

PLTA

NEWS!

The Protect Lake Travis Association
10801 Rush Rd.

Austin, Texas 78732

Spring 1995

Vol. 14, #1

PLTA ANNUAL MEETING MAY 27

On Saturday, May 27, at 1:30 PM the annual meeting of the Protect Lake Travis Association will be held. The meeting will be in the lower auditorium at St. Luke's on the Lake Church, 5600 RR 620 N. and will last about one hour.

On the agenda will be the election of directors and officers for Fiscal Year '95-96, updates on interbasin transfers and the Highland Lakes Group, update on the proposed toll bridge across Lake Travis, PLTA's financial report, and what PLTA has to look forward to in the coming years.

There have been many things going on around Lake Travis during the past year and you as a PLTA member have this opportunity to come ask questions, see our accomplishments and see what the future holds. Please mark your calendar for May 27th and come to our annual meeting.

LIGHTED BOUYS ADDED TO LAKE TRAVIS

This spring and summer when you get out to boat on Lake Travis you will notice green and red lighted bouys. The bouys are numbered 1 to 59, start one mile upstream from Mansfield Dam and mark the number of miles from the dam. The bouys are an effort by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to help improve the safety of Lake Travis by guiding boaters to the river channel and pinpointing locations for emergency responses.

The bouys are solar powered and the red ones are on the right side of the channel when going upstream from the dam. The green bouys are on the left. The bouys also have radar reflectors built into them for boaters who operate navigational equipment that respond to radar signals.

These bouys were a response to a suggestion made by public input at meetings held by LCRA for public help in the development of LCRA's Lake Travis Recreation Management Plan. PLTA members participated in this development process and appreciate LCRA's leadership role in improving safety on Lake Travis. For more information on the bouys, LCRA's Recreational Management Plan, or LCRA's boating safety programs call Jim Richardson at LCRA, (512) 473-3200, or 1-800-776-5272, Ext. 7637.

BOAT SEWAGE PUMP-OUT STATIONS

Three new boat sewage pump-out stations have been installed at Lake Travis and are located at Emerald Point Marina, Dutchman's Landing Marina and Resort Ranch. The pump-out facilities are for public use by owner's of boats equipped with sewage holding tanks and the users fee is \$5.00 per boat.

Having more pump-out stations was another suggestion made for the LCRA's Lake Travis Recreation Management Plan. LCRA obtained 75/25 matching funds from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services' Clean Vessel Act Pump-out Grant Program for these three stations. This is another program pursued by LCRA to help keep our Lake Travis the cleanest lake in Texas.

No Sewage In Our Lakes!

LAKES GENERATE MILLIONS IN TOURIST DOLLARS
by Cole Rowland

A study of the Highland Lakes recreation economy was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in July, 1994. It dispelled the implication of earlier studies that the lower end of the Colorado was a beehive of economic activity, while the lakes were a wilderness area, with an economy supported by a few bait stands and one small state park.

In 1989, the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce petitioned the LCRA to carry out a study of the economy of each of the ten counties in the LCRA's service area. The study was jointly funded by the Corps and the LCRA, at a cost of \$175,000. This request was based upon a description of the economy of the LCRA's ten-county service area in the LCRA's original Water Management Plan which compared the economies of the upper and lower ends of the Colorado River. The plan said that the rice industry in the Colorado basin contributed some \$60 million to the state's economy. Next it described the economy of the Highland Lakes in terms of numbers of fishing license applications, number of boat registrations and the \$1 million economic contribution of the Inks Lake State Park.

The Corps study began in 1991, with the goal of estimating the economic value of the stored water in the Highland Lakes. The study also sought to place a value on water-related recreation in the Highland Lakes area, and how the economic activity related to water recreation might vary with lake levels in the two reservoir lakes. The study was based on mail questionnaires sent to businesses on the LCRA mailing list, and from interviews with recreational visitors to the lakes.

The study determined that the Highland Lakes receive about 608,000 boating party-trips per year under normal conditions, equivalent to about 2 million persons per year. Lake Travis was by far the predominant destination for boating visitors overall, particularly those of non-local origin. These visitors were estimated to spend about \$103 million per year under normal conditions. Most of this total was accounted for by Lakes Travis and LBJ, with a smaller proportion by Lake Buchanan.

The \$103 million in annual recreation/visitor spending at the Highland Lakes directly supports over 1,900 jobs in the local regional economy. The total economic effects, including multiplier effects, comprise \$133 million per year in output and sales in the local economy of the lakes, \$77 million per year in regional income and almost 3,200 jobs.

Low water conditions at Lake Travis are estimated by the study to result in an annual loss of \$30 million in output and sales, \$18 million in income, and 726 jobs. The numbers represent only a part of the total economic effects of water-related recreation at the Highland Lakes--the part resulting from boating visitors from the 16 counties responsible for 80 percent of the boating activity at the lakes. For budgetary reasons, visitors from the city of Austin to the lakes were not included in the above numbers. Since a high percentage of visitors to Lake Travis are certainly from Austin, the above numbers may be considered very conservative.

The Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce shared the results of this study with area legislators as the purpose was to illustrate what economic effects might be expected from large-scale water transfers, like those proposed for San Antonio and Corpus Christi, from the Colorado basin.

(Editor's note: PLTA again thanks the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce and Cole Rowland for the many hours of volunteer work put in on this effort and for Cole Rowland's unswerving dedication to protect Lake Travis.)

PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS



"Keep it clean, clear, beautiful"

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MEMBERSHIP DUES & DIRECTORS BALLOT

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 can be made at any time and are very much appreciated. PLTA is a 501.C.3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. If you renew or donate, a receipt will be mailed to you and PLTA will enclose one bumper sticker, if you wish, from the following:

1) "Protect Lake Travis--Ask Me--Association Member"

2) "No Sewage in our Lakes!"

or these furnished by LCRA:

3) "Colorado River Trail"

4) "Beat the Baron Waste--Protect our Land & Water"

5) "NIORB--Not in our River, Bubba"

6) "Don't Mess With Texas Rivers & Lakes"

PLTA is happy to mail one to current members, but supplies are limited.

This is also the time of the year for PLTA's annual election of directors to our board. The PLTA Board of Directors consist of 9 members who serve 1 year terms and are volunteers. The top nine vote getters will be the new board. Write-ins are acceptable as long as the person being nominated would be willing to serve and is a member of PLTA. To vote on directors you must be a member in good standing, i.e., dues paid. Here is the ballot for FY '95-96:

Vote for 9 only and return by May 27

_____ Ken Fossler	write-in _____
_____ Sam Warrington	
_____ Bill Sauber	write-in _____
_____ Evalyn Cunningham Scott	
_____ John K. Strickland, Jr.	write-in _____
_____ Taylor Ollmann	
_____ Mary Anne Krohn	write-in _____
_____ Bob Vann	

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

[] Enclosed is my annual dues of \$10

[] Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

[] Enclosed is my donation to PLTA-Eugene Moran Scholarship of \$ _____
The bumper sticker that I would like sent to me is number _____

Your Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ FAX Number _____

THE PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS ASSOCIATION

ABOUT THE TWO ENCLOSURES

The Blue Sheet is a flyer about the new Lake Travis Lake Watch Program introduced March 14 by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). This program is similar to Neighborhood Watch Programs and if you turn the blue sheet over you will see a map of Lake Travis divided into areas. If you live in one of these areas and you want to help, call Les Witcher at 473-3286.

The Green Sheet gives you the new and changed regulations being enforced on all water under the jurisdiction of LCRA and on all land owned by the LCRA. Some lake users may have never seen or known that these regulations have been in place for quite a while. You should read and keep these new regulations handy particularly if you or your friends and family are lake and park users. If you need more information you can call the number on the bottom of the back side.

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