



THE ALAMO SIERRAN

THE ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER - VOL. 41 No. 1 JAN 2007

A Word from the Chair by Tom Dukes

Janus - for whom the month of January was named - was the Roman god of beginnings and endings. He was depicted with two faces - one staring back at the past, another forward to the future. As a group, Sierrans tend to face forward, calling attention to problems like global warming that are easy to dismiss because they won't manifest their full fury for decades. We are motivated to find a sustainable path for the well-being of everyone which, even in the best of times, is difficult. For me, the challenge has always been to slow down enough to enjoy the present while still striving to ensure our future on a healthy and nurturing planet.

My wish for each of us is that the new year will bring many opportunities to savor the natural world and delight in its subtle pleasures, as well as much success in protecting it.

This is my final "Word From the Chair." I am stepping down at the end of this month, although I will continue to serve on ExCom. Thank you for your energy and the incredible support you have shown our organization during my time in office; I fervently hope this will continue. Too many local battles loom in which a strong, unified Sierra Club is the only force that can stem the tide. We are the "go-to" environmental group in San Antonio — an honor and a heavy responsibility. This coming year will require all of us working together for the Alamo Group to exert the environmental influence so necessary in south central Texas.

Regardless of who is at the helm of the Alamo Group, the Sierra Club has work to do. So roll up your sleeves; together we have a future to create.

A Good Time Was Had By All

Our annual Christmas Party and Silent Auction was a resounding success. The old stone building at Lion's Field was beautifully decorated and filled with great music provided by our friends, The Front Porch Band. The potluck dinner was a delectable and bounteous spread of everything from classic casseroles and tamales to pot roast. The dessert end of the table was packed with cakes and brownies and even a Boston cream pie, of which this attendee ate entirely too much. Next time, someone stop me!

Political committee chair Beck Steiner presented San Antonio city councilperson Elena Guajardo with our "Environmental Hero Award". We

appreciate her willingness to always stand up for the environmentally correct decisions down at city hall; we just need more like her.

Judging from the laughter and teasing, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There was a gentle rivalry on the bidding as names leapfrogged their way down the bid sheets...Tom - Ned - Tom - Ned wins! Many of us took home great bargains and the club benefited financially from the generous support of the donors and bidders.

Several of us had on festive attire, but the winner was Michele Petty in her Santa Claus hat and red sequined Christmas sweater. It was good food, good music, and a great chance to visit with old friends and make a few new ones. No wonder we do this every year.

Paula D. Stone

General Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 3rd Tuesday each month at the Witte Museum located at 3801 Broadway just south of Hildebrand Ave. Socializing begins at 6:45, program at 7 P.M.

January 16, 2007: Rancho de la Chuparrosa, a food co-op

Robin Bowman will discuss the benefits of sustainable farming and community-supported agriculture.

February 20, 2007: Big Bend Ranch

Learn about the largest state park in Texas, the "other" Big Bend

Many Thanks to Our Silent Auction Contributors...

By now, everyone knows that the Holiday Party was a lot of fun and that the silent auction was a big success!

We'd like to specifically thank the very generous auction donors who gave goods and services collectively valued in excess of \$2,500. We couldn't have done it without you.

And the envelope, please...

Ceramic artists Eloise Stoker and Ann Lee Morrisey, calligrapher Keith Cheshire, and painter Mary Louise Thompson donated their artistic expressions. LightlinkLighting.com donated an amazing touch-sensitive ambient light; Colors of the Wind

provided a beautiful calcite candleholder, and Nomadic Notions a gorgeous mirror.

Thanks to Jerry Morrisey for the framed bird prints, Payless Office Furniture for the two huge framed landscapes, Melody Krumdieck for her wildlife art, and Kurt Youngblood for professional picture framing services.

Whole Earth Provision Company donated a telescope and backpack, and astronomer Lee Dodge offered a weekend astrophotography excursion at his observatory. Good Sports and Roger Soler Sports both provided gift certificates, and Wild Birds Unlimited gave a game and a book.

Interior designer Paula Stone of Gilbriar Inc. provided an interior makeover consultation and some beautiful leather items.

Continued on Page 2

Many Thanks Continued

Thanks to Michele Petty for a Hill Country trail ride for two, Meredith Sterling for a tarot reading, Ned Allen for his tree trimming expertise, and Kim Smith for a very classy picnic basket. Ellen Clegg donated beaded bracelets and Gina Pellegrino contributed vintage clothing as well as the beautiful decorations and centerpieces for the party.

Delicious dining opportunities were contributed by Casbeers, Cheesy Jane's, Chipotle Grill, Good Time Charlie's, La Madeleine, Picante Grill, Sorrento Ristorante, W.D. Deli, and Water Street Oyster Bar.

Hot Body Yoga donated 10 lessons; Barefoot Body Massage gave a full massage session; and Terra Spa provided two invigorating body wraps. Home Depot and Half Price Books both offered gift cards, and a variety of books were donated by The Twig Book Store, Jim Beal, Jerry Morrissey, and Tom Dukes.

Music CDs were contributed by the Synergy group and Sisters Morales; and the Front Porch band auctioned their services for a bidder's private party in addition to providing great tunes during the evening.

Sam Rodgers donated a VOICEbio analysis. Camping equipment was contributed by John J.B. Miller, plants and a cookie jar by Loretta van Coppenolle, and some excellent Washington state wine by Tom and Vickie Perry.

Kudos to Gina Pelligrino for a fabulous job of decorating. We are grateful to Melody Krumdieck, Meredith Sterling, and Paula Stone for their organizational expertise, Hector Gonzalez for the money handling, and Loyd Cortez, Kim Smith, and Valeria Lopez for logistical support. We're looking forward to an even better party and auction next year.

The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group depends on your generous contributions to defray the cost of printing and mailing the Alamo Sierran. If you have not yet mailed in your \$10, there's still time. Please send your donation to Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 6443, San Antonio, TX 78209.

GET INVOLVED

Join the Alamo Group Political Committee

The Political Committee will hold an organizational meeting on January 31st at 7:30 PM at the home of Beck Steiner, committee chair. All members are welcome at the meeting. Contact Beck at 342-6694 for directions.

The Political Committee is appointed by the ExCom to research and recommend local candidates for endorsement for public office. This year the committee will mainly review candidates for San Antonio City Council. Contact Beck Steiner or an ExCom member if you are interested in serving on this Committee.

Taking the Cool Cities Campaign to the Next Level

Calling All Neighborhood Associations

We need your help in moving our Cool Cities campaign to the next level. The campaign is shifting into stage two as we rally community-wide support to have Mayor Hardberger sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in early 2007. Letters from various organizations encouraging the Mayor to sign the agreement will show that we have diverse, deep-rooted community support.

You can help by letting us know when and where your neighborhood association will meet in January or February. We want to attend as many association meetings as possible and ask them for a letter of support that encourages the Mayor to sign. Please contact us with the date, time, and location of your neighborhood association's monthly meeting. You can reach David Klar at 495-2148 or dklar63162@aol.com, Jerry Morrissey at 497-5470 or jlmorrissey@aol.com or Paula Stone at 393-7351 or pstone001@satx.rr.com.

David Klar
Conservation Chair

Mark Your Calendars

ACT Lobby Day - February 26, 2007

The Alliance for a Clean Texas (ACT) has set Monday, February 26, 2007 as the date for the ACT Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Austin during the regular session of the 80th Texas Legislature. There will be a "training" (more like an informational update) session on the afternoon or evening of Sunday, February 25. More details will follow as they become available. Check out the Lone Star Chapter website for more information. (www.texas.sierraclub.org)

For the past three sessions the Sierra Club has participated in the ACT Lobby Day rather than hold a separate lobby day (although individual Sierra Club leaders and a cadre of folks from a local Sierra Club group have come to the Capitol on other occasions during the legislative session). That is our intention again this year. Therefore, I would appreciate your marking this on your new 2007 Sierra Club calendars and joining us for lobby day.

Ken Kramer

Recycling the Holidays

It seems you just blink and the holidays come round again with their annual onslaught of gift giving. And of course every gift comes with packaging that fills trash cans to overflowing, plus discarded Christmas trees, cardboard and batteries, many of which end up landfill-bound if we're not careful. Surprisingly, 40% of our overall per-capita waste in this country is cardboard.

While it's easy to just throw it all away, it's more important than ever to recycle responsibly. In San Antonio we're fortunate to have a good curbside recycling program that is getting even better. We also have various centers for recycling specific kinds of waste. Keep the following addresses handy to use during the coming year. Batteries Plus at 6891 Bandera Road will recycle all types of batteries, including automotive, NiCad

and rechargeable. They are open seven days a week, and can be reached at 647-0103 or online at www.batteriesplus.com. The Interstate All Battery Center in Shertz at 8143 Agora Pkwy handles auto, NiCad, rechargeable and single use batteries. Walmart also has a battery recycling center at 16503 Nacogdoches Road which takes only used NiCad batteries. The curbside program and the Abitibi paper recycling bins found in the parking lots of most schools now take cardboard, too, as long as it is flattened.

For apartment dwellers who lack access to curbside recycling, Vista Fibers at 3003 Aniol St. takes cardboard, newspaper, glass, aluminum, tin and steel cans, and #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7 plastics. Vista is open from 7 - 4:30 weekdays and 7 - 11 a.m. Saturday. Their number is 226-6371. The BFI-Acco Recycling Center at 400 Probandt St. takes cardboard and all papers as well as glass and #1 and #2 plastics. They are open from 7:30 - 4:30 weekdays and Saturdays from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Call 223-2618.

One of the best resources for locating recycling sites near you is <http://texas.earth911.org/master.asp>. The city of San Antonio also lists recycling options for materials such as styrofoam, computer monitors, and many other difficult to recycle items at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/enviro/solidwaste/RecyOptions.asp>. Thanks for recycling and for keeping Texas green.

Mike Brannon

Sierra Club Social Event "Coffee in the Garden"

The San Antonio Botanical Center, 555 Funston Place, is sponsoring a Coffee Day on Saturday Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Let's meet at 11 at the main entrance and wander around tasting coffee, learning about different varieties, trying food made with coffee, and learning how to grow our very own coffee plants. For details, visit the sabot.org website. For more info or to RSVP, contact Stephanie Buckholdt, 210-679-0775, sbuckholdt@satx.rr.com.

GCSNA

Every Saturday beginning at 8:30 AM there is a guided hike at GCSNA. Not all hikes are appropriate for children, so check the Texas Parks and Wildlife Website at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/> for descriptions, or call (210) 688-9055 Ext. 286 for more information.

FEBRUARY 3, 2007 - HIKING BASICS CLINIC

Join Robert Roehm from Whole Earth Provision Company for this clinic followed by a short hike on one of the natural area's trails. Learn the basics for day hiking: what to take, safety and emergency planning, water requirements, how to dress, footwear and simple map reading. Please dress for hiking, bring plenty of water and your packed daypack and find out if you have the right things in it. Open to ages 12 and up; space limited. 9 a.m. noon; donations to the Friends of Government Canyon gratefully accepted and help make these and other programs possible; reservations required and will be accepted beginning at noon January 22, 2007. For reservation or more information, e-mail rec_cmte@yahoo.com. Please include names of each participant, age, if under 18, e-mail address and telephone number. (210) 688-9055 Ext. 292.

OUTINGS

NOTE: No dogs, radios, recreational drugs, or unescorted children are allowed on Sierra Club outings. Public consumption of alcohol is prohibited during scheduled activities. Outings are usually suitable for the whole family; check with the leaders about details and to verify dates. All fees will go fully to offset trip and administrative costs and to support the conservation efforts of the Alamo Group.

JAN 13, SAT: - LOST MAPLES STATE PARK DAY HIKE

This should be a nice time of year to take a walk through one of the nicest parks in the Hill Country. Contact leader for details: Lee Dodge, lsg999@earthlink.net, or 647-0216.

JAN 27, SAT: GCSNA DAY HIKE

Join us for a 5-7 mile hike on one of the many beautiful trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area. The hike is limited to ten individuals. Difficulty: MODERATE to DIFFICULT. Cost: suggested \$2 donation to Alamo Sierra Club and entrance fee to the Natural Area. For details contact Marsha Meredith [marsha1205@sbcglobal.net, 675-4097].

FEB 25, SUN: COMANCHE LOOKOUT CITY PARK MORNING HIKE

Get out and enjoy a brisk morning hike at Comanche Lookout. There is a great view of the city from the top. Meet in the library parking lot at the corner of Judson and Nacogdoches Rd at 10 AM. Cost: suggested \$2 donation to Alamo Sierra Club. Contact David Klar [dklar63162@aol.com or 495-2148].

MAR 9-11, FRI-SUN: GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK CAR CAMPING AND WILDLIFE WATCHING

Spring is knocking on the door but the Whooping Cranes have not yet flown north. Come down and base camp in Goose Island State Park near Rockport, Texas. Experience a wide range of activities from taking a Whooping Crane tour to wildlife watching in Aransas Wildlife Refuge 45 minutes away. Space limited to 15. Difficulty: Easy. Suggested donation \$4 per person. Participants pay their own state park entrance fee and share the fee for the campsites. Car-pooling is encouraged. Leader: David Klar dklar63162@aol.com or 495-2148

2007 Sierra Club CALENDARS

Reduced Price

This is your last chance to support your local Sierra Club group by purchasing your 2007 calendars from the club. Loyd Cortez will have the remaining calendars at the January General Meeting.

Engagement Calendar: \$10
Wall Calendar: \$9

MEETING DATES AND CONTACT INFO

General Meeting: 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m. Tom Dukes 828-3721
 Executive Committee: 4th Monday, 7 p.m. Tom Dukes 828-3721
 Newsletter Mail Party: 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. Jim Stewart 692-0727
 Outings Committee Meeting: 2nd Tuesday every 2 months, 7 p.m. Lee Dodge 647-0216
 Conservation Committee Meeting: 4th Thursday, 7 p.m. David Klar 495-2148

ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Tom Dukes Chair Person 828-3721
 Loyd Cortez Vice Chair 674-9489
 Hector Gonzalez Treasurer 226-6069
 Carolyn Wells Secretary 271-0640
 Jerry Morrisey 497-5470
 Eloise Stoker 828-0919
 Paula Stone 393-7351
 Vacant
 Vacant

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

Programs Eloise Stoker 828-0919
 Membership Loyd Cortez 674-9489
 Publicity Michele Petty 490-4133
 Mailings Jim Stewart 692-0727
 Newsletter Marsha Meredith 675-4097
 Website Loyd Cortez 674-9489

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Outings Chair Lee Dodge 647-0216
 Political Committee Beck Steiner 342-6694
 Community Outreach ... Carolyn Wells 271-0640

CONSERVATION CONTACTS

Conservation Chair Dave Klar 495-2148
 Co-Chair Vacant
 Endangered Species Fred Wills 673-9566
 Fluoridation L. Van Coppenolle 492-4620
 Genetically Modified Organisms Michele Petty 490-4133
 Organic Gardening Dave Klar 495-2148
 Recycling L. Van Coppenolle 492-4620
 Tree Conservation Richard Alles 494-2088
 Water Issues Jerry Morrisey 497-5470
 Population Vacant

U.S. CONGRESSPERSONS

Charlie Gonzalez (210) 472-6195
 Lamar Smith (210) 821-5024
 Henry Cuellar (210) 271-2851
 Henry Bonilla (210) 697-9055

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Phil Hardberger; 207-7060; mayor@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 1: Roger Flores Jr.; 207-7279; district1@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 2: Sheila McNeil; 207-7278; district2@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 3: Roland Gutierrez; 207-7064; district3@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 4: Richard Perez; 207-7281; district4@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 5: Patti Radle; 207-7043; district5@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 6: Delicia Herrera; 207-7065; district6@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 7: Elena Guajardo; 207-7044; district7@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 8: Art Hall; 207-7086; district8@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 9: Kevin Wolff; 207-7325; district9@sanantonio.gov
 Distric 10: Chip Haass; 207-7276; district10@sanantonio.gov

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Alamo Group website address
www.alamosierraclub.org

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

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

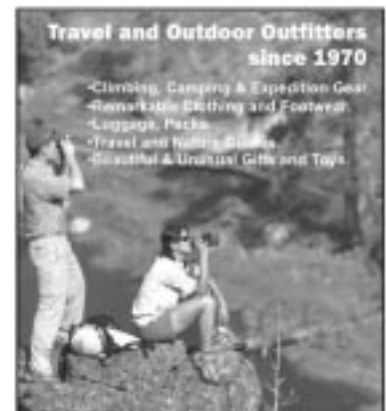
	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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