



# THE ALAMO SIERRAN

THE ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER - VOL. 43 No. 2 FEB 2009

## Guest Editorial: Let's Work Together!

With unemployment rising and calls to drill for more and more oil, some of us may wonder if finding a solution to a quickly heating planet is even on the docket. With a nation in peril, we need to move toward renewable energy, and we need to do it now.

That's why Environment Texas has been building a coalition in San Antonio of businesses, labor groups, city officials, and citizens who are urging President Obama and the new Congress to enact a green economic recovery plan that makes critical investments in clean energy and green infrastructure to help rebuild the American economy and protect our environment.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Glass Recycling

As an apartment dweller, it has been very difficult for me to find places to recycle glass. Having saved my glass bottles and jars for the past three months, I was desperate for somewhere to recycle them. I was surprised to learn at the BFI recycling facility on Probandt that it no longer accepts glass. They told me that they cannot dispose of the glass for recycling themselves. So I was very surprised to find that there is a recycling drive currently—until March 28—at UTSA for paper, cardboard, plastics and glass. They were happy to accept my three boxes of it at their office on the UTSA campus. There are also recycling bins around campus for smaller amounts. Their office is hard to find, but

*Continued on Page 2*

## A Word from the Chair by Loyd Cortez

We have finalized our ballot count for the ExCom positions and here are the results. I am happy to welcome our new board members Margaret (Peggy) Day, Wendell Fuqua, and MaryEllen Garcia. I want to thank our outgoing members Jerry Morrissey, Sandy Redmond, and Paula Stone for their dedication and hard work on behalf of our club.

The ExCom may have new faces, but it will continue to pursue the Sierra Club mission: To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.

We had a good turnout of seven members for our social at Azuca Nuevo Latino. The food was a little pricey, but delicious. Afterwards, a couple of us stayed behind to listen to a band playing salsa music. Don't forget about our next Sierra Social at Mad Hatters Tea House on Feb 13th. See this newsletter or our website for more details.

I want to thank all the members who have been to one of our socials. I can only say that it has been a lot of fun to meet and spend time with each of you. Let's all resolve to attend one of the upcoming socials. It's a great way to meet and mingle with your fellow Sierrans.

**General Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 3rd Tuesday each month at the Witte Museum located at 3801 Broadway just south of Hildebrand Ave. Socializing begins at 6:40, program at 7 P.M.**

### February 17, 2009: Protecting Forest Around Latin American Communities

Meredith McGuire of Trinity University will speak on helping our southern neighbors to retain their forest heritage as their communities develop.

### March 17, 2009: Science Award Winners Presentations

Local high school students will give their award-winning oral presentations on an environmental topic from the Junior Academy of Science competition.

## The Chinese Electric Car

While GM, Ford and Chrysler are frittering away valuable time and energy and coming up with a zillion reasons why they just can't make fuel efficient cars, the Chinese have come forth with the F3DM - an electric car that gets 60 miles to a charge. The car, already available in China, will be launched in the U.S. by 2011.

The F3DM (and one hopes the car will have a name change by the time it reaches our shores) is made by the Chinese BYD Corporation, with BYD standing for Build Your Dreams. The car, which will take 7 hours to recharge at an ordinary outlet, will have a small gasoline engine for back-up. When marketed in

*Continued on Page 2*

## Funding Outdoor Recreation

One way to fight the growing incidence of obesity in Texas is to enhance funding for and promotion of outdoor recreation. The state demographer released a study projecting a tripling of the obesity rate in Texas over the next thirty years, with subsequent impacts on medical costs and lost worker productivity. Action this session by the Texas Legislature to provide funds for more access to the outdoors through state parks, local parks, and other nature recreation would help Texas combat that trend.

"Providing more opportunities for outdoor recreation through state and local

*Continued on Page 2*

THE ALAMO SIERRAN is available  
FASTER by e-mail

\* save time and resources \*

Subscribe electronically

Contact Loyd Cortez at [loydcortez@earthlink.net](mailto:loydcortez@earthlink.net)

**Let's Work Together! Continued**

Our strategy is to focus on making investment in clean energy a cornerstone of any economic recovery plan and enacting a set of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies that reduce pollution, create new green jobs, jump-start the economy and reduce global warming pollution. In the coming months, we will be sending a strong message to Reps. Rodriguez and Gonzales to support keeping the package green.

There's never been a more urgent time to change course on energy, and investing in clean energy can rescue our environment and the economy. The 2008 elections have given us a huge opportunity to change course, but without active support from people like you, we could be looking at more failed solutions.

Want to get involved? The best thing you can do is write Letters to the Editor, urging your representative to support the creation of 5 million green jobs, and to take bold steps to move toward 100% renewable energy. You can also come out to the Clean Energy, Bright Future town hall meeting at The Esperanza Center, Saturday, Feb 14th, 922 San Pedro Ave at 2:00pm. Please contact [anna@environmenttexas.org](mailto:anna@environmenttexas.org) (830)275-4002.

Anna Lange, San Antonio Representative  
Environment Texas

**Chinese Electric Car Continued**

this country, the cost should be around \$22,000 - about the same as for the Toyota Prius.

The BYD Corporation has extensive experience with lithium ion batteries, which power the F3DM, in its years of manufacturing them for cell phones and laptop computers.

American billionaire Warren Buffet has an interest in BYD. His Mid-American Energy Company has contracted with BYD to build charging stations for the F3DM.

Toyota meanwhile says it will bring its plug-in Prius to market by the end of this year, with a price tag of about \$30,000. Toyota hopes to sell a fully electric car by 2012 and introduce as many as ten completely new hybrid vehicles within the next decade.

GM has the Chevy Volt which it hopes to market within the next year or two, if the company is still in business then. The Volt is expected to cost around \$40,000, which will take it out of consideration for many American buyers. Chrysler also has electric ambitions, but whether the cars it eventually comes out with will be competitive with others remains to be seen.

The BYD Corporation is now working on a car that will get 250 miles per charge. Stay tuned . . .

**Glass Recycling Continued**

their recycling web site is very user friendly, and you can call them if you have questions. <http://www.utsa.edu/safety/recycling/>

I'm on the UTSA faculty, so it was no problem for me to leave my glass there. It's a stopgap measure, for sure. Let's continue our efforts to get the City to approve recycling for those of us who live in apartments.

MaryEllen Garcia  
(new)ExCom Member

**New Online Publication**

The Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) is "publishing" a new online magazine about climate change and sustainability called Texas Climate News. The magazine is edited by Bill Dawson, former environmental reporter for the Houston Chronicle, who has covered the environment, science, health, and related news for about three decades.

The first issue of Texas Climate News is now available at [www.texasclimatenews.org](http://www.texasclimatenews.org). The feature story for the first issue is "Will like, other storms spur new thinking?" and includes the perspectives of University of Houston history professor Martin Melosi, Rice University sociology professor and Houston Area Survey Director Stephen Klineberg, University of Houston economics professor and Institute for Regional Forecasting Director Barton Smith, and Ken Kramer, Ph.D. in political science.

Texas Climate News also has links to a lot of other useful stories and reports about climate change and sustainability. I hope you'll check it out.

Ken Kramer

**Funding Continued**

parks will produce healthier kids," said Ken Kramer, state director for Sierra Club. "For example, new research published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine was the latest to demonstrate that access to green space for inner-city kids lowered the incidence of childhood obesity. A groundbreaking work by Richard Louv in 2005, Last Child in the Woods, linked the growing absence of nature in the lives of today's kids to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, including the rise in obesity."

"Fortunately," said Kramer, "the Texas Legislature has the opportunity to take a number of steps this session to expand outdoor recreation through funding of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In 2007 the Legislature dramatically increased funding for state parks and local parks grants, but that level of funding was only for the current two-year period, and relatively little money was provided for acquiring new parkland. This session the Legislature needs to make that level of funding permanent by dedication of most of the sporting goods tax revenue to parks and appropriation of those funds for acquisition of more parkland as well as park maintenance and development."

"A relatively small investment of funds now by the Texas Legislature to expand outdoor recreational opportunities will reap huge human and economic rewards in the future by holding down medical costs and increasing worker productivity, while also stimulating our economy in the short run," concluded Kramer.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Spring is just around the corner, and so are our annual tabling events. These are important events, which allow us to engage the general public in conversation about our environment and introduce them to the Sierra Club. The following are tentative events that our local club has been invited to participate in. We just want to give you a heads up so that you can mark your calendars. Because some of the events occur on the same day, we may not be able to participate in all of them; therefore this list is subject to change. As soon as we get more details on the events, we will provide the exact times in the next newsletter and on the Alamo Group website. If you would like to help out and volunteer for any of these

*Continued on Page 3*

events, contact Loyd Cortez at 674-9489 or loydcortez@earthlink.net.

**Earthwise Living Day (Leon Valley):**

Sat, Feb 28

**Basura Bash (river clean up):**

Sat, Mar 7, 2009

**Alamo Area Council of Govt Fresh Air:**

Fri, Apr 3

**Northwest Vista Earth Day:**

Thu, Apr 9

**S. A. Zoo Party for the Planet:**

Sat, Apr 18

**Woodlawn Earth Day:**

Sat, Apr 18

**New Braunfels Earth Day:**

Sat, Apr 25

**City of Seguin Earth Day:**

Sat, Apr 25

**King Williams Parade:**

Sat, Apr 25

**S. A. Zoo International Migratory Bird Day Celebration:**

Sat, May 9

**Solar Fest:**

Sat, May 9



**FRI-SUN, FEB 13-15: GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK CAMPING AND WHOOPING CRANE BOAT TRIP**

Come spend Valentine's Day doing the big bird thing! Camp Fri, Sat, and Sun nights at Goose Island State Park. Arrive Fri p.m. for group potluck. On Sat explore Rockport and do whooping crane boat tour. Bring \$\$ for Sat dinner in Rockport. Sun explore Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (extra fee). Sun dinner individual commissary or local restaurant. Mon a.m. return home. Trip cost of \$50 covers campground and boat tour. For more info/to reserve a spot contact Ellen Clegg, eclegg@els.edu.

**SAT, FEB 28: SALADO CREEK WALK**

Meet at 8 AM at trailhead (Blanco to Longfield to Old Blanco to Voelker Lane). Enjoy SA's newest jewel. Approximately 4.5 miles (round trip), beautifully flat and treed. Accessible and suitable for all ages. DIFFICULTY: easy. COST: Donations to Sierra Club welcome. Leader: Stan Drezek 493-0939.

**WED, MAR 4: OUTINGS COMMITTEE POTLUCK DINNER & MEETING**

Meet at 7 PM at Lee Dodge's house for a potluck dinner followed by the Outings Committee meeting. You are invited to attend even if you are not a member of the committee. Contact Lee Dodge for details, LSG999@earthlink.net or 275-3355.

**SUN, MAR 8: MEDINA RIVER DAY HIKE (DOG FRIENDLY)**

Enjoy an early spring hike along the Medina River. Start at 9 AM at the Medina River Natural Area (15980 Highway 16S which is about 4 mi. S of Loop 410). We will look for early spring flowers and birds along a newly open 3.3 mile hard surfaced trail (6.6 mile RT). Easy to moderate hike. Donations accepted. Contact Jerry Morrissey, 210-382-2614 or Stan Drezek, 210-493-0939 for additional information.

**SAT, MAR 14: CANYON LAKE GORGE TRIP**

A lecture/tour of Canyon Lake Gorge with the Sierra Club and the Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society (GPS) guide and docents, weather permitting. Hike from 9:00 AM - noon, 1.5 miles one-way downhill along the gorge. It is moderately difficult with slippery conditions going down limestone layers. Cost \$10 per person, cash or check only for the GPS. A donation to the Sierra Club is also requested. Pre-registration and confirmation is required; maximum for the tour is 18. Contact: Christine Anderson, Sierra Club leader, for hike sign-up and waiver form, GPS requirements, carpooling, and parking information, at 210-838-1952 or anchorpt11@yahoo.com. Optional lunch at nearby restaurant following outing - discuss as part of carpool arrangements.

**SAT, MAR 21: FRIEDRICH PARK HIKE**

Meet at 8:00 AM in the Friedrich Park parking lot (21395 Milsa St) and walk the most beautiful trails: Main Loop, Vista Loop, Fern Dell, Juniper Barrens, and Water Trail. This will be about a 3-hour walk, with some short sections being steep and slippery. DIFFICULTY: moderate. Donations to Sierra Club encouraged. Leader: Stan Drezek 493-0939.

**SUN, MAR 29. MISSION TRAIL BIKE RIDE**

This bike ride is along paved trails and roads that are along the San Antonio River and that lead from mission to mission in the SE part of San Antonio. We may stop to take quick

walks through some of the missions along the way. Planned distance is 15 miles round-trip, depending on participants. Pace will be "no riders left behind." Minimum age is 12. Helmets are required. Be ready to ride by 8:30 AM in the grass parking lot southeast of the paved parking lot in front of Mission Concepcion, 807 Mission Road. DIFFICULTY: moderate. Donations accepted. Contact leader Lee Dodge, LSG999@earthlink.net or 647-0216 as start times might change.

**SAT, APR 4. LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA DAY HIKE**

This might be a good time to catch the Texas mountain laurel in bloom along the mesa on the East Trail at Lost Maples. Meet at 8:15 AM in the parking lot that includes a Blockbuster Video just outside Loop 1604 on Bandera Rd. on the right hand side, 11820 Bandera Rd., to carpool. You can also meet us at the ranger station at the entrance to the park at 9:50 AM. This will be about a 5-mile hike taking about 4 1/2-hours (including lunch), with about 3 hours of driving (round trip) from the carpool spot. Bring water, lunch, and hiking boots. DIFFICULTY: moderate. COST: Park fees plus contribution to Sierra Club. Register with leaders: Lee Dodge, LSG999@earthlink.net or 275-3355 or Terry Platt, taplatt@earthlink.net.

**SAT, APR 11. LEON CREEK DAY HIKE (DOG FRIENDLY)**

Meet at 8:45 AM at Bamberger Nature Park (122401 Babcock Road) to enjoy the spring wildflowers along Leon Creek. We will walk about 3 hours along the creek and its banks. DIFFICULTY: moderate. Hiking boots recommended. Donations to the Sierra Club accepted. Contact Jerry Morrissey at jlmorrissey@aol.com for further details.

**Sierra Socials**

(Contact Loyd Cortez 674-9489 or loydcortez@earthlink.net if planning to attend.)

**FEB 13, MAD HATTERS TEA HOUSE, 320 BEAUREGARD, 6-8 PM**

Come join us for a good cup of soup and salad or sandwich.

**MAR 13, BROADWAY 50/50, 5050 BROADWAY, 6-8 PM**

New place to check out that is known for its burgers.

# MEETING DATES AND CONTACT INFO

General Meeting: .....	3rd Tuesday 7 p.m. ....	Jerry Morrissey .....	497-5470
Executive Committee Meeting: .....	3rd Friday, 7 p.m. ....	Loyd Cortez .....	674-9489
Newsletter Submissions: .....		Fred Wills .....	fredwills@att.net
Political Committee Meeting: .....	2nd Thursday, 7 p.m. ....	Russell Seal .....	289-9008
Newsletter Mail Party: .....	2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. ....	Jim Stewart .....	692-0727
Outings Committee Meeting: .....	1st Wednesday every 2 months, 7 p.m. ....	Lee Dodge .....	647-0216
Conservation Committee Meeting: .....	1st Thursday, 7 p.m. ....	L. Van Coppenolle .....	492-4620

## ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Loyd Cortez .....	Chair Person .....	674-9489
Ellen Clegg .....	Secretary .....	283-5045
Margaret (Peggy) Day .....		829-5632
Wendell Fuqua .....		373-0748
Jane Ward .....		829-5575
Hector Gonzalez .....		226-6069
Mary Ellen Garcia .....		344-1581
Fred Wills .....		673-9566
Scott Wolfe .....		724-2707
Sharon Dukes (non voting) Treasurer .....		828-3721

### ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

Programs .....	Eloise Stoker .....	828-0919
Fundraising .....	Paula Stone .....	393-7351
Publicity .....	Teresa Ronquillo .....	844-8720
Mailings .....	Jim Stewart .....	692-0727
Newsletter .....	Fred Wills .....	673-9566
Website .....	Richard Alles .....	494-2088

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Outings Chair .....	Lee Dodge .....	647-0216
Political Committee .....	Russell Seal .....	289-9008
Outreach & Education .....	Carolyn Wells .....	271-0640

### CONSERVATION CONTACTS

Conservation Chair .....	L. Van Coppenolle .....	492-4620
Assistant Chair .....	R. Carroll-Bradd .....	216-6125
Endangered Species .....	Fred Wills .....	673-9566
Fluoridation .....	L. Van Coppenolle .....	492-4620
Organic Gardening .....	Dave Klar .....	495-2148
Tree Conservation .....	Richard Alles .....	494-2088
Volunteer Coordinator .....	Jerry Morrissey .....	497-5470
Water Issues .....	Jerry Morrissey .....	497-5470

### U.S. CONGRESSPERSONS

Charlie Gonzalez (210) 472-6195  
Lamar Smith (210) 821-5024  
Henry Cuellar (210) 271-2851  
Ciro Rodriguez (210) 922-1874

### CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Phil Hardberger; 207-7060;	mayor@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 1: Mary Alice P. Cisneros; 207-7279;	district1@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 2: Sheila McNeil; 207-7278;	district2@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 3: Jennifer V. Ramos; 207-7064;	district3@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 4: Phillip A. Cortez; 207-7281;	district4@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 5: Lourdes Galvan; 207-7043;	district5@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 6: Delicia Herrera; 207-7065;	district6@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 7: Justin Rodriguez; 207-7044;	district7@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 8: Diane G. Cibrian; 207-7086;	district8@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 9: Louis E. Rowe; 207-7325;	district9@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 10: John G. Clamp; 207-7276;	district10@sanantonio.gov

The Alamo Sierran published monthly (except July) 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 \$10.00/year. Periodical postage paid at San Antonio, Texas. Publication No. 018475

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sierra Club Member Services, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322 or email to [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

*Alamo Group website address*  
[www.alamosierraclub.org](http://www.alamosierraclub.org)

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

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

PERIODICAL

## Membership

**Yes**, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard  Visa Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

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

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.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

F94Q **W 1913** -1 **SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892  
**Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

## Join Online!

*Join online today and receive a free Expedition Pack! Just go to our website at <http://alamosierraclub.org> and click*

**Join the Sierra Club**

**Travel and Outdoor Outfitters**  
since 1970

-Climbing, Camping & Expedition Gear  
-Durable Clothing and Footwear  
-Loggins, Packs  
-Travel and Hiking Guides  
-Beautiful & Unusual Gifts and Toys

**Whole Earth Provision Company**  
ALAMO QUARRY MARKET  
255 East Base, 210-629-8888  
[www.WholeEarthProvision.com](http://www.WholeEarthProvision.com)