



Trail Foundation Newsletter Fourth Quarter 2004

Tree Health Project Ready to Begin

With financial support from the Temple Inland Foundation and the Austin Community Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Town Lake Trail Foundation, and City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department have partnered to introduce *Healthy Trees for the Trail*; a comprehensive woodland management plan for the Town Lake Trail. Starting this month, the organizations will work together to return the meadow and woodland areas along Town Lake to a healthy state and assure that care of the trees, wildlife, and flora along the trails is sustained for years to come. The Foundation first noticed a potential problem earlier this year and then took the lead in putting this project together.

In January and February, local arborists will be working on two pilot areas to remove non-native and invasive plants that threaten our prize pecan, cypress, and other native trees. A press conference was held December 13 at 10:30am at Lou Neff Point in order to formally kick off the project.

Want to help? Come out for one of our volunteer days when we will be helping remove non-native and invasive plants and also replanting native species back in their place. The volunteer days are planned for January 15, 22 and 29 and February 5 and 19.

Restoration and Expansion of the Trail at Lou Neff Point

On August 26, 2004, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded the Foundation \$97,976 for trail widening and renovation at Lou Neff Point. This is the first grant we've received from a state agency and one that will enable us to improve one of the Town Lake Trail's "traffic jam" spots. TPWD awarded the grant as part of its annual grants to organizations and municipalities across the State. Board member Don Sansom is the project manager for the Lou Neff Point Renovation. Look for an update at the next Trail Foundation Monthly meeting on February 16 at 6:30 at Mayor Wynn's house and in our first quarterly newsletter in 2005.

Membership Plan

As some of you may have noticed at our November Gatorade stop or heard at the most recent volunteer meeting, the Town Lake Trail Foundation is converting from a volunteer organization to a membership organization. This move officially begins January 1, 2005.

The Foundation's board voted to build a membership program to encourage regular giving to our rag-tag non-profit. The membership levels provide a guide for those who want to donate and a way to recognize everyone who contributes to helping our Trail.

Anyone who contributes at least \$25 to TLTF after November 1, 2004, will become a member of the organization for 2005. The annual membership categories we are offering are:

Member	\$25	Small Business Member	\$300
Trail Friend	\$100	Corporate Member	\$500
Trail Supporter	\$250		
Trail Runner	\$500		
Trail Benefactor	\$1000		
Trail Patron	\$2500		
Trail Champion	\$5000		

In addition, we will offer a 20% discount on a three-year TLTF membership at any of the above levels, if paid in advance.



All members will receive a TLTF window decal and recognition in the TLTF newsletter and on the TLTF website. Members will also receive the quarterly newsletter, information about upcoming TLTF events and volunteer opportunities, and an advance invitation to all TLTF events. Members who contribute at or above the \$100 level will receive a TLTF t-shirt.

Adopt-a-Garden 2005

The 2005 Town Lake Trail Foundation Adopt-a-Garden Auction will take place on February 5th from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Zilker Botanical Garden Center. A fresh crop of prepared gardens will be up for adoption by individuals, families, civic organizations, gardening groups and businesses.

Come join us for refreshments, door prizes and a chance to meet Rob Hall of the Great Outdoors Gardening Center and other gardening luminaries.

At last year's auction, 11 adopters came away with gardens that they have planted and maintained to make the trail a more beautiful place.

Profile Garden: A recently planted garden on the south side of the Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge is a creation of the Prashner family, who used a variety of native Texas plants, including Yellow Bells, Lantana and Honeysuckle to transform a weedy sloping site into a handsome garden.

Racing for the Trail

Racing for the Trail (RFT) is a program that combines a love for the Town Lake Trail with the desire to compete in local races....turning your race miles into cash for the trail!

Every racer is given their very own ChampionChip and RFT synthetic race shirt. The shirt and the chip are yours to keep as our way of saying "thank you" for helping us get the program up and running in year one.

The heart of the racing season is upon us. It's not too late to sign up to be a racer or a donor....the program covers races through February of 2005.

Email jeff@townlaketrail.org with questions.

Monthly Membership Meeting

Please mark your calendars now for the first membership meeting in our short history. It will be February 16, 2005 from 6:30 to 8 at Mayor Will and Anne Elizabeth's home. Dinner and drinks are on us.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 13 from 6 to 7:30.

For an invitation, please email your contact information to volunteers@townlaketrail.org.