



FRIENDS OF CANYON LAKE

March, 2006

Volume 3, Issue 1

Mission Statement

To protect the fragile recreation and tourism-based economy of central Comal County, and ensure environmental protection of the Guadalupe River and Canyon Lake by all appropriate means, including legal action, if necessary.

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Gorman Dorsey
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Bob Wickman
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Don and Patti
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Co-Chairmen,
Fundraising
Committee

President's Message from Bob Wickman

Dear Friends of Canyon Lake,

It's time for another FOCL Annual Meeting, in accordance with the Bylaws of our non-profit 501(c)4 corporation. I hope you'll make plans to attend on Saturday, April 8th, at 2:00 pm at the Canyon Lake Forest Property Owners Association Clubhouse, on Canyon Lake Forest Drive, next to the Comal County launch ramp.

The meeting agenda items are as follows:

1. Update on GBRA/Western Canyon Project
2. Update on public meeting regarding Canyon Lake Sewage Plant.
3. Update on the formation of Texas Water Alliance.
4. Status of FOCL.

At the meeting we will answer your questions. But here's a summary.

It's hard for me to believe five years have elapsed since a small group of stunned property owners learned about secretive three-year-old plans by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to up the annual withdrawal from Canyon Lake, regardless of drought conditions, to 90,000 acre-feet per year. Short as it seems, it's been an event-filled five years. We've waged a lot of legal action in both state and federal courts. Still, we have shepherded your donations, and maintain a fairly good sized war chest.

As I write this, three things cross my mind. First, we are in a drought. No one knows how long this one will last. The lake is already down about four feet, and falling. We have about three more feet to go before the launch ramps will be closed and the Corps will likely close the swimming areas at the six parks. River flow into the lake is slowing rapidly. Just six feet lower, and we will surpass the all-time record low of 899' msl in 1984.

Second, GBRA will turn on the spigot soon for the infamous Western Canyon Project, and begin sucking 10,000,000 gallons of water from the lake each and every day from now on.

Third, GBRA operates a sewage treatment plant on the north shore of the lake. It appears to be

servicing far more homes and condos than it was ever designed to handle. Texas has weak standards for treatment of sewage and discharge into public waterways. Sewage treatment is another profit center for GBRA, who gets to keep its revenue. We know they want to add more sewage plants on the Guadalupe River...some above the lake. With the lake level falling, the concentration of impurities will likely rise rapidly. Anyone for swimming? Water skiing?

So FOCL's mission to protect Canyon Lake and the Guadalupe River continues. We are every bit as involved today as we were two, three, four years ago. We absolutely must maintain pressure on the State. No one else appears willing to take the reins to protect Canyon Lake and the Guadalupe River...economic lifelines for our county. Not our state officials, nor our county officials. Certainly not GBRA. And this is true all of the way to the coast.

We are alone in this battle, and we need your help. The extraordinary growth in Comal County and the neighboring region means that the State, our politicians, and the voracious developers will move even harder to extract every possible drop of water from the ground and the surface. They have no stake in our local, recreation-based economy. When the expected disaster ultimately occurs, they will simply blame others.

Owing to health and employment factors on the part of some of our loyal volunteers, we currently have three vacancies on your Board of Directors. We usually don't ask for much. We communicate regularly via email, and usually have monthly board meetings which I try to keep to an hour. Of course, when we have events, we need everyone to pitch in. Maybe an average of 10 hours a month. Can you help? If so, please email me at bobw3333@gvvc.com.

Hope to see you in April. Please pass the word around!



FRIENDS OF CANYON LAKE

How To Contact Us:

Mail to:

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Email us at:

General Information

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Political Awareness

Committee

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Public Support

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Membership Committee

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Board of Directors

BoardofDirectors@

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New Donation Levels & Designations for "Friends of Canyon Lake"

- The following are newly-designated donation levels and designations for contributors to Friends of Canyon Lake:

\$ 15.00-24.99	"Member, Friends of Canyon Lake"
\$ 25.00-49.99	"Canyon Lake Petty Officer"
\$ 50.00-99.99	"Canyon Lake Ensign"
\$ 100.00-499.99	"Canyon Lake Commander" *
\$ 1,000.00-4,999.99	"Canyon Lake Commodore" *
\$ 5,000.00 and over	"Canyon Lake Admiral" *

- * A certificate suitable for framing will be awarded to those contributing at three levels indicated.
- Please send your donation to: Friends of Canyon Lake, P.O. Box 1392, Canyon Lake, TX

Friends of Canyon Lake
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Canyon Lake, TX 78133