



THE ALAMO SIERRAN

THE ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER - VOL. 40 No. 11 DEC 2006

A Word from the Chair by Tom Dukes

The environment won big in last month's elections, and victory didn't come a moment too soon. While it's unfortunate that several environmentally savvy candidates lost locally, the national results were far better. There is reason for optimism when the new Congress convenes early next year. Voters resoundingly created a greener House and Senate, and also elected several green governors in the process.

Richard Pombo of California, the head of the House Resources Committee best known for his relentless attacks on the Endangered Species Act, was defeated by Jerry McNerney, a renewable energy consultant. Conrad Burns of Montana lost to Jon Tester, who helped create a state renewable energy standard and hopes to do the same in D.C.

In Ohio, clean energy proponent Ted Strickland easily won the governor's race. And Oklahoma's James Inhofe, who has labeled global warming a "hoax," will no longer serve as chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Where does this leave us? While the national scene improved, things remain tough locally. Tree preservation suffered last month at the hands of a split city council, and the concept of toll roads still lurks in the bushes, ready to steal our dollars in the quest for ever more asphalt. We need to increase the pressure to make San Antonio a Cool City by reducing its global warming pollution, and the aquifer could always use a few more friends.

So celebrate the successes, learn from the defeats, and keep working to

Continued on Page 2

Join us Tuesday, December 19 at the Alamo Group's Holiday Party and Silent Auction

The party will be from 6-8:30 at Lion's Field, 2809 Broadway. It's a potluck, so bring something yummy to share. Find great gifts while enjoying the music of THE BACK PORCH DULCIMER ENSEMBLE. Silent auction items and donor info can be viewed on our website at alamosierraclub.org. Items received include camping gear, wildlife prints, restaurant gift certificates, yoga lessons, and more. If you wish to donate an item or service, call Melody Krumdieck at 655-9607 by Saturday, December 16. We'll see you at the party!

*Alamo Group ExCom Elections
Don't forget to vote.
See Candidate Bios and
Ballot inside.*

Holiday Party

December 19, 2006: Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction

6-8:30 PM at Lion's Field, 2809 Broadway. Note early start time and party location. See separate article on this page for details.

January 15, 2007: Rancho de la Chuparrosa, a food co-op

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

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. 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, P.O. Box 6443, San Antonio, TX 78209. You can use the enclosed envelope for both your donation and ballot for Executive Committee elections.

Thanks for your continuing support and environmental activism.

Camping at the Coffehouse?

If you're new to the Alamo Group – or even if you're a longtime member – join us for one of our social gatherings. These are great ways to meet new people or spend some time with old friends and you don't even have to put up a tent! Once a month we'll host a Meet & Greet, usually an early-evening get-together at a local restaurant or coffehouse. Recently we've met at the Hills & Dales on the northwest side of San Antonio and at the Candlelight Coffehouse on N. St. Mary's. After the holidays we'll resume our regular meet & greet but feel free to suggest other or additional activities. We like to have fun and want you to join us (bring a friend, too)! Call Meredith Sterling at 694-2660 or email her at reinventme@yahoo.com for more info or to suggest an activity. Visit alamosierraclub.org and click on the events link for updates.

Word from Chair Continued

protect the environment. Our job is far from done, but together we are equal to the challenges

I wish you a wonderful holiday season, and thank you for your support of the Sierra Club this past year. See you next week at Lions Field for the potluck!

***The Winds of Change:
transitioning to a
green economy***

The people have spoken. November elections results made it clear that Americans want change: change in international diplomacy, change in domestic policy, and change in how we live in the midst of a transforming global climate. The environmental community must now hold our government officials' feet to the fire and ensure that they make good on their election-driven promises.

We need to be involved on local, regional, and world levels. Globally, the US must sign the Kyoto Climate Change Agreement and accept responsibility for its greenhouse gas emissions. Regionally, we must work to develop Green programs that focus on ecosystems rather than geographic boundaries. Locally, we must live Green by participating in conservation programs offered by SAWS, CPS and other organizations and changing our buying habits to support environmentally friendly, nontoxic, organic, and local producers. We must continue our work of making San Antonio a Cool City by reducing energy waste and CO2 production. A Green economy must become mainstream in order to sustain our planet.

The winds of change are with us; it is time to catch those winds and transition to a clean and Green economy. You can help by joining the Alamo Group's Conservation Committee. Call David Klar at 495-2148, Jerry Morrissey at 497-5470 or Paula Stone at 393-7351 for more information.

David Klar,
Conservation Chair

***Executive Committee
Election
Candidate Bios***

The following Club members are candidates for the Executive Committee this year. The ballot appears on page three.

Fred Wills

I have been an active member of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club since 1986 serving on the Executive Committee and on both the political and conservation committees. My goal is to help the Alamo Group increase the awareness of its members about natural resources, to increase the environmental literacy of the general public, and to prod our elected officials toward greater responsibility when it comes to protecting our air and water, and the South-Central Texas landscape. If elected, I will continue to maintain a healthy skepticism toward projects and proposals involving manipulation of natural environments. In my view, the health and beauty of the earth must come first. All other considerations are secondary.

Saul Wilen

I am pleased to offer my services to the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club to become a member of the Executive Committee. I commit to attend the meetings and participate to help in running the club. I am presently the CEO of International Horizons Unlimited, a national consulting and resources consortium based in San Antonio that specializes in problem solving through applying an educational focus and prevention strategies in developing solutions. My background is in political science, education and medicine.

I look forward to sharing this expertise and to learning from others who have been involved with environmental issues that affect San Antonio and the region. The basic truth that in order to function people must maintain their health also applies to the need for a healthy environment in order for our community and society to maintain their function.

Hector Gonzalez

I joined the Sierra Club in 1974 and began my volunteer activities in 1978 when I signed up for a service outing at Enchanted Rock. Since then I have served in various volunteer positions including outings leader, treasurer at both the group and chapter levels, and as chair of the Alamo Group. If reelected to the Executive Committee, I will continue to help manage our Group's affairs and resources in a manner that will ensure the Club's long-term health and improve its ability to act as a positive force in protecting the environment in our community.

Loyd Cortez

Dear members, it is a great pleasure to announce that I am running for re-election to your ExCom. I have been an active member of the Sierra Club for about 3 years now. Presently, I hold the following positions: Vice Chair, Membership Chair, and Webmaster.

My goal for next year is to expand our Email Alert List participants from the present 100 members to 500. I am sure that some of you have heard of the political groups called COPS and METRO. Well, I would like our club to have the same political identity and political presence as these organizations. Many city, county, and state political decisions concerning the environment effect our local community. For this reason we want our membership to be able to play a part in this decision-making. We are also working very hard to have more social events where our members can get together. Be sure to check out our website for more details on any upcoming events.

***2007 Sierra Club
CALENDARS***

Support your local Sierra Club group by purchasing your 2007 calendars from us. Loyd Cortez will again be handling the sale of these gorgeous calendars. You can contact Loyd at 674-9489; or just bring your money to the next General Meeting. Remember, you can't go wrong with a Sierra Club Calendar as a gift.

Engagement Calendar: \$14
Wall Calendar: \$13

My newsletter 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 effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Kight, for a presentation and discussion of rainwater collection systems. Learn the basics of design, capacity and cost. Group size limited to 18; not suitable for children. Held indoors 9-11 a.m.; donations to the Friends of Government Canyon will be gratefully accepted and will help make these and other programs possible; reservations required and may be made beginning at noon January 1, 2007. Please include your name, e-mail address and telephone number for each reservation. E-mail educmte@hotmail.com or call (210) 688-9055, ext. 292.

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
Fred Wills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saul Wilen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hector Gonzalez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loyd Cortez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vote for no more than three candidates.
Must be postmarked on or before January 2

Lost Maples Camping Trip

The days were clear, the nights were cool, and the colors were wonderful. In order to reserve a campsite during the height of the fall season, our far-thinking outings leader, Marsha Meredith, had to make the reservation a full year in advance. She even thought to book perfect weather and a 'no mosquito weekend'. The trip couldn't have been better.

Most of us arrived and set up camp on Friday. A campfire kept the cool evening at bay until we turned in to our tents for the night. Lee Dodge was kind enough to give basic astronomy lessons to several of us. Using his binoculars and direction, we easily found many famous constellations and galaxies in the velvet blackness of the hill country sky.

Saturday morning we hiked the west trail and saw the Big Tooth Maples in their

colorful attire, some rare Texas Madrone trees and of course, the lovely Sabinal River. That evening we shared a potluck dinner of many tasty dishes. Ellen Clegg even made a chocolate cherry cake which she baked on site in a cast iron Dutch oven.

Sunday afternoon and the return to the city came all too soon. How lucky we are to have access to such natural places to 'recharge our batteries' with the beauty of nature. I will definitely be taking more Sierra Club camping trips!

Paula D. Stone

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].

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.

Holiday Events at the Canyon

Several events and hikes, many of which are especially suited to children, are being offered at GCSNA on December 22, 23, 24, and 25. Check the TPWD website for more information, or call (210) 688-9055.

January 13, 2007 – Rainwater Collection

Interested in water independence? Join Kendall County's rainwater expert, John

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

PERIODICAL

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.
 Name _____
 Address _____
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Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
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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

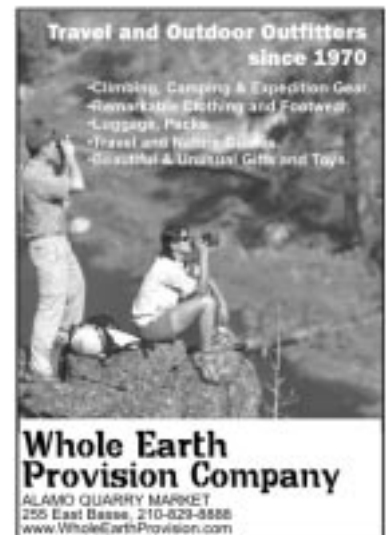
	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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