



Winter 2015

LLFoR's Winter was not typical of past Winters. The last three months were busy and productive. The largest amount of time was spent on the "Best Practices Guide" (BPG). We incorporated all onshore operations and water operations into one guide, which is slightly less than 100 pages. We plan to update the BPG each Winter and redistribute it to the schools. Next on the agenda was the completion of the \$20,000 grant from Friends of Reservoirs (FoR). We needed to have all the funds spent by March 31st, and the books closed with the Federal Government. This enabled us to apply for a 2016 grant through FoR. The good news is we were able to submit a new grant request; the bad news is LLFoR does not have the funds to carry us through 2016. You guessed it, fund raising was the next item on the agenda. We took two courses of action; the first was a raffle, and though the final accounting is not in, we did fairly well; the next item was LLFoR formed a **"Business Leaders Council" (BLC)**. What we are attempting to do is get 20 companies, local governments, organizations or individuals to commit to donating \$500 per year for the nine remaining years of the project. The BLC is off to a good start, as after two months, we are over 25% of the way to our goal. The BLC donations will be key going forward, as we most likely cannot apply to FoR for a Grant every year. This will provide us bridge funding and gives us the flexibility to do some funding of items which the Federal Government will not allow grant funds to be used for, as well as provide funds for the years we do not get FoR funding.

The first 4 to 5 months of 2016 have been tough for growing plants, due to colder than normal weather, overcast skies and lots of water coming into the Lake. TRA has done a great job in pulling the lake down to pool and not causing flooding downstream. Getting plants started and ready for the Lake planting has been an extremely slow process. Thanks to TPWD, Inland Fisheries they have purchased another 1,250 plants for us. THANK YOU!

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries
 Trinity River Authority
 Texas Black Bass Unlimited
 Piney Wood Lakes Chapter Texas Master Naturalist
 AgriLIFE Extension Services
 Coldspring Garden Club
 Coldspring-Oakhurst ISD

Coldspring/San Jacinto County Chamber of
 Commerce
 Livingston/Polk County Chamber of Commerce
 Goodrich ISD
 Livingston ISD
 Onalaska Bass Club
 Onalaska ISD
 Polk County AgriLife (4-H Club)
 Polk County Hookers

Master Gardeners San Jacinto County
 San Jacinto County Tourism Council
 Shepherd ISD
 Texas Association of Bass Clubs
 Texas Master Naturalist Program
 Texas State Bass Tournament
 Trinity Waters
 City of Onalaska



We have two Student plantings scheduled for mid-May and late August. We also will attempt two volunteer plantings during the summer. The key here is getting enough plants “lake ready” and have enough left over to propagate for the following year. To this end, LLFoR has added a Project Manager and a Horticulturist to it’s burgeoning staff of three (a 200% increase). I welcome Pam Klouda (former Project Manager at UPS and current Master Gardener) and Zack Slayton (Horticulturist and owner of Texas Living Landscapes) to LLFoR. Pam’s job is to take our project to the next level of organization and Zack’s job is to get LLFoR and the schools producing 10,000 plants per year.

There are many exciting conversations going on with TPWD and TRA. New planting methods are being discussed (I call it the E-Z Button Method). We are also discussing with TPWD about possibly starting to grow Softstem bulrush or Great bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* [*Scirpus validus*]) in the aquatic tanks which would include propagating these plants and including them in the student planting trips. This plant is also Grass carp resistant and can grow from the shoreline into three to five feet of water.

I hope all of our Newsletter subscribers are visiting our website, www.LLFoR.org. For the most recent updates on the project, follow us on Facebook, [LLFoRorg](https://www.facebook.com/LLFoRorg). Should you know of a company or organization interested in being a member of our Business Leaders Council, please contact me. I also want to thank all the students, staff and volunteers who have helped us over the past 12 months. THANK YOU!

Tom McDonough, Project Director, Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs, C# (832)236-0723, e-mail TLM77351@iCloud.com

We are
“Bringing Lake Livingston Back to Life”

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Pictures of last year's Fall planting taken on Friday, April 29th, 2016.



Chad Holton, Trinity River Authority, took a look at the 5 sites we planted in the Fall of 2015. He reported seeing a good quantity and quality of plants at all but one site. That site gets a lot of shade, and may take a little longer to become visible from a boat. This is great news! Due to colder than normal weather and high water. I did not expect to see these plants showing such good growth yet. They now have 6 months of sunlight and warmer water. Next year we should see up to a 9 square foot area of coverage per plant. Please remember, it takes up to four years for the plants to become dense habitat. We are looking at the Spring of 2019 for this density. I look for these plants to start moving out to 3' to 4' of water in the following years.

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