

FRIENDS *of Great Salt Lake*

P.O. Box 2655, Salt Lake City, UT 84110

801/355-5226

Volume 2 no. 1

Fall 1995



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

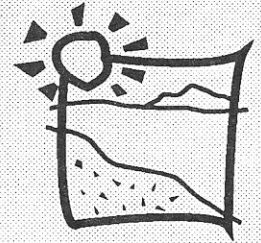
- October 21- UDOT Adopt-a-Highway cleanup of I-80 near Saltair
- October 24, 7 p.m.-General Membership meeting with speaker Dan Taylor at Sugarhouse Garden Center
- January 23, and the fourth Tuesday of the Winter and Spring months - General Membership meeting, 7 p.m. at Sugarhouse Garden Center
- February 10 - Great Salt Lake Symposium with panel discussions and luncheon at the Quality Inn, downtown Salt Lake City
- April 13, evening - Spring fund raiser with a dinner and auction at the Sugarhouse Garden Center
- May 10-12 - Antelope Island Workshop and Campout at the Ranch House

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

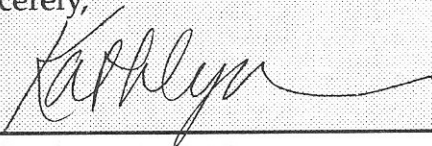
DEAR FRIENDS,

Fall is in full swing at Great Salt Lake. Millions of migratory birds are making their way south to warmer shores for the winter. Human activities at the lake shift to watching these migratory birds, harvesting brine shrimp, and hunting wary waterfowl. The Fall also means planning FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE activities for this next cycle of seasons. The proposed calendar is included in this issue. Activities will include six monthly lectures, an issues forum, a fund raising event, and the Antelope Island Workshop and Campout. More activities may be added as people come forward with their ideas and help to organize them. Let us know if you would like to lead a trip or community service project. Stay tuned to future newsletters and fliers for more information.

We have a new logo thanks to the artistic talents of Dan Murray. We appreciate his volunteer time as a professional graphics artist to help us out. Look for information on t-shirts with our logo in this issue.



Sincerely,



NEED FOR 1996 BOARD AND OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Several board and officer positions will be open for nominations for 1996 terms. Nominations are needed for elections to be held October 24, 1995 at the General Membership meeting. Call Kathlyn for more information on description of duties for the Board or officer positions and how to enter nominations.

CONTEST WINNER!

Christine Doman was the first to respond to the quiz question in the summer newsletter. The task was to decipher the signal flag question and then find the answer. Congratulations Christine. You will receive a one year membership to FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE.

Q: "What is the May 15, 1995 lake level at Boat Harbor?"

A: 4,200.60

SPRING FUND RAISER

FGSL will be holding a dinner/auction fund raiser in Spring (see calendar). We are accepting donations for auction. These could be items such as

photographic images, paintings, books, etc. or activities such as sailing. We are looking for very imaginative contributions. Of course the theme needs to be related in some way to Great Salt Lake. Please call Betsy Price 596-2619 or Kathlyn Collins 355-5226 if you are interested in helping in any way with the fund raiser.

*GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 23RD:
PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR GREAT
SALT LAKE ECOSYSTEM: A VIEWPOINT*

Dan Taylor will speak at the General Membership meeting of FGSL on Tuesday, October 23, 7p.m. at the Sugarhouse Garden Center. Dan Taylor was very active and instrumental in establishing the successful Mono Lake Committee in the late 1970s to protect and preserve Mono Lake in California. Dan has visited Great Salt Lake and has been fascinated with Mono Lake's sister lake ecosystem. Dan comes to us with a perspective of the similarities and differences of the threats and protection strategies of these two very similar yet very different ecosystems. Dan is currently the California Field Director (Acting) for the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY in Sacramento. He has been with NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY since 1978 as the Western Regional Representative. The Western Region includes California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.



FIELD NOTES - THE GREAT SALT LAKE: JUST HOW GREAT IS IT?

Joel Peterson

On most occasions when I'm at the south shore marina stepping the mast on *Someday*, someone visiting the lake will usually ask me three questions:

- 1) How deep is it? "Average is about 13 feet."
- 2) Do any fish live in there? "No."
- 3) Do people really swim in it? "Absolutely."

I've considered wearing a sign which says "13 feet-No - Absolutely" out of frustration. I bite my lip before I tell about the inland whale which lives in the

lake, (that's a secret).

All kidding aside, questions about the lake demonstrate the need for access to information and a desire to learn more about the lake environment - a teachable moment! People are genuinely interested, and answers to their questions provide a richer lake experience for them. Here's some additional facts compiled by Don Paul, UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES, regarding birds of the GSL ecosystem. You may want to relay these to others during their Great Salt Lake teachable moment:

SPECIES	POPULATION	STATUS ON THE GREAT SALT LAKE
Wilson's phalarope	500,000	largest staging concentration in the world (Jehl 1988)
Red-necked phalarope	280,000	estimated in a single day (Paul 1986)
American avocet	250,000	many times higher than any other wetland in the Pacific Flyway (Shuford 1994)
Black-necked stilt	65,000	many times higher than any other wetland in the Pacific Flyway (Shuford 1994)
Marbled godwit	30,000	the only staging area in the interior USA (Shuford 1994)
Snowy plover	10,000	the worlds largest assemblage, representing 55% of the entire breeding population west of the Rocky Mountains (Paton 1992)
Western sandpiper	17,000	one flock (Paul 1994)
Long-billed dowitcher	32,000	single day count (Shuford 1994)
American white pelican	18,000	breeding adults - one of the three largest colonies in Western North America (Paul 1994)
White-faced ibis	7,500	breeding adults - worlds largest breeding population (USFWS Status Report 1982)
California gull	160,000	breeding adults - worlds largest breeding population (White 1992)
Eared grebe	400,000	second largest staging population in North America (Jehl 1994)
Peregrine falcon	11	active pairs of this endangered species (Paul 1994)
Bald eagle	>500	wintering eagles associated with Great Salt Lake, one of top ten winter populations in lower 48 states (National Wildlife Federation Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey Reports)
Bank swallow	>10,000	observed in one flock - Great Salt Lake represents one of the largest migratory corridors in Western North America (Paton 1994)



DESERT DREAM-SAILING A MELONSEED SKIFF ON THE GREAT SALT LAKE

Denise Brown

I hesitate, one foot in the boat, the other leg knee deep in warm, salty water. It is sunny and silent. A light breeze blows steadily from the northwest. There are no obvious signs of life. I push off. The shore moves back, away from the boat and me. The boundaries of motion are unclear. I'm sure it must be the shore moving back as I stand still and watch it slowly recede. My separateness feels complete, as if it is final and there will be no return. I feel vulnerable, euphoric, afraid, yet free.

The silence and peace are encompassing. As I trim the red sail and reach to the north, the flat, pale blue water stretches to the horizon and folds into the distant hills. It is a monochrome seascape, blue water and blue sky separated by the darker blue hills. I check my wake to confirm motion. Is the water moving by me, or am I moving through the water?

The pieces of the scene present themselves one at a time, like slow frames of a moving picture. I have time to study each frame separately. Each sound and motion is new, a surprise that holds my attention, then slowly slips away and becomes part of the whole. I am drawn inward to the small boat I have put my faith in. The bright yellow banner at the top of the sail crackles in the breeze. The wooden spars creak gently as I trim the sail.

There is the gentle rocking rhythm of the hull through the water, the wet slap-slapping of the waves. In a puff of wind I accelerate and the boat hums with a low vibration. The tiller and mainsheet come alive in my hands. A little faster and the daggerboard sounds distinctly like a woodpecker.

I bear off and watch the perfect curve of the wake on the nearly smooth water. Even the brine flies are unique, arriving with each lull or calm and settling in on the deck. They are welcome company in this barren landscape. The

small transparent brine shrimp float just below the surface. Small water droplets dry quickly on the deck and become perfectly formed craters of salt.

I welcome the quiet and peacefulness yet I am moved by the desolation and loneliness. There are long furrows of seabirds feeding on the water. I silently slip up on them, but they fly a short distance and land. I whisper my awe aloud, perhaps to check that I am really here.

In my isolation I glance back at the stark, brown desert island to regain my bearing. Only by watching the island do I register a sense of motion. It looks prehistoric, its bare, spiny ridge running down its length. Low, scrubby plants and wild grasses are the only vegetation visible. It sits isolated in the ancient salt lake. The shore is rocky, brown and white and covered with thousands of birds—California gulls, American avocets, western sandpipers, long-billed curlews, Wilson's phalaropes and others. A perfect formation of American white pelicans glides over silently, effortlessly. They stand still in the sky, then spiral upward, a slow dance in a rising column of air. I feel like a small insignificant visitor in their world.

A broad reach takes me reluctantly back to shore. To the east the high Wasatch Mountains show a few remnants of winter's snow. I pull the boat gently ashore. The water dries on my legs leaving lace-like patterns of salt, a connection to the unique world I have entered. I have stepped into a dream and do not want to awaken. As I haul the boat out, the dream is not broken. I awaken, yet my senses still feel the dream's reality.

I will return often to Antelope Island and pushing off onto the Great Salt Lake I will capture the dream again.



A GREAT SALT LAKE SYMPOSIUM

Want to know more about what's happening out at the lake? What's a 404 Permit? Want to join with the community in the celebration of our unique ecosystem?

The FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE is hosting a symposium, February 10, 1996 on Great Salt Lake natural history, resources and planning. Speakers will address population demographics of the Wasatch Front, the Great Salt Lake ecosystem, and resource planning which will affect the future of our lake.

I invite everyone to take part in this important forum. Dialogue is encouraged between participants and time will be available for your compelling questions to be answered by the specialists.

This is an exciting opportunity to get involved. We need help from volunteers to carry out various tasks associated with hosting this symposium; some starting right away. If you are interested in leading or assisting with any of these tasks, please call Joel Peterson at 801-485-2394.

- Collect pre-registrations and computer entry of participants
- Prepare name tags
- Write and mail various correspondence
- Prepare mailing lists
- Prepare brochures for bulk mailing
- Post flyers
- Front-desk registration and greeting
- Person to be in charge of audio/visual setups
- Photographer for various stages of the event
- Video of proceedings
- Any other talents you would like to lend

FRIENDS DISPLAY AT THE UTAH STATE FAIR SUCCESSFUL

Our booth display at the 1995 Utah State Fair was very successful. FGSL volunteers greeted thousands of visitors and answered questions about Great Salt Lake. We shared the Division of Natural Resources building with several other environmental groups. We displayed photographs from Antelope Island Workshop and Campout, a satellite image of the lake, and a hands on display of oolitic sands and brine shrimp cysts. We are very proud of the volunteers who helped with this effort and extend a big thank you.

LOOKING FOR OFFICE SPACE

FGSL is currently looking for rent free office space. One year ago we were very lucky to hear from Dennis Glass who had some office space in

Sugarhouse which he offered to us rent free until he found a renter. We moved in our desk, shelves, and filing cabinet and eventually added a computer and a desktop copy machine. As of October 1, 1995, we are looking for a new space because Dennis found a renter. Many thanks go to Dennis for donating space. Right now the furniture is stored in basements and the computer moved to Kathlyn's apartment providing her a good opportunity to master the software. If any one knows of a space we can use, please call Kathlyn at 355-5226.

T-SHIRTS

FGSL t-shirts are now available at all FGSL sponsored functions. The design is the new FGSL logo and is in full color on a white background. The cost is \$14.00 per shirt. We have a limited first printing so hurry and get yours soon!



FRIENDS CLEAN UP HIGHWAY: MODERN ARTIFACTS UNCOVERED

Howard Gross

On Saturday, August 5, twenty-five FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE participated in a garbage pick-up as part of our Adopt-A-Highway commitment on I-80 near Saltair. While collecting three tons of trash for the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to haul off, participants uncovered lots of odd items in addition to the usual assortment of cans, bottles, shredded truck tires, and fast-food refuse. Notable items were: old mining equipment machinery, a leather jacket, cassette tapes (bad music), a sack of potatoes, a small television, and an engine block. In addition, a large bag of aluminum cans was recycled.

Some of the finds posed questions in the heads of contemplative volunteers as to how these items wound up on the side of the highway (e.g. how do you lose your underwear during highway travel, or why throw away a nearly full bottle of Seagram's V-O?) Since our Adopt-A-Highway commitment requires us to perform pick-ups three times per year, we will meet again out at the I-80 Saltair exit at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 21, for another 2-hour scavenger hunt.

Call garbage czar Howard Gross at 486-4565 with any questions. Bring adequate clothing, a pair of sturdy gloves and liquids to drink.

"The Great Salt Lake is ornithologically the most impressive salt lake on the continent".

Dr. Joseph R. Jehl Jr.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO "FRIENDS" BYLAWS TO BE VOTED UPON BY MEMBERSHIP AT THE OCTOBER 24 MEETING

The Board of Directors will be proposing two changes in the FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE bylaws at the October 24, 1995 general membership meeting. A 2/3 vote of those members in attendance is required in order to change the bylaws. The bylaws also require the Board to review proposed changes at least 30 days prior to the general membership meeting. The Board met in a regular meeting on September 7, 1995 and approved the changes for consideration of the membership.

The first change will affect Article VI and convert the position of treasurer from that of an elected office to an appointed office. The appointment will be made by the President subject to ratification by the Board. The Board feels that the functions of the treasurer are such

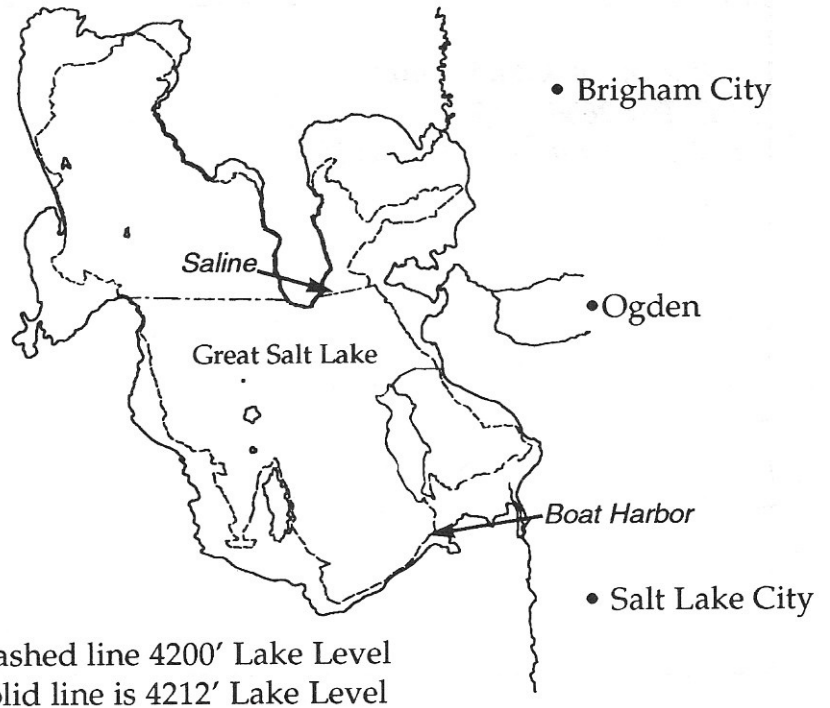
that they can be appropriately performed by an appointed individual under the purview of the Board. The change will leave the Board with five officers and nine members.

The second change simply involves adding an Issues Committee to the list of standing committees found in Article VII. The Board has determined that an Issues Committee is needed to coordinate the identification, analysis, position development and other activities associated with issues affecting Great Salt Lake.

Please contact Patrick Johnson at 582-3724 for additional information. Please remember that the proposed changes will be voted on at the October 24th meeting.

*GREAT SALT LAKE
SURFACE ELEVATION*

September 1	
Saline	4197.10
Boat Harbor	4200.10
September 15	
Saline	4197.00
Boat Harbor	4199.90



*FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS*

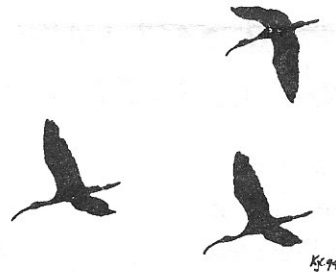
Kathlyn Collins, <i>President</i>		355-5226
Patrick Johnson, <i>President Elect</i>	Issues Committee	582-3724
Elise Peterson, <i>Vice President</i>	Membership Committee	485-2394
Howard Gross, <i>Treasurer</i>		486-4565
Debbie Roberts, <i>Secretary</i>		486-8427
Christine Allred, <i>Board Member</i>	Hospitality Committee	261-8183
Gwen Dean, <i>Board Member</i>		485-7860
Robin Hooton, <i>Board Member</i>		277-3750
Doug Howard, <i>Board Member</i>	Education Committee	295-4395
Steve Ingram, <i>Board Member</i>	Activities Committee	583-7371
Patrick Leary, <i>Board Member</i>		363-4867
Wayne Martinson, <i>Board Member</i>		355-8110
Joel Peterson, <i>Board Member</i>	Research Committee	485-2394
Betsy Price, <i>Board Member</i>	Fund Raising Committee	596-2619
Jeanne Le Ber	Newsletter Committee	532-7384
Ray Smith	Nominations Committee	532-7384
Penny Ciak	Public Relations Committee	974-7060

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

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

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

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

MY SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE LAKE IS: _____