

## ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

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

### Tues., Dec 18:

Annual Holiday Party, Pot Luck, and Silent Auction

### Tues., Jan 15:

Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic and How He Got There by Kevin Hartley

### Tues., Feb 19:

Slides of Texas Water Features by Photographer Charles Kurwand and Water Update by Ken Kramer

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## SIERRA SOCIALS

*Drinks, food, fun. If planning to attend, contact Loyd Cortez, 674-9489, [loydcortez@earthlink.net](mailto:loydcortez@earthlink.net).*

**Fri., Jan 27:** Candlelight Coffeehouse, 301 N. St. Mary's, 6-8 p.m.

**Fri., Feb 24:** Little Italy, 824 Afterglow Street, 6-8 p.m.

**Fri., Mar 22:** Cheddar's, 7403 Northwest Loop 410, 6-8 p.m.

# The Alamo Sierran

## The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 11 DECEMBER 2012



### Word from Chair

By Margaret (Peggy) Day

#### Season's greetings fellow Sierrans.

It's that time of year again when we join together in fellowship for our annual holiday party. This year it is on Tuesday, December 18. The event will be at the same spot as last year, Lion's Field Club House, 2809 Broadway, at the corner of Mulberry, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be a silent auction and 2013 Sierra Club wall calendars for holiday gifting. The popular Celtic group Ravenmoor—Sally and John Wiesen and Ron Wilson—have offered to play for us, as well as musician, singer, songwriter Ellen Berfein. Bring your friends and a special dish to share. We will provide dining utensils, plates and drinks. Mark off your calendars now. Come celebrate our 2012 accolades and accomplishments and enjoy the season.

This is also when we elect new members to the Executive Committee (ExCom, in club lingo). We are very happy to see such a fine slate of candidates and several newly-minted volunteers. There are three full term elected positions and two vacated positions to appoint. ExCom members whose terms expire are Loyd Cortez, Dave Wells and Hector Gonzales. This trio is a formidable one. Loyd, Dave and Hector all have many years of club dedication, experience and knowledge. We thank all three. Fortunately Loyd and Dave have offered their candidacies. Hector will not be running again. As bedrock of our Alamo Group and the Lone Star chapter, Hector will take a well-deserved rest from the ExCom in order to continue in other roles. He has been a member since 1974 and served in many capacities for 35 years. The two vacant positions to be appointed are those of MaryEllen Garcia, who retired from UTSA and moved back to her natal California in June, and Mobi Warren, who stepped down in October in order to better manage the demands of teaching middle school math and serving as our climate change and endangered species point person.

Every December we focus on fundraising. So once again we ask for your financial assistance. Please contribute—even small amounts are welcome. The funds are necessary for the Witte rent, our newsletter, and our conservation campaigns that include student outreach and education. An envelope is enclosed for your donations and the election ballots.

Our 2013 annual Sierra Club calendar sales have begun. The price is \$14 for wall calendars. The profits go to our invaluable Inner City Outings program that helps disadvantaged inner city youth get outdoors and into nature. They will be available at the party and at all our events until they are sold.

We urge you to consider gifting memberships to the Sierra Club. The club continues its low \$15 introductory memberships. It's easy to sign up on our website, [www.alamosierraclub.org](http://www.alamosierraclub.org), or write to the membership address on this newsletter.

The best gift is giving of your time as a volunteer. Please consider serving the important work of the Alamo Sierra Club. We have a need for outings, fundraising, events, and membership chairs. We could also use your help with the programs, upcoming tabling season, and conservation campaigns.

In closing, on behalf of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, I wish everyone a great New Year and offer boundless gratitude to our great team of volunteers and for your membership support. United, together we can help forge a peaceful and prosperous earth.

**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 Winter**

**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, January 26th: Oak Loop Nature Walk (Birds)**

This Oak Loop walk led by Master Naturalists Patsy and Al Kuentz will focus on the birds of Phil Hardberger Park.

The purposes of the walk are to appreciating the beauty of the natural areas along the Oak Loop Trail, observing how nature changes through the seasons, and learning about birds.

Contact [Wendy Drezek](mailto:Wendy.Drezek@sierraclub.org) (493-0939) if you require further information.

**Saturday, February 23rd: Oak Loop Nature Walk (Trees)**

This Oak Loop walk, led by Master Naturalist Ron Tullius, will focus on the variety of trees in Phil Hardberger Park.

The purposes of the walk are appreciating the beauty of the natural areas along the Oak Loop Trail, observing how nature changes through the seasons, and learning about trees.

Contact [Wendy Drezek](mailto:Wendy.Drezek@sierraclub.org) (493-0939) if you require further information.

**ExCom Candidates: Bios for Alamo Group Election**

Please send in your vote for our annual election (ballot on Page 3). We have five positions open on our Executive Committee. Two positions are for vacated, unexpired terms of two years, and three positions are for full, three-year terms. Four candidates for these positions have submitted the following biographies.

**Sean Middleton.** Sean is a sustainable development professional who has consulted with communities, cities, private enterprises and nonprofit organizations. He earned his Master of Public Administration in Sustainable development from Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco, California, where he studied under Dr. Deniz Leuenberger and L. Hunter Lovins. He has over fifteen years experience working with community planners and government agencies to design safer and more efficient aircraft flight procedures. After transitioning from active duty Air Force, Sean worked as an operations manager for candidates running for various offices advocating for sustainability and veterans affairs. His core belief is that smart sustainable development is the only way to meet the many challenges we face moving into the future.

**David J. Wells.** "I am presently a member of the Alamo Group ExCom and would like to serve for another term. Since I became a Sierra Club member in 1989, I have served at all levels of the Club. I was a National Board Member, and have served on the ExComs for three State Chapters - Alabama, Virginia, and Texas. As a member of the present Alamo Group ExCom, my activities include Treasurer, Political Committee, and the Conservation Committee."

**Loyd Cortez.** "It is an honor for me to run for another term for Alamo Sierra Club ExCom. As prior Chair and presently Vice Chair, I see our club's goal to keep our membership retention high and to increase our membership enrollment. We need new blood in our ranks to replace our aging membership. We need to bring on board new young faces to pick up our banner to "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet". As always our club will strive for our children to have the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and have a big shade tree to sit under."

**Libby Day.** "I would like to serve on the Executive Committee of the Alamo Group for many reasons. As an Urban Studies and Environmental Studies major from Trinity University, I have the administrative skills and experience necessary to make creating and understanding rules, regulations and bylaws of operation less stressful and more effective. Additionally, my background allows great insights into the relationship of the **(Continue on Page 3)**

## Lion's Field Meetings

There will be no meeting on Wednesday, December 26. The Wednesday, January 23rd meeting will be an informal VIA staff update on alignment of starter streetcar routes at 6:30 pm at 2809 Broadway at Mulberry. Free and open to the public.

### My Sierra Club contribution of:

- \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  
 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support the Sierra Club's advocacy and lobbying efforts.

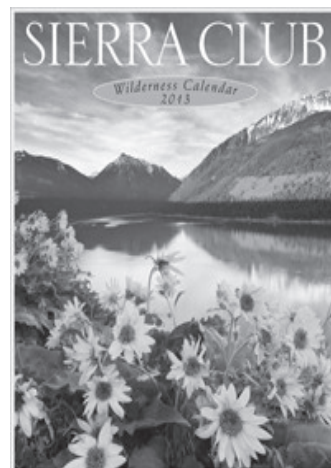
### Executive Committee Ballot

Please vote for three (3) candidates. If you have a joint membership, both you and your spouse may vote.

	Individual	2nd (Joint) Member
Loyd Cortez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libby Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David J Wells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sean Middleton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Cancilla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Support Inner City Outings.

Buy A Calendar. Contact  
 Anne.pearson@att.net



## Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic and How He Got There

Leopold was one of the founders of the American environmental movement and one of the first to understand, and teach, the importance of understanding the interdependence of species. There will be some photos of protected areas in the US that resulted from Leopold's work, including the Grand Canyon and Gila National Forest; some from the Gila Wilderness are just prior to the major fire earlier this year. Presented by Kevin Hartley on Tuesday, January 15, at the Witte Museum, at 6:30 pm.

*We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.* -Aldo Leopold, from a Sand County Almanac

**Approved by Alamo Area Master Naturalists for Advanced Training**

(Continued From Page 3: ExCom Bios)

urban environment to San Antonio's natural resources, and the many ways to champion sustainable development for the region. Issues of particular importance to me include land use, environmental justice, air and water quality, and alternative energies and transportation."

Dan Cancilla. "I am new to the Sierra Club, but my beliefs are commensurate with the fundamental principles the club promotes. I am an architectural professional with an affinity for sustainability and preservation both in the built and natural environments with which we surround ourselves. We have a responsibility to this planet and its inhabitants to ensure that our behaviors are non-destructive toward each other or the earth's precious limited resources. Though we all share this responsibility, the passion and drive required in the role of an Executive Committee member is not universally inherent. My leadership experience, compassion, and energy afford me the qualities needed to strengthen the efforts of the Sierra Club."

# 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 Morrisey	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

**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 Morrisey	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 website address**  
**www.alamosierraclub.org**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

**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 landfills.



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.**