbs/descents but in general the hike is rated as easy. The hike should be finished by 11:30 am.

Bring water and wear sturdy ankle-supporting shoes or boots. Minors must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian or with Medical Authorization and Consent Form. Donations to the Sierra Club are welcome. For more information contact the leader, Jerry Morrisey, jlmorrisey@aol.com or 210-382-2614.

Sunday, February 27th: Exploring the Trails of Stone Oak Park. (Dog Friendly)

We will walk the paved and dirt trails of the park which is located on Stone Oak Parkway about 1 mile east of where it intersects Hwy 281 (north of Hwy 1604).

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot for Stone Oak Park that is north of Stone Oak Parkway. We will hike about 3 miles at a moderate to leisurely pace that will allow us identify some of the plants, trees and birds. There will be a few steep climbs/descents but in general the hike is rated as easy. The hike should be finished by 11:30 am.

Bring water and wear sturdy ankle-supporting shoes or boots. Minors must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian or with Medical Authorization and Consent Form. Donations to the Sierra Club are welcome. For more detailed information on how to find the start of the hike contact the leader, Jerry Morrisey, jlmorrisey@aol.com or 210-382-2614.

Saturday, Mar. 5: Friedrich Wilderness Park in the Spring

Enjoy the beautiful natural trails in this wilderness park, just outside of Loop 1604, but far removed from urban life. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Park parking lot, near the trailhead. We will hike about 3.5 miles, at a moderate pace, over varied and scenic terrain that is mostly level, but with some steep rocky climbs/descents. We should finish the hike by 11:30 a.m.

Bring water and wear sturdy ankle-supporting shoes. Minors must be accompanied by adult parent or

guardian, or with Medical Authorization and Consent Form.

Donations to the Sierra Club are welcome. Those who are interested can gather after the hike for lunch at a cozy restaurant not far from the park. For information and to reserve a place on this beautiful springtime hike, contact the leader Nancy Anderson, (210) 370-9459, or assistant leader Stan Drezek, 493-0939.

Saturday, Mar. 12: Hike the Canyon

Join the Friends of Government Canyon and the Sierra Club for a jointly led guided hike on one of the many trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Length of the hike will range from 4 to 7 miles depending on the group. Open to ages 13 and over; minors must be accompanied by an adult; group size limited to the first 12 people; no pets please. Wear sturdy shoes for hiking over rough terrain; bring two liters of water and a snack.

GCSNA is located at 12861 Galm Rd (Take FM 1560 west from Helotes to Galm Rd). Entrance fee \$6 (\$3 seniors). Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower by 8:15 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. sharp departure with finish by noon; subject to cancellation. Difficulty: Moderate (some steep/rocky sections). Contact Sierra Club co-leader Chris Anderson, (210) 838-1952, if you require additional information.

Meeting Dates and Contact Information

General Meeting	3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.	Peggy Day	829-5632
Executive Committee Mtg.	3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.	Peggy Day	829-5632
Newsletter Submissions	Deadline, 8th of each month	Wendell Fuqua	734-8281
Political Committee Mtg.	2d Thursday, 7 p.m.	Russell Seal	289-9088
Newsletter Mail Party	2d Tuesday, 7 p.m.	Jim Stewart	692-0727
Outings Committee Mtg.	1st Wed., every odd month., 7 p.m.	Jerry Morrissey	497-5470
Conservation Committee Mtg.	1st Thursday, 7 p.m.		

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Executive Committee Officers & Members		
Margaret (Peggy) Day, Chair Person		829-5632
Loyd Cortez, Vice Chair Person		674-9489
Mary Ellen Garcia, Secretary		344-1581
Wendell Fuqua		373-0748
Hector Gonzalez		226-6069
Dave Wells		271-0640
Scott Wolfe		724-2707
Denali Endicott		629-2434
Karen Dalglish Seal		289-9008
Sharon Dukes (non voting), Treasurer		828-3721
Administrative Contacts		
Programs	Barbara McMillin	734-4170
Fundraising	Vacant	
Publicity	Vacant	
Mailings	Jim Stewart	692-0727
Membership	Vacant	
Newsletter	Wendell Fuqua	373-0748
Website	Richard Alles	494-2088
Committee Contacts		
Outings	Jerry Morrissey	382-2614
Co-Chair	Stan Drezek	493-0939
Political	Russell Seal	289-9008
Outreach & Education	Carolyn Wells	271-0640
Conservation Contacts		
Conservation Chair	Randy Carroll-Bradd	216-6125
Assistant Chair	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Endangered Species	Fred Wells	673-9566
Flouridation	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Organic Gardening	Dave Klar	495-2148
Recycling	Carolyn Wells	271-0640
Tree Conservation	Richard Alles	494-2088
Volunteer Coord.	Vacant	
Water Issues	Jerry Morrissey	382-2614
U.S. Congresspersons		
Charlie Gonzalez	472-6195	
Lamar Smith	821-5024	
Henry Cuellar	271-2851	
Francisco Canseco	561-8855	
City Council (Continued)		
Dist. 2: Ivy R. Taylor		207-7278
Dist. 3: Jennifer Ramos		207-7064
Dist. 4: Philip A. Cortez		207-7281
Dist. 5: David Medina, Jr.		207-7043
Dist. 6: Ray Lopez		207-7065
Dist. 7: Justin Rodriguez		207-7044
Dist. 8: W. Reed Williams		207-7086
Dist. 9: Elisa Chan		207-7325
Dist. 10: John G. Clamp		207-7276
City Council		
Mayor Julian Castro	207-7060	
Dist. 1: M. A. Cisneros	207-7279	
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www.alamosierraclub.org

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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.

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INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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