

## Houston Group

### Carol Woronow

Carol, a Sierra Club member since 1983, has a master's degree in English from the University of Houston where she also taught freshman English. A lover of the outdoors, Carol is an avid walker and former backpacking enthusiast who has lived in League City, Pasadena, and Spring Branch over the years. Editor of the Bayou Banner and the Sierra Club Houston Group's newsletter since 2014, Carol merges her love of language with her love of the environment in all that she does. She is also the Secretary of the Houston Group Executive Committee (ExCom) and temporary webmaster.



### Prof. David A. Edward, PE, MBA

David is a newcomer to Houston, moving to the area in 2023, where he works as an energy engineering consultant. He previously served as a Professor of Engineering & Technology at a community college in Southern Indiana before retiring in 2021.

Growing up in rural West Virginia, he was active in 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), and Boy Scouts where he earned his Eagle Scout. Following graduation from West Virginia University, he served as a Lieutenant and then Captain in the U.S. Army at Ft Knox. David entered the environmental engineering arena after leaving the military, and he has Professional Engineering certification in 49 states (all except Hawaii).

Formerly involved in the Louisville Branch of the Kentucky Sierra Club, David has also been involved in various leadership roles with local Louisville professional groups such as: KY Society of Professional Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers, and he also served as a youth sports coach at the YMCA/Church level coaching basketball, soccer, flag football, and field hockey. As a father to grown children scattered across the U.S., he now has time to become involved in helping to advance environmental education and outreach opportunities within the Sierra Club. He has participated in various meetings, hikes, and trainings of various allied local groups such as Bayou City Waterkeepers, Coastal Prairie Conservancy, and Native Plant Society of Texas.



### Melanie Oldham

Melanie Oldham, a Freeport, Texas resident, lives about 50 miles south of Houston on the Gulf of Mexico. Freeport is blessed with beaches, rivers, National Wildlife refuges, and birding areas but is, sadly, surrounded by pollution producing industries such as DOW Chemical, BASF, and Freeport LNG.

A healthcare professional for 40 years, Melaine has looked at Public Health statistics related to air/water pollution, including ozone; and in 2006, she started the Citizens for Clean Air/Water group in Brazoria County. That group played a part in Brazoria County's notorious, dirty spent catalyst recycling company, Gulf Chemical + Metallurgical CO, going bankrupt and shutting down. Unfortunately, the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria County region continues to be a severe nonattainment area for ozone.

As someone who grew up camping, hiking, and fishing in the Ozarks of Missouri, and has been living in Texas for 40 years, Melanie now enjoys sharing with others her love for the outdoors and wildlife, especially with youth. She has spoken at girls/boys clubs in Freeport, in the past, and additionally is assisting others concerned about environmental contamination make comments on the Coastal Protection proposed plan (Coastal Barrier) which extends to Freeport.



## Austin Group

### Brenda Berstis

Brenda has served on the Austin Sierra Club Group's ExCom for the past 4 years. She began her environmental advocacy immediately out of college as the Pediatric Pharmacy Director for The Mayo Clinic. She subsequently worked with N.O.W. (National Organization for Women) where she taught classes for pregnant high school mothers as well as offering presentations focusing on the dangers of toxicology in local elementary schools. The following decades as a pharmacist brought her new levels of focus on the disregard for the safety of people and their environments. Brenda broadened her advocacy to include climate change and green energy with leadership from Public Citizen. A longtime proponent of solar energy, she's utilized that power source in her home since the 1990's.

Brenda enjoys family vacations in U.S. Parks, camping, exploring nature, hiking and accompanying the Sierra Club on camping trips. She fully values the wisdom that Mother Nature has to teach everyone and believes that all living beings act as one. Doing environmental service work edified and strengthened her focus on the unity of all beings.



### David Ronn

Dave Ronn is a native Austinite who has been involved in local environmental advocacy and grassroots organizing since 2018 with Citizen's Climate Lobby and the Sierra Club. Having recently turned 35, he focuses on keeping Austin and the planet livable and resilient for generations to come, advocating for climate friendly policies and water saving initiatives. He's very excited to continue the Sierra Club's work in connecting with other environmental groups like the Sunrise Movement, local college organizations, and labor groups to widen The Sierra Club's tent and impact.



## Richard Faidley

Richard has been a member of the Austin Group's Executive Committee(ExCom) since 2020. From that time till the present, he has served as Tabling Chair (spearheading monthly outreach efforts at area farmers markets and at annual gatherings such as Earth Day and MLK Day, and by coaxing the Austin Group's General Meetings back to an in-person event). In addition to the rewarding conversations and outreach achieved with fellow Austinites, Richard has played a significant role in updating the Austin Group's Scholarship Award, as well as in general ExCom decisions.

Richard began his career in the late '80s as a Research Engineer at UT followed by work in renewable energy, authoring a biomass study for the State as part of a broader renewable energy resource assessment. While long since transitioned from engineering to work in the financial sector, Richard is invested in staying abreast of the evolving, decarbonizing energy sector. Serving on a plethora of Boards for small businesses and churches (in addition to his work on The City of Austin's Bicycle Advisory Council, an experience that left him much better informed about Austin's active transportation infrastructure), Richard continues his advocacy outreach by volunteering and assisting Austin Energy customers ,who are behind on their bills, access available CAP funds.

Richard honed his ability to listen to individuals with respect and strives to bring that into practice in his role within Austin ExCom. Going forward, Richard endeavors to keep the Austin Group inclusive, engaged, and relevant. In navigating a reality where issues faced are among the most vexing in the Sierra Club's 130 year history,Richard knows that the more environmentalists stand together, the better the chance of navigating the planet to a sustainable future. The journey, after all, is much more fun together.



## Raphael Schwartz

Several years ago,not long after relocating to Austin, Raphael came across the Sierra Club through the Group's impressively active Outings Program. Pleased to find an uncommonly dedicated group of people making an effort to create an inclusive community and discuss important issues and organize to take action, Raphael was hooked.

Now ,leading the Group's Political Committee and becoming increasingly active in planning many of the Austin Group's events and activities, Raphael welcomes the tangible outlet that the Austin Group offers. During a time of worsening climate change and often fragile environmental protections, Raphael believes that many Austinites today are glad to be given, and frankly need, an opportunity to have a loud voice and become more involved in environmental causes; this is why organizations like the Sierra Club are necessary to fill the role of local, public outreach and are increasingly important.

Having recently had the opportunity to join the City of Austin's Resource Management Commission (which deals with Austin Energy's, local solar, and energy efficiency efforts as well as the City's water conservation programs) has allowed Raphael a deeper look at how city government operates, and it's clearer than ever how much dedicated advocacy can help move the needle at the local level, especially in Austin.

For Raphael, there is no question that climate has been center stage for many countries over the last few years, but the recent elections have reminded all that things don't always move forward. Rather, in the coming years, it will be an important time to channel public engagement ,locally as we are collectively, and realizing that National leaders may not be coming to save the environment. Raphael recognizes this and is grateful to have the opportunity to help the Sierra Club further its mission to engage and inform Austin on these issues.



### Victoria Hendricks

Since childhood, exploration of the earth's vast variety of wild and beautiful places has brought Victoria inspiration and comfort with a soul awakened and soothed by the glory of nature.

A long time member of the Sierra Club, Victoria received graduate training in psychology, including group psychology, which prepared an intrinsic self-balance of listening, talking, and taking a "step up step back" focus on valuing individuals (specifically honoring the Jemez principles). Victoria has put this into practice with several nonprofit boards including serving as founder and president of Austin's original Mother's Milk Bank (which successfully provided breast milk for needful babies from 1977 to the advent of AIDS in 1981), Parents' Warm Line and Any Baby Can (committees which supported and implemented elementary school integration through busing in the eighties), and ,currently,as Texas State Coordinator for Citizens' Client Lobby and the Austin Executive Committee (ExCom).



Preferring they/ them pronouns, Victoria believes that effectively fighting for the health of the earth and all her inhabitants, human and nonhuman, is paramount. The Sierra Club, at this time in history, is dedicated to environmental justice, the development of increasingly equal protection, and the enrichment of all humans, especially historically disadvantaged and persecuted groups. The power of the Sierra Club is to “protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.” By serving for another ExCom term, Victoria believes she can promote these goals.



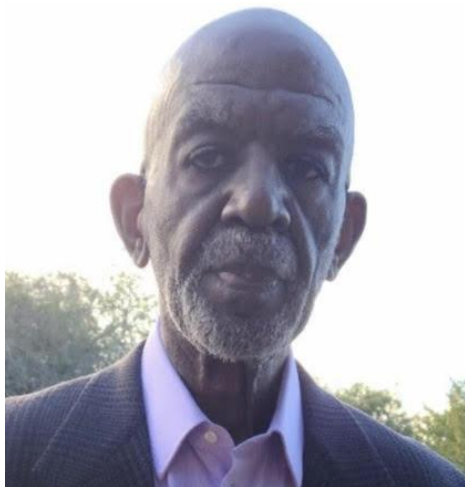
## **Dallas Group**

### Allen McGill

Allen McGill is retired, but retirement allows him more time for his passions: advocacy and equity for African Americans, low-income residents, and neighborhoods.

Allen serves on the Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee (ExCom); Co-Chairs Southern Sector Rising (SSR), a frontline environmental justice organization; and is the Chair of the Lane Plating Community Advisory Group (LP CAG) which is a Superfund Site in Southeast Oak Cliff.

When asked, “What do you contribute to these organizations?”, he responds, “I listen and amplify the voices on the frontline of racism and polluted neighborhoods and act as an effective advocate for change with residents.” In his free time, Allen enjoys traveling along the Gulf from Texas to Key West.



### Mark H. Witte

Mark H. Witte has been a Sierra Club member for over 35 years and has held Board positions with the Texas Solar Energy Society and the North Texas Renewable Energy Group. A lifelong advocate of the environment, Mark believes nonprofits working to better the environment must do a better job of recruiting and retaining new, younger members which are crucial to the growth and vitality of those organizations. Strongly believing that like-minded non-profits must learn to work more closely together on important, common goals to enact noticeable, sustainable change, Mark works to bring everyone together to create partnerships and a path to success.

In his personal life, Mark and his wife are retired and enjoy traveling around the U.S. to hike in State and National Parks.. They also enjoy visiting National Wildlife Refuges and National Forests.



## **San Antonio Group**

### Darby Riley

Darby has been practicing law in his native San Antonio since 1976. He and his wife, Leon Valley Mayor Chris Riley, have three grown children. An active volunteer on environmental issues for many years, Darby wants to continue his work with the Alamo Group Executive Committee (ExCom) on pushing the San Antonio City Council to take more control over its publicly owned water and energy utilities, especially CPS Energy. Darby uses his advocacy to bring attention to the fact that this is the critical decade for action on climate change, and so far it has been mostly empty promises -- "blah, blah, blah," as Greta Thunberg says-- from the local government.



### Joe Yakubik

Joe moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1998 while serving in the Air Force and is currently an electrical engineer. Joe currently serves on the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Alamo Group and supports the shared goals of environmental stewardship the Group works tirelessly to create. Through his experience, Joe has learned that ,while individual effort and engagement can make small improvements, to effect real change it requires sustained teamwork, and the Sierra Club is a respected organization that can help make that change a reality.

Joe's interests include: gardening, bicycling, and hiking. His outdoor adventures created in him an increased awareness of the changes in climate and the need for action to mitigate these effects. Locally, he has served on the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) Rate Advisory Committee, the City Public Service (CPS) Citizens Advisory Committee, and as a City Council appointee. Joe endeavors to bring his professional experience with local utilities committees to the Sierra Club and hopes that his contributions will benefit all.





### Stephen 'Steve' Avery

Steve is a long-time member of the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and has advocated for urban environmental issues for most of his adult life. As a successful businessman and investor in residential housing in the inner city, he was a proponent of higher urban density on the Board of Adjustments, which grants or denies variances to zoning. With San Antonio's Open Space Advisory Board, Steve advocated for more green space and linear parks; and as a member of the Citizens Advisory Panel for the SAWS Board, he spoke for under-represented citizens on environmental justice in infrastructure creation and fair rates for all. Closer to home, Steve was a founding member of the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation (CDC) which was instrumental in the creation of the Deco District with the renovation of the Deco building at Fredericksburg Rd. and N. Zarzamora. There, trees were planted and new planters were added, filled with native plants and seasonal color. The once elusive goal of a viable Deco District is now on the brink of becoming a reality. As President of the Woodlawn Lake Community Association (and in conjunction with the Parks Department, the Sierra Club, Master Gardeners, and a sizable grant), Steve spearheaded tree plantings and native wildflower/meadow creation in the park. San Antonio has since planted many more trees, and the park is now one of the most used (if not the most used) parks in the city. Steve continues his efforts as the head of the Park Health Committee. He currently serves on the Board of the Oblate School of Theology (OST) where he actively reminds the Administration of the Catholic Church's duty to protect the environment by adding rainwater capture and solar panels for all campus buildings.

With his expertise in local issues and with an eye on San Antonio's expected growth, Steve's enthusiasm for urban ecology (dense canopy cover, green architecture and infrastructure, and nature-based solutions) together with a knowledge of inner-city housing issues, make him uniquely positioned to help effect positive change towards a greener San Antonio.



## **Ft Worth Group**

### Spencer Dickinson

Spencer is a 13 year member of Sierra Club and current Greater Fort Worth Executive Committee (ExCom)Chair. Prior to this role, Spencer was the Membership Chair for the Group. A 25 year Tarrant County resident and backyard cultivator, Spencer embraces organic living, sustainability, and eco-activism. He is motivated by the many engaged environmentalists in North Texas who work to have a positive impact for our community.



### Jackee Cox

Jackee Cox is an active member of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Executive Committee(ExCom) for the past 4 years. She regularly attends governmental meetings as a voice

for protecting clean air and clean water. Through her advocacy, she has developed alliances with other local environmental advocacy groups such as Public Citizen, Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters. As all Sierrans prepare for an escalated Trump attack on the environmental regulatory system, she looks forward to enlarging her participation in regional Sierra Club actions.



### Barbara Crotty

Barbara has been a member of the Greater Ft Worth Chapter of the Sierra Club since 2019 and has been the Secretary of the Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2022. In her former life, she was an environmental geologist, working on groundwater assessments for hazardous waste site applications. She later became a childbirth educator and Registered Nurse



## Golden Triangle

### Tammy Newby

Tammy's love for nature and the outdoors started from camping at State and National Parks every summer as a child. In addition to her love of traveling all over the world and experiencing different customs and cultures, she has been to 17 National Parks with the goal of visiting all 63. When Tammy is not traveling, she enjoys working in her yard planting native plants, and her garden has been certified as a Monarch Waystation and Wildlife Habitat area for pollinators.

A member of the Sierra Club since 2019, Tammy is also committed to actively educating her family and friends about single use and micro plastics. After seeing the advances and mindsets that other countries have in regards to the subject, it pains her more than ever that the U.S. is a throwaway society with no regard for the future. As a retired nurse since December 2023, she is committed more than ever to her goal which is making the world a better place for her grandchildren.



### Mary Bernard

Mary Bernard is a lifelong conservationist and avid outdoor-advocate of the Big Thicket of Southeast Texas. She traces the roots of her conservation enthusiasm back to her childhood when her mother gave her a copy of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. She has diligently served on the Golden Triangle's Executive Committee (ExCom) assisting in maintenance of the Trail Between the Lakes and writes all of the Group's comments on TCEQ and USACE permits. Mary leads the Big Thicket Biosphere Reserve and is a Texas Master Naturalist.





Ellen Buchanan

Ellen has served on the Golden Triangle Group's Executive Committee (ExCom) since retiring from Texas Parks and Wildlife State Parks. She advocates for the people and natural resources of the Golden Triangle and Big Thicket area every day through her work with the Sierra Club, Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust, Black Bear Alliance, and the Neches River Flood Planning Group. For Ellen, there's nothing better than a hike or canoe trip through the Big Thicket.



Eric Newby

Eric Newby has served on the Golden Triangle Group Executive Committee (ExCom) for the past four years as Vice Chair and coordinates the Group's monthly meetings. He is an active member



of the Texas Master Naturalist-Sabine Neches Chapter and serves on the Big Thicket Association's Board of Directors. Eric's interests include environmental responsibility and natural resource conservation, as well as social justice and equality. His pastimes range from backpacking and canoeing to running, cycling, and gardening. Eric loves volunteering, which gives him the opportunity to share his love of nature and science with people from all walks of life.



### Vicki Newby

Vicki Newby manages the Golden Triangle Sierra Club Group's website, Instagram, and Facebook accounts and has served on the Group's Executive Committee (ExCom) as Secretary/Treasurer for the past four years. She is an active certified Texas Master Naturalist with the Sabine-Neches Chapter and a member of the Big Thicket Association's Board of Directors. As a retired chemistry professor, Vicki has a passion for science and nature, which she loves to share with others. Her priorities include Leave No Trace principles, natural resource conservation, diversity, equality, and social justice. When not volunteering, Vicki loves to garden, backpack, canoe, run, and cycle.



## Coastal Bend Group

### Teresa Carillo

Theresa's motto is, "leave no one out". A lifelong Texan doing what she can to keep Texas' air, water, habitat, and critters as healthy as possible for all, Teresa is privileged to have been the Executive Committee (ExCom) Treasurer of the Coastal Bend Group for several years. She has also served on the Lone Star Chapter ExCom for 5 years helping with the Awards Banquet and various water issues. A member of the Sierra Club most of her life ( thanks to the influence of a college professor who pointed out the need for the public to participate in what happens to our environment), Teresa has worked professionally on water quality issues, endangered species, and contaminants biology, as well as public outreach and education.

Teresa attributes her love of Mother Nature ,in large part, to the influence of her grandmother and parents and knows how important it is to share knowledge and a love of nature with upcoming generations.



### Lois Huff

Lois' interest in the environment started as a young girl when as a city dweller spending a night in the country and observing stars, she saw a world she only knew existed through stories.

Today, living in Corpus Christi, Lois sees her community struggle to seek a balance between employment and environment. With the Coastal Bend Group championing this as well, she has worked over the years to support and/or participate in public outreach activities.

Participating in Sierra Club has taught Lois many things about the area she lives in as well as the world we all inhabit. Participating on the Sierra Club Coastal Bend Group Executive Committee

(ExCom) has provided her with additional information and details about “how things work”, and she looks forward to continuing her advocacy by serving on the Coastal Bend Group ExCom.



## **Lower Rio Grande Valley**

### M. Therese Gallegos

Since retiring from teaching English (primarily composition, grammar, and linguistics) at the University of Texas at Brownsville, Therese has spent time working on issues that have always mattered to her. As a member of the League of Women Voters, she has worked at voter registration drives and as a volunteer for Team Brownsville, where she has helped provide refugees with basic necessities. Working many hours as a volunteer at Gene's Community Garden, Therese has additionally fought against the border wall, a Confederate memorial in Brownsville, LNG plants, and a road where there should be a hike-and-bike trail. All this leaves little time for what Therese feels she really should be doing in retirement: reading, writing, and birding. Overriding the call of true retirement, she believes in the Sierra Club's mission and would like to do more for the environment in South Texas.



### Mary Elizabeth Hollmann

Mary Elizabeth Hollmann is a retired elementary teacher who worked in bilingual Early Childhood classrooms in Brownsville Tx. She continues to be active in the Early Childhood community, is an avid gardener, and now a Master Gardener with Cameron County.

Mary has always been an advocate for a more sustainable environment and a more peaceful and just world. Throughout the years, she has participated in many groups including: Valley Interfaith, Pax Christi, Team Brownsville, and others. She became active with the Sierra Club years ago as the Bush administration started building border walls between Texas and Mexico. Since then, she has helped with Save RGV when she learned about the proposed LNG plants coming to the Port of Brownsville.

She strongly believes in the motto, “Think globally, Act locally”, and she would like to help create a local Sierra Club where members know and support each other, especially as new and difficult situations continue to arise with the new Presidential administration.



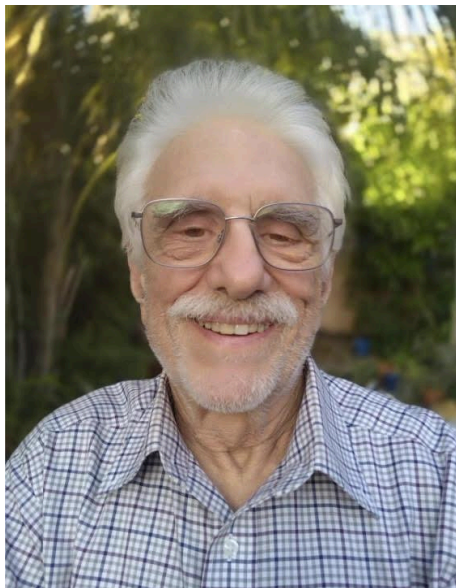


## Bill Berg

Bill was recruited to join Sierra Club in 2011. Invited by a friend to a recruiting event organized by Sierra Club activists by the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) Group, he was not active until 2014 when the same LRGV activist organized a trip to the proposed site for Rio Grande LNG. That visit was the birth of Save RGV from LNG. Bill attended every meeting of Save RGV from LNG and participated in protests, voiced public comments at Cameron County Commission meetings, and made informative presentations about LNG to various groups.

Bill began penning a weekly email that listed the times and dates of upcoming public government meetings so that recipients could decide to attend and comment at meetings where items about LNG or pipelines were to be discussed. That weekly email now also includes information on local environmental advocacy items such as bicycle trails and SpaceX damage to surrounding ecosystems.

Bill was selected to be the Group Representative to Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter ExCom in late 2018. Despite several years of disagreements and upheaval between the members of the LRGV Group and National Sierra Club, Bill has continued to persevere in his positions at both the Group and Chapter levels ever since. Bill fully acknowledges that the LRGV group has work ahead (such as developing a calendar of events, activities to attract new members and old members, and increasing overall engagement), and he looks forward to his next term on the ExCom to continue to enact significant change.



## Patrick Anderson

Patrick Anderson resides in Los Fresnos, Texas. He has served as a Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club member and subsequent Chair of the Executive Committee (ExCom), as a Board Member of Save RGV, and as a Friends of Laguna Atascosa NWR board member. Patrick's efforts with the aforementioned organizations has been focused on Port of Brownsville developments which has included LNG, pipelines, Big River Steel, and Jupiter ML. His other advocacy work has been focused on the construction of the Texas and Mexico border wall, development proposals at Andie Bowie Park Flats (South Padre Island), and pollution from SpaceX. Specifically, Patrick has contributed to these organizations by organizing public meetings, forums, community events, drafting comments to regulatory agencies and local governments, soliciting public comments, coordinating/partnering with other organizations, litigation work, fundraising, website development, social media, and community outreach.





### Kathy Raines

With all the vital issues facing residents of the Rio Grande Valley—especially those involving Space X and liquified natural gas—Kathy Raines is most interested in the revival of our local faction of the Sierra Club. A member of the Rio Grande Valley Texas Master Naturalists, Raines has for five years written a monthly column for the *Port Isabel/South Padre Island* newspaper entitled “Creatures Among Us”. Each month, she explores the nature of a different animal—from spiny orb weavers to moon jellyfish to javelinas—which inhabit the Rio Grande Valley. .

Raines ,who taught English in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (25 years of middle school in Brownsville and 10 years of high school in Los Fresnos), is a civically-minded individual, and she has contributed letters to the editor for the local newspaper, *The Brownsville Herald*, for decades. She has also participated in community theater at The Camille Playhouse and has raised three sons.

A transplant from Indiana, Raines has lived in Brownsville for 43 years and celebrates the natural surroundings which, to her, are as beautiful as the mountains of Montana. And she earnestly wants them to remain to be lovely, inspirational places which nourish native wildlife as well as attract equally appreciative eco-tourists.



## **Chapter ExCom Candidates** **(3 Open Seats and 1 Vacated Seat Needing To Be Filled)**

### David Griggs

As a current member of the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) representing the Dallas Group, and former at-large member, David is honored to be nominated to run for another at-large term. Having been an active member of the Club since 1997 and serving in leadership roles in several capacities at the Group, Chapter, and National levels, David welcomes the opportunity to serve in a broader capacity.

David is the former chair of the Lone Star Chapter's Political Committee and currently serves as Chair of the Chapter Political Action Committee (PAC). In that capacity, he has encouraged more participation in political fund-raising activities at the local and state levels, and during recent election cycles, has gained a significant number of PAC donors and increased PAC contributions to help win a large percentage of the races of endorsed candidates in legislative and municipal elections.

Professionally, David works as an attorney in Dallas and as an adjunct professor of political science at Dallas College and election law at the University of North Texas Dallas College of Law. Over the years, he has worked on numerous local and Chapter conservation efforts, including fights against tollways, reservoirs, pipelines, and coal plants. Often testifying before legislative committees and before TCEQ and EPA panels on behalf of the Sierra Club, David feels privileged to be representing and promoting the Chapter's work. At the National level for several years as Chapter's Council of Club Leaders' (CCL) Delegate, David has also served on several national committees, including the Chapter-National Relations Task Force. He is strongly committed to the Club's goals of leading the fight to address climate change and to promote equity, inclusion and justice.

If elected, David plans to continue to help raise the much needed funds to support our Chapters' conservation and political goals and to strengthen the Club's effectiveness in messaging those priorities.



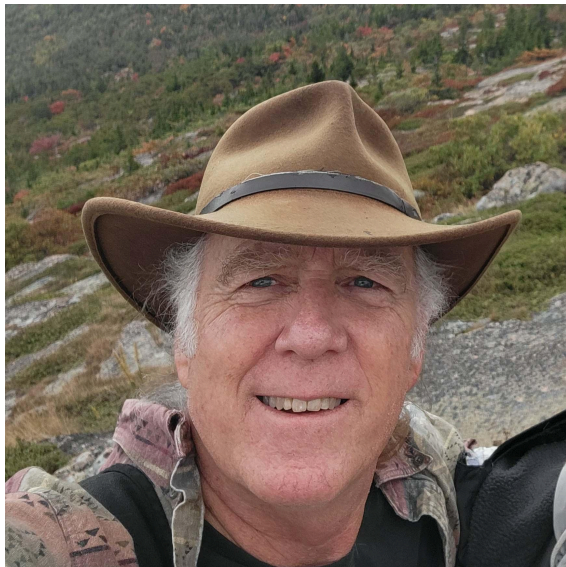
### Bruce Melton

Bruce, the 2019 principal Climate Policy Committee member at national Sierra Club, was responsible for the Club adopting the first climate restoration target of its kind in the world (of no greater than 1 degree C warming above normal and advancing the global "further warming is safe" target of no less than 1.5

degrees C warming). His previous duties on Lone Star's ExCom included work with the Election and Awards Committees. He is an expert in critical environmental issues related to land development activities including endangered species, ground and surface waters, and transportation infrastructure with efforts to preserve the environment. He was one of the founders and interim program manager at the Lower Colorado River Authority's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program. Since 1990, he has served on numerous NGOs as an expert in transportation and urban planning, and his nonprofit, the Climate Change Now Initiative, is the oldest independent climate science education organization in the world (started in 2005).

Bruce also focuses on his work as a filmmaker. With the release of his last film, *Climate Change Across America, Inglorious Events*, the film crew witnessed aspects of climate warming induced collapses from South Padre Island to the North Slope of Alaska (over a 45-day marathon with 43 different camps). Filming took place across the country from South Padre Island to the North Slope of Alaska.

Bruce has worked for 41 years as a professional engineer on land development and infrastructure projects, and he has been president of Melton Engineering Services Austin since 2001. He has published over 600 articles reviewing critical climate findings and currently serves with climate groups across the planet. Having published over 100 editions of the Austin Sierran Newsletter, Bruce also served on the Austin Group Executive Committee (ExCom) for nine years and Lone Star Chapter ExCom from 2013 to 2023 when term limits required a year hiatus.



### Marlene Guerrero Plua

Marlene Guerrero Plua, a native of the Rio Grande Valley, is a Climate and Clean Energy Consultant at Stoic Energy Consulting where she advises on program strategy, policy research, community outreach, and fundraising in Texas. Her advocacy is shaped by her upbringing in a rural community and experience as a migrant farmworker. Previously, she managed climate justice campaigns with Jolt Initiative and developed outreach strategies at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, securing \$14.1 million for infrastructure improvements in low-income neighborhoods. Currently pursuing dual Master's degrees in Public Affairs and Community and Regional Planning at UT Austin, she has received the Dean's Graduate Fellowship Award and won a climate change case challenge. Marlene is dedicated to creating a better future for her son and other generations to come.

Marlene is deeply committed to addressing the environmental injustices faced by marginalized communities. She is leading efforts in Texas to help non-profits access federal funds for climate initiatives. Marlene co-developed the “Rio Grande Valley From Crisis to Change” curriculum, securing \$50K to launch environmental justice workshops. She is eager to continue to contribute her skills and expertise to Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter.



### Melanie Oldham

Melanie Oldham, a Freeport, Texas resident, lives about 50 miles south of Houston on the Gulf of Mexico. Freeport is blessed with beaches, rivers, National Wildlife refuges, and birding areas but is, sadly, surrounded by pollution producing industries such as DOW Chemical, BASF, and Freeport LNG.

A healthcare professional for 40 years, Melaine has looked at Public Health statistics related to air/water pollution, including ozone; and in 2006, she started the Citizens for Clean Air/Water group in Brazoria County. That group played a part in Brazoria County’s notorious, dirty spent catalyst recycling company, Gulf Chemical + Metallurgical CO, going bankrupt and shutting down. Unfortunately, the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria County region continues to be a severe nonattainment area for ozone.

As someone who grew up camping, hiking, and fishing in the Ozarks of Missouri, and has been living in Texas for 40 years, Melanie now enjoys sharing with others her love for the outdoors and wildlife, especially with youth. She has spoken at girls/boys clubs in Freeport, in the past, and additionally is assisting others concerned about environmental contamination make comments on the Coastal Protection proposed plan (Coastal Barrier) which extends to Freeport.

