

# Citizen's United for Lake Placid Newsletter

P.O. Box 501, Seguin, Texas 78156

[www.lakeplacidseguin.com](http://www.lakeplacidseguin.com)

## Howdy Lake Lovers!

By Erika Boyd

We hope you are having a great Summer! The lake looks beautiful. It may be hot and humid but, the lake is cool and refreshing! The boat ramp is open again so have your swimmers and kayakers watch out for boats & personal watercraft!

The next CULP General Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on August 15, 2009 at Lake Breeze Ski Lodge. Please join us for breakfast.

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## President's Corner—Rick Wallace

Here's an update:

**Email:** If you are not receiving my emails and would like to, please make sure that I have your correct email address. You can email me at

[wwallace@satx.rr.com](mailto:wwallace@satx.rr.com)

**Our Website is:**

[www.lakeplacidseguin.org](http://www.lakeplacidseguin.org)

**Clean Rivers Program:** The GBRA website has all of the

presentations from the last meeting of the Clean River Steering Committee. I found the one on the drought interesting. Their website is:

[www.gbra.org/CRP](http://www.gbra.org/CRP)

**Movie:** The movie, *The Kings of Appletown* was filmed on our lake. Most of the water scenes were from our lake and a few were on the river in New Braunfels and on Lake McQueeney. *The Kings of*

*Appletown* had a limited preview release on December 12, 2008 and was returned to post production. The film will have a special screening at Lowes in Lincoln Square in New York City.

**Hazards:** We are in the process of putting out seven new buoys. Most of them will be around the island.

## President's Corner Cont'd

**Edwards Aquifer Restoration Implementation Plan:** So far the EARIP has met all of its targets. The results so far look favorable for us. The most important thing they are working on now is getting enough money to continue.

**Guadalupe Basin Coalition:** Our lobbyist is watching. So far there are two bills concerning the Edwards Aquifer which the lake groups are against.

**Disaster Drill:** Last weekend Guadalupe County held a mock disaster drill to practice for a bio threat such as bird flu or anthrax. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please call the county.

**CULP Membership:** The CULP membership stands at about 120. There are about 400 waterfront land owners. If you know someone who is not a member and would like to join, please let us know at (830) 379-4264.

**Lake Problems:** The most frequent complaints I get remain to be: (1) Shoreline damage caused by wake boarders, (2) noise from loud speakers on boats, and (3) personal watercraft not obeying the fifty foot rule. Please be respectful of others. If we don't police ourselves, we may end up with more laws and rules.

**FEMA Study:** FEMA will be conducting a study of repetitive loss areas in the

County. The study will concentrate on Turtle Lane and Lake Placid Dr.

**Restoring Fish Habitat:** This project is not dead it is just taking awhile. We are waiting for GBRA to figure out what to do about lakes H4 and H5 so we can piggyback on that effort.

**Board Meetings:** Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each quarter. They are open for anyone to attend. If you want to attend just get in touch with me to confirm the location.

**IH-10 Boat Ramp:** The ramp is now open.

## FYI

### Dry Comal Creek Flood Retention Dam

We are working with Comal County to speed up construction of the Dry Comal Creek Flood Retention Dam project. This structure, along with five others in existence, retain water following heavy rains and discharge the impounded water put a slow control leak rate, thereby reducing peak flooding. Had the five structures not been there in 1998, it is estimated that much of the town of New Braunfels would have been under water and our levels would have been much higher than they were.

### Guadalupe Basin Coalition

We continue to be actively involved with the Guadalupe Basin Coalition to tract water issues in the State of Texas Legislature through lobbyists, and the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program working on long term goals to protect Endangered Species and possible sources of additional water for our area.

### Edwards Aquifer

The Edwards Aquifer continues to drop, along with the spring flows from the Comal and San Marcos Rivers.

Under Stage I Critical Period Triggers, municipal, industrial and agricultural users must cut their pumping from the aquifer by 20 percent. Stage I for the San Antonio Pool applies to all Edwards Aquifer groundwater permit holders within Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, and Medina counties.

Stage I is triggered when any of the following apply for 10-day averages: San Antonio Index Well J-17 drops below 660' msl; San Marcos Spring Flow drops below 96 cubic feet per second or the Comal Springs Flow drop below 225 cubic feet per second. Currently, the San Marcos Spring Flow is 97 cfs.

As you know, our area is in an "Extreme Drought" approaching the drought of record of the 1950's. The fifties drought lasted almost seven years. However, we have had no appreciable rain fall since August, and once people begin to water their lawns and farmers begin irrigating their crops, the aquifer will drop rapidly and the spring flows

will drop accordingly.

How will that affect us? We will have very low flow from the Comal Springs and our water quality will begin to deteriorate, and our water suppliers will demand usage reduction for our homes. Our water cops get the majority of our water from the Canyon Regional Water Authority which pumps Guadalupe River water from Lake Dunlap and treats it before selling it to customers. Canyon Lake is at a record low level and we now rely mostly on the Comal Springs flow.

It is important that we do our part to reduce water usage. The aquifer is like a huge sponge and can absorb water at a rapid rate, however when there is no rainfall for extended periods, it will drop at a rapid rate.

## Just Say “No” to Drugs in Your Septic System *(reprinted from Cabin Life Magazine—February 2009)*

If you're suffering from a serious or chronic illness, your lake house septic system might be in need of some healing as well. Just as the presence of common prescriptions in municipal water supplies has hit the news, liquid waste professionals are concerned that excess pharmaceuticals are upsetting the bacterial balance in the septic systems they pump.

Contractors who maintain septic systems have reported failures in systems used by people receiving extensive drug therapies or chemotherapy. It's thought that excess meds not absorbed by the body are carried in waste to the septic tank, where they hamper the bacterial action necessary to break down waste.

Without proper bacterial action, waste doesn't separate efficiently threatening the effective life of your septic system. Poorly separated wastewater leaving the septic tank can clog the drainfield, requiring costly repairs or replacement.

While halting lifesaving medical treatments isn't an option, you can do a few things to protect your septic system from an overdose.

**\* Call for more frequent septic tank inspections.** Your septic waste pumping specialists will suggest an inspection schedule based on your situation. If you live at the lake house full time, you might want to request an inspection every three to six months. If your visits are infrequent, the medicines you take may not have an impact on

the septic system.

**\* Dispose of excess meds responsibly.** Never flush unused medications down the toilet, whether you're at the lake house hooked to a septic system or at home with a municipal wastewater system. Many municipalities are now including unused drugs in their hazardous waste collections. Hospitals and clinics also sometimes offer drug disposal or recycling.

**\* Mix into trash, if necessary.** If you must put meds in the trash, the Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends that you mix pharmaceuticals with “undesirable” substances like coffee grounds or cat litter, then seal in a nondescript container and put in the trash to discourage anyone from ingesting them.

## In Memoriam

### CULP President Jerry Witten

7/13/1928 to 1/28/2009

Our past CULP President, Jerry Witten, passed away on January 28, 2009 after a long courageous battle with cancer.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara, sister Lucille Holman, sons Rick Witten and wife, Sharon, Cleveland, TX, Lee Witten, Jeff Witten and wife Pam of San Antonio, daughter Carla Green and husband Allen Green of La Vernia, TX, grandkids Caitlin, Carly, and Jordan Green, Terry Olson, Whitney and Warrin Witten, Jesse Witten and four great-grandchildren.

Jerry was born in San Antonio, TX, on July 13, 1928 and attended Edison High School, Class of 1945, and Trinity University. He served in the Naval Air Service, and earned his pilot license before he got his driver's license. Jerry enjoyed a long and celebrated career as a flight

engineer with Saturn, Slick and Trans-America Airlines. He traveled the world and loved sharing his stories with everyone. Jerry served as president of Citizens United for Lake Placid where he lived many years. Quite the entrepreneur Jerry had ownership in an airport, a fish farm, and a sunscreen company. He valiantly fought a 19 year battle with cancer and never gave up.

## *Heart Health*

### **Lemon-Blueberry Breakfast Muffins**

#### Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 cup Promise butter  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 egg  
1 tsp. Vanilla extract  
1/2 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt  
1/2 tsp. grated lemon peel  
1 cup fresh blueberries

#### Glaze:

1/2 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 Tbsp. lemon juice  
2 tsp. Promise butter

#### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Grease muffin pan or line with aluminum cupcake liners; set aside.
2. In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add blueberries and gently toss to coat. In large mixing bowl, with electric mixer, beat

Promise butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla, then yogurt and lemon peel just until blended. Stir in flour mixture just until blended.

3. Evenly spoon batter into prepared pan. Bake 22 to 24 minutes or until golden brown and center springs back when touched. On wire rack, cool 5 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely.
4. Meanwhile, for glaze, blend confectioners' sugar, lemon juice and butter. Drizzle glaze over cooled muffins.

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## **Officers & Board Members for 2009**

Rick Wallace  
President  
255 Lake Placid Dr.  
379-1649

Vicky Allen  
Board Member  
701 Lake Placid Dr.  
372-1602

Sherilynn Morris  
Board Member  
269 Turtle Lane  
303-9209

Jeanette West Hannasch  
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2625 Blumberg Park Rd.  
379-4264

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Manchaca, TX  
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386-0303

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P.O. Box 100  
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560-2007

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476 Turtle Lane  
303 1874

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729 Lake Placid  
303-4196

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Board Member  
320 River Dr.  
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