

PLTA

NEWS!

The Protect Lake Travis Association
10801 Rush Rd.

Austin, Texas 78732

April 17, 1992 Vol. 11, #1

MARBLE FALLS UPDATE

Since the first of this year, the Texas Water Commission has made several changes. One that appears to be very favorable is the appointment of Mary K. Sahs as Public Interest Counsel. Since her appointment, she and her office have been very helpful in getting us information, keeping us notified, and assisting us on our concerns.

We told her of our concern on the slow progress towards irrigation by the City of Marble Falls. The Public Interest Counsel's office looked into this matter and as a result TWC is working to get a reasonable schedule for implementation (stop discharging - start irrigating) and has scheduled for a public hearing, Marble Fall's discharge permit. This is their "old" permit to discharge which has been held in abeyance (temporarily set aside) since December, 1989. At this hearing, a request for dismissal will be addressed and decided. PLTA wants this dismissal and a deadline set, for the earliest possible date, for Marble Falls to stop discharging into the lake. The hearing is set for 10 AM, May 5, 1992, in Room 118 of the Stephen F. Austin Bldg., 1700 N. Congress. We will continue to keep you updated.

HYDRILLA IN LAKE TRAVIS

During this past year, LCRA found the aquatic plant (weed), hydrilla, in Lake Travis. It is believed to be covering a total of 5 acres around the swimming areas at Mansfield Dam, Windy Point, Hippie Hollow, and the Sometimes Islands. Hydrilla is not native to Lake Travis and is almost impossible to eradicate. When uncontrolled, this plant can choke off swimming and boating.

LCRA is working on a plan to control, or hopefully eradicate, the hydrilla. In December the plan called for dumping a copper-based herbicide, Komeen, into Lake Travis this spring. The use of the herbicide was questioned strongly by PLTA and others, and at this time LCRA is looking into other control methods. More as it happens.

Clean water--Accept no substitute!!

PLTA'S 4TH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

PLTA will be having its annual garage sale on June 27 (Saturday) this year. If you are in the process of "spring cleaning" and have found several items that you no longer need, please consider donating them to PLTA. The proceeds go toward retiring our "legal" obligation and are tax deductible. You can call Bob Vann at 266-2500 if you have a garage sale item to donate or you can bring your items to the annual meeting. Our annual meeting is tentatively set for June 20 at 3:30 PM. Check the next newsletter for the exact day and time.

HIGHLAND LAKES NPS ORDINANCE

At the March Lower Colorado River Authority Board of Director's meeting the Highland Lakes Non-point Source Pollution Control Ordinance was passed and will go into effect on June 1, 1992.

The ordinance covers development around Lake Marble Falls, Lake LBJ, Inks Lake, Lake Buchanan, and that portion of Lake Travis not in Travis County (the upper end). These highland lakes ultimately drain into Lake Travis, so this ordinance should help our efforts in keeping Lake Travis clean.

Our thanks go to PLTA President, Bob Vann, for his work on LCRA's Citizen's Advisory Committee, which helped develop this ordinance.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR ORGANIZATION?

Now is the time for you to consider being a member of PLTA's board of directors. All it takes is a desire to continue the effort to keep Lake Travis clean, clear and beautiful. If you think that you have the time and desire, then PLTA needs to hear from you now. The election of our directors will be in June and the names of candidates needs to be turned in by May 15. You may notify PLTA of your wish to be on the ballot by either checking the box on the renewal section or by calling Bob Vann at 266-2500.

PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS



"Keep it clean, clear, beautiful"

printed on recycled paper .

SCULPTURES ON STARNES ISLAND?

In November of this past year, North Texas artist William Easley proposed to sculpt (air-hammer) one or more cliffs adjacent to Lake Travis waters with 20 to 40 foot heads of historic Texas figures; i.e., Mt. Rushmore. When Lake Travis residents heard of this proposed project, there was an abundance of public outcry.

The artist has now changed his art project into seven "large" people and a dog in bronze, all to be placed on top of Starnes Island. Some folks call this island Rattlesnake Island and some call it See Island. LCRA owns the island and would have to lease it to the artist for his project.

Before this project will be implemented, several studies must be completed and the public will have an opportunity to speak on this proposal. LCRA and the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce (they are assisting the artist) are requesting written comments at this time. If you have an opinion about this art project write to:

Donna Brasher, Land Resources AND Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce
Lower Colorado River Authority 311 RR 620 South
P.O.Box 220 Austin, TX 78734
Austin, TX 78767

Please send a copy of your comments to PLTA, also.

The Board of Directors of PLTA does not feel that this is an appropriate use of Lake Travis. We will be sending a letter to LCRA to make them aware of our concerns. A suggestion has been made to put these statues on a state highway (like 620) to become a history trail for Texas.

Mail to: The Protect Lake Travis Association
10801 Rush Rd., Austin, TX 78732

- Enclosed is my annual membership dues of \$10.
- Enclosed is my Special Contribution of \$_____.
- Enclosed is my contribution toward the PLTA-Eugene Moran Scholarship \$_____.
- I would like to be on the ballot for PLTA director.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Remember, the Protect Lake Travis Association is made up of 100% volunteers. Because PLTA is a 501C.3 Non-Profit Organization, contributions are tax deductible. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT and PLEASE RENEW NOW!**

No Sewage in Our Lakes!

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

PLTA chose Joy Kathryn Sisolak as the first PLTA - Eugene Moran Environmental Scholarship recipient.

Sisolak is a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin working on two degrees: a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering and a Master of Public Affairs. Joy is also employed part-time by the Texas Water Commission as an engineering assistant in the Citizen Water Monitoring Division.

The scholarship was awarded to Joy in a small ceremony at the Texas Water Commission. Afterwards, she left to help train some San Marcos students in water monitoring to get them ready to monitor water quality in the San Marcos River. She has a long history of environmental activities and has helped set up citizen water monitoring programs around Texas and as far away as Nicaragua.

PLTA would like to continue giving this scholarship and we hope as you renew your membership dues you will remember our future environmental leaders and help us encourage them in their studies.

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