



LAKE TRAVIS

BULLETIN

**THE PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS
ASSOCIATION**

WINTER 1986

MARBLE FALLS IS POLLUTING LAKE TRAVIS WE NEED YOUR HELP

LAKE TRAVIS POLLUTION

There are at least three sewage plant permits up for renewal in the near future including Lakeway MUD, Hurst Creek MUD, and City of Marble Falls.

Your president attended a January 9 meeting with Marble Falls officials and surrounding sewage plant operators to discuss an alternative (effluent irrigation) to discharging treated sewage into Lake Marble Falls. Our spokesman, Mr. Larry Mellonbrook, offered some valuable information concerning the merits of effluent irrigation. Since he uses effluent on his farm east of Austin, his statements relating to types of crops grown, increased crop production, irrigation equipment, soil suitability etc. were well received by the audience.

Lake Marble Falls is no doubt the major source of pollution for Lake Travis. IT IS OUR NEW "BASELINE". Lake Marble Falls is the thirty fourth cleanest lake in Texas. It is even dirtier than Town Lake. At present Marble Falls has had no limitation on nutrient levels in its effluent; this certainly has caused harmful affects on our lake.

Marble Falls officials at present are of the opinion that irrigation will be too costly and that land is not available. However, this last point was contested by one of their councilmen. We will be their "Bastrop" if they continue to discharge effluent into the lake.

Our goal is to protest this permit renewal unless they use effluent irrigation.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our organization is having a dinner meeting on Sunday February 23 at 5 PM at St. Luke's On The Lake Church. This event will celebrate our fourth anniversary; it is not a fund raising project as the bar-becue dinner will be served at cost. PLEASE TRY TO BRING A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER. The Austin Banjo Club will provide some great entertainment so don't be late. This group produced an unforgettable performance for us several years ago.

St. Luke's is the church that has the remarkable Lake Travis setting and is located between Mansfield Dam and RR 2222 on RR 620. The meeting room and parking are on the lake side of the church.

We must have prepaid reservations so that we can make positive plans with our caterer. Therefore, please return the reservation form with your check before February 16.

Mr. David Freeman, the new general manager for LCRA will be our after dinner speaker. After this there will be a short question/answer period concerning our current projects.

LCRA

A new policy is now being considered by the LCRA concerning Lake Travis, Lake Marble Falls, Lake LBJ, Inks Lake, and Lake Buchanan. Their staff and Natural Resources Committee hopes to establish a no effluent discharge requirement into any of the above lakes. This certainly reflects their new and improved attitude toward keeping these lakes clean.

EFFLUENT IRRIGATION STANDARDS

The Texas Water Commission (TWC) does not have complete requirement standards for effluent irrigation. Thus many sewage treatment plant permit applications at present could be granted with potential for pollution. We intend to work with experts in this field in conjunction with the LCRA, City of Austin, and TWC to see that these standards are properly produced and then accepted by TWC. This will prevent the great possibility of poor quality effluent or raw sewage from flowing into Lake Travis.

TRIVIA AND MORE

Lake Travis is the third cleanest lake in Texas.

There were 282 fish kills in Texas in 24 months which killed over fourteen million fish. Thirty two percent of this was caused by oxygen depletion from algal blooms and poorly treated sewage.

The attorney who may represent several cities in opposing a sewage discharge permit application into Stillhouse Hollow Lake has estimated the cost for the hearing to be \$33,000. Our most costly hearing for a similar permit application was \$5000. Is this a scare tactic or is it an attorney's greed?

Average daily flow into Lake Travis in the early 1980's was 1,020,262,355 gallons. Assuming that only half of this was taken for domestic consumption, and that each person used 200 gallons daily, it would require a Lake Travis population of 2,550,655.

With the above daily flow and assuming an average lake depth of 100' and an average width of half of a mile, Lake Travis flows forward about 516' daily.

PROFILES

Jay Powell is one of our most active PLTA executive committee members. Jay was born in Reynolds, Nebraska but came to Texas as a youngster. He attended high school in San Antonio and was graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor in Architecture in 1957. He then practiced architecture in Midland until 1966. After briefly living and working in Waco and Temple, he returned to Austin in 1969 to build the Racquet Club Apartments on Town Lake. He donated a large portion of the early Hike & Bike Trail in the Lakeshore Drive and Riverside Drive area.

In 1970 in an effort to return to nature, Jay moved to Windy Cove on Lake Austin. In the 1970's when he saw the disastrous affects of inadequate solutions on water quality, Jay started fighting for better water quality controls. In 1981 Jay became President of the Windy Cove Neighborhood Association and he still serves as such.

In 1983 Jay became President of The Lake Austin Hill Country Neighborhood Association and he began serving on the PLTA executive committee. For 5 months he served on the Planning Commission ~~Task Force~~ to write the new Lake Austin Watershed Ordinance.

In 1984 Jay became Environmental Vice President of the Westbank Community Council. He served on the Loop 360 Ordinance Task Force, the 2222 Task Force, and the 2244 Roadway Task Force. He also became First Vice President of the Austin Neighborhood Council. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Metro Austin 2000. He helped form and became Co-chairman of the Town Lake Park Alliance.

In 1985 Jay agreed to serve on the 620 Roadway Ordinance Task Force and the Urban Design Task Force. He was Chairman of the Hill Country Roadway Ordinance Task Force.

Jay is active in the Sierra Club, We care Austin, and the League of Women Voters (he is on its water quality sub-committee). For fun Jay is active in the Austin Banjo Club.

PLEASE GIVE THIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO A FRIEND

YES! I CARE ABOUT THE HIGHLAND LAKES

() Here is my contribution of \$25__, \$50__, \$100__

() Here is my membership fee of \$10__

I will help with () Finance () Membership () Legislative () Technical Committees

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

(Return to Protect Lake Travis Assoc.
8400 MOPAC, Suite 304, Austin 78759

I will attend the Feb. 23 dinner meeting. Attached is my check for \$_____ for _____ people at \$3.65 per person.

PRINT: Name _____

Phone _____ Mail to Cecil Laws

253 Venture, Leander 78645 (267-1918)

NOTE: RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 16.

THE PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS ASSOCIATION

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