



Word from the Group Chair

Another busy year of changes and accomplishments is coming to a close. It is time to give thanks and celebrate.

On behalf of the Group, I would like to recognize and thank several volunteer leaders for their valuable

service. Stepping down this year were Loyd Cortez as editor of the Alamo Sierran, Karen Seal as Conservation Committee Chair and ExCom Director, and George Rice as ExCom Director. Meredith McGuire and Terry Burns have assumed the duties of Conservation Committee Co-Chairs, Kevin Hartley is our new newsletter editor, and Amy Abeyta Monkman accepted an appointment to the ExCom.

Our conservation leaders have been juggling a big roster of issues with very welcome assistance from our many partner groups, without whom our jobs would be so much more difficult. Of perennial concern and our special attentions this year were state environmental legislation, education on climate change and solutions, litigation for habitat destruction, air quality under the new EPA standards, protecting the aquifer and water conservation, promoting alternative energy and ensuring fracking comprehensive studies and best practices, minimizing waste and pushing for a plastic bag ordinance, action on alternative transportation, restoring park funding, and reining in sprawl—in particular the Crescent Hills case.

Thanks to Program Chair Barbara McMillin, we have been able to maintain a well received and stimulating mix of educational speakers and movie programs at the Witte Museum and for our second year at Lions Field Center.

Thanks also to Tabling Chair Gay Wright, the Alamo Group has been able to continue our educational outreach by participating in close to two dozen educational fairs.

...To Outings Committee Chair Jerry Morrissey and Ex Co-Chair Stan Drezek for assuring that our outings offerings continue.

...And to our Executive Committee and our other administrative leaders and conservation contacts and all of you who have volunteered in some capacity this year. Special mention goes to key task volunteers: Richard Alles for maintaining our website, Vice Chair Loyd Cortez for his socials and membership accounting, Treasurer and Political Chair Dave Wells, and Lone Star Chapter Alamo Group Representative and Treasurer Hector Gonzalez.

Thank you to our Sierra Club Foundation and semiannual fund appeal donors. With your aid we have been able to help support our Inner City Outings program and the Children's Vegetable Garden at the SA Botanical

Garden, as well cover costs for other educational outreach.

It is time to celebrate. Please come join with us at our biggest event of the year—our holiday fundraising party Tuesday, December 10th. Thanks to ExCom Director Libby Day for her party planning, this year we will be celebrating at The Worm on the River Walk (in the old location of Jim Cullum's The Landing). Enjoy the dazzling downtown lights, a catered buffet (respite from bringing a covered pot luck dish this year), full bar options, and new musical entertainment, all with bus transit and free city parking nearby. We are asking for a modest suggested \$10 cover. There will be many desirable, bargain auction items available to bid on. If you would like to donate an auctionable item please contact me. We hope to see everyone there. Invite your friends, colleagues, and family.

For updates on all events check the Alamo Group website, alamosierraclub.org.

Events

Alamo Group membership meetings

Third Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm at the Witte Museum, 3801 Broadway. Free and open to the public.

No program in December due to the holiday.

Lion's Field events

Fourth Wednesday each month, 6:30 pm, at the Lion's Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway at Mulberry. Free and open to the public.

There will be no Lion's Field events in November and December due to the holidays.

Alamo Group Holiday Party!

December 10 Tuesday, 6-9 pm

Great food, drink, music and silent auction.
See the date entry below for more info.

November 13 Wednesday

Presentation and discussion: The State of Our Atmosphere: Climatologists Explain the Recent IPCC Report, by Gunnar Schade and John Nielson-Gammon, Texas A and M University.

3:30-5 pm, Chapman Graduate Center Auditorium, Trinity University. Here is Trinity's [webpage](#) with directions to Chapman Center.

Dr. Schade is an Associate Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry. Also he has taught about scientific denialism and occasionally contributes to the popular climate science website skepticalscience.com.

Dr. Nielson-Gammon is Regents Professor of

Atmospheric Sciences and State Climatologist. He also writes a blog for the Houston Chronicle called [Climate Abyss](#).

November 19 Tuesday

Membership meeting. Note the item below regarding a presentation before the program.

Program: John Dugan will present best practices in comprehensive planning and why San Antonio needs to do a new plan. John is Director of San Antonio's Department of Planning & Community Development. He will also tell us what will be addressed in our plan and provide current status and funding situation. One of the city's goals, among many to be discussed, is to define the location, character and extent of new town centers and growth centers.

Prior to our program, Mason Walker, a junior at Trinity enrolled in a class on the 19th century British poet John Keats, will speak about using Keats' poetry in particular, as well as poetry in general, to make an aesthetic case for preserving the planet we are lucky to call home. According to Mason, the poetry of today is not as connected to nature, as in Keats' time. Keats' poetry was full of wonder and symmetry.

December 10 Tuesday

Holiday Party and Fundraiser, 6-9 pm. You are cordially invited to an evening of great catered food (no potluck this year), drink, and a silent auction. Proceeds to benefit the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club. Featuring local musician Austin Forrest.

Venue: The Worm Tequila & Mezcal Bar, 123 Losoya St, Riverwalk level (below the Hyatt Regency). Free parking downtown Tuesday in city lots.

\$10 suggested donation. Age 21 minimum please.

For more information see the [social events page](#) on the group's website, and Facebook pages for [Austin](#) and [The Worm Tequila & Mescal Bar](#).

January 21 Tuesday

Membership meeting. Topic to be announced; see the group's [events webpage](#).

January 22 Wednesday

Lion's Field, topic: *Coal Tar Based Pavement Sealants* by Stephen Kale.

Stephen is a member of the San Antonio Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and is leading its effort to persuade the City to prohibit the application of coal tar based pavement sealants. He will explain why the chemicals in these sealants pose unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

Stephen, a registered Professional Engineer (PE), and his family have resided in San Antonio since 2002.

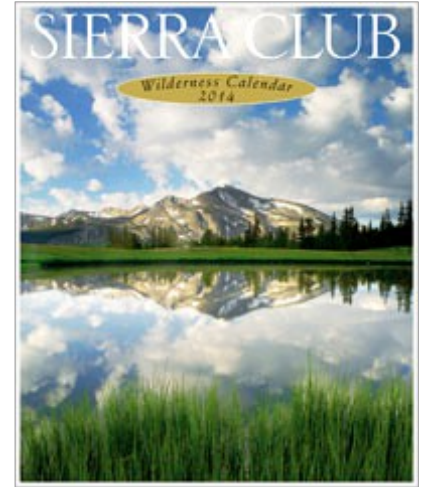
February 22 Wednesday

Lion's Field, topic: Bees, beekeeping and colony collapse disorder, including a film to be announced.

Announcements

2013 Sierra Club Calendars

Support your local Sierra Club Inner City Outings by purchasing your 2014 calendars from us. Anne Pearson will be handling the sale of these beautiful calendars. Contact Anne at 408-6321 or just bring your money to the next membership meeting or the holiday party. Remember, you can't go wrong with a Sierra Club Calendar as a gift.



The engagement calendars are \$15, the wall calendars \$14.

The Alamo Sierran Needs You

Each December we ask you for a little extra money, chiefly to pay for this newsletter. Volunteers write, edit, and publish it, but the printing and mailing are expensive. Despite reducing issues to quarterly print editions, they still cost over \$2,000. The newsletter keeps you posted and gives you a unique environmental perspective on events—the side you're not likely to hear elsewhere. This year we're asking for a contribution of \$10. Your money will be well spent and deeply appreciated.

Please send your donation to Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, PO Box 6443, San Antonio, TX 78209. You can use the fundraising/ballot box to enter your donation. Thanks for your continuing support and environmental activism.

Executive Committee (ExCom) candidate bios

Please send in your vote for our annual election (ballot on pg 3). We have three positions open on our Executive Committee for three year terms. Three candidates for these positions have submitted the following biographies.

Lili Gonzalez

My interest in conservation has grown throughout the years, and I feel serving on the Executive Committee of the Alamo Group will help me help others stay informed and take action especially in the Hispanic community. I have a B.A. in Journalism and an M.A. in Environmental Studies from Texas Tech University. Initially I was interested in making an impact globally, but later realized that it is easier and more realistic to make change in a smaller scale, locally, in hopes of a domino effect.

Amy L. Monkman

Historically, I have not been a joiner, or if I join an organization, I don't get very involved. However, the last five years or so of my life, I have become increasingly committed to action in the environmental protection area. I was privileged to attend an outdoor leadership school in the Wind River Range of Wyoming and in Connecticut as a teenager, and this wilderness experience awakened in me a deep love and appreciation for

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 |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lili Gonzalez | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Amy Monkman | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gay Wright | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Please mail by December 31st to: Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, PO Box 6443, San Antonio TX 78209 -



wilderness. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for about ten years, with a break in there somewhere, and have watched as the predictions of environmental disaster become more and more true. I attended an anti-fracking conference in Dallas last Fall, which included a demonstration against fracking in front of the Texas Legislature. I want to be a part of the struggle - because that is what it is - to preserve our wilderness and develop our human society into a sustainable one which lives in harmony with our natural environment. I think the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club can achieve a lot towards these goals with committed leadership.

Gay Wright

I would like to continue to serve on the ExCom. I am currently serving as the Tabling chairperson. I do fundraising with the holiday party silent auction. I recycle batteries for the Club. I serve on the conservation committee, with emphasis on the plastic bag ordinance-to-be.

I also volunteer with the City's Parks Dept, watering and weeding. I work with Green Spaces Alliance at their community gardens. I am a member of South Texas Farm and Ranch Club and the NE Neighborhood Alliance.

Can you opt out of paper mailings of this newsletter?

Please e-mail Loyd Cortez, loydcortez@earthlink.net, if

you can switch to receiving this newsletter by e-mail instead of US mail. We will save money and reduce our carbon footprint. You will also get the monthly e-newsletter, which may have more current information. You can always access the current and back issues of the newsletter at this [link](#) to the group website.

From [SierraClub.org](#)

Membership

Are you a member? Please [join or renew!](#)

E-mail newsletters

There are nine newsletters available to anyone at this [link](#). In particular, there are e-newsletters [The Insider](#) and the [Daily Ray of Hope](#).

Video Productions

Emmy Award-winning Sierra Club Productions (SCP) develops and produces video projects that reflect the Sierra Club's belief that every person is connected to, inspired by, and responsible for the natural world. SCP also partners with filmmakers to create engagement campaigns around nationally distributed TV and film projects.

Visit our [YouTube Channel](#) to view more of our short videos. Of note are [150 Coal Plants Retired](#) and [2012 Successes](#).

Blogs!

The Club has more than a dozen blogs (on-line discussions) on topics ranging from wildlife to green lifestyles, activism to current events. See [sierraclub.org/blogs](#).

Battery recycling

Don't throw those small batteries in the trash bin where they will end up in our landfills.

Bring them to the monthly general meetings where we will have a container for you to place them in.

Thanks to Gay Wright for coordinating this recycling effort.



Thanks!

...To SA Offset Printing, Inc. 4115 Gardendale, San Antonio, 692-9166 for our nominal newsletter cost.



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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Hector J. Gonzalez, 9/30/2013

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

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SIERRA
CLUB

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club

Website: alamosierraclub.org

The Alamo Group is one of 13 regional groups within the Lone Star (Texas) chapter of the Sierra Club.

National website: sierraclub.org

Executive Committee Officers & Members

Chairperson Margaret (Peggy) Day 829-5632
Vice Chairperson Loyd Cortez 674-9489
Secretary Libby Day 602-568-0308
Treasurer Dave Wells 271-0640
Dan Cancilla 364-6539
Gay Wright 343-0222
Amy Abeyta 915-319-1997

Administrative Contacts

Programs and Publicity
Barbara McMillin 734-4170
The Alamo Sierran newsletter editor
Kevin Hartley kevinh@ktc.com
Website Richard Alles 494-2088
Fundraising, Mailings, Membership open

Committee Contacts

Outings Chair Jerry Morrisey 382-2614
Inner City Outings (ICO)
Anne Pearson 408-6321
Political Dave Wells 271-0640

Conservation Contacts

Conservation Co-chairs Meredith McGuire
830-980-4390, Terry Burns 739-2472
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 Moby Warren 496-4942
Drought Alyssa Burgin 381-4021
Endangered Species Moby Warren 496-4942

Food for thought

It is that range of biodiversity that we must care for - the whole thing - rather than just one or two stars.

-David Attenborough

US Congresspersons

Sen. Lamar Smith 821-5024
Rep. Joaquin Castro 684-6896
Rep. Henry Cuellar 271-2551
Rep. Pete Gallego 512-463-0566
Rep. Lloyd Doggett 866- 916-5921

Mayor

Julian Castro 207-7060

City Council

Dist 1: Diego Bernal 207-7279
Dist 2: Ivy R. Taylor 207-7278
Dist 3: Rebecca J. Viagran 207-7064
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Dist 6: Ray Lopez 207-7065
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Dist 8: Ron Nirenberg 207-7086
Dist 9: vacant
Dist 10: Carlton Soules 207-7276