

# The Lake Merritt Institute

*LAKE TRASH REMOVAL, FOUNTAINS, EDUCATION, LAKE MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE*

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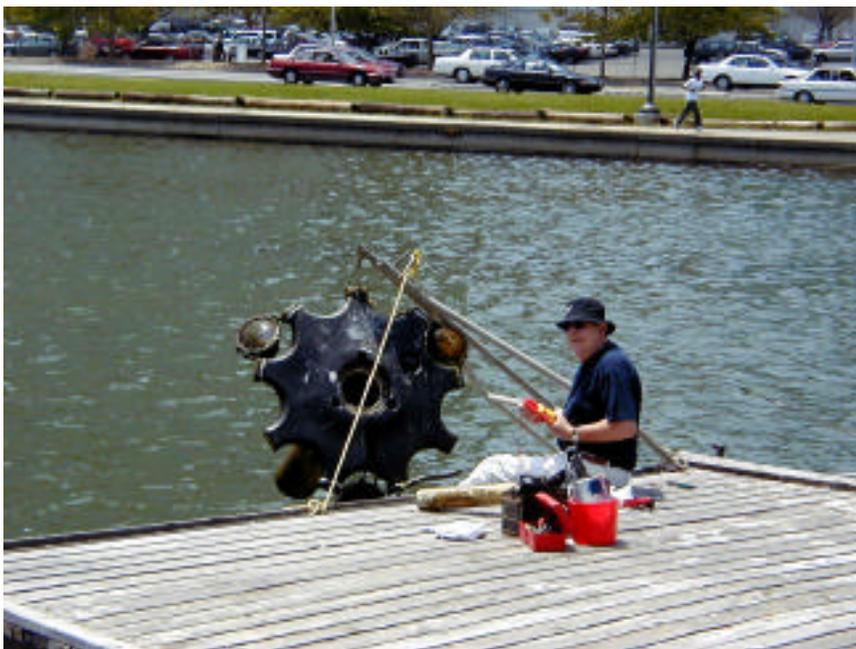
ISSUE VIII

**WIDGEON GRASS SEASON FIZZLES:** Growth of the underwater seed plant (genus *Ruppia*) never really took off this year. Normally it is visible at the surface in June, then dies, rots and fouls the shorelines in July. However this year, we never saw it at the surface and the harvester boat appeared to collect smaller amounts than in years past. By mid-July, it appeared to be gone.

These limited quantities (welcomed by the boating community) may be due to the aggressive harvesting of the plant by the City's harvester boat and crew. The boat was active every day, including Saturdays. Whenever it would need repairs or parts, it was fixed within one to several days. Calls have been made to companies who control widgeon grass at other lagoons to determine if they have noticed a similar decline, which would indicate a damping influence by the weather.

**GLEN ECHO FOUNTAIN UPDATE:** The float and lights are there, but the motor is gone. Bearing problems doomed the motor at the aeration fountain in Glen Echo cove by Grand and Harrison streets in late June. It was removed and returned to the manufacturer, who graciously provided another based on the warranty. Since this less expensive motor (unlike the other units at the Embarcadero and Bandstand) was not specifically designed for salt water, corrosion may have hastened its demise. It should be up and running again sometime in August.

However, this fountain is of a design that is more difficult to maintain, requiring an intake screen with holes only about 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch in diameter which are often clogged. Its impeller is easily jammed, nozzle resistance causes an increased electrical load, and we are limited to one type of nozzle due to drifting spray. Recommendations will be made to replace it with a more powerful and more easily maintained aerator, such as we now have at the Embarcadero. Measure DD funds may be available for this.



*Volunteer Jim Montgomery works on the Glen Echo aeration fountain. A retired electrician, he is invaluable in our efforts to keep the fountains running.*

*The fountain to be installed at East 18<sup>th</sup> Street will be of a different design, and will have a motor specifically designed for salt water.*

**WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN IRELAND:** Although the water is cold, many people swim at the ocean beaches in Ireland. Most of these have a bulletin board showing the results of comprehensive (not just bacterial sampling) water quality monitoring for the past several months. Included is a description of each water quality parameter and how to interpret the results. The program also seeks to eliminate litter, which of course ends up in the water.

**GOOSE UPDATE:** Based on our weekly counts every Thursday, goose numbers at Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park peaked at 1,935 (similar to last years peak) on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and have been gradually declining since then. For the weeks between July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, numbers were 1,768, 1,668, 1,216, 897 and 689. While no one counts the goose droppings, their number has also declined.

**MEASURE DD UPDATE:** Note: This update concerns those portions of DD that apply to Lake Merritt and the Channel. For updates on other topics, such as waterfront, East Oakland Sports Center, Studio One et cetera, contact other organizations dedicated to those enterprises.

12<sup>th</sup> Street: \$88,250,000 is planned for this master plan project; \$31,600,000 in the first series of bonds in 2003; \$47,400,000 for bonds to be sold in '06 and \$9,250,000 in '10. This does not include a funding gap of \$12,850,000 which will be sought from state/federal grants and other sources.

Fairyland, restore municipal boathouse and reconfigure El Embarcadero roadways: Three million is planned for Fairyland, \$6,500,000 (plus a \$1,976,150 funding gap) to restore the Municipal Boathouse at 1520 Lakeside Drive; and two million for safer pedestrian and traffic access at the Embarcadero. All of these are to be funded between 2003 and 2006.

Storm drain filters, trash barriers, aeration, etc. has been allocated \$4,500,000 spread over the three bond issuances, the first of which will dedicate one million dollars this year. Plans are afoot to start with several storm drain filters that can be easily installed, and for evaluation of more filters in the watershed that will protect both creeks and the Lake.

Renovating and restoring the Lakeside Park sailboat house: \$7,425,000 is allocated, including eliminating the parking lot (is this a good idea?). Although some work is needed, the master plan called for eliminating current boat storage, workshop and office facilities, which would cripple several programs. A low, two story office / classroom / storage building on the present footprint, now screened from Bellevue Avenue, would better serve the Boating Center.

Renovate maintenance facilities, landscaping, docks, restrooms, furnishings and signage: \$16,375,000 is needed, but only \$6,250,000 is allocated. The funding gap is \$12,090,000 (73% ???).

Retaining walls, pedestrian / bicycle paths and lanes, expand Snow Park: \$3,715,000; \$9,800,000; and \$6,390,000 respectively. Gaps of \$1,383,000; \$3,064,000; and \$2,040,000 respectively.

Where funding gaps exist (which includes most categories) the gaps will be the focus of fundraising efforts. Should additional funding not be raised, project scope of work will be revised to fit Measure DD funding, or staff will return to City Council for recommendations on reprogramming of funds to other Measure DD projects.

The next meeting of the DD Community Coalition will be Monday evening, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9.