

# "Memories Washed Ashore"- (Lake Buchanan No More)

Location: Buchanan Dam, Lake Buchanan, Burnet/Llano Counties, Texas, United States of America

Name: Megan E. Taylor

Qualities: Possesses early childhood memories, calming and quiet retreat, grey-blue body of water, one of America's largest multiple arch dams, plenty of ducks that roam around to feed and play with, sandy shores filled with miniature seashells, quaint visitor welcome center nearby, oak trees, clear skies and sunny weather, crisp and windy landscape, flag pole racket, gentle waves, picnic tables, gated and chained area, "No Trespassing" signs, bright orange buoys, "Sweet Berry Farm" nearby where you can pick strawberries during the summer, pick pumpkins during the fall, pet goats, etc., "Longhorn Caverns" nearby as well, and there lies a giant field of bluebonnets across the road where our family often took Easter portraits.

Facts: Is often plagued by bouts of severe drought, conversely bothered by frequent over-flooding, has heightened security and is less open to visitors due to dam being a target for terrorist attempts, multiple species native to the area at risk of extinction such as: Texas Blind Salamanders, Edwards Plateau Shiner, Burrhead Chubb, Smalleye Shiner, Hydrobiid Snails, Lampsius Bracteata and Quincuncina Guadalupensis Mussels to name a few, steady neglect and pollution overtime from excess littering, nearby rice farmers taking more water than is present for ecological balance, threatening aquatic life survival due to the general epidemic of over-population, trumping amount of natural resource available.

Patterns: In order to aid in reversing some of the issues this beautiful spot faces, I could start by simply reducing my intake of water usage. This can be accomplished by: reusing cooking water to feed plants and grass found in my garden or backyard; installing a rain barrel to collect runoff water from the rooftop, taking shorter showers, avoiding the dumping of hazardous chemicals down the drain, and of course disposing of trash in waste bins as opposed to: rivers, lakes, oceans, or even down the toilet during bathroom visits.

