

ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

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

Tues., Apr. 17: Oil and Coal Production

Dr. Tad Patzek, Chair, UT-Austin Dept. of Petroleum Engineering, will speak about latest research on oil and coal production.

Tues., May 15: Medina River Natural Area

Protecting riparian habitat of Medina River Natural Area. *Approved by Alamo Area Master Naturalists for Advanced Training.*

Tues., June 19: Solar Energy

Solar San Antonio's Lanny Sinkin

SIERRA SOCIALS

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

Fri., Apr 27: La Tuna, 100 Probandt, 6-8 PM.

Fri., May 25: La Fogata, 2427 Vance Jackson Rd, 6-8 PM.

Fri., Jun 22: Candlelight Coffeehouse, 301 N St. Mary's, 6-8 PM.

The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2012



Putting the Green Back in a Budget in the Red

By Congressman Doggett

At the end of March, House Republicans released their budget, and it is no surprise that it is riddled with attempts to eviscerate funding for key clean energy initiatives. Acting White House budget director Jeff Zients estimates that the GOP Budget cuts clean energy by 19 percent over the long-term and would bring decade-long cuts of \$100 billion to science, space and technology research. And it does this while continuing subsidies for Big Polluters.

Clean Energy for Our Future: As a senior member of the Budget Committee, I object to GOP efforts to turn the clock back on an energy policy that vigorously promotes renewable energy. Clean energy can be the engine of eco-

nomie growth. Unfortunately, some Republicans in Congress are turning a serious policy debate on federal spending into just another attack on clean energy initiatives. While we must make tough choices and scrutinize every penny of federal spending, cutting all spending for any issue remotely related to our environment or a clean energy future is no answer. Texas, in particular, is well positioned to reap the benefits of the clean energy economy. Solar resource potential in Texas is among the highest in the nation, and Texas already ranks first for installed wind capacity.

A Continued Assault on Environment and Energy Policies:

This Congress began with House Republicans attempting to slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. Their war on

the environment has continued at full throttle with this latest attempt to use the budget as a vehicle to further tie us to fuels of the past and slash protections for our environment and public health. Now, more than ever, we need to keep fighting for the health of our communities. We cannot become discouraged by the relentless attacks on science, and on the air we breathe and the water we drink.

U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett has worked for clean energy and environmental protection in Texas, nationally, and globally. For this work, he has received numerous honors, including the Texas League of Conservation Voters inaugural Environmental Champion Award.

EarthShare Partners with H-E-B

We are pleased to announce that H-E-B has selected EarthShare of Texas to be the beneficiary of its in-store coupon promotion for April, in recognition of Earth Day. This means that customers can tear off and add check-out coupons worth \$1, \$3, or \$5 to their total bill to support environmental work in the Central Texas, Houston, Gulf Coast, Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio/West and Border, plus North Texas Central Markets.

H-E-B has supported many EarthShare of Texas organizations with corporate grants or in-kind contributions. The April tear-pad promotion enables H-E-B customers to support the environmental program work of more than three dozen EarthShare of Texas organizations. The Sierra Club Foundation will benefit, because the contributions will be divided among EarthShare of Texas organizations with program work in Texas.

Look for the EarthShare of Texas display and the tear-off coupons at the check-out stands in more than 250 H-E-B and Central Market stores throughout Texas through April and into the first week in May. And help support Earth Share of Texas and the Texas environment!

2011 Lone Star Chapter Award Winners

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club unveiled a diverse list of its 2011 award winners, including Texans being recognized for significant contributions to clean energy, fish and wildlife protection, and water resources management as well as Sierra Club leaders commended for their

achievements in furthering the work of the organization at the state and local level. The Club is also recognizing a reporter who has spent the past two years chronicling his travels around Texas to highlight the outdoor treasures of our state and an artist who has put

together an exhibit focusing on the impacts of drought and fire but foreshadowing the restoration to come.

When available, more details will

(Continued to Page 3)

Save A Tree....!)

Please help our club offset our newsletter paper copy printing and postage cost by considering receiving the newsletter electronically by email.

Contact loydcortez@earthlink.net to make the switch.

Make Your Voice Be Heard!

City council decisions, regulatory actions, legislation in Austin; we need to be ready to act at a moment's notice to support the good and stop the bad.

Sometimes all it takes is a simple phone call or email message to sway the opinion of our local elected leaders and officials.

Contact loydcortez@earthlink.net to add you to our club's action alert list.

Our Facebook site is up and running again. Check it out and "like" us at: www.facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Club-Alamo-Group/

Outings: Hikes That Lead Us Into Summer

General Requirements: *Wear clothes and shoes appropriate for hiking. Bring water and a snack. Minors allowed only when accompanied by parent/guardian or with Consent Form and Medical Authorization. Dogs not allowed unless specified, and must be leashed and socialized. Donations to Sierra Club always welcomed.*

Full descriptions of these outings are found at <http://texas.sierraclub.org/alamo/Outings.htm>

And Also At

<http://www.meetup.com/Alamo-Sierra-Club-Outings/>

Participants are encouraged to read the full descriptions and contact the Outings Leader.

Saturday, April 14th: 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.

Contact Sierra Club co-leader and Texas Master Naturalist Stan Drezek (210) 493-0939 if you require additional information.

Saturday, May 12th: Hike the Canyon

Same information and requirements as the **April 14th: Hike the Canyon.**

Contact Sierra Club co-leader Chris Anderson, (210) 838-1952, if you require additional information.

Saturday, May 26th: The Oak Loop Seasonal Nature Walk

This walk is jointly sponsored by the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, the Alamo Area Master Naturalists, and the Sierra Club. It will be lead by Wendy Drezek of the Sierra Club and staffed by an accompanying Master Naturalist.

Contact Wendy Drezek (493-0939) if you require further information.

Saturday, June 9th: Hike the Canyon

Same information and requirements as the **April 14th: Hike the Canyon.**

Contact Sierra Club co-leader Terry Jermolajevs, (830) 980-4183, if you require additional information.

Witte's April Program

Tad Patzek, our speaker, is the Chairman of the Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering Department at The University of Texas at Austin.

He teaches courses in petroleum engineering, hydrology, ecology and energy supply, and mathematical modeling of earth systems, and he has expertise in these areas: reservoir engineering, enhanced oil recovery, alternative energy sources, ecology of biofuel systems, and energy policy. Dr. Patzek is a co-author of over 200 papers and reports, and is writing five books.

More recently, Dr. Patzek has focused on ultra deepwater offshore operations. He briefed Congress on the BP Deepwater Horizon well disaster in the Gulf. In January 2011, Dr. Patzek became a member of the Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

A Call For Volunteers

The Alamo Group will be tabling at the following events, if we can get volunteers. Please help us with this important educational effort. Call or email Peggy at 829-5632 or peggyday@hotmail.com

April 12, Thursday, NW Vista College Earth Day, from 9 to 1.

April 17, Tuesday UTSA Earth Day, from 11 to 3.

April 21, Saturday: Viva Botanica! at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, from 10 to 2.

April 28, Saturday: March in the King William Parade, from 9 to 11 a.m.

April 18, Wednesday: San Antonio College Earth Day Celebration, from 10 to 2.

May 4, Friday: Walk & Roll to Work Rally at HemisFair Park, from 8 to 9 a.m.

Leveraging Social Media to Mobilize Campaigns

Paul Gonzalez, who works for one of the largest technology companies on the planet, will offer a talk on the

importance of utilizing Social Medias and how they can quickly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local campaigns. He'll provide a number of best practices that will help both novice and advanced users in mobilizing campaigns and achieving measurable objectives. This session is based

around exploring new channels of communication, while having plenty of fun. We will also begin to look at a possible local campaign on plastic bags using Paul's expertise. Join us with Gonzalez at Lions Field, on Broadway @ Mulberry, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 25.

A Word from the Alamo Group Chair

By Margaret "Peggy" Day

"We did it with water, we can do it with energy," became a mantra with the Alamo Group, says Russell Seal. After many years of organized campaigning for clean energy, Alamo Group leaders feel that the energy campaign has brought a tide of support for sustainable energy from CPS Energy, city leaders and the public.

Many positive changes were set in motion by the creation of the 1995 Citizens' Advisory Committee at CPS, with Walter Barfield as Alamo Sierran representative. This group produced a comprehensive sustainability-based integrated resource planning blueprint. This brought some conservation initiatives, and, after the state legislature finally adopted renewable energy standards in 1998, CPS began to invest in wind energy. Now CPS is the state's largest buyer with 1.06 GW of contracted wind energy.

Energy efforts surged again after in the National Sierra Club's 2006 strategic planning ratified energy as the top conservation priority. Alamo Sierrans' successfully lobbied for San Antonio to become a Cool City signatory in 2007, under Mayor Hardberger, who went on to declare our aspiration to become a Top Ten Green City. Amazingly the city and utility brought in the team of world renowned energy guru Jeremy Rifkin

for workshops to build our own New Energy Economy team, based on Rifkin's Third Industrial Revolution, adopted the related Mission Verde plan, and established the Office of Environmental Policy. We owe a great debt to Hardberger and Larry Zinn, among others, for these responses.

In 2008, Alamo Sierrans, under Tom Dukes and Jerry Morrissey, had drafted updated sustainable energy recommendations tailored to San Antonio. Then CPS blindsided the community with its plan to meet future energy demand primarily by doubling its investment in nuclear energy, which set off a two year campaign, under the chairmanship of Loretta Van Coppenolle. Fortunately, in 2010 the CPS Energy nuclear power expansion, which would have been key to a US nuclear renaissance, was defeated, along with CPS management.

New San Antonio Mayor Castro inherited the nuclear fiasco. He quickly extricated the city from the nuclear "meltdown," ushered in new more progressive utility management. He supports Mission Verde policy and helped negotiate the \$50 million CPS energy research funding for UTSA.

Doyle Beneby, the new CPS director, is pursuing a more sustainable energy path, finally focusing on demand side management and more

transparency and connections. Since early 2011, environmental community representatives meet quarterly with Beneby and key staff to exchange ideas. He has brought about many brave changes. One is a planned early shutdown of "Dirty Deeley," exceeding our local expectations. Another is a negotiated 400-MW plant with OCI that would be by far the biggest in Texas and among the biggest ones planned in the U.S. The OCI deal will bring their partner Nexolon's domestic headquarters and a manufacturing plant here, adding \$1 billion in construction investment, \$100 million in capital investment, and 800 plus jobs to the area, for an annual economic impact at \$700 million, and new, very competitively priced energy.

You know CPS Energy has come a long way when a CEO of is the recipient of the Lone Star Chapter 2011 Special Service Award. This is important, not just because it is our energy utility, but it is also the nation's largest municipally owned utility. Under the relentless sustainable energy campaign of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, its partners, and a new crop of more enlightened city leaders, it has been transformed from a secretive, conventional energy giant to claim ground as a national leader.

(Continued from Page 1)

be posted on the Alamo Sierra Club website.

Orrin Bonney Award – Hal Suter (Corpus Christi)

Special Service Awards

Doyle Beneby (San Antonio)
Dr. Robert Gulley (San Antonio)
David Daniel (Winnsboro) Myron

Hess (Austin)

Environmental Reporting Award – Mike Leggett (Austin)

Evelyn Edens River Protection Award – Adrian Van Dellen (Woodville)

Chapter Conservation Award – Vicki

Baggett (Nacogdoches)

Chapter Service Award – Loyd Cortez (San Antonio)

Art in Service to the Environment Award – Marjorie Moore (Austin)

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 last day of month	Loyd Cortez	674-9489
Political Committee Mtg.	2d Thursday, 7 p.m.	Dave Wells	271-0640
Newsletter Mail Party	2d Tuesday, 6-8:30 p.m.	Whole Foods	
Outings Committee Mtg.	1st Wed., every odd month., 7 p.m.	Jerry Morrissey	382-2614
Conservation Committee Mtg.	1st Thursday, 7 p.m.	Russell Seal	289-9088

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
Executive Committee Officers & Members

Margaret (Peggy) Day, Chair Person	829-5632
Loyd Cortez, Vice Chair Person	674-9489
MaryEllen Garcia, Secretary	344-1581
Karen Dalglish Seal	226-8101
Hector Gonzalez	226-6069
Dave Wells, Treasurer	271-0640
George Rice	737-6180
Gay Wright	343-0222
Mobi Warren	496-4942

Administrative Contacts

Programs	Barbara McMillin	734-4170
Fundraising	Vacant	
Publicity	Gay Wright	343-0222
Editor	Loyd Cortez	674-9489
Membership	Vacant	
Mailings	Vacant	
Website	Richard Alles	494-2088

Committee Contacts

Outings Co-Chairs	Jerry Morrissey	382-2614
	Stan Drezek	493-0939
Political	Dave Wells	271-0640

Conservation Contacts

Conservation Chair	Russell Seal	289-9088
Assistant Chair	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Green Buildings	John Hertz	413-4100
Education	Ken Clifton	646-6833
Fluoride Issues	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Organic Gardening	Dave Klar	485-6880
Recycling	Carolyn Wells	271-0640
Tree Conservation	Richard Alles	494-2088
Transportation	Barbara McMillin	734-4170
Water Issues	George Rice	737-6180
Climate Change	Mobi Warren	496-4942
Drought	Alyssa Burgin	381-4021
Endangered Species	Mobi Warren	496-4942

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: Leticia Ozuna	207-7064
Dist. 4: Rey Saldana	207-7281
Dist. 5: David Medina, Jr.	207-7043
Dist. 6: Ray Lopez	207-7065
Dist. 7: Cris Medina	207-7044
Dist. 8: W. Reed Williams	207-7086
Dist. 9: Elisa Chan	207-7325
Dist. 10: Carlton Soules	207-7276

City Council

Mayor Julian Castro	207-7060
Dist. 1: Diego Bernal	207-7279

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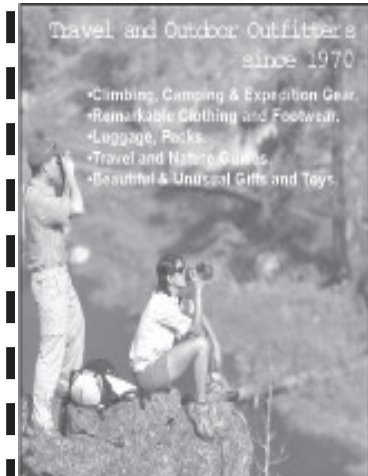
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Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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