

Logan Martin Lake Protection Association

PCB Seminar October 8, 1998

Nearly one hundred persons attended the Logan Martin Lake Protection Association (LMLPA) Seminar on PCBs held October 8 at the Pell City Civic Center. This was the first of a planned series of *informational meetings* on subjects of interest to LMLPA members and Lake Logan Martin property owners and businesses.

Association President **Don Greer** opened the seminar at 6:32 PM. **Perry Doak** gave the opening prayer.

Mr. Greer welcomed the attendees and gave a brief history of LMLPA. He then introduced the Chairperson of LMLPA's Membership Committee, **Holland Powell**, who reported on the ongoing membership drive.

Mr. Greer introduced the distinguished visitors in the audience, then turned the meeting over to LMLPA director and past president, **Hugh Holladay**, who introduced the speakers.

The first speaker was **Brad McLane**, Executive Director of the Alabama Rivers Alliance, a co-sponsor of the seminar. Mr. McLane posed a series of questions regarding PCB contamination, only some of which have been answered. He stated that "we need to hold our legislators responsible, so that they will hold ADEM and EPA responsible, and that will ensure that the job gets done."

The next speaker was **Dr. Ronald Hunsinger**, Professor of Pathopsiology/Toxicology, Samford University, who discussed the effects of PCB exposure on the human body. **Dr. Hunsinger** stated that the persistence of PCB's in the environment means the substance being neutralized by nature "takes years and possibly decades before the threat is gone."

The third speaker was **Lois George**, Vice President of Environment and Ecology at P.E. La Moreau & Associates, Inc., Tuscaloosa, who described the sediment samples collected from Logan Martin this past summer on behalf of the plaintiffs of a class-action suit brought against Monsanto by lake property owners. **Ms. George** stated that PCBs were present in most of the samples taken, at levels ranging from 1 ppm to 31 ppm.

The final speaker was **Timothy Harrington**, President, Harrington Engineering and Construction, Chesterton, Indiana, who told the audience of his experience with cleaning up polluted sediments in several rivers across the country. Mr. Harrington described the two main methods of PCB removal and added that "it can be done, and can remove up to 90 percent of the target material."

After the speakers were finished, the floor was opened for questions, with **Hugh Holladay** moderating. A number of questions from the audience were addressed by the speakers and LMLPA and ADEM representatives.

The seminar was concluded at 8:17 p.m.

Prepared by: Ron Vaughan
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