

ALAMO GROUP

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

Tues., Apr 16:
Local Micro-Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles

Tues., May 21:
Challenges of Climate Change - Communicating, Organizing, Adapting

SIERRA SOCIALS

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

Fri., Apr 26:
La Tuna, 100 Probandt, 6-8 p.m.

Fri., May 24:
La Fogata, 2427 Vance Jackson Rd, 6-8 p.m.

Fri., Jun 28:
Candlelight Coffeehouse, 3011 N Saint Mary's, 6-8 p.m.

The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 02

APRIL 2013



Word from Chair

By Margaret (Peggy) Day

The Sierra Club has long recognized population issues, but for many years now the Club has pushed population to the back burner. The Lone Star Chapter and Alamo Groups do not have population committees or contacts monitoring the issue. Texas is experiencing unprecedented population growth. The US is expected to double population in this century. The tumultuous history of the Sierra Club population policy indicates how infighting and political sensitivities have almost eliminated the Club's attention to this key component of environmental deterioration.

Early on the Sierra Club recognized both the key role population plays in environmental degradation and the need for population stabilization in the US and around the world. The first strong policy was adopted in 1965. But just one year later the policy was overturned. With the rise of the Environmental Movement and the sweeping national environmental legislation, the Sierra Club was able to reinstate a strong population policy, for zero population growth, and maintain it from 1970 to 1996. As US population soared, an immigration position was included and updated in 1989 to state that "Immigration to the U.S. should be no greater than that which will permit achievement of population stabilization in the U.S." In 1996, the Club Board reversed the policy, stating "Sierra Club, its entities, and those speaking in its name, will take no position on immigration levels or on policies governing immigration into the United States." Some members have tried since then to restore the policy. The dispute has come to a head several times in board elections, referendums on policy, and efforts to restrict policy referendums. The Club tried to calm the division by vowing to address the root causes that impel populations to migrate.

The arguments on both sides of the debate proliferated around the highly charged 2004 Sierra Club Board elections—the last time population rose to such prominence in the Club. Larry Dill, in *New Hope Journal*, presented a heartfelt opinion on both sides of that debate at that is still available online at <http://www.newhopejournal.com/sierra.html>.

Since immigration issues are now center stage nationally, it is important to know the Club will not take a position on immigration. In 2007 the Club crafted an updated population policy, at <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/population.pdf>, that clearly states this. Internal documents from the review of that update process indicate that the participating leaders are still divided on many points on what to do about population. One comment was "The proposed policy is unobjectionable, and that may be its biggest flaw." The analysis found that "Almost all commenters believe the Sierra Club ought to do far more to address population."

e-Newsletter

If you do not receive the notice and link to our e-Sierran newsletter, there is a lot of great information that you are missing out on. We now have more space and more articles in online issues. Topics from February and March, which you can find in the online newsletter archives are: Word Environmental Bills Introduced in the Texas Legislature; Word Waste Management Update; Conservation Committee Reports; Bill Poses Threat to San Antonio's Trees; Keystone XL Pipeline Update; VIA Has Three New All-Electric Buses; San Antonio's Environmental Rules Attacked; Streetcars Make Sense; Climate Change; A Poem by Mobi Warren -- Quilt Square: Whooping Cranes at Aransas Pass.

So, if you haven't already signed up and you would like to receive notice of the electronic newsletter, then send a request with your email address to loydcortez@earthlink.net. Since we have an e-News List and the e-Sierran List, some of you may get more than one notice, for which we apologize. Just send a message to Loyd, and he will remove the duplicate email. Remember that even if you do not want to receive the e-newsletter and do not want to give out your email address, you can still read it, and the archives, online by visiting the website at <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/alamo/Newsletter.htm>.

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 Spring

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.*

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

Our Alamo Group outings participants will enjoy great weather for hikes in Scenic Canyon Natural Area, Government Canyon SNA, Hardberger Park and other beautiful places. Visit our [Outings page](#) on www.alamosierraclub.org at the Alamo Sierra Club website for complete details or go to the [Alamo Sierra Club Outings page](#) on www.meetup.com at the Meetup website.

Program Announcements for General Meeting at the Witte

Tuesday, April 16th: Local Micro-Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles

Gary Krysztopik, through his venture ZWheelz, LLC in San Antonio, is in the process of developing very simple Open Source Electric Vehicle (EV) kits that are easy to manufacture and easy to assemble. The first vehicle is a two-seat, highway-capable, battery-electric vehicle. This project is also about creating a network of local micro manufacturers of EV's, and a global open source design community.

Tuesday, May 21st: Challenges of Climate Change - Communicating, Organizing, Adapting

Too many of our fellow citizens are in denial on the most important issue facing life on Earth. How can we communicate effectively about it? How can we organize on a non-partisan basis to achieve government policies which will severely limit fossil fuel emissions? How can we help our communities to prepare for the inevitable extreme weather events? The presenter will be Attorney Darby Riley.

Programs start at 6:30 pm, at Witte Museum auditorium, 3801 Broadway. Parking available in garage at Tuleta and Ave B. Free and open to the public.

San Antonio City Council Candidates

The Alamo Sierra Club has endorsed the following candidates for the upcoming City Council elections:

- District 1 Diego Bernal
- District 2 Ivy Taylor
- District 3 no endorsement at this time (perhaps an endorsement if there is a run off)
- District 4: Rey Saldana
- District 5: no endorsement (perhaps endorsement if there is a run off)
- District 6: Ray Lopez
- District 7: Cris Medina
- District 8: Ron Nirenberg
- District 9: no endorsement
- District 10: no endorsement
- Mayor: Julian Castro

Any questions or inquires as to our club's selection for an endorsement or no endorsement can be addressed to our Political Chair, Dave Wells, at email dwells1315@yahoo.com or call (210) 271-0640.

Your voice is your ballot. If you do not like the decisions that our elected officials are making for us, then it is your right and duty to vote them out. Our future is our children and we must protect our environment so that they will have clean water to drink, clean air to breathe, and a big shade tree to sit under.

Loyd Cortez

Report from the Conservation Chair

1. Save Texas Parks Campaign

Texas Parks are endangered. Betty Dabney, PhD sent this information.

If you have ever enjoyed visiting one of the 91 Texas state parks, historical sites and natural areas, you may be surprised to learn that they are in danger of losing funding under the current State budget proposal. Texas parks are entitled by law to receive up to 94% of the sales tax revenues from sporting goods, but have never received that amount. In the past few years Texas Parks & Wildlife has received less than a quarter of that amount, and the current budget proposal does not provide enough money for current operating costs. If nothing is done to prevent this action, 20 State Parks may be closed. One of them may be your favorite.

Www.Keptexasparksopen.com is organizing a series of Town Hall meetings around the state to educate people about the crisis and what we can do to keep our Texas parks open. One of these meetings will be April 29 at 7:00 pm in the SOL Center at University Presbyterian Church. There will be a panel of distinguished speakers. Admission is free and open to all. Please come on April 29th and learn how you can protect Texas parks!

The Conservation Committee needs to get this information out. We have discussed the possibility of having a press conference in the near future. The Committee will discuss ways to approach the Park issue including attending the Keep Texas Parks Open Town Hall meeting.

2. Water Conservation in the face of Climate Change

We will be discussing ways to attack the issue of water shortages and ways to address the shortages created by pollution from various industries including fracking and nuclear energy. We will also consider ways we can partner with other organizations to address the issue.

3. Transportation

In this day and age of higher gas prices combined with the real threat of CO2 emissions adding to global warming, the Conservation Committee will be looking at ways to promote mass transportation and conservation of our limited resources.

4. Energy

The Sierra Club must face the challenge of educating the public about sustainable energy. As the Conservation Committee of the Alamo Group, we need to find ways to promote our club's stance on solar, wind, geothermal and other green forms of energy. How we will be working toward educating the public will be another topic this month.

5. Other Issues

The Conservation Committee will also be discussing the plastic bag problem, city planning and planting trees.

Karen Dalglish Seal, Conservation Chair

Program Announcements at Lion's Field

Wednesday, April 24th: Film *Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives*

The film *Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our lives*, by Jeffery M Smith, author of best selling books on genetically engineered foods will be shown. Diane Baines, active in educating about the topic, will introduce the film and lead a discussion following the viewing.

Wednesday, May 22nd: Film *Permaculture - Farms for the Future*

More than 96 per cent of all the food grown in Britain is reliant on synthetic fertilizer. The BBC documentary on Permaculture challenges all the normal approaches to farming. One of its central principles is that you work with the land, rather than against it.

Wednesday, June 26th: Film *Plastic Planet*

Up-close and personal view of the controversial and fascinating material called plastic. It has found its way into every facet of our daily lives.

Programs start at 6:30 pm at Lion's Field, 2809 Broadway at Mulberry. Programs are free and open to the public.

Tabling And Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help with community outreach, the Alamo Sierra Club would love to have you volunteer with any of the upcoming events listed below. To sign-up please contact Gay Wright at alamo.sierra@yahoo.com OR 210-362-1984.

- April 18: "Earth Day" NW Vista College (9 A.M. – 1 P.M.)
- April 20: "VIVA Botanica & Plant Sale" San Antonio Botanical Garden (10 A.M. – 2 P.M.)
- April 22: "Earth Day" San Antonio College (10 A.M. – 2 P.M.)
- April 23: "EarthFest" UTSA 1604 (11 A.M. – 2 P.M.)
- May 3: "Walk & Roll to Work Rally" HemisFair (8:00 A.M. – 9 A.M.)

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., 6:30 p.m.	Jerry Morrissey	382-2614
Conservation Committee Mtg.	1st Thursday, 7 p.m.	Karen Dalglish Seal	226-8101
Inner City Outings Mtg.	1st Tuesday 7 p.m.	University Presbyterian Church	408-6321

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
Executive Committee Officers & Members

Margaret (Peggy) Day, Chair Person	829-5632
Loyd Cortez, Vice Chair Person	674-9489
Karen Dalglish Seal	846-7488
Dan Cancilla	364-6539
Libby Day, Secretary	(602)568-0308
Dave Wells, Treasurer	271-0640
George Rice	737-6180
Gay Wright	343-0222
Amy Abeyta	

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 Chair	Jerry Morrissey	382-2614
Inner City Outings (ICO)	Anne Pearson	408-6321
Political	Dave Wells	271-0640

Conservation Contacts

Conservation Chair	Karen Dalglish Seal	846-7488
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

Joaquin Castro	684-6896
Lamar Smith	821-5024
Henry Cuellar	271-2551
Pete Gallego	1-512-463-0566
Loyd Doggett	1-866-916-5921

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

The Alamo Sierran (Publication No. 018-475) is published quarterly by the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, 615 Willow, San Antonio, TX 78202. Members support the Sierran and receive the publication as part of membership. Nonmember subscriptions \$10 per year. Periodical postage paid at San Antonio, Texas.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sierra Club Member Services, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322 or e-mail to ad-

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 6443
San Antonio, Texas 78209

PERIODICAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Join Online!
Join online today and receive a **free Weekender Bag**
Go to our website at <http://Alamosierraclub.org>

Recycle your batteries.

Don't throw away those small rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries in the trash bin where they will end up in over-crowded land fills.



Bring them to the monthly Witte meeting where we will have a container for you to drop them off.

Please no car batteries because they are too big and heavy.

Alamo Group website address
www.alamosierraclub.org

Thanks to SA Offset Printing, Inc. 4115 Gardendale, San Antonio TX. Tel 210-692-9166 Fax 210-692-9963 for our nominal newsletter cost

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94Q W19131