

PLTA

NEWS!

The Protect Lake Travis Association
10801 Rush Rd.
Austin, Texas 78732
(512) 266-2500, call first to FAX

Fall 1995

Vol. 14, #2

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND FOR TEXAS

Protect Lake Travis Association (PLTA) is a participating member of the Environmental Fund for Texas (EFT) and we need your help in spreading the word about EFT. EFT was set up to help provide financial assistance to PLTA and 26 other environmental groups through payroll deductions from workplace charitable giving campaigns. Employers such as cities (Austin; Houston), Capitol Metro, Houston Metro, federal employees in Texas, State of Texas employees, state university employees, and certain private companies have charitable giving campaigns with EFT and PLTA. We need your help with these campaigns.

If you or any family members, or friends, work at any of these places, payroll deductions can be made designating PLTA as a recipient. If you can help talk about PLTA or hand out PLTA information at any of these workplaces throughout Texas, please contact PLTA. If your workplace does not currently have EFT and PLTA involved in your workplace giving, contact PLTA and we will help get EFT into your charitable giving campaign.

LCRA'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three new members have been appointed to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Board of Directors. **Peter Pincoffs** is the newest member representing Travis County. He is President of Consolidated Insurance Agency and can be reached at 3108 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas, 78705-2013, office phone 512-453-0031, home 512-454-4136, FAX 512-453-0041.

Steve Rivers was appointed to represent Bastrop County and **Fred Henneke** was appointed from Kerr County. The names and addresses of all the LCRA's Board of Directors are available from PLTA if you request them.

PLTA'S FAX

PLTA now has a **FAX** machine and can receive your FAX if you **call first** to have it turned on. You must call because PLTA currently has only one phone line, 512-266-2500. It may be possible in the future to allocate an hour or two, say from 9PM to 11PM each night, to use the phone line for FAX only if the demand occurs.

THE PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS ASSOCIATION

ABOUT THE INSERT

PLTA NEWS! reported in the last issue about the completion of three new boat sewage pump-out stations located on Lake Travis. The enclosed brochure contains a location map and fee schedule for all nine of the public boat sewage pump-out stations and other related information.

Remember that PLTA started because of the desire to keep "treated" sewage from being discharged into Lake Travis. The potential for sewage discharge problems is greater from a boat's sewage holding tank that is improperly dumped because boat sewage is more concentrated than raw municipal sewage. Improper dumping of a boat sewage holding tank is **illegal** and "...a 20 gallon boat sewage holding tank can have the same impact as several thousand gallons of sewage discharged from an efficiently operated municipal treatment plant."

Illegal dumping has occurred on Lake Travis as the Lake Travis Middle School's Volunteer Water Monitoring Team found out a couple of years ago. When they went to their spot on Lake Travis to take their water sample, unknown to them someone had gone by in their boat and illegally dumped the boat's sewage holding tank. The water samples normally show no fecal coliform but this time thousands of colonies per ML showed up. Lake Travis recovered that time, but one of these times we may not be so lucky. If you see any illegal dumping report it to the Sheriff's office, Texas Parks and Wildlife, or LCRA Rangers.

No Sewage In Our Lakes!!

BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED

Sandy Creek Park (Lime Creek Rd.) and Mansfield Dam Park should have improvements made to their boat ramps in the near future. At Sandy Creek Park, Travis County received approval of \$200,000 in matching funds from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The money comes from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act and the Texas Game, Fish, and Water Safety Fund. The single lane boat ramp at Sandy Creek Park will be redeveloped with improvements also to the road, parking lot, dock, erosion controls, area lighting, walk ways, and signs.

At Mansfield Dam Park, Travis County is proposing to improve the ramp to a three lane boat ramp with support facilities including a courtesy dock and lighting. Travis County is doing some great work at the parks!

LCRA'S BUOYS

Lake Travis now has 59 solar-powered mile marker buoys which LCRA placed to help make the lake safer but someone is vandalizing them and making them useless for safer night navigation. LCRA is asking for our help in catching the vandals by calling "911" if you see the vandals, and to report the buoy location by its number. Remember, the buoys were put there at our request to help make Lake Travis safer for boating.

PROPOSED TOLL BRIDGE

For those members who had not heard yet, a request was made to the Texas Turnpike Authority (TTA) to have a 6,000 ft. long toll bridge built across Lake Travis. The three locations proposed are from Arkansas Bend Park (dividing the park) to RR 620 at Teck Cemetary; the south side of Arkansas Bend Park to RR 620 via Oak Grove Rd.; and from Lohman's westward across Lake Travis, than south to Hwy. 71 just east of Briarcliff. A preliminary study done by the TTA showed a 50-80% financial shortfall and evoked the TTA to tell the bridge proponents to get the local elected officials to agree to turn 20-30+ million dollars of taxpayers money to make up the difference and a showing of widespread community support.

PLTA members requested PLTA to oppose this proposed toll bridge for many reasons. PLTA has taken a lead position in opposition joined by neighborhood associations, sailors, boaters, and even 1/2 of the Lago Vista-Pt. Venture Community. On October 31, PLTA goes before the TTA in Dallas, to present our opposition and if you wish to join in with your letter of opposition here are the people to write to. If you need more information call, Bob Vann (512) 266-2500.

James W. Griffin, Executive Director
Texas Turnpike Authority
P. O. Box 190369
Dallas, TX 75219

Jere W. Thompson, Jr.
Chairman, Texas Turnpike Auth.
P. O. Box 190369
Dallas, TX 75219

PLTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following directors continue to serve on the PLTA Board for '95-'96: Bob Vann (President); Mary Anne Krohn (Vice-President); Evalyn Scott (Secretary); Ken Fossler; Bill Sauber; John Strickland, Jr.; Taylor Ollmann; and Sam Warrington. Also elected to the ninth position was **Cole Rowland**. Cole was a write-in vote from several members and he has agreed to serve. Cole is a former Mayor of Lakeway and currently Chairman of the Highland Lakes Group.

PLTA received 4 other write-ins and wishes to thank them for volunteering: **Anne Bloomer; June King; Harvey Gann; Susan Rosenberger**. PLTA will be working hard to get these members to be on our ballot for the '96-'97 term and hope they will be able to serve.

CARLOS N' CHARLIE'S

Carlos n' Charlie's Bar & Grill at Emerald Point Marina was reported by the LCRA as having failures of its sewage facility. A LCRA inspector reported several times of finding the drain field super-saturated and that sewage had been flowing toward Lake Travis. The owner of Carlos n' Charlie's stated that reports of the discharges were inaccurate.

LCRA and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) filed a lawsuit against the restaurant on August 9 and received a restraining order requiring the restaurant to remove all sewage over the 5,000 gallon reserve line of the effluent dosing tank. Problems with the septic system were reported by the LCRA even after an agreement was reached where Carlos n' Charlie's agreed to cease the sewage discharge. LCRA and TNRCC are pursuing this matter to get the restaurant sewage system into compliance with LCRA and state regulations.

Check your mailing label to see if your membership needs to be renewed.

Please consider signing up new PLTA members when you renew your membership, and throughout the year. And please consider increasing your financial help to PLTA if at all possible. There has been much activity this summer involving Lake Travis which needed PLTA's attention, and all of this attention has taken money out of PLTA's treasury.

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

Dues \$10 _____
Donation _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ FAX Number _____

LAKEWAY AREA RECLAIMED WATER STUDY

The City of Lakeway, Hurst Creek Municipal Utility District, Lakeway Municipal Utility District, the Texas Water Development Board, and LCRA, together have completed a nine-month study of wastewater reuse. The "Lakeway Area Regional Reuse Utility Feasibility Study" looked into the opportunities for developing a regional solution for managing wastewater in the Lakeway area.

The report concluded that establishing a regional utility to reclaim wastewater was not cost-effective currently, but may be in the near future. The report also included a public opinion survey, which results showed that Lakeway area residents are very aware of Lake Travis' value to them.

In responding to the survey statement, "I believe using reclaimed water for irrigation helps protect the quality of Lake Travis," 44% strongly agreed and 35% agreed, for a total of **79%**

In responding to the survey statement, "I am comfortable with the idea of using reclaimed water for purposes other than drinking," a total of **87%** agreed. And responding to, "I will use reclaimed water to irrigate my landscape if available to me and if the price is reasonable," **81%** responded in agreement.

Address Correction Requested

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