

## ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

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

### Tues., June 19: Solar Energy

Lanny Sinkin of Solar San Antonio. See article for details of program.

### Tues., July 17: Annual Pot Luck Party.

Join us for a meal and poetry reading. Don't forget to bring your favorite dish to share. See article.

### Tues., Aug 21: SARA on Low Impact Development (Rain gardens and more)

## SIERRA SOCIALS

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

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

**Fri., Jul 27:** Chris Madrid's, 1900 Blanco, 6-8 PM.

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

# The Alamo Sierran

## The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 6 JUNE-JULY 2012



## A Word from the Alamo Group Chair

### By Margaret "Peggy" Day

For the first time ever, the Alamo Group has won a National Sierra Club award: the 2012 Special Achievement Award which recognizes a single act of particular importance to the Club. Our energy campaign, summarized in my April "Word," won us the award. As Chair, I will be honored to accept this award for our Group at an August 4 celebration in San Francisco.

We have achieved this distinction only because a lot of people worked very hard over a number of years to change our energy paradigm.

Tom Dukes and Jerry Morrissey initiated energy policy recommendations. Jerry later led Mayor Phil Hardberger to sign onto the Mayors' Climate Change Agreement. Mobi Warren led Mayor Julian Castro to sign the Climate Change Awareness Month proclamation. Loretta Van Coppenolle spent endless days at City Hall and CPS Energy meetings providing energy reports and expert contacts that led to trust and better communication. She and Barbara McMillin organized 32 speaker programs on energy issues.

Many leaders contributed to 90 energy-related articles for our newsletter from 2008 to 2012, with more commentaries and letters to the editor in other media. Karen Seal filed a lawsuit with a ratepayers group over the STP nuclear expansion that challenged CPS Energy's secrecy. Bill

and Lanny Sinkin rallied solar opportunities. Russell Seal continually reminded the city, "We did it with water. We can do it with energy." A pharmacist, he repeated loudly and often, "I sell too many Xopenex inhalers on Ozone Action days." The early shutdown of "Dirty Deely" would not be happening without the commitment of Charles English and the Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association.

Tom "Smitty" Smith, Director of Texas' Public Citizen, and Karen Hadden, Director of Sustainable Energy and Economic Development, were key leaders and mentors in our energy campaign.

Our energy allies have also included Energia Mia, Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, Citizens Organized for Public Service, Northside Neighborhoods for Organized Development, Oblate Seminary, Alliance for a Clean Texas, SA Tree Coalition, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, Texas Drought Project, Build SA Green, Solar San Antonio, Sustainable SA, Balcones Chapter of the US Green Builders Society, AIA's Committee on the Environment, Matagorda County Coalition for Nuclear Industry Accountability, 350.org, Environment Texas, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, and Bexar Audubon, among others. Several local journalists also kept our issues front and center.

Many enlightened public servants helped our cause. Ex-Mayor Hardberger and his Chief of Staff, Larry Zinn, gave us Mission Verde and SA's Green Jobs Committee. Current Mayor Castro's goal is to transform San Antonio into a Top Ten Green City. CPS Energy and VIA Boards gave us Doyle BENEBY and Keith Parker to head those agencies. These leaders are on track to transform this area as an energy model for the rest of the nation.

The 2012 Special Achievement Award is for San Antonio. We are recognized as a rising star nationally. San Antonio was slow to start but has turned on to the path of sustainability, and the rest of the nation can watch and learn from us.

## No July Newsletter

Please note that this newsletter is a June-July edition. You will not receive a July newsletter and there will be no speaker program at our General Meeting at the Witte in July—it's our annual pot luck dinner!

## Annual 2012 Fund Appeal

It's that time again....our annual conservation fund appeal. One of the major expenses for your local club is the monthly newsletter.

Much of the environmental work we do entails some cost, which is often borne by those of us who

also volunteer our time to administrate and act on conservation issues.

We have contributed to local projects and plans for sustainability including protections for wildlife, water and air quality,

clean energy, education, land use, environment, transportation, health, and much more.

We always need funds for fees,

*(Continued on 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/](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, July 14th: Hike the Canyon**

Contact Sierra Club co-leader Terry Platt, (210) 69S5-9570, if you require additional information.

**Saturday, August 11th: Hike the Canyon**

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

**Saturday, September 22nd: 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.

**Trees and Drought**

The Alamo Sierra Club is hosting a free and open to the public presentation by Michael Nentwich, City Forester, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. Due to the projections for an extended drought, he will discuss new information about trees and how they handle drought conditions. Presentation is on Wednesday, July 25, 6:30 pm, at Lions Field Adult Center on Broadway at Mulberry.

**Resource Guide to Natural Areas Now Available On-line**

Have we got a Resource Guide for you! A group of Master Naturalists and area experts including some Alamo Group of the Sierra Club members have co-authored a 16 piece Resource Guide.

You can find it at <http://txmn.org/alamo/files/2012/05/PHPGuide050512.pdf> , or go to it by selecting "PHP Brochure" on the main menu of the Alamo Area Master Naturalist website. The top link takes you to a pdf of the full 35-page guide. You can explore the table of contents; selecting any of the 16 choices brings you to that two-page section of the guide. Each piece is about 550 words and has two to eight photos illustrating the content.

Each piece (originally a Talking Point along the trail) explores a particular tree (e.g. Kidneywood), area of interest (e.g Birds of PHP), or ecological topic (e.g. Yucca and the Yucca Moth). The points are written with the general public in mind, and are illustrated.

The Resource Guide originally was meant to be a guide to the Oak Loop Trail of Phil Hardberger Park West. In the process of developing the guide, we decided to expand it to be a more general guide, relevant to our local Natural Areas and ever expanding to include material from the ongoing presentations under the auspices of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists. Currently additional pieces are being developed on Ethnobotany, Grasses, Agarita, the North Salado Riparian Area, PHP a Cultivated Wild, and Insects of PHP.

This Resource Guide could not have been produced without the active participation of many Master Naturalists and benefits from being a joint project of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists, Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, and the Sierra Club.

If you have any questions about the guide or ideas for new pieces including one you might be will to write please contact Stan Drezek (493-0939 or [stanwendre@gmail.com](mailto:stanwendre@gmail.com) ). Master Naturalists writing pieces for the Resource Guide are approved for Volunteer Service Hours by AAMN.

## Film *The Greenest Building*

The Alamo Sierra Club is hosting a free and open to the public presenta-

tion on Wednesday, June 27, at Lions Field Adult Center on Broadway at Mulberry, at 6:30 pm. The documentary *The Greenest Building* will be shown. This excellent and informative

film discusses the social, environmental, and economic importance of renovation and adaptive reuse of existing structures.

## Mission Critical: Modern Fuels for a Modern Military

**By Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D)**

Over my strong objection during the recent consideration of an annual spending bill, the House Republicans approved an amendment that would bar the use of funds to enforce a section of the bipartisan 2007 Energy Independence Security Act that prohibits federal agencies from entering into long-term contracts for transportation fuels that are more polluting than conventional gasoline. This is exactly the wrong type of energy policy to pursue.

### Opposing Coal to Liquids tax subsidy

I have long fought hard against the wasteful and environmentally damaging

"Coal to Liquids" tax subsidy. In December 2010, I wrote a letter to then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer expressing my adamant opposition to this subsidy. As I noted in the letter, over its lifecycle, liquid coal is responsible for nearly twice the greenhouse gas pollution as conventional fuels. Furthermore, encouraging this fuel would only worsen the damage that coal mining wreaks upon ecosystems and communities.

### Republicans in Congress should follow our military's lead:

Earlier this year, the Pentagon announced new clean energy initiatives. Here in Texas, the Joint Base San Antonio Sustainable Energy

Innovation Center is working to incorporate such clean energy technology into the day-to-day operations of our local military installations. The national security impact of our dependence on fossil fuels is very real, and is just one more reason why we should pursue a clean, renewable energy future.

*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 Sierra Club's John Muir Award and the Texas League of Conservation Voters inaugural Environmental Champion Award.*

## Thinking about Going Solar?

Lanny Sinkin, Executive Director of Solar San Antonio, will present information about the Bring Solar Home Campaign. This Campaign helps home owners and business owners "go solar." The Campaign provides three free estimates to potential solar adopters and information about rebates, tax credits, and financing. Lanny will also provide an overview of current energy strategy in San Antonio and national energy policy. A homeowner who has adopted solar will share experiences and results. CAM Solar will provide a demonstration of solar technology.

## July Pot Luck Party Invitation

Join us for a meal and also get to meet and greet with your fellow members. Bring your favorite dish. Your club will provide ice tea, and ice. So bring your pot luck dish to share and be prepared to enjoy the evening with good friends and good food.

Many thanks to Mobi Warren because the evening will also be a celebration of poetry featuring San Antonio Poet Laurate Carmen Tafolla and Bryce Milligan, owner of Wings Press. Both are strong advocates for the environment.

## Low Impact Development

Karen Bishop, Leader of the Sustainable Watersheds Implementation Program at the San Antonio River Authority, will discuss Low Impact Development, which involves new concepts to capture storm water on residential and commercial sites..

*(Continued from Page 1)*

food and materials. We shall also continue to use all the resources available to us to push our elected officials and leaders to campaign the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources like geothermal, solar and wind. Please help us to continue these educational,

fact gathering, and advocacy efforts.

If you can not give \$5, \$10, or \$20 dollars, then consider donating \$1 dollar. If each member were to just give \$1 dollar, then we could raise about \$2000. So dig into your pockets and make this happen. With your help and financial support, together we can

see that our children will never have to worry about not having clean water to drink, clean air to breathe, and a big shade tree to set under.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your donations and make your check payable to Alamo Group of the Sierra Club or Alamo 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., 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
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

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**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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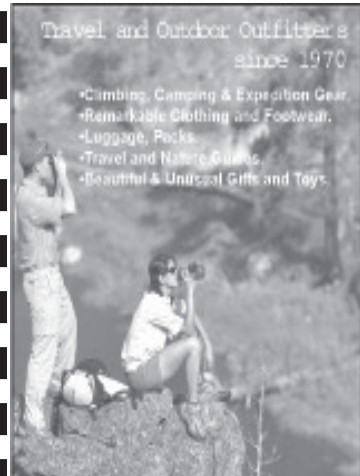
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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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Senior	<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) F94Q W19131

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



**Whole Earth Provision Company**  
 ALAMO CLARRY MARKET  
 255 East Basin, 210-520-8888  
[www.WholeEarthProvision.com](http://www.WholeEarthProvision.com)

**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, Texas, Telephone 520-5700 for our nominal newsletter cost