

PLTA

NEWS!

THE PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS ASSOCIATION
10801 RUSH RD.
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78732

JANUARY 1997

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SPECIAL BYLAW REVISION MEETING

The Protect Lake Travis Association (PLTA) Board of Directors has called a special meeting to consider revisions to PLTA's bylaws. All PLTA members are invited to attend. The bylaws have not been amended since PLTA first organized. The current bylaws are 23 pages long, cumbersome, and need to be updated.

The Board of Directors appointed a Bylaws Review Committee, chaired by Director **Ken Fossler**. The committee has come up with recommended changes that improve and considerably shorten the current bylaws. These changes will be reviewed and voted on at the Special Called Meeting, March 1, 1997, 3PM at Travis County Precinct 2 Constable's Office, Suite 150, 10409 Burnet Rd., just south of Braker Lane.

Our "Thanks!" go to committee chair **Ken Fossler**, committee members **Mary Anne Krohn**, **John Strickland Jr.**, **Bob Vann**, and **Mark Walker**, attorney and PLTA friend who reviewed the bylaw changes "Pro-Bono"—free!

REMARKABLE--PLTA AND RANDALLS

Randalls Food Stores has recently introduced a new corporate giving program that they call their "Good Neighbor Program." Under the Good Neighbor Program, non-profit organizations like PLTA may apply to **Randalls** to be registered as a participant in the program.

If an organization is accepted, the group is assigned a number. Supporters of the group go to any **Randalls** store, ask for a **Randalls' "Remarkable"** card, which entitles the card holder to receive special discounts on store merchandise. The card holder asks any checker to program into the card the number of the non-profit organization the card holder desires. From that point on, the dollar amount of that person's purchases will be credited to the account of the non-profit organization. Each quarter, **Randalls** will send a check to the organization for at least 1% and as much as 3% of the total purchases credited to the organization.

Protect Lake Travis Association has been accepted by **Randalls** for their Good Neighbor Program, and we have been assigned number **392**. If you or your friends shop at **Randalls**, get a Remarkable card from the service desk, and then ask your checker to activate it with # **392**. Then, when you shop, present your card FIRST, before your groceries are scanned, and your purchases will be credited to the PLTA account.

This program could be an important source of funding for PLTA if a significant number of PLTA supporters take the trouble to get a **Randalls' "Remarkable"** card and have it activated with **PLTA's #392**. The money PLTA will receive from **Randalls** will come from their corporate giving program, and will not cost you anything. **Randalls** simply lets their customers tell them how to spend their corporate donations. Let us take full advantage of their generosity. Remember: **Get and use your Randalls' "Remarkable" Card and PLTA's #392.**

PLTA gets dedicated FAX number (512)266-3453

Please make a note of PLTA's new FAX number **(512)266-3453**. You may FAX PLTA anytime as this is a new dedicated FAX line and is on all of the time now. You can still call PLTA's office at **(512)266-2500**.

Protect Lake Travis "Keep it clean, clear, beautiful"

PUMPING AND INSPECTING YOUR SYSTEM—WHAT TO EXPECT

Annual inspections of your septic system are recommended to assure that it is working properly and to determine when the septic tank should be pumped. By inspecting and pumping your system regularly, you can prevent the high cost of septic system failure. Although a relatively simple inspection can determine whether or not your septic tank needs to be pumped, you should consider calling a professional. They can do a thorough inspection of the entire system and check for cracked pipes and the condition of the tees or baffles and other parts of the system. A thorough septic system inspection will include the following steps:

1. **LOCATING THE SYSTEM**—Even a professional may have trouble locating your system if the access to your tank is buried. Once your system is found, be sure to keep a map of it on hand to save time on future service visits.
2. **UNCOVERING THE MANHOLE AND INSPECTION PORTS**—This may entail some digging in your yard. If they are buried, try to make access to the ports easier for future inspections.
3. **FLUSHING THE TOILETS**—To determine if the plumbing going to the system is working correctly.
4. **MEASURING THE SCUM AND SLUDGE LAYERS**—There are two methods for measuring the sludge and scum layers inside your tank. The contractor may use a hollow clear plastic tube that is pushed through the different layers to the bottom of the tank. When brought back up, the tube retains a sample showing a cross section of the inside of the tank.

The layers can also be measured using a long stick with a three-inch piece of wood attached across the end of the stick to form a "foot." The stick is pushed down through the scum to the liquid layer. When the stick is moved up, the foot meets resistance on the bottom of the scum layer, and the contractor marks the stick at the top of the layer to measure the total thickness. As a general guideline, if the scum layer is within three inches of the bottom of the inlet baffle, the tank should be pumped.

The sludge layer is measured by wrapping cloth around the bottom of the stick and lowering it to the bottom of the tank. This should be done through a hole in the scum layer to avoid getting scum on the cloth. The sludge depth can be estimated by the length of sludge sticking to the cloth. If the sludge depth is equal to one third or more of the liquid depth, the tank should be pumped.

5. **CHECKING THE TANK AND THE DRAINFIELD**—The contractor will check the condition of the baffles or tees, the walls of the tank for cracks, and the drainfield for any signs of failure. If your system includes a distribution box, drop box, or pump, the contractor will check these too.

WHEN TO PUMP

How often your tank needs to be pumped depends on tank size, the number of people living in your home, and the habits of your particular household. Garbage disposals and high-water-use technologies, such as a hot tub or whirlpool, affect the pumping frequency.

To estimate how often you should have your tank pumped, refer to the table. This information combined with observations from annual inspections will help you to estimate your individual pumping schedule.

When it's time to pump out your tank, hire a licensed contractor. They will have the appropriate equipment and will dispose of the sludge at an approved treatment site. You can find listings for licensed pumpers and haulers in the yellow pages, or contact your local health department.

It's a good idea to be present when your tank is being pumped. Make sure the contractor uses the manhole, not the inspection ports, to pump the tank to avoid damaging the baffles or tees. Also make sure all of the material in the tank is removed. It is not necessary to leave anything in the tank to "restart" the biological processes, but it is also not necessary to scrub or disinfect the tank.

Tank Size (gals.)	PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
500	5.8	2.6	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.4
750	9.1	4.2	2.6	1.8	1.3	1.0
900	11.0	5.2	3.3	2.3	1.7	1.3
1000	12.4	5.9	3.7	2.6	2.0	1.5
1250	15.6	7.5	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.0
1500	18.9	9.1	5.9	4.2	3.3	2.6
1750	22.1	10.7	6.9	5.0	3.9	3.1
2000	25.4	12.4	8.0	5.9	4.5	3.7
2250	28.6	14.0	9.1	6.7	5.2	4.2
2500	31.9	15.6	10.2	7.5	5.9	4.8

Estimated septic tank pumping frequencies in years., assumes no garbage disposal unit in use (source: Penn State Univ. Coop. Ext. Serv.)

"DON'T BRIDGE LAKE TRAVIS"

It has been a year since the latest move to put a bridge across Lake Travis was stopped. PLTA had not reported the number of signatures obtained on the "Don't Bridge Lake Travis" petitions because the proposal was shot down before the petitions could be used. PLTA would like to brag on all the support and help the petition drive received. At the time the petition drive was cut short, there were 2613 signatures turned in! We know there were more petition sheets not turned in! This is a significant accomplishment.

PLTA PRESIDENT ELECTED CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 2

Bob Vann, President of PLTA, was elected Constable of Travis County Precinct 2 on November 5 and will be sworn in on January 2. He wishes to extend his thanks to all who helped in his election and to let all members know that he can be reached weekdays at (512) 473-9697 and at his office, 10409 Burnet Rd. Bob remains President of PLTA and will continue in that capacity for as long as PLTA wishes.

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS

PLTA needs to have your nominations for the 1997-98 Board of Directors. Remember that you may volunteer yourself, or if you check to see if someone else you desire will volunteer and that they are a current paid member, then you may nominate them. Nominations must be in by March 1, 1997, to be on the printed ballot. The nomination committee has checked with the current board members and all of the following directors have volunteered to serve again: **Sam Warrington, Mary Anne Krohn, John Strickland Jr., Taylor Ollmann, Bill Sauber, Ken Fossler, Evalyn Scott, Cole Rowland, and Bob Vann.**

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Check your mailing label to see if your membership dues need to be renewed. The date you see after your name is the date your **membership expires**. Staying current on your dues enables PLTA to stay active in all the problems that come up which can adversely affect your Lake Travis! Please remember that donations of any amount may be made at any time. PLTA is a 501.C.3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Enclosed is my annual dues of \$10

Mail to: Protect Lake Travis Association

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____

10801 Rush Rd.

Enclosed is my Life Membership dues of \$500

Austin, TX 78732

Your Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City _____ FAX Number _____

State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

MEMBER



Earth Share
OF TEXAS

No Sewage in our Lakes !

BOAT SAFETY CLASSES

PLTA is a member of the **Hill Country Water Safety Council** and would like our members to know about the following Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Basic Boater Education Classes taught by **Les Witcher**, of Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) Public Safety Department:

March 17 & 18 (Mon. & Tue.), 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Satellite 2, RR 620 by Mansfield Dam

April 14 & 15 (Mon. & Tue.), 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Satellite 2, RR 620 by Mansfield Dam

May 5 & 6 (Mon. & Tue.), 6:00 to 9:00 PM, LCRA Board room, 3701 Lake Austin Blvd.

June 16 & 17 (Mon. & Tue.), 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Satellite 2, RR 620 by Mansfield Dam

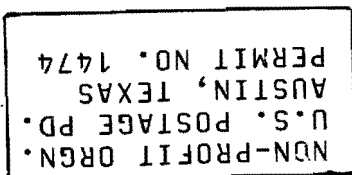
July 14 & 15 (Mon. & Tue.), 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Satellite 2, RR 620 by Mansfield Dam

August 4 & 5 (Mon. & Tue.), 6:00 to 9:00 PM, LCRA Board room, 3701 Lake Austin Blvd.

****August 18 & 19 (Mon. & Tue.), 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Satellite 2, RR 620 by Mansfield Dam**

****This class is to train instructors to teach the TPWD Basic Boaters Education class. It would be helpful but not mandatory to have completed the "Basic" class prior to registering for this class.**

For information or to register, call **Les Witcher**, (512)473-3286 or (800)776-5272, ext. 3286. There is no charge, all materials are furnished and there is no age limit for any class. Many boat insurance companies give discounts for the successful completion of this course.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED