

The Lake Merritt Institute

LAKE TRASH REMOVAL, FOUNTAINS, EDUCATION, LAKE MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE

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"TIDINGS" - APRIL, 2005

ISSUE IV

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Spring is a busy time, as evidenced by the following:

- Green City Visions Conference - Rebuilding the City to Save the Environment. Tuesday, May 31. www.ecocitybuilders.org or call Kirstin Miller at 510-419-0850. \$50 General; \$30 Student; \$30 Senior. At the Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive.
- Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation: A Taste of Spring - Wine Tasting at the Rotunda Thursday, April 21; 5:30 – 7:30 pm; www.oaklandparks.org \$50 Members; \$75 Non-Members. 300 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.
- 2nd Annual Horace Carpentier Dinner – A Celebration of the Oakland-Alameda Estuary Thursday, May 26; Waterfront Action & The Jack London Aquatic Center sandy@waterfrontaction.org. Jack London Aquatic Center.
- 14th Annual All City Luncheon – Civic Contribution Awards Wednesday, April 27; 11:45 – 1:30 pm. Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway \$50. RSVP by April 20. The League of Women Voters of Oakland. www.lwvoakland.org or 834-7640 or lwvoakland@earthlink.net
- Open House & Public Meeting – Oak Street to Ninth Avenue Waterfront Project Saturday, April 9; Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 Ninth Street, Suite 290, Oakland. Margaret Stanzione at 238-4932 or Hanna Doerr at 415-227-1100 ext. 11 <www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planningzoning/MajorProjectsSection/oaktoninth>
- 20th Anniversary, Round Table Associates Training Forum and Institute. Changing the Landscape of Recreation, Parks and Conservation through People, Parks and Programs. May 4 – 8; Oakland Office of Parks & Recreation. www.theroundtableassociates.org



March 22. The latest rains brought yet another onslaught of duckweed and fernweed from ponds at the Cemetery and /or golf course upstream on Glen Echo Creek.

Apparently the owners of this plant material do not considerate it a nuisance on their ponds, but it is a significant contribution to the eutrophication of Lake Merritt.

These cormorants don't seem to mind the trash, which is imbedded in duckweed and fernweed as much as 8 inches deep inside the barrier.

Removal of trash is very difficult under these conditions.



HOW BIG IS LAKE MERRITT? It seems that authors of previous reports have had a hard time agreeing on the size of our Lake, and it is even harder to find out the size of Lakeside Park. The following numbers have been published:

- Community Assistance Team (CAT) Study, 1988-89: Lake – 155 acres. Park 180 acres.
- Lake Merritt Management Plan, 1987: Lake - 145 acres.
- Phil Williams & Associates, 1992: Lake – 160 acres.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1975: Lake – 160 acres.
- Lake Merritt Restoration Project, 1982: Lake – 145 acres.
- Oakland Heritage Alliance, Summer Walking Tours: Lake – 122 acres. Park 155 acres.
- Lake Merritt Master Plan, 2002: Park – 85 acres.
- Feasibility Study Report (Channel Study), 2002: Lake – 147 acres.
- Preliminary Design Study, Lake Merritt Flood Control Facilities, 1966: Lake – 160 acres.

My bet for Lake size is 160 acres, the number used by engineers and computer modelers (they know numbers better). Note that this does not include the surface area of the channel, which is about 6 acres, not counting water in the pipes under 7th, 10th and 12th Streets. As for the park, 85 acres seems about right when you look at a map. But if anyone out there has any documented evidence to the contrary, we would like to hear from you.

PILOT AERATION PROJECT SET TO START: Using patented technology to maintain constant air pressure to multiple diffusers with only one main feeder line, a small, trial aeration system is scheduled to begin operating in Lake Merritt this April. Installation will be at the Boating Center, with several diffusers placed in deep (8 – 10 feet) water just off of the bottom. The purpose of this project will be to determine if encrusting organisms will clog up the diffuser heads, which will expand and contract when air pressure is on or off. We should know by mid June, after which the City will decide on proceeding with a full, Lake wide system to eliminate violations of regulations on oxygen content of the water. Boaters, bottom dwelling organisms and the Institute hope the trial will be a success.

MY HOW TIME FLIES: “Here’s Plan to Break Traffic Bottleneck on 12th Street Dam” the headline proclaimed. “Engineers propose two grade separations, rerouting of key tracks, one –way arteries” the story continued. It was 1946 and the City Council was about to approve a solution to one of Oakland’s worst traffic problems. In 1953 it was done and the maze of roadways was complete. Fifty years later

its death knell was sounded when work began on the Lake Merritt Master Plan's recommendation to replace the structure with a more civilized city street. By 2008 it will be gone.

AERATION FOUNTAIN / ELECTRICAL CABLE REPAIR WILL BE PUT OUT TO BID:

Using DD funds approved by Council last July, bids will soon be solicited for a new aeration fountain at Grand & Harrison streets, and for repair of the underground electrical cable which failed at the Embarcadero in March, 2004. Once the latter project is complete, the Embarcadero fountain will be returned to its rightful place at the ends of storm drain culverts 6, 7 and 8.



The 3 hp "Tornado" aeration fountain has been sitting in storage since May, 2004. When the electrical cable is repaired, it will once again grace the busy pergola, a popular spot for wedding photos, saxophone players and urban runoff.

The proposed new aeration fountain at Glen Echo will not have lights, and will have a lower spray pattern than shown here for the former unit.



INSTITUTE SUBMITS STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS: Last summer, the City Council directed staff to issue a "Request For Qualifications for Lake Merritt Clean Lake Services" regarding work done by the Lake Merritt Institute. The RFQ has been issued and on March 23rd responses were received by the City. To broaden participation in the clean up program, the Institute has teamed up with the Peralta Services Corporation, a subsidiary of the Unity Council. To add a formal water quality monitoring program, we have teamed with Geomatrix Consultants. Submittals will now be evaluated, and a scope of work negotiated, hopefully before the end of our current contact on May 31st.

The Lake Merritt Institute is sponsored and supported by the Oakland Public Works Agency and members like you.