

## ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

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

### Tues., Oct. 18: Creating Blue-Green Jobs

Learn about the effort to create "blue-green" jobs by Dave Cortez, coordinator of Apollo Alliance. Dave is working with Cyrus Reed of the Lone Star Chapter to build bridges between unions and environmental groups.

### 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.

## SIERRA SOCIALS

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

**Fri., Oct. 28:** Blue Star Brewing Co., 1414 S. Alamo St., Ste. 105, 6-8 p.m.

**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 9

OCTOBER 2011



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

## Driffill Describes River Restoration Project

The restoration of the Mission Reach section of the San Antonio River was the topic at the Alamo Group's monthly meeting Sep. 20 at the Witte Museum. Matthew Driffill, education specialist for the San Antonio River Authority, outlined the massive project that will affect eight miles of the river from above Mission Concepcion south to Mission Espada.

During the last century, much of the river was channelized for flood control, Driffill said, but the channelization did nothing for the river's habitat or its economic,

cultural, or recreational value. The Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project aims to improve all these areas, he added.

Instead of concrete channels, the river's banks will become a mix of open grasslands, tree dotted meadows, and dense forests.

The aquatic health of the river will be improved by restoring a mix of riffles, pools, and runs, Driffill said. Turbulent, fast running riffles add oxygen to the

water and create excellent spawning grounds for fish and insects. Slow moving pools allow sediment to drop out of the water, provide juvenile fish habitat, and help preserve fish stock during droughts. Runs — the major portion of the river — give the river its average flow and depth.

The project will also restore embayments, Driffill said. These are segments of river-bends that form natural, pond-like enclosures in various locations.

Driffill said the river restoration project will result in 300 plus acres of riparian woodland habitat, 100

### Plan Now for the Christmas Party!

Get out your calendars. Our annual Alamo Group Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Lions Field clubhouse, Mulberry and Broadway. It's a busy time of year, so reserve the date.

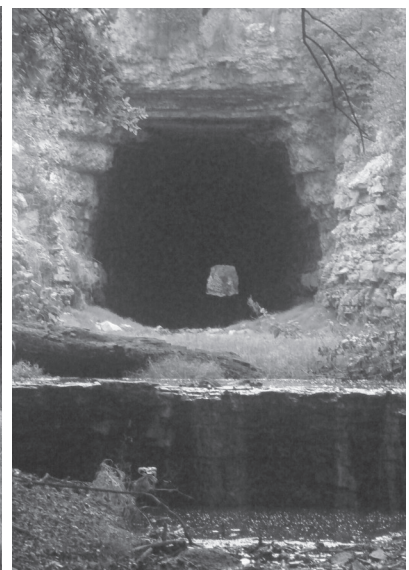
(Story Continued on Page Three)



On Sept 21, 20 Members of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club and the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas enjoyed a memorable evening at the Comfort WMA and Bat Tunnel. Above (L to R) are outing

attendees Linda, Melody, Margie, and Lynda.

Docent Dennis Collins gave a very informative and lively introduction on Chiroptera and at



7:45 p.m., as if on cue the bats emerged for their nightly feeding frenzy. A dramatic Texas rain storm with impressive lightning added a "fireworks finale" to an already exciting evening!

*“Our event was one of thousands...that took place all around the planet on the same day. We’re building a huge grass-roots movement.”*

## Hundreds Celebrate Moving Planet Event At Pearl Brewery

*(R to L from bicycle horn: Club Chair Peggy Day, Michelle Castillo, Loretta Van Coppenolle, Mobi Warren.)*

Neighborhood children walked and biked to the Health Collaborative to celebrate Moving Planet on Saturday, Sep. 24. They learned how Community Gardens and Local Food can reduce our carbon footprint, made solar ovens from pizza boxes, and enjoyed transforming themselves into butterflies and tigers thanks to a gifted face paint artist.

The biggest hit of the day was busting two pinatas in the shape of gas-guzzling Hummers in a symbolic moving beyond fossil fuels.

Eight hundred to 1,000 people participated. The day included informa-



tive and energizing speakers: State Rep Mike Villareal, Texas A & M Climate Scientists Gunnar Schade and Gerald North, and Congressman Lloyd Doggett. Twenty organizations had tables that provided activities and information on ways to move beyond fossil fuels and reduce our carbon footprint including green

building, bike and walk initiatives, e-waste recycling, public transit, designing carbon-neutral neighborhoods, solar energy, and more. Our event was one of thousands of Moving Planet events that took place all around the planet on the same day. We’re building a huge grass-roots movement.

## Club Outings: Local, National Hikes and More

**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.*

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### **Saturday, Oct. 29: Beginner's Walk at Eisenhower Park (Dog Friendly)**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the far left of the natural area parking lot (19339 NW Military) at picnic tables just inside entrance to trails.

Difficulty: easy. Should take about two hours.

Leader: Stan Drezek. Please reserve your place by contacting Wendy Drezek, 493-0939.

### **Saturday, Nov. 12: Hike Government Canyon**

Friends of Government Canyon and the Sierra Club sponsor a jointly-led guided hike on one of the many trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Length of the hike 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). Six dollar entrance fee (\$3 seniors). Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower by 8:15 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure with finish by noon; subject to cancellation. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Sierra Club co-leader and Texas Master Naturalist Stan Drezek (493-0939) if you require additional information.

### **Saturday, Dec. 10: Hike Government Canyon**

See hike dated Nov. 12 for information. Contact Sierra Club co-leader Terry Jermolajevs (830) 980-4183 if you require additional information.

### **National Sierra Club Outings**

Hike and camp in ancient and remote Mongolia; visit the world's largest freshwater wetland in Brazil; explore exotic flora and fauna in the "eighth continent," Madagascar; or choose from a number of trips closer to home including ski/snowshoe, canoe/kayak, and service. Finding the right trip, sponsored by our National Sierra Club, couldn't be easier. Simply visit the Sierra Club homepage to browse the full list, including options for all ages, budgets, and abilities. And don't forget to sign up for the Explorer newsletter for monthly updates on new and featured trips from Sierra Club Outings.

# A Word from the Alamo Group Chair

By Margaret "Peggy" Day

Surrounded by evidence of environmental destruction, some faith groups abandon hope and await the Apocalypse, while others repent and go to work to understand the causes and also to address the human sources.

GreenFaith, Restoring Eden, The Forum on Religion and Ecology, and the UN Environment Programme's Interfaith Partnership for the Environment are just a few examples of organizations born to broaden understanding and action on human-Earth relations. Each of them is a resource clearing house. As a result everywhere the faithful, their congregations, and the larger communities are impacted. Houses of worship are rediscovering their roots in Earth stewardship, greening themselves with certification programs, and banding in partnership on numerous outside environment and justice issues.

Today most of the world's major religions have renewed mandates to care for Creation. These include Unitarians, Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Evangelicals, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Anglican/Episcopalians and Quakers, as well as Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Taoists, and others. These policies are very like those of

environmentalists, minus the scriptural references.

Some fellowships have been slow to rediscover and embrace Earth stewardship and sense disapproval. The Southern Baptist Environment & Climate Initiative acknowledges, "Our cautious response to these issues in the face of mounting evidence may be seen by the world as uncaring, reckless and ill-informed." It is my impression that a few San Antonio faith groups are environmental leaders.

Since 1982, an alliance under Sr. Susan Mika, the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, works for peace and justice by studying a range of sustainability issues in corporate responsibility and using their television programming to communicate them.

The First Universalist Unitarians have many environmental programs and the Unitarian sanctuary was home to the Alamo Sierrans for years. According to Diane Duesterhoeft, about 20% of the 1,100 UU Association members are certified under its Green Sanctuary program and perhaps another 20%, including this congregation, are becoming certified. In addition, First UU's Green Team joins in partnerships such as the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance and many other environ-

mental initiatives and hosts a monthly green book club, environmental movies, speakers, events such as the Climate Justice Panel, and more.

Another standout is Travis Park United Methodist Church with its activist Ministry of Environment and Earth Care. Its environmental task group, Living Green, focuses each week of Lent on a different green practice, who is impacted, and what members can do. They helped Alamo Sierrans with Moving Planet here last month.

San Antonio's Oblate Seminary demonstrates the instrumental role of religious seminaries, institutes, and colleges to renew religious philosophy and action to this task. Sr. Linda Gibler helped start the 2008 Green Seminary Initiative. Its mission is to promote care of Creation—an original, central tenet of Catholic theology. The initiative is also interfaith and ecumenical, broadening bonds between faiths. The Oblate's Father Robert Wright works with Alamo Sierrans to push the greening of CPS Energy.

The faithful lead and swell the ranks of the environmental movement. Is your flock? As our impact grows, maybe even "end time" apocalyptic sects will be moved to take on these redemptive responsibilities. To find denominational environmental info go to: <http://greenfaith.org/> and <http://restoringeden.org/>.

**"The faithful lead and swell the ranks of the environmental movement. Is your flock?"**

## (Cont'd from Page One:)

plus acres of aquatic habitat, and 31 riffles.

The Mission Reach Project will also improve recreational opportunities along the river, Driffill said. Included in the plan are 15 miles of hike and bike trails, 137 picnic tables, nine water-access landings, 89 park benches, five shaded overlooks, and four park pavilions.

The Mission Reach Project also includes a cultural aspect, Driffill said. The plan calls for a number of "portals." These will serve as small, outdoor mini-parks that will make artistic and cultural connections between the river and the missions.

## Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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**"The Mission Reach Project will also improve recreational opportunities along the river."**



# 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

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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: 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: M. A. Cisneros	207-7279

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[www.alamosierraclub.org](http://www.alamosierraclub.org)**

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