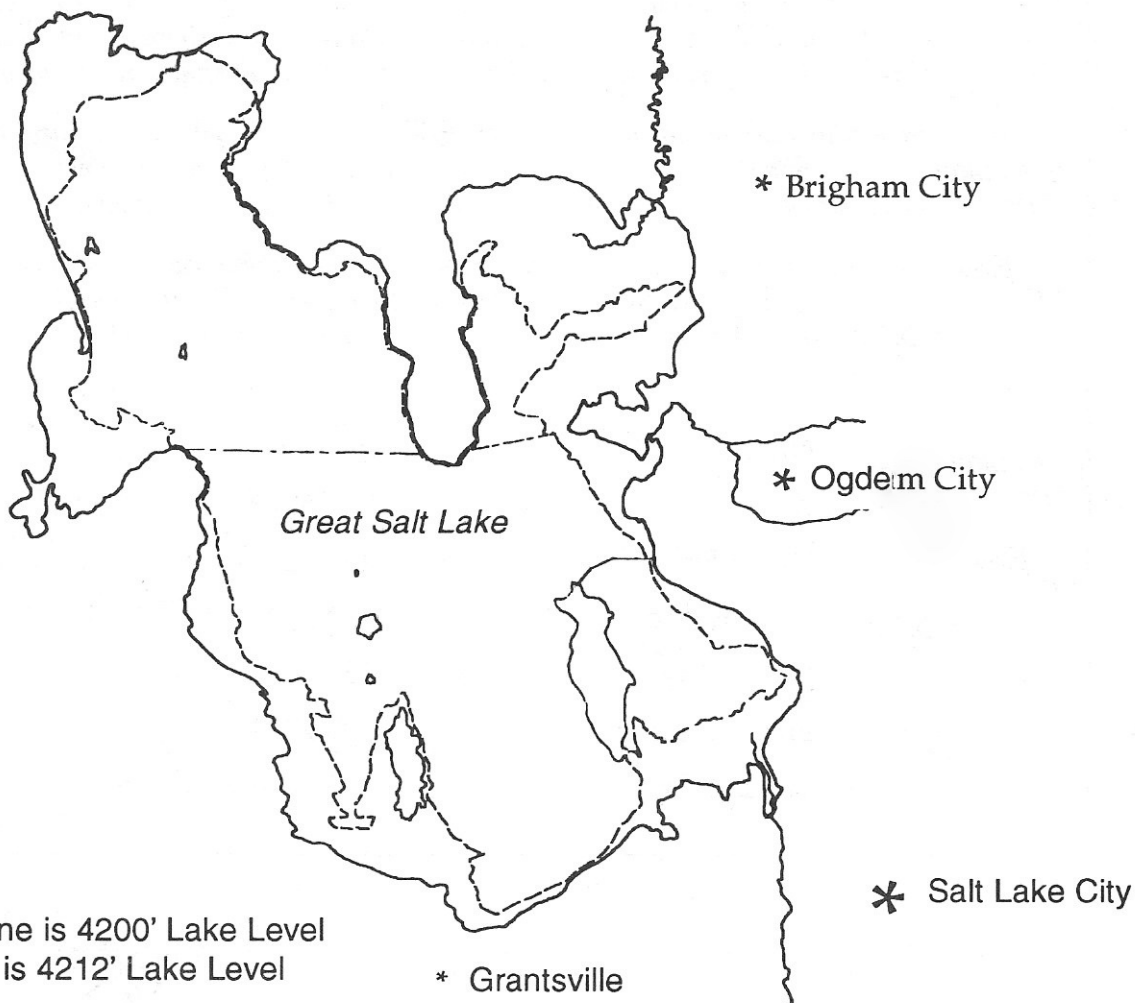


FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE

Volume 1 no. 1

Fall 1994



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Dear Reader:

Welcome to Friends of Great Salt Lake's first newsletter. Friends of Great Salt Lake is a new grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Great Salt Lake's ecosystem and to an increased public awareness and appreciation of Great Salt Lake through education, research, and advocacy.

In this newsletter, you will read more about Friends of Great Salt Lake, our vision for the organization, and something about the lake that you may not have heard before. In the future, we want to bring you more information about the lake's natural history, human history, and management and political issues affecting the lake's ecosystem. Friends will publish informative newsletters and organize lectures, field trips, workshops, community service projects, and issues forums which will cover a broad range of topics and viewpoints.

We invite you to share in our vision and help Friends of Great Salt Lake achieve our goals through your support as a member, a volunteer, and participant in special activities. Charter memberships are now available. See the back cover for more information.

If you have any questions or want to know how to become more involved with Friends of Great Salt Lake, you are welcome to attend the first membership meeting October 25, 1994 (more information contained in this newsletter) or call the folks listed below.

| NAME | NUMBER |
|------------------|----------|
| Kathlyn Collins. | 355-5226 |
| Gwen Dean | 485-7860 |
| Pat Johnson | 582-3724 |
| Wayne Martinson | 355-8110 |
| Elise Peterson | 485-2394 |
| Joel Peterson | 485-2394 |



THE CREATION OF FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE

In recent years, an awareness has been growing about Great Salt Lake's biological importance to millions of migratory shorebirds, in addition to the well known importance to migratory waterfowl. People are learning that the lake is a dynamic biological system. Changes in lake level and size are seen as a function of a healthy ecosystem and welcomed as a renewal of the ecosystem's shoreline and aquatic habitats.

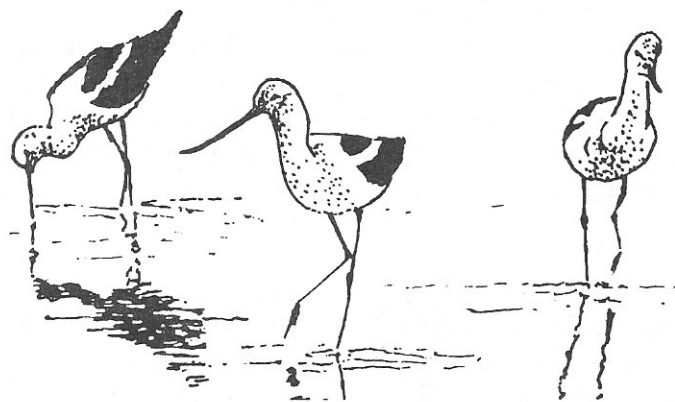
However, in the growing communities on the Wasatch Front, where space for urban growth and fresh water is becoming scarce, development plans for land and water turn toward Great Salt Lake. Urban and industrial development is occurring or being proposed for Great Salt Lake without regard to the health of the lake's ecosystem.

Within the past year, an idea took shape with the encouragement of Wayne Martinson and Elise Peterson of the local Audubon chapter who wanted to provide a way for the integrity of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem to be considered when development proposals affecting the lake were being evaluated. Wayne and Elise knew that a public voice was needed to encourage appropriate land use policy concerning the lake. Last spring during the final forum of the Great Salt Lake lecture series sponsored by the Utah Museum of Natural History, Wayne suggested to the audience that a public organization for the protection of Great Salt Lake could be formed similar to the Mono Lake Committee in California who watchdogs Mono Lake. The response was encouraging. Over 200 people expressed an interest.

The first organizational meeting was held in April

and attended by approximately 30 people. When each person was asked why they came to the meeting and what they envisioned as an organization, the answers were as varied as the people were in age and background. Some attendees were intimately knowledgeable about the lake and others came to learn. The common thread was respect and love for the lake. The group formed a collective vision to focus the organization on preserving and protecting the Great Salt Lake ecosystem by educating people about the lake ecosystem, encouraging research of the lake ecosystem, and addressing planning and legislative issues related to the lake ecosystem. The organization was named and a mission statement formed.

Since then, many discussions have followed about the organization and program elements of *Friends of Great Salt Lake*. The legal paperwork is finished and *Friends of Great Salt Lake* is now registered as a Utah Non-profit Corporation with an application submitted to the IRS for federal non-profit status. This newsletter is the first call to membership. We hope you will join us.



FIRST MEMBERS MEETING

SPEAKER AND ELECTIONS - PLEASE JOIN US!

Kristi DuBois, will be presenting *Images of Great Salt Lake* at the first general members meeting, Tuesday, October 25, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sugarhouse Garden Center (1650 East 2100 South). A biologist and photographer, Kristi arrived in Salt Lake City 3 years ago for a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since her arrival, Kristi has been photographing Great Salt Lake. She has published

her photographs in a number of regional magazines, books and in the Salt Lake Tribune.

During the meeting folks will vote for *Friends of Great Salt Lake* officers and board members (see page 6). Write-in candidates will be accepted from those present. Refreshments will be served and there will be time to socialize.

FIELD NOTES -- ECOLOGICAL ELEMENTS OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE

J. Milton Peterson

Three years ago, I took my first sailing trip on the Great Salt Lake in an old boat I just bought. On this early Autumn morning I was exploring a new frontier to which previously I had no access; an ecosystem that I would hope to know. If this strange lake could speak, would she have a voice that I could understand?

My previous experiences were restricted to the lake's edge while watching shorebirds. I quickly began to associate the smell of hydrogen sulfide gas with the tremendous productivity of brine shrimp, algae, and an aura of brine flies - the cornucopian food source that supports the ecosystem before their decay on the shores. I even welcome its rich reminder, a veil over the lake's beauty, repulsing the incidental visitor. The brine flies have been categorized as "noxious" because of their great numbers and their propensity to land on people who stroll along the shore. The abundance of this non-biting fly is further indicated by mats of their pupal casings washed up on the shoreline. To further discomfort the faint-at-heart, there are spiders which faithfully respond to complaints of too many brine flies by constructing their webs, rather un-strategically, on every structure available. These beautiful spiders grow quite large from gorging on brine flies only to also become the target of complaint or a meal for a yellow-headed blackbird.

Also on the shores, halophytic plants such as salicornia, iodine bush, salt grass, saltbush, and shadscale assemble within their own niche of salt tolerance, pioneering specific zonations of shoreline, while the secrets of fresh water sources are given away by cattail and bulrush marshes. The shallow lake frequently inundates these playas of sticky clays and silt with more brine, resetting the advance and distribution of plants.

That day I launched into a unique world of the lake, the familiar smell disappearing quickly as the drying spray left white freckles of salt crystals upon the deck. I sailed my way toward the middle of the lake, far from the life of the shoreline of birds communing on the bugs. With fog obscuring every shore, I appeared to be surrounded by a lifeless sea. However, I soon floated across a pink ribbon of

windrowed brine shrimp cysts. A balance is played out between brine shrimp, the algae on which it feeds, and environmental factors such as temperature, salinity, and perhaps dissolved oxygen. The age structure, reproductive strategies, density and distribution brine shrimp continues to be studied but is not completely understood.

Biodiversity of life in brine systems is typically low, but the sheer numbers of those species which inhabit the brine are staggering. How does this super-abundance of life fit into the ecosystem?

The lake continued to come alive as grabes began to appear all around me and as quickly disappear under the water, then pop back up in some random place, like fireflies in the dark midwestern nights of my childhood. The importance of this ecosystem is measured by the tens of thousands of shorebirds stopping on their journey to the southern hemisphere. With the lake about 75 miles long and 35 miles wide, a fatigued migrating bird would see the lake from over 35 miles away. To these birds the lake means a protected nesting area on Gunnison Island or a tranquil resting place in Farmington Bay, or an accessible food source during a flightless molt. The Great Salt Lake ecosystem provides a tremendous energy input into a web of life that is carried far and wide.

Anchoring the boat has been met with mixed success in the Great Salt Lake. The character of the bottom influences my ability to stay in one place and also reveals another page of the lake ecology story. There are gooey clastic sediments rich with organic deposits; smooth, white oolitic sand as pleasant as any Caribbean beach; and there are active reef systems formed by deposition of magnesium and calcium carbonates secreted by algae. The Autumn lake water and the bottom sediments make a cool disguise over a complex series of grabens and partially submerged horsts; a landscape constructed by fiery basin and range activity.

Human influences continue to alter the lake ecosystem. Continued changes in salinity, brine shrimp distribution, loss of wetland habitat, disturbance of nesting and resting areas will ultimately usher the loss of what makes this area

Great, and impact our own quality of life. Like picking a flower to enjoy its fragrance, the lake will lose the essence of itself that drew us to her shores.

From my perspective in the middle of the lake, I see the benches on the foothills; dynamic markers of a system that is alive and following a separate clock. One that repeats itself. As I float upon this ancient mother, the anchor of her past is a promise of a long future of nurturing those who depend upon her. The stark contrasts of lake and desert redefine my concept of abundance and life, as the lake, teeming with life, spoke to me in an understandable voice.

LIST OF NEEDED ITEMS

Immediate needs:

computer and printer
software
office supplies
newsletter sponsor

Other needs:

office space
filing cabinet
desk and chair
telephone
fax machine
bookshelves
slide projector
answering machine

To donate call Kathlyn Collins at 355-5226.

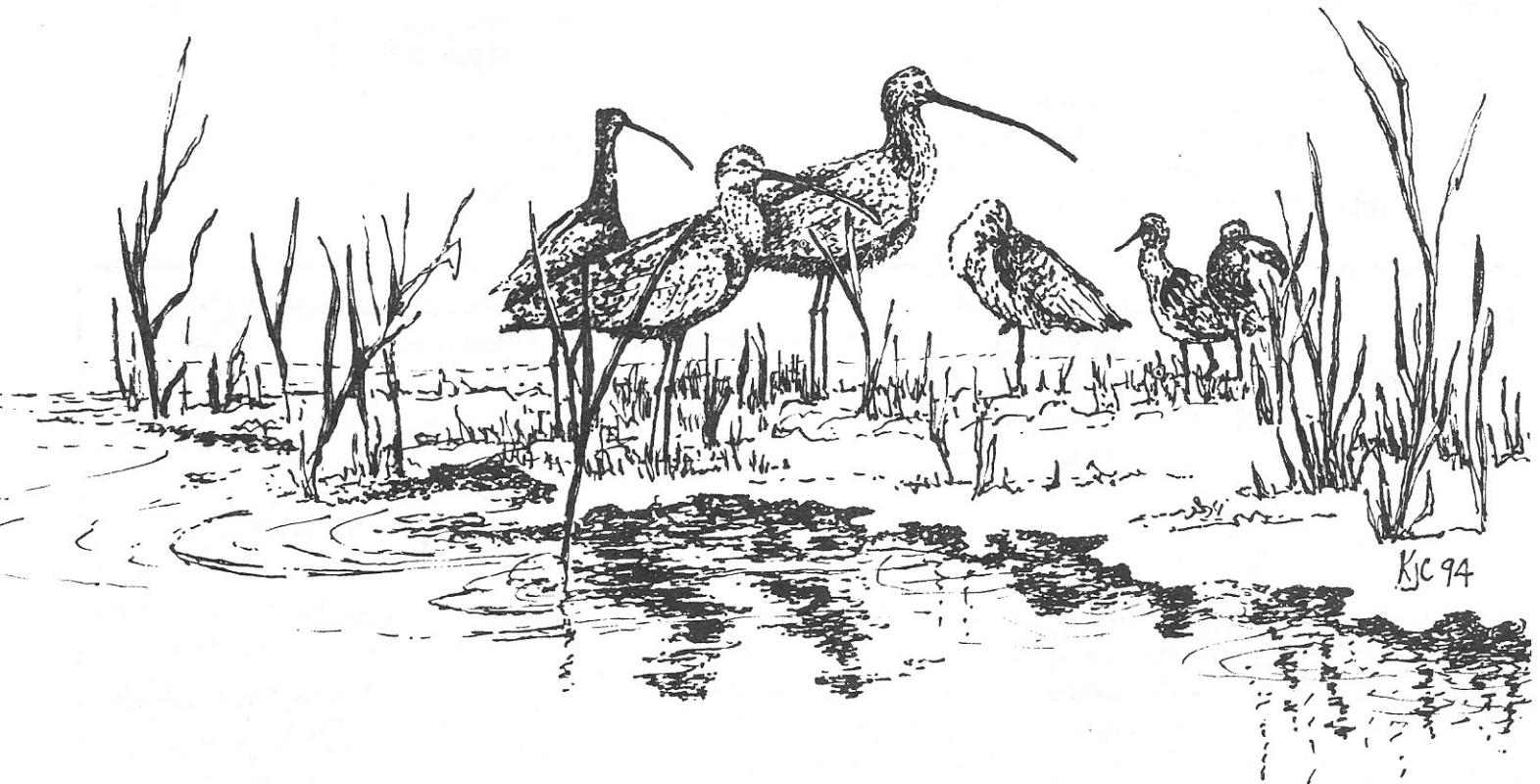
NEWSLETTER NAME AND LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

We'd like to invited talented and interested folks to submit their suggestions for a newsletter name, and organization logo. If you have a great idea for a name and/or drawing that emphasizes our mission to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake ecosystem we await your entry.

This will be a contest and all submitted newsletter names and logos will be considered. The

Friends of Great Salt Lake Steering Committee will judge the entries and notify the winners. Send entries to our post office box.

The individual who submits the winning newsletter name and the winning Friends of Great Salt Lake logo will receive a one year free membership in the organization.



THE ORGANIZATION OF FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE

The by-laws of *Friends of Great Salt Lake* were discussed and drafted at the first organizational meetings during Spring and Summer 1994. The by-laws are the Friend's statement of purpose and the framework of how business will be conducted. The following contains Friend's mission statement and a summary of the structure of the organization. Members are encouraged to volunteer for the Board or Committees of their interest. More information about duties for the Board and Committees can be found in the by-laws which will be available at all membership meetings or by request from Friends of Great Salt Lake at P.O. Box 2655, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2655, or call Kathlyn Collins at 355-5226 (evenings).

Purpose. The mission of Friends shall be to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake ecosystem and to increase public awareness and appreciation of Great Salt Lake through education, research, and advocacy.

Membership. Friends of Great Salt Lake is a membership based organization and welcomes anyone who is committed to our mission. Each member in good standing will have voting privileges. The exception are sustaining members. Membership dues expire the first of October.

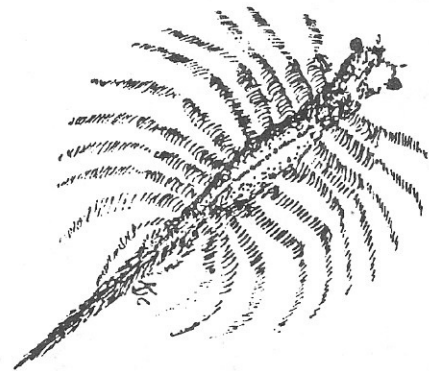
Board of Directors. The organization consists of 15 Board of Directors, six officers and nine other members. Each Board member has a single vote on Board decisions. Elections are held each year in October and offices are assumed January first of the

following year. The slate of candidates are compiled by the Nominations Committee.

Officers. Officers are President-elect, President, Vice-president, Immediate Past President, Secretary/Historian, and Treasurer. The officers, except for the President and Immediate Past President, are elected by secret ballot by the voting membership. Each officer is elected for a one year term.

Other Board Members. The other nine members of the Board will be elected by secret ballot of the voting membership and serve a two year term.

Committees. Ten committees and an ad hoc committees are defined in the by-laws and provide opportunities for members with various interests to become actively involved in Friends. The standing committees are Legislative, Education, Membership, Fund Raising, Activities, Newsletter, Nominations, Auditing, Research and Public Information/Public Relations Committees. Each committee will have a chair and members.



The *Friends of Great Salt Lake* Nominating Committee solicited candidates for officers and board members from those people who have attended the Steering Committee meetings and those expressing interest in participating. Additional nominees for each position will be taken from the floor during the first members meeting on Tuesday, October 25th at the Sugarhouse Garden Center (1650 E. 2100 S., SLC).

OFFICERS

President - Kathlyn Collins
 President-Elect - Pat Johnson
 Vice President - Elise Peterson
 Treasurer - Marianne Henderson
 Secretary - Debbie Roberts

TWO YEAR BOARD

Christine Allred
 Doug Howard
 Wayne Martinson
 Joel Peterson
 Anne Zimmerman

ONE YEAR BOARD

Gwen Dean
 Robin Hooton
 Patrick Leary
 Betsy Price

IDENTIFYING MAJOR ISSUES CONCERNING THE GREAT SALT LAKE

Wayne Martinson, Utah Wetlands Coordinator, National Audubon Society

On August 7, 1994, twelve people who have been involved with organizing *Friends of Great Salt Lake* took some time to talk about, list and prioritize major issues regarding the Great Salt Lake. During the discussion/brainstorming session seven major categories were identified. Under these seven categories there were 27 general and 28 specific issues listed. After identifying the issues, the individuals present were asked to list their top two priority concerns. The following lists the major categories, as well as the general and specific issues that were listed. The underlined items were priority concerns.

INDUSTRY

General: Air and water pollution, inequitable economics, informational needs, superfund sites.

Specific: Superfund sites, Kennecott tailings modernization, Great Salt Lake Mineral expansion, MagCorps (Timpie Springs).

DEVELOPMENT

General: Sustainability, population, air pollution.

Specific: Lake Davis, Northwest Quadrant, West Davis Highway.

RECREATION

General: Access, boating, ORV use.

Specific: Antelope Island, Stansbury Island.

ADMINISTRATION

General: Plan reviews, Division of Sovereign Lands and Forestry, Division of Parks and Recreation, Division of Wildlife Resources.

Specific: County flood control, Great Salt Lake Master Plan, monitor state legislative decisions.

SOCIAL VALUES

General: Educational, historical, cultural, media attention, arts and humanities, esthetics.

Specific: Curriculum review, Utah Museum of

Natural History, conference, lake festival, annual Great Salt Lake Seminars.

WATER:

General: Ground water, diversions, water quality, research needs.

Specific: Locomotive Springs, Sharon Steel, sewage treatment, storm/agriculture water quality, pumping, Honeyville dam site.

WILDLIFE/WETLANDS

General: Habitat protection and research, management philosophy, sustainable harvest.

Specific: RAMSAR designation, WHSRN designation, CUP mitigation, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Wildlife Heritage Program.

Obviously, the above needs to be viewed as a preliminary listing of issues. But, it certainly provides a good beginning look at the type of concerns that Friends can address as it works to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem.

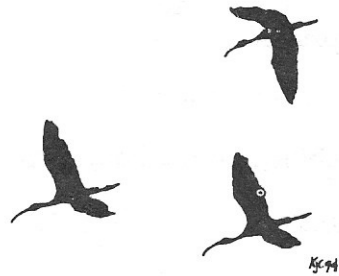


FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE
P.O. Box 2655
Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2655

Bulk Rate
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Permit No. 6707

YES! I want to join the *FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE*. Here are my dues in the amount of: (check one)

- Charter member \$ 15 ___
- Regular member \$ 20 ___
- Student \$ 10 ___
- Senior \$ 10 ___
- Sustaining \$500 ___



Student must be at least half time. **Senior** is 62 years or older **Sustaining** is any corporation, institute, organization or individual interested in financially supporting *FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE* activities.

In addition to my dues, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of: (check one)
\$10___ \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ \$250___ other amount___

Please make check payable to:
Friends of Great Salt Lake

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Mail to:
Friends of Great Salt Lake
P.O. Box 2655

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2655
Phone: 355-5226

PHONE _____

MY SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE LAKE IS: _____