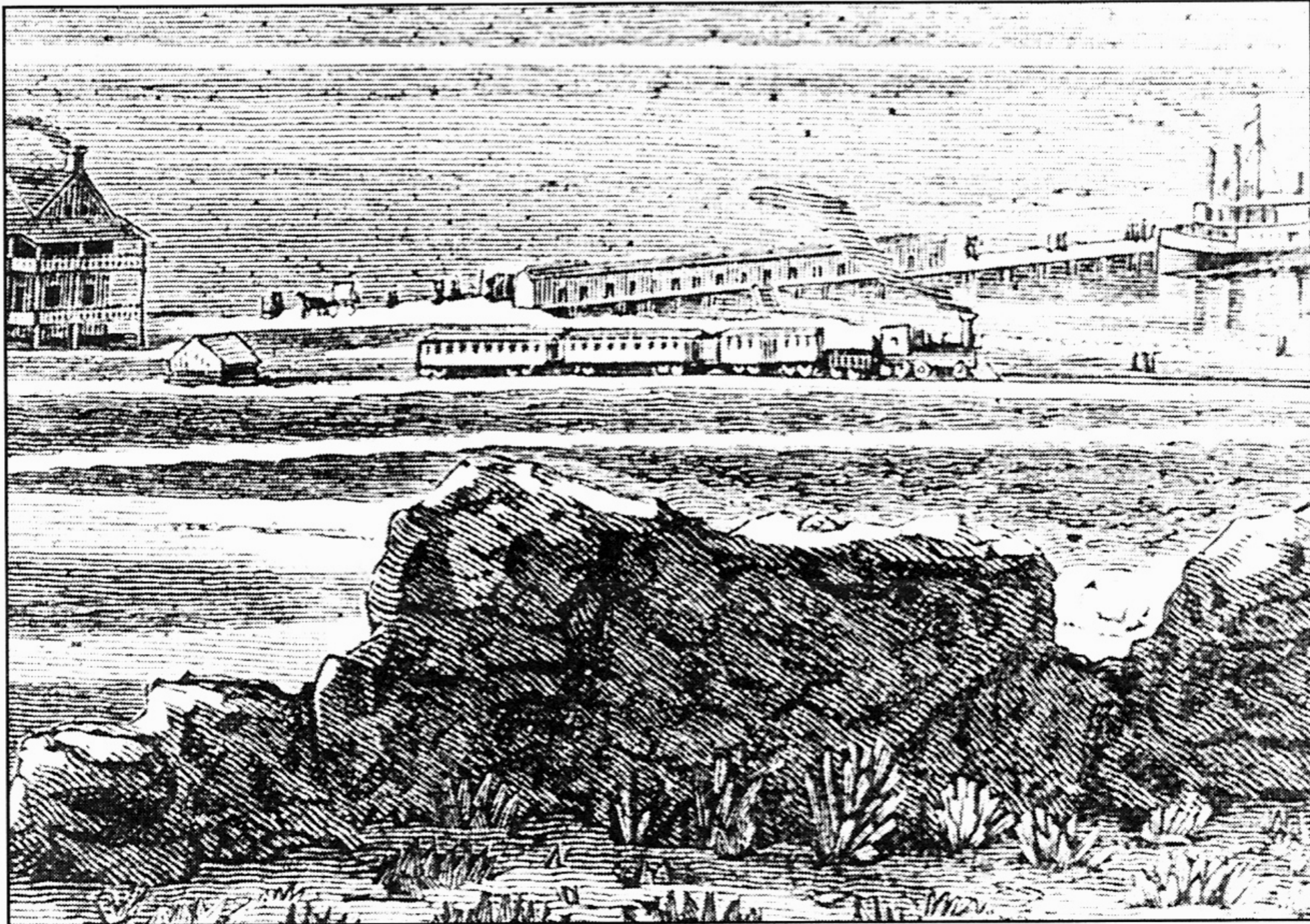


# FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE

P.O. Box 2655, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110  
Volume 4 Number 1

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## Contents

Calendar	2	Avian Botulism Outbreak at Great Salt Lake	8
FOGSL Annual Membership Meeting	3	Trip Talks: Farmington Bay Waterfowl Mgt Area	9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Great Salt Lake Issues Forum	4	"Island Reflections"	10
"Wetlands"	4	Friends of Great Salt Lake 1997	11
Citizens Against Chlorine Contamination	5	Letters to the Editor	11
Submitting Materials	6	Great Salt Lake Slide Program	12
Recycle Aluminum Cans	6	Friends of Friends: West Desert Heal	14
FOGSL on the WWW	6	President's Message	15
1997 Lake Cruise	7	Membership Application	16

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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.

# CALENDAR

- Oct 2 Thu** Board Meeting
- Oct 18 Sat** Rally on Growth and Alternatives to Legacy Highway - Utah State Capitol, Front Steps 11 am
- Oct 28 Tue** General Meeting: Elections for 1998 and presentation by Education director Bruce Thompson  
7 pm Sugarhouse Garden Center
- Nov 6 Thu** Board Meeting
- Nov 11 Tue** Program "What Can We Do in the Political/Public Realm to Contain Growth?" sponsored by the League of Woman Voters of Salt Lake. 7 pm First Unitarian Church 569 South 1300 East
- Nov 14 Fri** "Transportation/Land Use and Ecology in the Wasatch Front" 8 am to 5 pm Stegner Center, University of Utah Law School
- Nov 25 Tue** General Meeting - 7 pm Sugarhouse Garden Center The Nature Conservancy Guest Speaker  
Chris Montague, Director of Conservation Programs for The Nature Conservancy's Utah office, will be the guest speaker for the FOGSL November 25 general meeting, 7 p.m. at the Sugarhouse Garden Center. Chris will talk about The Nature Conservancy's Great Salt Lake wetland conservation goals and accomplishments which are highlighted by the Layton Wetlands Preserve. Chris has been intimately involved with negotiating and acquiring land throughout Utah to create workable solutions to conserving valuable habitat and important ecosystem components under private ownership. Working with all the key players including donors, private landowners, resource agencies, the public, and the land itself, he has helped to make TNC a major conservation force in the state of Utah.
- Dec 4 Thu** Board Meeting
- No General Meeting in December - Happy Holidays

**NOTE:** General Meetings are held at the Sugarhouse Garden Center, Located in Sugarhouse Park next to Highland High School. Board meetings are held at the Salt Lake County complex on 2100 S. State St., Room S2019 (South Bldg.)

**Cover: Lake Point - unknown artist  
courtesy Utah State Historical Society**



## October 28, 1997: FOGSL Annual Membership Meeting

- Election of New Board Members and Officers
- Bruce Thompson, FOGSL Education Director

On October 28, 1997, FOGSL will hold our annual membership meeting. The guest speaker will be Bruce Thompson, FOGSL's Education Director. His presentation will be preceded by the election of new officers and Board members.

### ***Elections***

Please come and participate in FOGSL's annual elections. Officer positions with FOGSL are for one-year terms. The following FOGSL members have been nominated for the offices listed below:

President	Lynn de Freitas
Vice-President	Margie Paul-Hus
Treasurer	Spencer Martin
Secretary	Michele Davis

As of press time, no one has been nominated to the position of President-Elect. Joel Peterson will assume the office of Past-President.

The nine Board member positions with FOGSL are for two-year terms. Five of the Board positions end on odd-numbered years (this year), while four positions end on even-numbered years (next year). The following people have been nominated to the odd-numbered year Board positions:

Kathlyn Collins  
Mark Doman  
Rick Ford  
Wayne Martinson  
Ivan Weber

In addition, with the nomination of current Board member Lynn de Freitas to the President's position, an even-numbered year Board position becomes vacant. Howard Gross has been nominated for this position. If you are a FOGSL member, you may nominate another member to a Board or Officer position in one of three ways:

- (1) contact Joel Peterson (485-2394)
- (2) submit the nomination in writing no later than Friday, October 21 to: FOGSL, P.O. Box 2655, SLC, UT 84110-2655, or
- (3) nominate the person as a write-in candidate at the October 28 meeting.

### ***The Evening's Presentation***

Bruce Thompson, an accomplished environmental educator, will provide a visual and informational journey about Great Salt Lake. He will present information and select slides (many from professional photographers) that he has gathered during his task this summer to develop an educational slide show for FOGSL. In November, when the slideshow is complete, Bruce and FOGSL will begin showing the slideshows to audiences throughout Box Elder, Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber counties--the five counties which border the lake. The funding for the slideshow has been provided by the Dr. Ezekiel R. and Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation, Utah Wetlands Foundation, and the Patagonia Outlet, and through FOGSL membership dues.



## 2nd Great Salt Lake Issues Forum Scheduled for Feb. 21, 1998

by Howard Gross

FOGSL plans to host the 2nd Great Salt Lake Issues Forum on Saturday, February 21, 1998, from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm at the Quality Inn Conference Center in downtown Salt Lake City. The Forum will bring together members of the environmental, business, and academic communities, resource agency personnel, and concerned citizens for presentations and discussions of varying view points on the following issues:

- brine shrimp harvesting
- transportation corridor development near the south and east shore of Great Salt Lake
- air emissions by MagCorp on the lake's west side
- proposed development of Bear River water resources
- comprehensive planning for the future of Great Salt Lake

As public policy is being developed in regard to these issues, it is important that the public have access to the latest information. In addition to providing a venue for that exchange of information, FOGSL's Forum will enable the public to express opinions and provide meaningful input to affect public policy. In addition, a luncheon featuring a special speaker is also planned as part of the day's event. A brochure and registration form for the Forum will be included in the Winter 1998 FOGSL newsletter. There are several opportunities for volunteers to help make this Forum a success. Please call Howard Gross at 486-4565 if you'd like to volunteer and contribute to the success of this Forum.

### WETLANDS

HEAR THE RAILS  
RUSTLE  
TO THE CARS DIN  
AND THE DISTANT RUMBLE  
AND THE CHUCK CHUCK  
OF THE RED-WINGED  
SWAYING ON THE CATTAILS  
NEAR THE CHICORY AND  
THE THISTLE  
THE BROWN TASSELLED FLAG'D PHRAGMITES,  
SENTINELS OF OUR  
AVOCET AESTHETIC  
OF LIGHT GREENS,  
BLUES, BROWN-REDS  
DARKER GREENS AND GOLDEN  
WETLANDS  
BELOW THE SYMMETRIC HYMNS  
OF STATIC  
ELECTRIC TOWERS,  
AMERICA!

Ed Macner, 1997

I wanted to submit the following poem that was written by a dear friend of mine, Dr. Ed Macner. Ed is an Ogdenite, who is a gifted artist, mad scientist and talented school teacher. He wrote this piece after arriving late for our Farmington Bay migratory bird outing last August. Although he was not with us on the guided tour lead by Justin Dolling, he was not alone. He was surrounded by the beauty and the grace of the wetlands. Lynn de Freitas



# *Citizens Against Chlorine Contamination*

## **CACC Update**

**by Howard Gross**

Citizens Against Chlorine Contamination (CACC) continues to pressure the Utah Division of Air Quality (UDAQ) to more stringently regulate air emissions by the Magnesium Corporation of America (MagCorp). Regular readers of this newsletter know that the MagCorp facility, located on the west side of Great Salt Lake in Rowley, is the source of >85% of all point source chlorine emissions in the United States. In 1995, MagCorp emitted nearly 30,000 tons of chlorine, or 60 million pounds, to the atmosphere. CACC is concerned about the health effects these emissions have on the residents of northern Utah and on the Great Salt Lake ecosystem. Some of the activities CACC has been busy with during the last few months are described below.

### **CACC and ECPI Submit Comments to U.S. EPA Concerning Dioxin & Magnesium Producers**

CACC and our attorneys, Ecological Consultants for the Public Interest (ECPI), submitted comments in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plans to update the listing of sources of toxic materials in the U.S. In our comments, we noted that primary magnesium refiners had not but should have been included on the proposed lists of sources of dioxins and furans (hereinafter TCDD/F). These substances have been linked to a wide range of adverse environmental and health impacts, including cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive and immune system illnesses. CACC and ECPI included substantial evidence, compiled by scientists here in Utah as well as a national expert on TCDD/F, supporting our comments.

The inclusion of primary magnesium refiners on the source lists for TCDD/F would have important implications for the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) determination for MagCorp, which should be promulgated by the EPA by the year 2000. If primary magnesium refiners are listed as sources of TCDD/F, then the MACT determination would have to address how emissions of TCDD/F would be controlled. CACC and ECPI are prepared to legally challenge the EPA if primary magnesium refiners are not listed.

### **Plans to Test for Dioxins/Furans at MagCorp Move Forward**

The CACC Update in the Summer 1997 FOGSL newsletter discussed how UDAQ was moving forward with plans, in response to public concerns, to test MagCorp's facility for production of TCDD/F. However, the plans UDAQ was moving forward with largely ignored the suggestions from CACC's professional chemists. UDAQ was going to test the wrong waste stream, sample in the wrong place, use the wrong test method, and worst of all, probably not detect TCDD/F if it was present. As a result of our objections, the UDAQ held a meeting with representatives of CACC, EPA, and the Utah Division of Water Quality, and an independent contaminants expert. (MagCorp was invited but did not attend.) CACC's concerns were validated at the meeting. The original test plan was scrapped and a new one was written incorporating CACC's input. The new plan is currently being reviewed by several of the meeting attendees and, hopefully, testing will occur this fall.

### **MagCorp Submits NOI Regarding CRB**

CACC has repeatedly expressed our concern to UDAQ that MagCorp has gone for long periods of time in violation of an Approval Order (AO) condition concerning their Chlorine Reduction Burner (CRB). The CRB helps control MagCorp's chlorine emissions. The AO condition said, in essence, that if results of compliance testing indicate lower CRB emission limits are achievable on a consistent basis, the emission limits specified in the AO shall be adjusted to reflect these lower limits. According to compliance testing conducted in 1995, the CRB melt/reactor stack emitted <21 lbs/hr of Cl<sub>2</sub>, while the AO limit is 400 lbs/hr. Clearly, the emission limits for the CRB need to be adjusted downward. The vehicle for adjusting the CRB limit was to be a Notice of Intent (NOI) which UDAQ required MagCorp to submit. MagCorp finally submitted the NOI in June 1997.

However, the NOI submitted by MagCorp was, in CACC's opinion, a fanciful and flippant document. The NOI demonstrated MagCorp's disdain toward public health concerns and attempts by UDAQ to impose meaningful conditions upon MagCorp. In-



stead of revising the CRB limits downward, MagCorp proposed changes to all parts of their AO in this NOI. The following are just a few of the changes MagCorp proposed: deleting the AO language requiring a minimum number of sealed cells (which are less polluting than the "open" IG Farben cells, which make up a large majority of MagCorp's production cells); eliminating the annual emission limits for PM10 and hydrogen chloride at the melt reactor stack; and allowing emissions during "unavoidable" breakdowns and maintenance of the CRB to go uncounted against their emission limits. MagCorp also proposed that the NOI should not be subject to public comment.

CACC responded to this NOI with a five-page letter documenting our objections to much of the NOI. We also provided several suggested improvements to the NOI and arguments upon which UDAQ could base inclusion of these improvements. In addition, we also met with UDAQ staff to ensure that our comments were being seriously considered.

### **We Need Your Help**

If you share CACC's concerns about MagCorp's emissions, you can help. Public comment submitted to date has helped increase agency scrutiny of MagCorp. Please write to:

**Dianne Nielson, Executive Director**  
**Utah Department of Environmental Quality**  
**168 North 1950 West**  
**P.O. Box 144810**  
**Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4810**

### *Submitting Material for Publication*

1. **What To Submit:** original articles (historical, geological, geographical, biological, political, fiction, poetry, etc.) which pertain to Great Salt Lake or art work including sketches, photographs, etc.
2. **Submitting Material:** Mail or deliver to **2656 S. Chadwick St. SLC, UT 84106-3506**. Or e-mail to [jzinanti@wasatch.com](mailto:jzinanti@wasatch.com) or [RedaHZ@wasatch.com](mailto:RedaHZ@wasatch.com)
3. Please phone **484-5799** to confirm receipt of e-mail, or with any other questions, suggestions, comments, or ideas
4. **Deadlines:** The deadlines are Sept. 16 (Fall), Dec. 16 (Winter), Mar 16 (Spring), and June 16 (Summer).

Make the following points:

- (1) Request that the dioxin testing plan for MagCorp's facility be implemented as soon as possible.
- (2) Request that UDAQ exercise its authority to immediately lower the CRB emission limit. This authority is rooted in past MagCorp AOs.
- (3) State that UDAQ has authority to require significant equipment and operating procedure changes in MagCorp's AO, and should use MagCorp's NOI to correct long-standing problems with MagCorp's operation of the CRB.
- (4) Request that UDAQ establish and enforce a maintenance schedule for the CRB. The goal should be to virtually eliminate unexpected breakdowns. Also established emission limits which reflect the true capabilities of the CRB.
- (5) Request that MagCorp be required to construct a back-up CRB to prevent excess emissions during maintenance and unavoidable breakdowns.
- (6) Request that a clear statement be included in the AO stating that emissions from CRB breakdowns will be counted against emission limits in the AO, and a statement that CRB breakdowns cannot be considered unavoidable unless maintenance and good engineering practice have been followed diligently.

If you have questions about CACC or any of the above issues, please call Howard Gross (486-4565) or Scott Endicott (596-1325).

### *Recycle Aluminum Cans.*

Please consider donating aluminum cans to Friends. Can donations will be accepted at 1149 E. Browning Avenue Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. All proceeds will go to the FOGSL general fund. Cans must be contained in plastic garbage bags. If you have cans to donate, but can't transport them, please call Margie Paul-Hus and arrangements will be made for a pick-up. If you don't recycle aluminum. Please consider starting!! This will greatly benefit Friends. Volunteers are needed for accepting aluminum cans in your neighborhood and/or taking cans to the recycling center.

Questions, please call **Margie Paul-Hus at 487-4383**.

Friends of Great Salt Lake wishes to thank Xmission.com for its generous donation of services to support the Friends of Great Salt Lake on the World Wide Web

<http://www.xmission.com/~fogs1>

Kevin Landis: webmaster



## 1997 Lake Cruise

The Lazy Fall Day Cruise Sept. 13 was a great success thanks to the efforts of all 68 participants . The weather was clear and warm, the lake calm, the potluck delicious, and the conversation fun. We completed a large loop of the south end of the lake starting at Antelope Island Marina, headed west to the northern end of Stansbury Island, then past Car-rington Island, towards Promontory Point, circling south at Fremont Island, and back to Antelope Island. Information about the lake and its ecosystem was expertly provided by Capt. Steve Ingram, Joel Peterson, Dr. Ty Harrison, and Bill Case. Bill took water samples and monitored lake salinity at different locations on the lake at different depths. We enjoyed the company of several folks new to FOGSL and we hope that they can join us for future events. Thank you to Steve Ingram, owner of Salt Island Adventures, for help with sponsoring the six hour tour.



## Avian Botulism Outbreak Occurs at Great Salt Lake

by Don Paul and Joel Flory, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Avian botulism is claiming the lives of thousands of birds this year in the wetlands and mud flats of Great Salt Lake (GSL). As of this writing (9/9/97), more than 43,000 water birds have been picked up that have succumbed to the disease. It is estimated that the actual mortality is three times the number removed, exceeding 129,000. These birds are comprised mostly of ducks with a smaller number of other associated water birds being affected. The primary ducks being lost are Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Northern Pintail. In addition there have been other waterfowl losses including Cinnamon Teal, Mallards, Redhead, and American Wigeon. Shorebirds and other marsh inhabitants are also being affected including: Long-billed Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, Least and Western Sandpipers, Black-Necked Stilts, American Avocets, California Gulls, Franklin's Gulls, White-faced Ibis, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

Avian Botulism (*Clostridium botulinum*) type C is an anaerobic bacterium that thrives in the shallow substrates of the associated mud of GSL wetlands. The conditions necessary for a botulism outbreak around the wetlands of GSL and in other wetland environments are receding warm water, complete absence of oxygen, the presence of vertebrate and invertebrate carcasses, rotting vegetation, and high ambient temperatures. In this environment toxin production takes place utilizing the mass of nutrients from the vegetation and carcasses. With vertebrate carcasses and high ambient temperatures present, fly populations may also build up and contribute to the cycle. As toxin production takes place in decaying carcasses, maggots concentrate the toxin and are then subsequently ingested by other birds resulting in additional deaths and toxin production, thus accelerating the cycle. Avian botulism affects the peripheral nerves and results in paralysis of voluntary muscles. This paralytic disease is often fatal to birds who ingest the toxin produced by the bacterium.

Botulism was recorded in Utah as early as 1909. Known as "Western Duck Sickness" at the time, botulism was one of the major reasons for the establishment of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Restoration and management of the marshes were thought to stop or slow down the disease. In

September 1910, Madsen wrote that "although the facts will never be known, I think it is safe to say that nearly two million birds perished that year in the Utah marshes." In subsequent years there have been outbreaks of the disease with varying degrees of effect on migratory water bird populations. The last major outbreak was in 1990 when some 30,000 ducks and other birds were picked up.

The recommended protocol for abating the outbreak is to pick up dead and dying birds to reduce the fly/maggot production which acts as a catalyst in the outbreak epidemics. In small outbreaks, sick birds in early stages of the disease can be treated successfully by placing them in cool fresh water, away from the affected area. When significant outbreaks are experienced, it is recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wildlife Health Center that time and effort be spent in picking up dead birds. This is projected to have the greatest positive effect toward reducing the effects of botulism in the area. It is important to understand that GSL sits in a terminal drainage basin where we have little control over water management. Where water can be managed, the disease can be abated by flooding or complete desiccation of the affected area.

This season a significant effort to manage the problem by carcass removal has been initiated by the USFWS, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and concerned citizens. This involves the use of air boats, heavy equipment, and lots of manpower. Once the birds are collected, they are bagged and delivered to an excavation site where they are buried. This effort at times seems futile but it is estimated that for every infected carcass removed several waterbirds are saved.

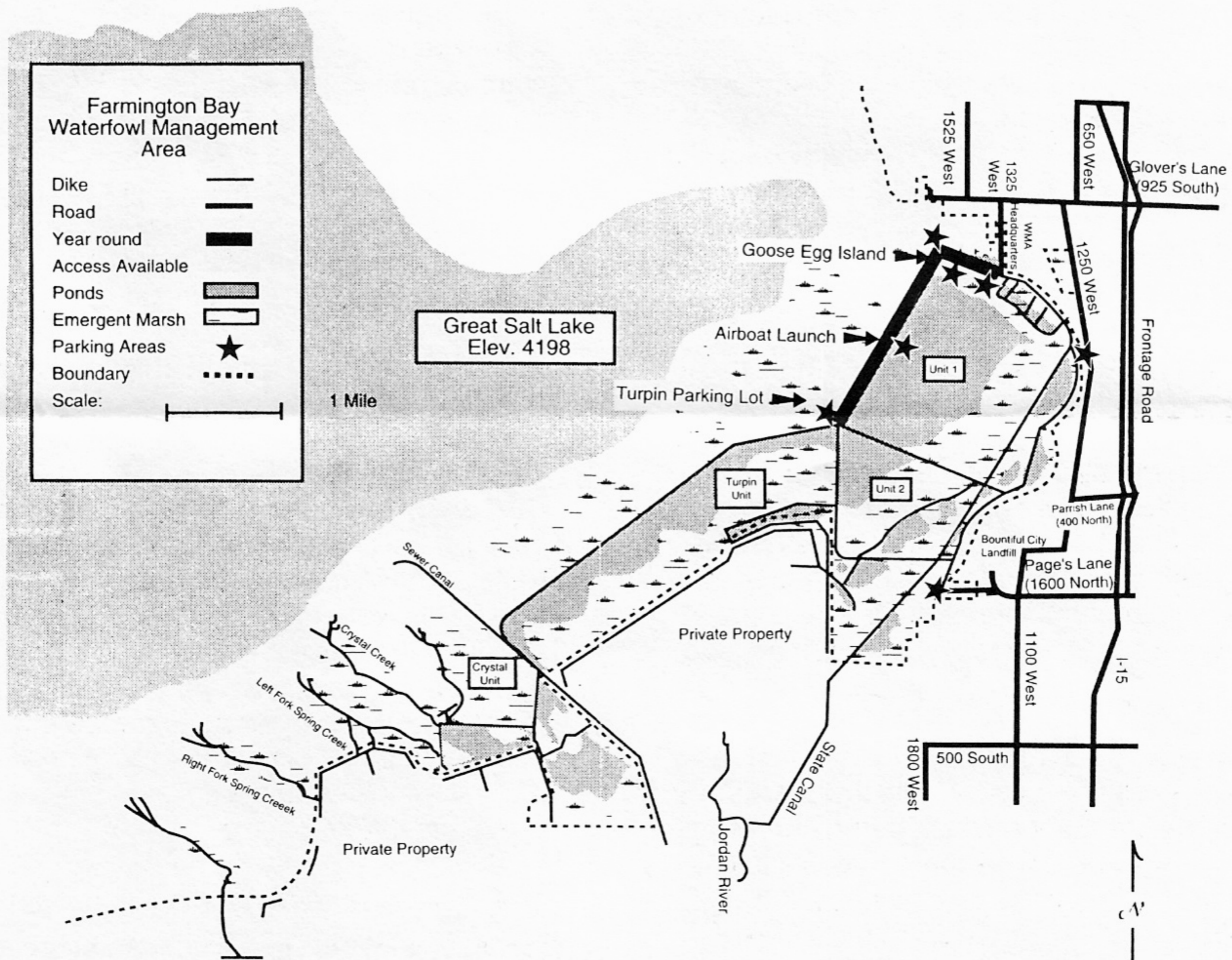
This year's outbreak may have been stimulated by early wet weather that flooded additional wetlands and have subsequently been exposed due to evaporation providing additional substrate for the bacterium to flourish. Our greatest hope is that the weather will soon turn cool and subsequently the outbreak will subside.



## Trip Talks

### Visit Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area for an Excellent Fall and Winter Lake Wetland Experience.

In response to requests for locating areas to access the lake, FOGSL received permission to provide our readers the map of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area. The schedule for the type of travel allowed and the areas available for access are listed below. Justin Dolling, the WMA manager, indicated that during this fall's hunting season a part of Unit One will be designated a waterfowl rest area off limits to hunting which will provide a greater opportunity for birdwatching. For more information contact Justin Dolling, Manager, Farmington Bay WMA at 801/451-7386.



#### North Entrance to Goose Egg Island

- Open year round (8:00 am to 5:00 pm)

#### Unit 1 dike to Turpin parking lot

- Open Sep. 25 to Feb. 28 to motorized vehicles
- Open year round to foot and bicycle

#### South and East Entrances (to parking lot)

- Open Sep. 25 to Jan. 14 to motorized vehicles
- Open Jan. 15 to Feb. 28 to foot and bicycle
- CLOSED March 1 to July 31
- Open Aug. 1 to Sep. 24 to foot and bicycle

#### Other dikes and roads

- Open to foot and bicycle Aug. 1 to Feb. 28
- CLOSED March 1 to July 31
- CLOSED year round to motorized vehicles

#### SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Dogs are welcome from Sep. 25 through Feb.28.

Please stay on dikes and roads from March 1 to Sep. 25 to reduce disturbance to wildlife.

Boating is allowed two weeks prior to the waterfowl season (starting about Sep. 25 )

Firearms allowed only during waterfowl hunting season.



## Island Reflections

by Gibbs Smith

The feeling is different here.

We leave the last home and farm traffic. Final serenity. The salt, humid air, the bird chorus. A place of water and beaches. I grew up east of Antelope Island. As a child, from the second floor of my old grade school, year after year I could keep an eye on Antelope Island. I watched storms roll in over the lake and envelope the island, I watched lightning strike the June grass and burn the island. I learned to measure the severity of winter storms by measuring the snow line on Antelope Island. I could tell the spring was coming by the sun moving back between two of the island's peaks. I could tell my directions by noting where the island was. The island became my psychic lodestone as a child. I knew where I was and who I was partly by positioning myself with the island.

As an adult, the island and the lake remain for me one of my personal talismans.

Sometimes I reflect on what the island has seen looking east, the natural scene and human scene.

The east shore of the island looks out on the lake, then the sloping, alluvial plain leading up to the foothills and the peaks of the Wasatch. Certainly, this is one of the most dramatic landscapes existing anywhere in the United States. The east, the island sees the hubbub of modern life disappearing in an amazing succession of compression bionic zones.

As the land emerges from the lake, one first encounters the magnificent Kaysville and Layton marshes. They are fed by freshwater streams running off from the west slope of the Wasatch, creating one of the richest bird habitats in the West. These marshes are habitat for a tremendous variety of songbirds and other waterbirds – stilts, grebes, great blue herons, Sandhill cranes, ducks, geese, bald eagles, and more – filled with sounds like no other place. Old timers of the area

have told me winter tales of ice skating from Farmington to Syracuse along this fresh water marsh. Sometimes the marsh extends further to the east when the lake rises, and humbles farmers who have inserted their activities into this special land.

Sometimes I reflect on what the island has seen of human contact. When the island emerged from the depths of Lake Bonneville, stone-age man was here. Then ancestors of the modern Native Americans who migrated from the mountains in the summer and to the west desert in the winter encamped for prolonged periods by the freshwater streams. I know this is so from my own experience, because my farmer neighbors in West Kaysville have amazing collections of grinding stones, spear points, arrowheads and other utensils found in the rich fields of alluvium along these streams.

With the coming of Europeans, rapid changes occurred, beginning with a few explores: Jedediah Smith, Fremont, Carson, culminating in the 1850s by the creation of a major thoroughfare along the bluff road. For awhile, about a third of all people going to the California gold rush traveled this route. If one stood on the east shore of the island during this time, one would have seen dust clouds of one of the busiest routes in America (almost like I-15 today). From the pitch black darkness of nights, gradually lights appeared to the east, first bonfires, then oil lamps, then a sprinkle of electricity, and now a great electric sea of lights intensifying in magnitude each year.

The island has seen a lot, but it has not changed a lot. This is part of its great value.

I hope the island will be forever wild, a waterworld, a world of bird, and a place of sunsets.

Gibbs Smith is a publisher, writer, and painter. A version of this story was originally presented as a talk given at the dedication of the Antelope Island State Park visitors Center, October 1996. (This article appeared in the July 1997 edition *Catalyst* and is reprinted by permission.)



# Friends of Great Salt Lake 1997

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors::

I'd like to share my thoughts on a quote from Page 12 of your Summer 1997 newsletter:

"A few miles from here is the "infamous" Bangerter Pump Station, constructed at a cost of \$60 million to help protect developments along the shores of the Great Salt Lake from the rising water level." I disagree with the reference to the pumps as "infamous". The pumps resulted in the prevention of millions of dollars of damage to public infrastructures and private property, and also prevented much suffering.

Sincerely,

A Supporter of Friends of Great Salt Lake.

Ed Note: We appreciate your comments about articles in our newsletter. Please let us know what you think.



## GREAT SALT LAKE SLIDE PROGRAM

Bruce Thompson

A Progress Report On "**The Lake Affect: Living Together On The Shores of Something Great**"

Editors Notes: You might recall that Friends of Great Salt Lake has undertaken a unique educational project since spring of this year. The outcome is to be a live-narration slide program presented on an on-going basis to a broad spectrum of citizens throughout the Great Salt Lake Region. Our Education Director, Bruce Thompson provides us a brief on his work on this project to date, and a preview of what's to come.

An unfortunate and somewhat irrational barrier seems to exist between a million-acre body of water and the majority of over one million human inhabitants surrounding it. Our current education initiative seeks to breach that isthmus and stimulate an increased dialog between the globally significant natural system that is the Great Salt Lake and ourselves. It seems both undignified and unwise that our relationship with this magnificent system persists largely in terms of corridor space competition and pesky flies.

The current working title for this project, "**The Lake Affect: Living Together On The Shores Of Something Great**," was chosen to declare from the start that, whether we perceive it or not, the Great Salt Lake affects all of us. The title is a play on the common phrase, "the lake effect," which of course refers to ways by which that vast body of water enhances our local weather. But there is more at play than climate moderation. To "affect" is to change, modify, influence, or impress, and this Lake surely does all of that and more. While it may well change by project completion, title phrasing has been chosen to create a tone that emphasizes the wealth of interrelationships, interdependencies, and diversity among humans and all life, and between these living things and their Great Salt Lake environment.

I now approach the end of the image-gathering phase of the project. Our slide "pool" has become quite substantial. Some original photography continues to be done, but we have relied quite heavily on acquiring or copying existing slides from the community for much of the program. Quite clearly, our success in this effort is highly dependent upon the support and generosity of organizations and individuals, some named below, who have re-

sponded to our call.

Before September's end I expect to have wrapped up the acquisition of slides and graphics and begun a final story line based upon images at hand. A draft story line review will take place in mid-October. On 28 October this draft presentation will be part of our general meeting. In early November we pilot the final presentation. By mid-November, and with assistance from a few trained volunteers, we will begin targeting no fewer than fifty presentations of this slide program throughout the greater Salt Lake community, to enhance and inspire both knowledge about and care for our Great Salt Lake.

The program will run 60-90 minutes and consist of an orientation talk, 35-45 minutes of slides with live narration, and a period for questions, discussion, and wrap up. An audience feedback form will be used to gather public response to our effort. If you believe that a group to which you belong or of which you are aware would be a possible venue for our program, please contact me at the address or phone below.

We thank the following contributors who, as of 9 September, have aided in the completion of our program:

Mr. Bruce Andersen, photographer  
Ms. Elaine Barton, The Nature Conservancy  
Mr. Mark Brunson, UT State University  
Mr. Bill Case, UT Geological Survey  
Ms. Kathlyn Collins, Friends of Great Salt Lake  
Ms. Lynn de Freitas, Friends of Great Salt Lake  
Mr. Justin Dolling, UT Div. Wildlife Resources  
Ms. Libby Ellis, The Nature Conservancy  
Mr. Bob Erwin, photographer  
Mr. Jake Faibisch, UT Div. Wildlife Resources, Northern Region  
Mr. Lyle Gingery, Great Salt Lake State Park  
Mr. Steve Greenwood, photographer  
Mr. Howard Gross, SWCA Inc., Environmental Consultants  
Mr. Andrew Hodge, photographer  
Mr. Steve Ingram, Salt Island Adventures  
Ms. Lucy Jordan, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mr. James Kay, photographer  
Mr. Russ Lawrence, UT Div. Wildlife Resources  
Ms. Cecile LeBlanc, UT Div. Wildlife Resources  
Mr. Don Leonard, Utah Artemia Association  
Mr. Wayne Martinson, National Audubon Society  
Mr. Ron Ollis, UT Div. Water Resources



Mr. Don Paul, biologist-photographer  
Mr. Mike Radice, UT Div. Wildlife Resources  
Mr. Doyle Stephens, US Geological Survey  
Ms. Diana Vos, Project WILD, UT Div. Wildlife Resources

and/or assist in presentations between October 1997 and May 1998.

Bruce Thompson can be reached at 467-3240 weekdays between 8 am and 5 pm, at e-mail [ecotracs@aol.com](mailto:ecotracs@aol.com), or at the Friends of Great Salt Lake Address.

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

We welcome volunteer assistance from members who might help schedule programs



Labor Day Sunset by Howard Gross  
"how many birds?"



*Friends of Friends*  
West Desert Healthy Environment Alliance  
by Chip Ward, Spokesperson, West Desert HEAL

Tooele County's West Desert hosts an army depot, a controversial chemical weapons incinerator, the infamous Dugway Proving Grounds, an air-force bombing range, two hazardous waste incinerators, a hazardous waste landfill, a radioactive materials landfill, and a magnesium plant that spews 80 pct. Of the nations point source emissions of chlorine gas. It is also home of the one n' only local grassroots group to challenge the prevailing practice of giving up environmental quality and taking public health risks in return for jobs and revenue.

The West Desert Healthy Environment Alliance, or HEAL, is engaged in a broad and varied range of issues but delivers a consistent message: the closest link we have with our environment is our own bodies. Because we are all downwind and downstream from one another, the collective decisions we make about what we allow into our air, water, and food chain are eventually translated into flesh and blood and living daily experience. Such decision making must be open, accountable, and inclusive. Only a concerned and active citizenry can make that happen because regulators are often compromised.

HEAL was organized in the fall of 1995 to conduct a public health survey in Grantsville. An informal core group, formerly known as the Tooele County Clean Air Coalition, enlisted 40 residents to go door to door. The survey revealed high levels of cancer, MS, birth defects, asthma, and other chronic illnesses. It found twice as much cancer as an earlier state government review. Significantly, natives were several times more likely to suffer poor health than non-natives.

The survey was meant to be a catalyst and prompt a thorough professional study by the state. Although it generated much attention and promises by the State of Utah for a baseline health study, to date no formal state study has followed. HEAL participants, however, believe they confirmed the local conventional wisdom that public health is poor, especially for those who were living there in the 60's. They suspect that being downwind from over 1,000 open air nerve agent tests conducted at Dugway in the 1960's, combined with episodic exposure to chlorine gas and occupational exposures, may be to blame. Unfortunately,

they also learned that the most insidious thing that went downwind at the time of the Dugway tests was the burden of proof.

In 1996, HEAL pushed the Army to curtail open detonation of conventional munitions near Grantsville and won. In 1998, only one fifth of the ordinance usually detonated will be exploded. Individual detonation loads will be one third of the size they were and the Army has pledged to detonate only when weather conditions take noise and dust away from town.

Watch dogging the Deseret chemical weapons incinerator is an ongoing challenge. The "chem demil" program is, so far, 13 years behind schedule and 800% over budget. It is based on a pilot plant that does not work. The incinerator emits dioxins and various other chemical compounds of unknown toxicity, and probably trace amounts of nerve agent as well. The potential for an accident that at least sends low levels of nerve agent downwind is very real. The long term health impacts of such exposures are unknown, as Gulf War vets have learned to their sorrow.

A parade of whistle blowers has marched out the incinerator doors. First, the safety manager was fired when he charged the plant was unsafe. He was recently vindicated by a federal judge. Then the general manager was fired when he also questioned plant safety. Most recently, the waste stream manager quit when she was told to cover up violations of environmental law.

HEAL has also worked with Friends of the Great Salt Lake within the Citizens Against Chlorine Contamination, now incorporated into the Sierra Club, to challenge MagCorp to clean up (see previous FGSL newsletters). A new challenge is a proposal to store spent nuclear fuel rods in Skull Valley.

Challenging MagCorp and the incinerator from within a small and tightly knit community where hundreds perceive opposition as a direct threat to their jobs is very difficult and risky. HEAL has had to keep a low profile and a loose structure. There is no formal membership. HEAL produces a newsletter, The Smokeout, with Families Against Incinerator Risk (FAIR). **For more information, call Chip Ward at 884-6291. Help is welcome.**



## *President's Message*

### *Many Hands Make Light Work*

I have been honored to represent all of you dear members as President of Friends of Great Salt Lake over this past year. Reaching out to our membership by writing the President's Message, alone in my study staring at the computer monitor, has not fulfilled me nearly as much as meeting you in person, especially out at the Great Salt Lake, working or having fun on an activity. I've appreciated all of your assistance with the day-to-day details of the organization as well as your inspirations and ideas.

You are all dear people who have unselfishly contributed to a very worthy goal--saving and protecting a small, unique part of the Earth that means so much to the livelihood of a great number of species. You are part of a dedicated grassroots group, identifying yourself within the Great Salt Lake ecosystem, recognizing its importance and our human ability to protect it, and choosing to live cooperatively with it rather than allowing it to be altered or changed. Likewise, you have been rewarded with its beauty and wonderment and hold part of this interrelationship in your heart.

There is much to do when all of our goals are considered at once. However, with each of your financial contributions, memberships, and talents shared in Board meetings, public meetings or field trips, there has been much accomplished. Recognize the strength of the message "many hands make light work" and consider how you can help.

I don't believe there will ever be an end to my personal involvement with the Great Salt Lake—each bird, algal clump, tufa formation, and sunset draws me further into its mystery. Nor will there be an end to my support of our grassroots group (perhaps a short hiatus to recharge my batteries). But a shift in responsibilities and leadership in our organization keeps us vigorous and fresh with new ideas and strategies.

Please plan on attending our Annual Membership Meeting in October--our fourth anniversary, for our annual elections and a presentation by our Education Director, Bruce Thompson, of information and slides that will overview our educational outreach to the Great Salt Lake communities.

We will be making the first attempt, as far as I know, to meet with targeted groups in our community and bring a message of the importance of protecting the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem. Our second Issues Forum, scheduled for February, is another outreach opportunity that will bring the lake to the forefront of discussions of transportation planning, air quality and brine shrimp research. And, of course, our activities are fun ways to learn more about the lake and an opportunity to be inspired by it. Remember to bring your friends!

Please offer your support to these efforts and take advantage of these learning opportunities that make the Lake more familiar in our thoughts and closer in our hearts. Remember that each of your small contributions of time, talent or money equals a significant effort when added to other's help. **We're making a difference!**

Joel Peterson





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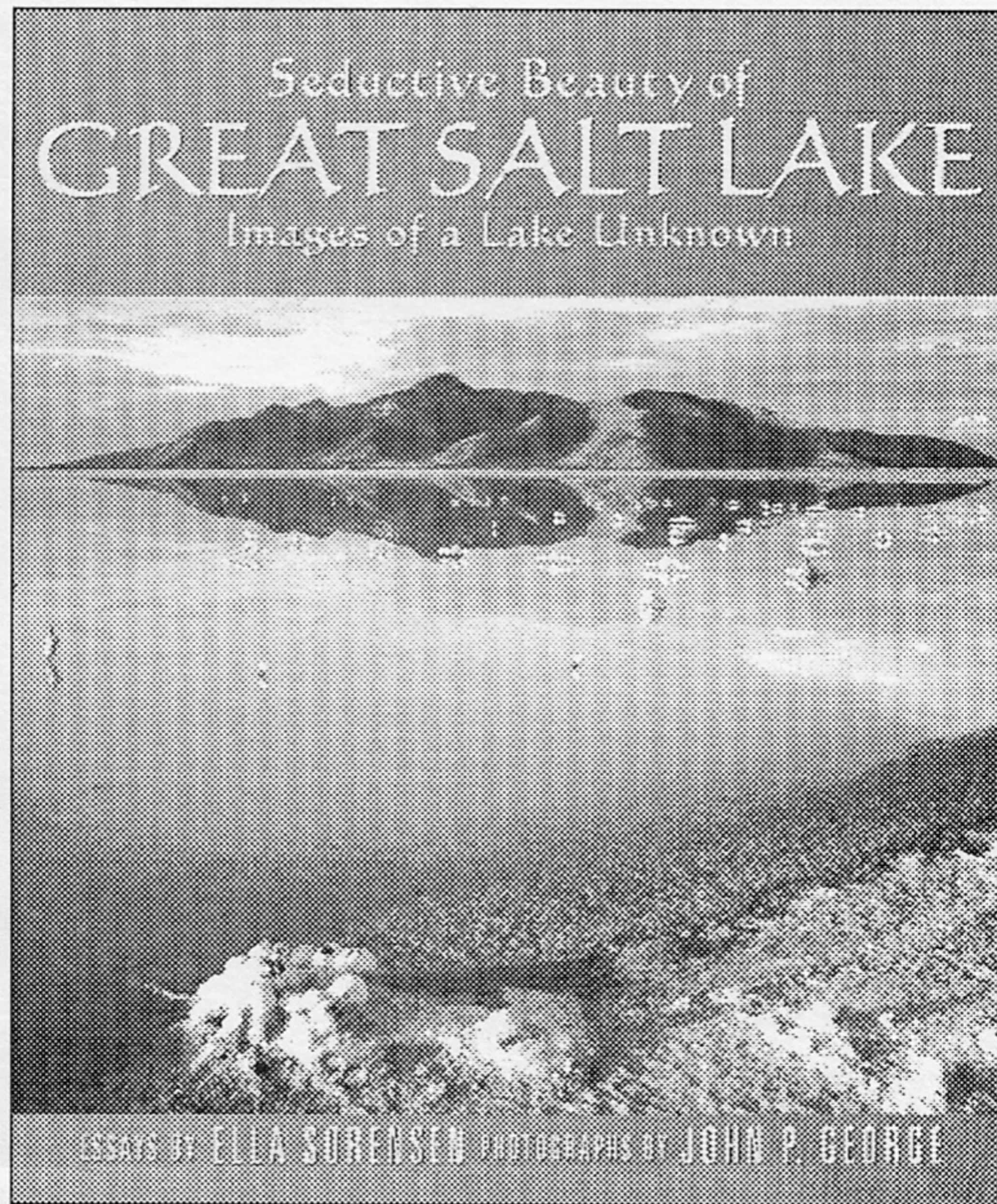
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