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These River Rats are good

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More than a half-century working a stone's throw from the banks of the Trinity River has taught me that there are good and not-so-good river rats.

The **River Rats of the Trinity Trust Foundation** and the **Rat Pack of the Trinity Trust Foundation** fall squarely in the former category.

When River Rats was founded last year under the leadership of **Erika Huddleston**, its 130 charter members came from all age groups.

The group was split this year, and now the River Rats members are ages 50 and under while Rat Packers are 50 and up.

Lyda Hill was chosen to lead the Rat Pack of the Trinity Trust, sponsored by **West Dallas Investments**.

The younger group is led by **Lynn McBee** and sponsored by **JPI** and **LopezGarcia Group**.

The Trinity Trust Foundation raises private funds for the Trinity project.

"These groups meet throughout the year to support the Trinity Project – environmental efforts, outdoor recreation, real estate development, project design and community rehabilitation," Ms. McBee said.

Membership in both groups includes parties and happy hours showcasing venues near the river, canoe trips down the Trinity River and guided hikes through the Great Trinity Forest, and free admission to the Trinity Trust lecture series.

Speakers invited for this year's series include **Amanda Burden**, head of city planning for New York; environmentalist **William McDonough**, author of *The Next Industrial Revolution* and *Cradle to Cradle*; **Ignacio Bunster-Ossa** from Philadelphia, a consultant on the Trinity project; and local artist **Brad Goldberg**.

"We are encouraging those who care about Dallas' future and the Trinity's future to join the Rat Pack and make an impact for generations to come," Ms. Hill said.

River Rats memberships are \$100 per individual or couple, and it costs \$500 per individual or couple to join the Rat Pack.

People can join online at www.thetrinitytrust.org or by calling 214-740-1616.

The \$2 billion Trinity River Project includes a meandering river, downtown lakes, an island, wetlands, a 6,000-acre forest, bike trails, whitewater courses, riding paths and nature walks.

The Trinity Trust raises private funds to implement the Balanced Vision Plan for the Trinity River Corridor in conjunction with the city of Dallas.

It also established the **Trinity Center** as a gathering place for civic and nonprofit groups working to revitalize the Trinity River in Dallas.