

# PLTA

## NEWS!

The Protect Lake Travis Association

10801 Rush Rd.

Austin, Texas 78732

March 8, 1991

Vol. 10, #1

1991-92 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - The election of PLTA's Board of Directors for the next fiscal year is approaching and we will need your nominations in by April 20, 1991. If you would like to serve on our board, please contact Bob Vann at 266-2500.

GARAGE SALE - PLTA's Third Annual Garage Sale is set for May 4 and we need to be collecting your donations between now and then. If you have items to donate and need for us to come pick them up, contact Bob Vann at 266-2500, Sam Warrington at 266-2573, or Mary Anne Krohn at 250-8829. We will not be able to accept any large items this year, so call us if you have a question on whether your item can be picked up. PLTA does give receipts for tax purposes.

LAKE SHORE TRASH PICK-UP - On May 11, PLTA, LCRA, and other groups will be getting together to pick up trash along the shores of Lake Travis. If you can get involved, or your neighborhood can get involved, please mark this day on your calendar and then call Bob Vann, 266-2500, for more information. There will be T-shirts given to each volunteer and a party for those who volunteered where prizes will be awarded. Come on and help pick up the trash on Lake Travis' shores!

WATER MONITORING - Those volunteers wishing to help monitor sites along Lake Travis and participate in the Colorado River Watch Network will have an opportunity to receive your training on May 3rd. Once you complete this training workshop, a testing kit will be provided for you to join in the network and start testing the water. If you are interested or need more information please call Bob Vann, 266-2500.

RECYCLING - You should notice that with this issue, PLTA NEWS! is now being printed on recycled paper. As our other paper supplies are depleted and whenever possible we will be using recycled products. PLTA does believe in recycling and so do our members. During the past year several community recycling programs have been started up with the help and determination of several PLTA members. Our thanks goes out to them for their efforts.

If you wish to get involved or have questions, contact the following people in these areas: Volente - Diane Nelson, 331-7851, or Evalyn Scott, 335-6462; Point Venture - Rick Witmer, 267-2220, or Dennis Gault, 267-1638; Lake Travis Recycling Team (Bee Caves to Hudson Bend) - Judith Curtis, 266-9449, or Gael Sherman, 266-3840.

If any other community recycling programs are out there please tell us and we will relay the information. And if you wish to help reduce the amount of paper garbage at your own home, here is the address which you can write in order to stop junk mailings to your address: Consumer Services Dept.

Direct Mail Marketing Assn.  
11 West 42nd St, P.O. Box 3861  
New York, NY 10163-3861

PLTA-EUGENE MORAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND - During this past year PLTA lost a former member of our Board of Directors, Eugene Moran. PLTA had been in the process of setting up a scholarship fund in order to promote the study of environmental sciences. We also wished to show our appreciation for the help and effort given by Eugene Moran in years past. These two ideas came together with this scholarship and we hope to award the first PLTA - Eugene Moran Scholarship for Fall semester, 1991. If you would like to help with this fund you may make a donation accordingly.

\*\*\*\* GARAGE SALE - MAY 4 \*\*\*\*\* LAKE TRAVIS TRASH PICK UP - MAY 11 \*\*\*\*

PLTA has tried to keep our members notified of specific problems which would impact Lake Travis waters and how you as members could help. Your responses have always been timely, encouraging and positive. Because of your efforts and watchfulness over Lake Travis, PLTA has been able to win some skirmishes others thought hopeless. PLTA has the finest members any organization could ask for and the best lake in the state! Well, we always knew that Lake Travis was #1, but now we have official proof.

The 1990 Texas Lake Water Quality Assessment Report released by the Texas Water Commission (TWC) ranks Lake Travis as the cleanest lake in the state. This ranking of top lake points out that Lake Travis took over first place because of the previous leading lake's degradation. Lake Travis' water quality was kept steady and not allowed to degrade only by the constant vigilance and work by many volunteers and lake neighbors during the past 10 years.

It is noteworthy that all of the Highland Lakes are among the top 32 lakes in the state. In looking at the four which drain ultimately into Lake Travis: Lake Buchanan ranks #4, Inks Lake #13, and Lakes LBJ and Marble Falls tied at #31, it becomes very clear that keeping Lake Travis clean also involves the cleaning up of all these Highland Lakes.

Along with TWC's ranking Lake Travis #1, Lake Travis remains the only lake in the state designated as "Exceptional" for aquatic life uses, the highest rating available. We have much to be proud of and thankful for with Lake Travis. Even with so many nice things happening we must remain ever vigilant and must now notify PLTA's members of a new problem coming up which will negatively affect not just Lake Travis but all of this country's lakes.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has for the past 16 years operated one of the federal government's most beneficial water quality programs: the Clean Lakes Program. The Clean Lakes Program has been a model of success in solving complex water quality problems, but the EPA does not have it on its agenda for reauthorization next year and is not requesting funding for Fiscal Year 1992. If the Clean Lakes Program is not reauthorized, Congress will have no mechanism in place for helping the states clean up their lakes. This has been an effective program and those of us who have been fighting so long and so hard for clean water know that we need more funding for water quality programs, not less funding or none at all.

PLTA has members all across the USA and this will help in all of the states where each of you live if you would take the time and effort to write any of the following people asking their assistance in getting the EPA to request future funding for the Clean Lakes Program and its reauthorization:

The Honorable George Bush	*	The Honorable (your U.S. Sen.)	*	The Honorable (your U.S. Rep)
President of the U.S.	**	United States Senate	**	U.S. House of Representatives
The White House	**	Washington, D.C. 20501	**	Washington, D.C. 20515
Washington, D.C. 20406	*		*	

On a state level, PLTA requests all of our members from across Texas to join our efforts in asking Governor Richards to set up a "Governor's Select Committee on Water Quality Standards." It has been almost 10 years since the last committee and many new problems have arisen. Much was accomplished from the last committee's recommendations and the time is right for the next step to be taken. It is also time for the Railroad Commission (and the governor) to take more action than has been given in the past to stop the problem with salt flows into the Colorado River. Saltation of our water has gone on for too long already. If you do not know how bad this problem is, contact Bob Vann, 266-2500, and read "More Precious than Oil," in the Feb., '91 issue of Texas Monthly. "More Precious than Oil" was written by Austin writer Robert Bryce and is comprehensive and very informative on the saltation problem to our water.

If you will make these requests with PLTA and influence other leaders in your community to also write the governor, and the Railroad Commission, it will be appreciated. Write to them at:

The Honorable Ann Richards, State Capitol, P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711  
Railroad Commission, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, TX 78711 (we suggest Commissioner Lena Guerrero)

This may seem useless to those not familiar with writing letters to your elected officials, but the old adage "the squeaky wheel gets the oil" really does hold true. And you usually don't get what you never ask for. It is with this reasoning that PLTA is now asking for your help on a more pressing matter. It is that time of year when almost all of PLTA's members have their membership dues come up for renewal. Please take the time in the coming weeks to mail in your membership dues and, if at all possible, any other cash donation above the \$10 yearly dues. All of your donations go towards the protection of water quality in Lake Travis and you know that it is money well spent when you see what has been accomplished for our #1 lake in Texas. PLTA exists only through your donations and cannot fight for Lake Travis water quality without your support. Those members who have donated during the past year are aware that PLTA does mail receipts for all donations and does so as all donations are tax deductible because of PLTA's 501(c)3 non-profit status.

PLTA does believe that everyone of our members is very important but we would still like to recognize those of our supporters who have in the past year been especially supportive: (organizations) Lago Vista Women's Club - \$1,000; Austin Yacht Club - \$750; Comanche Trail Community Assn. - \$200; (individuals who donated at least \$100) David Beilharz, Duane & Elaine Fossler, Helen Hamon Hemphill, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Malof, Lucille Martin (in memory of Eugene Moran), R. Sam Rea, Mr. & Mrs. Chad Smith, Bob Vann, Robert H. Weatherford, and a person very concerned about the Briarcliff area of Lake Travis who wished to remain anonymous.

Along with Comanche Trail Community Assn., there are two other neighborhood organizations which are members of PLTA: Blue Cove Property Owners Assn. and Edgewater Beach Neighborhood Assn. PLTA works with these groups and others around Lake Travis on water quality issues.

# PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS



"Keep it clean, clear, beautiful"

printed on recycled paper

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Membership and/or Special Contributions, 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 \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Yes, I would like to contribute to the PLTA - Eugene Moran Scholarship Fund, here is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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!

STREAMLINING-AUSTIN STYLE? - In our last newsletter, we warned you of Austin Mayor Lee Cooke's proposal (inappropriately named Development System Improvements) to significantly reduce the public notice and appeals process and to make it easier for undesirable developments to be approved by the city.

Opposition to this "streamlining" was voiced by many neighborhood and environmental groups. Editorials appeared in both the Austin American-Statesman and Austin Chronicle stating the dangers of "streamlining". After numerous Planning Commission Sub-Committee meetings where citizens and city staff participated, the Planning Commission came up with a list of recommendations. Despite all of the work done, the City Council passed the original proposal, ignoring the Planning Commission's recommendations. These changes have now severely reduced citizen input and participation in new projects.

LAKE PERSPECTIVES - While the "streamlining" hearings were going on, there were also hearings going on for a development in the Bullick Hollow-Comanche Trail area. Lake Perspectives proposed to build three multi-story office buildings near the banks of Bullick Hollow Creek along with some housing overlooking the creek. This project raised several concerns over possible water pollution, fire safety, traffic impact and neighborhood compatibility. The Northwest Neighborhood Group, Volente Volunteer Fire Department and PLTA met several times to work out an agreement which would address these concerns. Even though the requested variances were approved for the development, pressure by members of these three groups resulted in an agreement by the Lake Perspectives developers to meet certain conditions. These include: complying with the LCRA Non-Point Source Pollution Ordinance (they had an exemption from the CWO); use of wet ponds and other special pollution control devices; safeguards from spills from sewage lift stations; restrictions on the use and storage of hazardous chemicals; use of fire sprinklers.

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