

## ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

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

### Tues., August 21:

Karen Bishop of San Antonio River Authority (See article)

### Tues., Sept 18:

Sustainable Urban and Regional Planning for Texas

### Tues., Oct 16:

“A Land Ethic” about Aldo Leopold and beginning of environmental movement

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## SIERRA SOCIALS

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

**Fri., Aug 24:** Blue Star Brewing Co., 1414 South Alamo, 6-8 PM.

**Fri., Sept 28:** Mad Hatters Tea House, 320 Beauregard, 6-8 PM..

**Fri., Oct 26:** Candlelight Coffeehouse, 301 N St. Mary's, 6-8 PM.

# The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 7

AUGUST 2012



## No Word from Chair in this Issue

### Inner City Outings

#### Opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy, and protect the natural world

Imagine never finding a fossil under foot, or discovering deer feeding at dusk, or seeing birds on their spring migration. Many local kids never experience these simple pleasures we take for granted. If you're 18 or older and you'd like help introduce local youngsters to the wonders of the outdoors, San Antonio Inner City Outings (ICO) needs you.

ICO provides safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences for youth ages 8-18 who might not otherwise have access to them. Through these experiences, ICO promotes interpersonal skills and self-esteem by involving participants in teamwork, teaching them self-reliance outside an urban setting, and encouraging them to take an active role in protecting the environment. ICO helps the Sierra Club build support for environmental protection in urban communities across the country.

#### About San Antonio ICO

It's official! San Antonio Inner City Outings formed in June 2012, we conducted our first youth outing July 21, and we are in the process of planning a regular schedule of outings beginning this fall. Our goal is to offer San Antonio's inner city youth a wide variety of year-round outings experiences, including land- and water-based activities. Our outings will take place on weekends, usually Saturdays. In our initial phase, our trips will be limited to day outings. In the future, as we grow in volunteer numbers and capabilities, we would like to offer overnight camping and eventually backpacking experiences.

#### Upcoming Meetings

We hold monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at University Presbyterian Church, 300 Bushnell at Shook, adjacent to the Trinity University campus. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 7, when we will begin developing future outings plans and building a calendar of dates. For the month of September only, due to the Labor Day holiday, our meeting will be the second Tuesday -- September 11.

For more details on participating in San Antonio Inner City Outings please visit the Alamo Sierra Club website. Or contact ICO chair [Anne Pearson](#), (210) 408-6321, to learn how you can get involved as a certified trip leader, assistant leader or volunteer.

#### Sign Me Up!

If you'd like to join San Antonio ICO, please complete the [Code of Ethics](#), [Volunteer Agreement](#) and [Volunteer Application](#) forms which can be found on the Alamo Sierra Club website and return the forms to [ico.sanantonio@yahoo.com](mailto:ico.sanantonio@yahoo.com) or San Antonio Inner City Outings, P.O. Box 160802, San Antonio, TX 78280.

\*\*\*\*\*Go to the Alamo Sierra Club website to look at some pictures of the outing with the kids\*\*\*\*\*

**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/](http://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, September 8th: Hike the Canyon**

Experience the beauty of this San Antonio area gem and its trail system. 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; no pets please. Dress appropriately and 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). There is a **\$6 entrance fee** (\$3 seniors). Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower by **7:45 am** for an 8:00 am 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.

**Sat., Sept. 8: Botanical Garden Tour**

Our guide is noted horticulturalist Paul Cox. The theme is 'Urban Plant Dynamics' with some plant and SABOT history. From 9 to about 11:30 a.m. **Difficulty:** easy. Cost: free and open to the public, but garden membership or entry fee required. Join us for brunch afterwards in the Carriage House Bistro. Limited to 15. For reservations/more information contact leader, Peggy Day, (210) 829-5632, [peggyday@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyday@hotmail.com).

**Sat., Sept. 22: 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, October 13th: Hike the Canyon**

Experience the beauty of this San Antonio area gem and its trail system. 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; no pets please. Dress appropriately and 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). There is a **\$6 entrance fee** (\$3 seniors). Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower by **8:15 am** for an 8:30 am departure with finish by noon; subject to cancellation. **Difficulty:** Moderate (some steep/rocky sections).

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

## Fundraiser Results

Due to the generosity of our membership, we were able to raise \$596 during our June/July Fundraiser. This amount will help offset one more month of your clubs expenses in printing and mailing out the paper newsletter.

On behalf of the Alamo Sierra Club, we want to thank our members who donated. Without your financial help, your club would be hard strapped to find the necessary funds to meet the club's everyday expenses.

But in today's real world, it turns out that every day is a Fundraiser Day for your club in order to meet the club's expenses. So dig into your pockets and send us those old dollars bills. Send your donation to the address at back of newsletter. You can also save a tree and lower your club's expenses by switching to electronic newsletter rather than receiving the paper version through the post office.

## Film *Sprawling from Grace*

The film *Sprawling from Grace* by award winning director and filmmaker David M. Edwards will be shown

Wednesday, August 22, 6:30 pm at Lions Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway at Mulberry. The film looks at car-centered development and asks what is more sustainable. Conserving energy through a focus on pedestrian

and mass transportation options is discussed and images are presented from various cities. Film includes interviews with various planners. Free and open to the public.

## Expanding San Antonio's Sustainability Equation: Land Use and Water Quality

Pollution carried by stormwater runoff is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems throughout the United States and here in Texas. The San Antonio River Authority's presentation by Karen Bishop on Tuesday, August 21, will examine low impact development and other non-traditional approaches to stormwater management that have both stormwater quality and quantity benefits.

Karen Bishop has ten years' experience with the San Antonio River Authority. She helped create and now leads SARA's Sustainable Watersheds Implementation Program. The program houses watershed master plan, low impact development, river restoration, and public outreach projects aimed at improving the water quality and ecosystem health of our basin's river system.

## Poetry Potluck

San Antonio's poet laureate, Carmen Tafolla (who also happens to be a long-time Sierra Club member) was joined by San Antonio poets Bryce Milligan and Jim LaVilla-Havelin to give a special reading at our chapter's annual summer potluck on July 17, 2012. Their poems and songs (Bryce is also a songwriter and musician) celebrated the rivers, land, and culture of the San Antonio region and gave voice to environmental concerns such as drought and climate change. It was an evening to feed both body (great potluck dishes!) and spirit, and culminated in attendees reading aloud poems by Sierra Club founder John Muir.

The evening's program was the idea of ExCom member Mobi Warren, herself a poet-naturalist interested in bringing San Antonio's literary and environmental communities together to enjoy, explore, and protect the planet.

From L to R Carmen Tafolla, Bryce Milligan, Mobi Warren, Jim LaVilla-Havelin



## Group picture of ICO volunteers and some of the kids in the program.

Inner City Outings leaders Anne Pearson (far left) and Chris Anderson (far right) conducted the group's inaugural outing July 31 to Guadalupe River State Park. Nine youngsters and two adult volunteers from Inner City Development enjoyed a day of hiking and swimming.



# 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
Inner City Outings Mtg.	1st Tuesday 7 p.m.	University Prebysterian 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	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	
Chair	Jerry Morrissey 382-2614
Inner City Outings (ICO)	Anne Pearson 408-6321
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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**Alamo Group of the Sierra Club  
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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**

**Join Online!**  
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 Go to our website at <http://Alamosierraclub.org>



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Thanks to Dave Hammeren of The Printed Word, 6502 Bandera Rd., Suite 205, San Antonio, Texas, Telephone 520-5700 for our nominal newsletter cost