

ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

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

Tues., Oct 16:

Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, the State Climatologist, will discuss present and future impacts of climate change on drought.

Tues., Nov 20:

Dr. Richard Tatum, UTSA Architecture professor, on Urban Form: Transit, Complete Streets, and Pedestrian Systems.

Tues., Date Not Set

Holiday Party may be either Dec. 11th or Dec. 18th—Look for date on next newsletter issue.

SIERRA SOCIALS

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

Fri., Oct 26: Candlelight Coffeehouse, 301 N St. Mary's, 6-8 PM.

Nov -- No Social because of Thanksgiving Holidays.

Dec -- No Social because of Christmas Holidays.

The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 9

OCTOBER 2012



Word from Chair

By Margaret (Peggy) Day

San Antonio Water System (SAWS) has drafted a new Conservation and Water Management Plan (through 2039) that raises concerns for Alamo Sierrans. Some issues are procedural, others substantive. The Plan was set to go before SAWS' board on Oct. 3, yet there had been inadequate time for stakeholders to comment, and project details were still unavailable for study. Conservation, the program that made SAWS trusted and famous, appears limited, and costly new water projects are proposed. Club water experts, such as Jerry Morrissey, Ken Kramer, George Rice, and others, met with SAWS in September in order for the Alamo Group to craft a position.

SAWS tried to do a good job of justifying the changes; however, Sierrans are not sanguine about them. Kramer explains, "The most problematic of the proposed revisions to the Water Management Plan are the so-called 'regional water supply projects' that would transport groundwater over long distances at probably substantial costs, with potential adverse impacts in their region of origin (including the potential endangered species issues and spring flow impacts of at least one of those projects). Most of these projects are not 'turn-key' operations at this point — they are not necessarily permitted, not all regulatory hurdles have been met, and the costs are not certain. Pursuing one or more of these projects may have major impacts on water rates and certainly undermine the conservation and drought management approach traditionally taken by SAWS." Rice sums it up adding, "We will all pay substantially higher water bills so some can water lawns during droughts".

On conservation, Morrissey notes, "SAWS current efforts may have peaked and will not drive the per capita consumption down much in the future unless there are more effective regulations and sufficient funds for incentives to reduce landscape usage and to continue year round water conservation efforts". We feel that future water rates can be kept lower by expanding conservation. Unfortunately SAWS still allocates less funding for conservation water than for new water, conservation is only voluntary, and many local regulations still promote water waste. SAWS and City and County leaders must take brave steps to enact new measures that will enhance our water conservation toolkit. We especially need methods to insure water-efficient land uses and scapes.

The issue boils down to an environmental justice case—the more affluent use water more freely, and many do not adopt conservation measures, especially water wise landscapes, although they can most afford them. A SAWS study also showed those opposed to drought restrictions tend to be more affluent. All this forces pressure on this vital resource—fewer restrictions, less availability, and higher procurement costs. This leads to sacrifice and resentment that cascades down the rate-payer income scale. Opting for new water fuels more growth, and more conventional, adding to other resources pressures and cost increases.

Alamo Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club National Political Committee endorse the following candidates for San Antonio and Bexar County Congressional Districts:

Pete Gallego, District 23 Lloyd Doggett, District 35 Joaquin Castro, District 20

For additional questions or information on how you can get involved, please contact Dave Wells, the Alamo Group Political Chair at 210-271-0640

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/

Outings: Hikes That Lead Us Into Winter

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.

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 7:45 am for an 8:00 am departure with finish by noon; subject to cancellation. Difficulty: Moderate (some steep/rocky sections).

Saturday, November 10th: Hike the Canyon

Experience the beauty of this San Antonio area gem and its trail system. 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 of the

hike will range from 4 to 7 miles depending on the group.

Contact Sierra Club co-leader [Terry Platt](#), (210) 695-9570, if you require additional information.

Saturday, November 17th: Woodland Hills (Natural area talk and hike)

Our adventure will begin with a half-hour introduction by Jayne Neal, COSA Park Naturalist. Jayne will explain the resource management considerations and ultimate decisions that lead to the plan for the Natural Area. She will explain the layout, varied habitats, and future plans for the area. We will then hike the area.

You MUST pre-register with Sierra Club leader [Stan Drezek](#) (493-0939) to obtain a confirmation slot number for sign-in. Subject to cancellation, due to weather.

Saturday, November 24th: Oak Loop Nature Walk (Ecosystems)

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.

Saturday, December 8th: Hike the Canyon

Contact Sierra Club co-leader and Texas Master Naturalist [Stan](#)

[Drezek](#), (210) 493-0939, if you require additional information.

Saturday, January 26th: Oak Loop Nature Walk (Birds)

This Oak Loop walk led by Master Naturalists Patsy and Al Kuentz will focus on the birds of Phil Hardberger Park.

The purposes of the walk are to appreciating the beauty of the natural areas along the Oak Loop Trail, observing how nature changes through the seasons, and learning about birds.

Contact [Wendy Drezek](#) (493-0939) if you require further information.

Saturday, February 23rd: Oak Loop Nature Walk (Trees)

This Oak Loop walk, led by Master Naturalist Ron Tullius, will focus on the variety of trees in Phil Hardberger Park.

The purposes of the walk are appreciating the beauty of the natural areas along the Oak Loop Trail, observing how nature changes through the seasons, and learning about trees.

Contact [Wendy Drezek](#) (493-0939) if you require further information.

Alamo Sierra Club Seeks Candidates

Each January we elect members to serve three-year terms on the Executive Committee (ExCom). You must be willing to attend one monthly meeting to conduct the club's administrative business for our two thousand plus membership. Now is your chance to become more active and involved in your local club. So pick up the phone or send that email that you or someone you know would like to serve on the Ex-Com. Please submit a recommendation before Nov 15th. Nominations with a 100 word statement of why you would like to serve on the Ex-Com must be submitted before Nov. 29th. Send all inquires and nominations to Gay Wright by calling 210-343-0222 or email her at alamo.sierra@yahoo.com.

Lion's Field: Travels in Australia

On Wednesday, October 24, at Lion's Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway at Mulberry, at 6:30 pm, Alan Montemayor will present a program on his travels in Australia. Program is free and open to the public.

State Climatologist to Discuss Drought October 16

On Tuesday, October 16, State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon will discuss the present and future impacts of Climate Change on drought in Texas.

In addition to being the State Climatologist, Dr. Nielsen-Gammon is a Regents Professor at Texas A&M University. He has a Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1990, an S.M. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1987, and an S.B. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1984.

Dr. Nielsen-Gammon's weather-related work involves jet streams, extreme rainfall events, and land and sea breezes. His air quality research includes field forecasting support, numerical simulation, and diagnostic analysis of ozone events in Houston and Dallas for the Texas Air Quality Studies in 2000 and 2005-6. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon has also worked on drought monitoring and forecasting, air pollution climatology, and improvements to the climate data record. He teaches courses in weather analysis, weather forecasting, climatology, and atmospheric dynamics.

Dr. Nielsen-Gammon received a Presidential Faculty Fellow award (now known as PECASE) from the National Science Foundation and the White House in 1996, a Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching at Texas A&M University from the Association of Former Students in 1996, and was named a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) in 2011. He is Past President of the International Commission for Dynamical Meteorology and is past chair of the AMS Board on Higher Education.

National Plug-In Day: A First in San Antonio

According to the Plug-In website, over 10,000 folks were introduced to plug-in vehicles on National Plug-In Day held on Sunday, September 23, in over 60 cities across the country. This was the second year of the event and the first for San Antonio, which was held at Wonderland of the Americas mall at Loop 410 and Fredericksburg Road. Nationally, the event was created by Plug-In America, the Sierra Club, and the Electric Auto Association. Locally, the Alamo City Electric Auto Association, ZWheels, IES Solar, and the Alamo Sierra Club put the event together, with substantial help from marketing at Wonderland. It was difficult to count the number of folks who attended overall but our Sierra Club booth had a steady stream of folks asking questions.

It was an exciting day. There was a Chevy Volt to test drive around the mall or on the highway, Madison H.S. students drove their solar designed car-- solar panels on wheels-- and the Green Society at UTSA was actively involved. Tommy Adkisson read Mayor Castro's statement proclaiming September 23 as National Plug-In Day atop a solar stage. Hertz car rental from Austin brought a Nissan Leaf that is part of their program. And to cap things off, Tesla owners brought red Teslas to admire.

There were Food Trucks, music, and booths. CPS Energy highlighted their recharge stations at the mall (there are 12). Clean Cities was there. The Green Society at UTSA had a booth, as well as Madison H.S. students and their teacher. The local organizations mentioned above had booths, plus the Hertz car rental with its Nissan Leaf.

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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 Morrisey	382-2614
Conservation Committee Mtg.	1st Thursday, 7 p.m.	Russell Seal	289-9088
Inner City Outings Mtg.	1st Tuesday 7 p.m.	University Prebysterian Church	408-6321

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

Chair	Jerry Morrisey	382-2614
Inner City Outings (ICO)	Anne Pearson	408-6321
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

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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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

