

# CTCA NEWSLETTER

COMANCHE TRAIL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION JANUARY 2012

## CLEANUP AT THE HOMEOWNER'S COVE



Volunteers Steve Bello, left, Keith Powell, Willie Cones, Noreen Bello, and Ellen Dicker. Not pictured: James and Deba Swan, Gus Ferro, Ron McDaniel, Larry Runyan, Bill Moore, and Gene Barnes.



The shoreline of the Homeowner's Cove with Chevrolet mouse engine block made during the 1960's.

Volunteers from the CTCA membership gathered on January 15 to pick up debris from the shore of the Homeowner's Cove. This cove is part of an easement on property located near the intersection of Comanche Trail and Buckeye Drive.

CTCA Director Willie Cones, above, organized this effort, noting that the timing was favorable due to the low levels of Lake Travis.

Seven automobile tires and an engine block were collected, along with numerous cans, bottles, and framework for docks long submerged.

Thanks to Bill Moore for hauling off this material for disposal by the Travis County Parks Department. Credit is due to Chief Park Ranger Dan Chapman and his staff for this critical assistance.



Tires and framework for a dock collected on the cove easement.

### BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 7

The next meeting of the CTCA Board will be held at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, February 7 at Eva Wiley's La Villa Vista, 6700 Oasis Pass.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2011 CTCA DUES?  
Send \$20 to CTCA Treasurer, 13905 Panorama Dr., Austin TX 78732

Contact information for CTCA Officers, Directors, & newsletter editor is on Page 2.

## CTCA Directors, Officers Contact Information

Lin Swanner, President	lswanner@austin.rr.com	266-8997
Steve Bello, Vice President	stevebellog@gmail.com	257-9745
Valerie Rawlings, Secretary	valrawlings@earthlink.net	422-0654
Donna Ackman, Treasurer	donnaackman@austin.rr.com	266-3476
Keith Powell, Past President	lucidlife@yahoo.com	963-6883

### Directors (2010 - 2012)

Ray Charo	titorac@juno.com	266-1546
William Cones	coneswillie@yahoo.com	266-1981
Eva Wiley	evawiley@austin.rr.com	266-6000

### Directors (2011 - 2013)

Gene Barnes	ebarnes002@austin.rr.com	266-8997
Susan Cloyd	cloydss@aol.com	266-5871
Jennifer Plent	jenniferplent@gmail.com	216-965-5483

**Newsletter Editor:** ads, corrections, news, and photos to: ct-editor02@austin.rr.com

## Neighborhood News



Pamela Kurr, Design Consultant for Texas Treasures in Oasis, Texas.

### TEXAS TREASURES SHOWCASES WORK BY LOCAL ARTISTS

Texas Treasures, a new design center in Oasis, Texas illuminates the neighborhood with paintings, photography, jewelry, and handicrafts by local artists. Design Consultant Pamela Kurr, left, said that the art at Texas Treasures complemented the furniture and other home decorating items in the store. In residential visits, she also advises neighbors about the placement of furniture, art, and accessories for the best advantage.

Paintings by Lakeway artists, Sarah Yeater and Deborah Moss Willhite. and by Comanche Trail artist Ron Maspero are currently on display.

January 2012



## Lower Colorado River Authority: Drought Update

### LCRA wants public comment on proposed Water Management Plan

LCRA is taking public comment on the proposed revision to the [Water Management Plan](#) for lakes Travis and Buchanan. The plan is posted at [LCRA.org](#). Comments can be submitted by email to [wmp@lcra.org](mailto:wmp@lcra.org).

LCRA's Water Management Plan determines how water is allocated from lakes Travis and Buchanan, the region's water supply reservoirs. The proposed changes are intended to make the plan more flexible and more responsive to growing demands in the basin. LCRA's Board of Directors is expected to consider the plan at its Feb. 22 meeting. The public has until Feb. 9 to review the plan and comment.

Many of the changes being considered were recommended by an advisory committee that spent more than a year investigating and discussing how to best balance the diverse demands on the Highland Lakes. The committee was composed of customers and others who depend on the lakes, including cities, industry, lake area residents and businesses, farmers and environmental groups.

"This is a vitally important plan that affects everyone in the region," said LCRA General Manager Becky Motal. "We want to encourage everyone to take some time and take a look at what's being proposed and let us know what you think."

## Character of Comanche III - Now you see it...now you don't

BY DONNA ACKMAN AND JEANNE GRAVES

One of the appealing things residents of the Comanche Trail neighborhood like to mention to their friends and guests is the Sometimes Islands. The name, we always say, comes from the fact that sometimes they are there and sometimes they are not. The 2011 drought has a lot of "Sometimes" showing. The lake is at its third lowest level. The all time low was August 1951 when the lake was 614 feet above sea level. The second lowest was in November 1963 when the lake level was at 615 feet and now we are at the third lowest level: at the end of 2011 it was 626 feet. Just before it was sometimes an island, the land had been part of a family farm where cattle roamed; then Mansfield Dam was built and the Colorado River grew into Lake Travis.

If you go to the county park at Mansfield Dam you can begin a long walk across most of the lake; it's about a mile. Just remember you will only be able to do this sometimes. It's a longer walk than it looks and it's rockier, bumpier, higher and more overgrown with weeds that you might imagine. Take a bottle of water and wear good walking shoes. Looking down from where you're walking, the water level is 30 feet below you on some parts of the island and you see mostly large flat limestone rocks and patches of dirt that look hard-baked but will fool you with mud squishing through your toes when you step on them.

You can tell your friends that people have had weddings out there as well as a book signing event in big white tents and a guy even claimed to be the first to ride his mountain bike across (almost) Lake Travis. Some have ridden horses on the islands. Lots of stuff is out there that you don't see from our neighborhood viewing points. There are square concrete blocks probably left over from gravel dredging operations or an old pumping station. There may be a well. The weeds can be chest high. There is often an American flag on a pole and an occasional camping tent, lots of tree stumps, and big clam shells.

At one time in the past there was a couch, a velvet Elvis picture and a wooden stage. Look for more about these in an interview in the upcoming Character of Comanche publication by Donna Ackman and Jeanne Graves.



View of the Sometimes Islands from Oasis, Texas, January 25, 2012. The Mansfield Dam is in the left background.



Robert Lawrence Daniels  
1955 - 2011

Rob Daniels, a former CTCA Director, and resident of Lake View Drive, died at the end of December after a battle with cancer. He was a native of Boston and a graduate of Washington and Lee University, where he played varsity lacrosse. In Austin, Rob was the founder of Signet Consulting. He is survived by his wife Gail, son and daughter Scott and Allison, and grandson Brayden.

## **Austin Water Plans Construction on Bullick Hollow Road in February**

As part of their plan for Water Treatment Plant 4 (WTP4), Austin Water will lengthen the acceleration lane on Bullick Hollow Road from the pump station to the top of the hill. This is in response to complaints that trucks hauling tunnel excavations were slowing traffic.

The lane construction is scheduled to begin during the week of February 9 said Lynda Rife, a WTP4 official. The work is expected to take about 6 weeks and will take place during daylight hours. Intermittent lane closures are likely with flaggers to direct traffic.

The trench construction for a duct bank along Bullick Hollow Road, announced earlier, has been delayed. That part of the project is still in the permitting process and will not start until later in the year,

# **CTCA BUSINESS**

## **Minutes of the CTCA Board Meeting January 10, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Lin Swanner at 7:30. Other officials present included Susan Cloyd, Jennifer Plent, Keith Powell, Gene Barnes, Steve Bello, Donna Ackman, Willie Cones, and Valerie Rawlings. In addition, the following members were present; Chris and Barbara Maisel, Liz Murray, Larry and Ruth Runyan, Debbie McCasland, Berkley Batte, and Ron Greening. The minutes of the Dec. meeting were approved as published in the last newsletter.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Opening Balance \$3982.70  
2 Deposits .....570.00  
6 Withdrawals.....1676.73 (Christmas Party)  
Closing Balance.....2875.97

Donna reported that there had been \$2514 received from April through Dec. in memberships and advertising. So far this year we have spent \$2783.

Donna said that several of our advertisers are requesting tax ID numbers from CTCA. She said we have a number but have never officially applied to be a non-profit group. Several members chimed in that the amounts we were discussing probably were low enough to not be a problem but Donna said that the application for "non-profit" was easy to complete and could be done on line. She offered to fill out the forms if everyone wanted them done. It was agreed this was a good idea.

*Continued on Page 6*

# Minutes

*From Page 5*

## **Nominating Committee**

Chris Maisel accepted Lin's request to lead a nominating committee to devise a list of candidates for the next slate of officers to CTCA. The committee should consist of one board member and 2 community members. Lin asked that the committee have a list of candidates ready by the March meeting.

## **Annual Membership Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held on April 3, 2012 at 7:00. The location and program details will be decided by the planning committee. The committee consists of Keith Powell, Jennifer Plent, and Steve Bello.

## **Boundary Committee Report**

Chris Maisel gave a report from the boundary committee, which consists of Chris, Larry Runyan, Liz Murray, Chuck Graves and Willie Cones. The committee was able to untangle the boundary conundrum by breaking the problem down into at least ten questions. A number of the questions targeted the wisdom of making changes to include Villa Montana and Mirasol, and another group of questions concerned specific wording and mapping discrepancies. Due to the complexity of the issue, the committee wanted to gather more information, with these specific questions in mind. They will give a final report after gathering all the information. It was suggested that the committee give their final recommendations to the board 3 days before the March meeting so that final board discussions can be completed at the March meeting. Then the information will be disseminated to all the CTCA members and a final vote will take place at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting. Keith Powell moved to approve this plan, Susan Cloyd seconded and everyone approved with a show of hands.

## **Website and Participation**

Ron Greening said that he thinks we should use some of the money in our treasury to keep the website updated. Although the website has had a big overhaul lately, there still seems to be a problem keeping it current. Keith Powell suggested that Ron head a committee to keep the website updated.

Chris Maisel said that we were ALL wishing for more participation in our board meetings, and input on community issues. He suggested that perhaps creative use of the website or an ombudsman might be a way to involve more people.

Gene moved that Chris head a committee to find ways to increase participation. Keith seconded that motion. All voted in favor.

## **Lake Cleanup**

Willie Cones announced a lake shore clean up for Sunday Jan 15 at 12:30. Because of lowering water, much trash has been revealed that should be removed. Willie will provide trash bags and try to involve the parks in the removal of the filled trash bags.

The next meeting will be February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Rawlings, Secretary

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## HEALTH, WELLNESS & WEALTH

Feb.28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7pm to 8pm Meeting,  
6:30 meet and greet .

Uncle Billy's in the party room overlooking  
Lake Travis (next to the Oasis) 6550  
Comanche Trl, Austin, TX 78732

\$2.50 Pints and BBQ available after meeting!



It's the start of a New Year and now is the best time to start those New Year's resolutions. Come join us and learn about how you can experience an amazing new breakthrough discovery that can optimally increase your health and wellness with one of the best kept scientifically proven secrets in America today! This is a strictly informational meeting to educate you on a validated natural way to decrease oxidative stress in your life. Contact Paul Bradfield at 512.698.8657 to RSVP or just show up ☺

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	<b>CTCA MEMBERS</b>	<b>NON-MEMBERS</b>
PERSONAL AD (30 WORDS)	No charge	\$15
BUSINESS AD (30 WORDS)	\$10	\$15
ONE QUARTER PAGE LAYOUT	\$20	\$25
ONE HALF PAGE LAYOUT	\$30	\$50
FULL PAGE LAYOUT	\$60	\$100

All layouts should be in 'ready-to-print' jpeg or pdf format. When monitored on a 7.5 x 10 in page, please avoid fonts less than size 10.

Send copy to the editor at: [ct-editor02@austin.rr.com](mailto:ct-editor02@austin.rr.com) and a check payable to CTCA to Donna Ackman, Treasurer, 13905 Panorama Drive, Austin TX 78732. The deadline is the 15th for each monthly issue.

### **Newsletter Contact**

Corrections, comments, news, and photos are welcome. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

Send to the editor at:

[ct-editor02@austin.rr.com](mailto:ct-editor02@austin.rr.com)

### **Acknowledgements**

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