

## ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

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

### Tues., Nov. 15: Government Canyon SNA

History, goals, and new happenings of Government Canyon State Natural Area will be presented by John Koepke. Particular attention will be placed upon the goals of a natural area as opposed to a state park. The program is approved for one hour of Advanced Training by Alamo Area Master Naturalists.

### Tues., Dec. 13: Our Annual Holiday Party

Our annual Alamo Group Holiday Party will be held at the Lions Field clubhouse, Mulberry and Broadway. It's a busy time of year, so reserve the date, and please note that this event is NOT held at the Witte Museum.

## SIERRA SOCIALS

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

**Nov-Dec:** Because of the holidays, we will not have a social event during these months.

# The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 10

NOVEMBER 2011



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

## Apollo Alliance Promotes Green Jobs Through Business, Labor, Communities

The Sierra Club has joined with organized labor and with business and community groups in Texas to promote clean energy and related job growth. This "green-collar" organization is called the Texas BlueGreen Apollo Alliance, and its state coordinator, David Cortez, briefed Alamo Group members on the Alliance's goals at our monthly meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 18, at the Witte Museum.

"The Alliance seeks a just and rapid transition to a clean energy economy," Cortez said. "Further, it seeks to devise and promote sound policies aimed at sparking a clean energy rush to Texas. We want to help create a new generation of high-wage, family supporting jobs in Texas."

The Alliance comprises a Labor Team, a Business Team, a Community Team, and an Environmental Team. Included on the Environmental Team are repre-

sentatives of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and of the environmental groups Public Citizen and Environment Texas.

Together, the teams have a goal of building pathways out of poverty and into careers in a clean energy economy, Cortez said. The Labor Team, in particular, is focused on developing green jobs, which would include environmentally friendly employment in manufacturing, construction, the electrical trades, and communications.

To create such jobs, Cortez said, the Alliance will seek to remove barriers to the growth of on-site solar and other distributed renewable energies, and to promote energy saving technologies and energy efficiency upgrades. Further, Cortez said, the Alliance will promote "the use of and infrastructure for

electric and advanced fuel vehicles and trains."

To make all this happen, Cortez said, the Alliance needs to "engage officials and rulemakers" to demand progressive reforms based on universal values: good jobs with living wages, a clean and healthy environment, and

## Alamo Group ExCom Seeks Candidates

Each January we elect members to serve three-year terms on the Executive Committee (ExCom). The Committee conducts Alamo Group business. Would you or someone you know like to serve on the ExCom? Please submit a recommendation or your nomination with a 100 word statement of why you would like to serve. Deadline is Nov. 20. Contact Dave Wells (210-271-0640 or email [dwells1315@yahoo.com](mailto:dwells1315@yahoo.com)).



Casa Verde at the city's Mission Verde Center runs on solar power and serves as a training center for green technology. The Center, located at 1700 Tampico (the former Cooper Middle School) showcases how investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy can create jobs and stimulate economic growth within a sustainable future. For more information call the city's Office of Environmental Policy.

*“Attendees at the Festival received tips on how to live a greener life with a smaller carbon footprint.”*



*The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club brought the club message to the Living Green Festival, Sat., Oct. 15, at Olmos Basin Park. Left to right are Ellen and Stacy Berfein, Natalie Gernsbacher, and Loretta Van Coppenolle. Attendees at the Festival received tips on how to live a greener life with a smaller carbon footprint. Areas covered included organic gardening, healthy foods, and alternative power sources. This festival is sponsored by CPS Energy and The Parks Foundation*

## Drought, Fires Result of “Loaded Dice” Effect?

By U.S. Representative  
Lloyd Doggett

The Moving Planet climate change awareness event in September could not have been timelier and I commend everyone involved. Nationally we have started taking steps to curb climate change, but we have a lot of catching up to do.

This year in Texas holds the dubious distinction of having the worst single-year drought, the most destructive wildfire, and the hottest summer temperatures ever recorded anywhere in the U.S. Hesitant to attribute any single weather event to climate change, scientists are fond of saying that climate change can “load the dice” and make extreme weather more likely to occur. We are looking at a 21<sup>st</sup> century in which extreme may be the new normal.

As Central Texas reeled from the impact of the wildfire, I helped families suddenly forced to rebuild their lives to secure assistance from FEMA. It is time we realized that we do not need to look halfway around the world to find climate refugees.

Meanwhile, the Republicans in Congress are busy dismantling environmental protections. They claim that they are saving jobs but the true effect of these bills would be to derail the pollution standards that save lives. I will not rest in the fight.

### Items Sought for Auction

For the silent auction at our Dec. 13 party, please consider offering professional services, a vacation place, a trip, products or gift certificates from your business, etc. We hope to list auction gifts on our website in December. If you can donate or help raise contributions, contact Peggy Day (829-5632).

## Outings: GCSNA Winter Hikes

**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.

### Sat., Dec. 10: Hike the Canyon

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 will range from 4 to 7 miles depending on group.

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.

### Sat., Jan. 14: Hike the Canyon

See Dec. 10 outing.

### Sat., Feb. 11: Hike the Canyon

See Dec. 10 outing. But, contact Sierra Club co-leader Chris Anderson, (210) 838-1952, if you require additional information.

### Sat., Mar. 10: Hike the Canyon

See Dec. 10 outing. But, Contact Sierra Club co-leader Terry Platt (210) 695-9570 if you require additional information.

# A Word from the Alamo Group Chair

By Margaret "Peggy" Day

In the Alamo region, this year's record heat and drought is another reminder of how far we have come in confronting our persistent water issues. San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) successful water management and many related state legislative initiatives would not be possible without the efforts of the Sierrans and our water allies.

In these battles there is general agreement that the catalyst that finally led to two decades of beneficial changes was the lawsuit filed in federal court here in 1991 by the Lone Star Sierra Club, under the Endangered Species Act. The court's message was clear: make sounder management decisions locally or the Federal Government would do it for us. The environmental deterioration, obsolete and fragmented water management, and lack of resource conservation had to change and did.

Water management became much more integrated and conservation-focused. In 1992 a patchwork of water management entities were united under SAWS. Then the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), composed of elected citizens, was created by the legislature to integrate regional water planning. Citizen

water protection groups arose such as the Greater Edward's Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) and Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas (AGUA). SAWS, with the backing of city government, formed a series of citizen committees and working groups on short and long-term water policy, community conservation, action plans, and implementation.

Alamo Sierrans and our partners, such as Bexar Audubon, GEAA, and AGUA, among others, help design and serve on these committees and water resource organizations. Our citizen input leads to more responsive management and produces numerous important outcomes in legislation, public education, conservation, and water augmentation, storage, quality, and reuse.

Many were upset by the 1991 lawsuit but now see the trial was a godsend. Per capita water use dropped 42% from 1984 to 2009 despite a 62% increase in population. We have weathered several droughts. San Antonio businessmen and elected officials now tout our record and bask in the widespread recognition and economic opportunities our leadership on water has brought to the city.

However, despite record conservation and improved management, the

issue raised twenty years earlier in the endangered species lawsuit remains unresolved due to rising water demand. If the EAA fails to implement its current plan, which adds user fees, the US Fish and Wildlife Service may resort to resolving the issue for us.

Another threat to local autonomy is SAWS' failure to invest in sewage infrastructure. We continually violate public safety standards for water quality due to hundreds of sewage spills from clogged, broken, or aged sewage infrastructure. It is expected that this may cost ratepayers hundreds of millions or even a billion dollars to correct.

SAWS has other unresolved, costly issues to face. These include unsustainable proposals, such as energy intensive water desalination and the pressure of relentless growth in new water service. Our continued rapid sprawl threatens regional carrying capacity and our ability to meet resource needs.

We will need everyone to contribute their voice to be heard over moneyed and vested interests and make sense of this complexity. Alamo Sierrans recently arranged to meet with SAWS on the current situation and planned 14.3% rate increase. If you are interested in helping on this or another issue please contact me.

**“SAWS’ successful water management and many related state legislative initiatives would not be possible without the efforts of the Sierrans and our water allies.”**

## Sierra Club Supports Occupy Wall Street Protest Movement

*(The following is a statement of the Sierra Club's official position on the burgeoning Occupy Wall Street movement.)*

For the past several weeks Occupy Wall Street protesters have peacefully held vigil in support of a broad vision for financial, political, and environmental reform in America. A diverse group of concerned citizens have helped this grassroots protest spread to more than 1,400 events nationwide.

Many Sierra Club staff and volunteer leaders have participated in and/or lent support to these demonstrations standing up for the end to corporate greed. The demands and values of the protesters are very much in line

with Sierra Club's strategic priority of confronting the power of the coal and oil industries.

Since the founding of our republic, ordinary citizens have accomplished extraordinary things by joining together to express their convictions. It is our heritage to speak truth to power, and our nation's historic respect for peaceful dissent has helped the United States enact civil rights legislation, promote human rights internationally, and end unjust wars.

The Sierra Club affirms its support for the exercise of political expression through the Occupy Wall Street protests. Corpora-

tions that pollute our air, land and water, that put greed ahead of community good, public health and the nation's economic well-being must be held fully accountable. We stand with Occupy Wall Street protesters in saying "enough."

We want to make clear to all Sierra Club staff and volunteers that you are authorized to participate in lawful and peaceful Occupy Wall Street protests in the name of the Sierra Club.

We will shortly be providing further message guidance and support materials to help the Sierra Club add its voice to this powerful choir.

**“(All Sierra Club members) are authorized to participate in lawful and peaceful Occupy Wall Street protests in the name 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, 8th of each month	Wendell Fuqua	734-8281
Political Committee Mtg.	2d Thursday, 7 p.m.	Dave Wells	271-0640
Newsletter Mail Party	2d Tuesday, 7 p.m.		
Outings Committee Mtg.	1st Wed., every odd month., 7 p.m.	Jerry Morrisey	382-2614
Conservation Committee Mtg.	1st Thursday, 7 p.m.	Randy Carroll-Bradd	216-6125

**Alamo Group of the Sierra Club  
Executive Committee Officers & Members**

Margaret (Peggy) Day, Chair Person	829-5632
Loyd Cortez, Vice Chair Person	674-9489
Mary Ellen Garcia, Secretary	344-1581
Wendell Fuqua	734-8281
Hector Gonzalez	226-6069
Dave Wells	271-0640
Vacant	
Karen Dalglish Seal	226-8101
Sharon Dukes (non voting), Treasurer	828-3721

**Administrative Contacts**

Programs	Barbara McMillin	734-4170
Fundraising	Vacant	
Publicity	Vacant	
Mailings	Vacant	
Membership	Vacant	
Newsletter	Wendell Fuqua	734-8281
Website	Richard Alles	494-2088

**Committee Contacts**

Outings Co-Chairs	Jerry Morrisey	382-2614
	Stan Drezek	493-0939
Political	Dave Wells	271-0640
Outreach & Education	Carolyn Wells	271-0640

**Conservation Contacts**

Conservation Chair	Randy Carroll-Bradd	216-6125
Assistant Chair	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Endangered Species	Fred Wills	673-9566
Flouridation	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Organic Gardening	Dave Klar	485-6880
Recycling	Carolyn Wells	271-0640
Tree Conservation	Richard Alles	494-2088
Volunteer Coord.	Vacant	
Water Issues	Jerry Morrisey	382-2614

---

**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: Jennifer Ramos	207-7064
Dist. 4: Rey Saldana	207-7281
Dist. 5: David Medina, Jr.	207-7043
Dist. 6: Ray Lopez	207-7065
Dist. 7: Justin Rodriguez	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 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 per 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 e-mail to address.changes@sierraclub.org

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

**PERIODICAL**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**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/)

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) **F94Q W** 1

**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

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

Travel and Outdoor Outfitters  
since 1970

- Climbing, Camping & Expedition Gear
- Rain- & Wind-Resistant Clothing and Footwear
- Luggage, Packs
- Travel and Nature Guides
- Beautiful & Unique Gifts and Toys

**Whole Earth Provision Company**  
 ALAMO QUARRY MARKET  
 255 East Base, 210-829-8888  
[www.WholeEarthProvision.com](http://www.WholeEarthProvision.com)