



Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
October 2013

**Upcoming Date
to Remember**



2014 Atlanta Boat Show

January 9-12, 2014

Lake Lanier Association.
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Message from the Board

This summer concluded an outstanding season for Lake Lanier. The lake has never been more attractive with an average water level of almost 1073 feet above sea level since April. Also of note was the absence of muddy conditions as well as the lack of problems with the Buford Dam and other lake infrastructures. Raising the full pool authorization to 1073 feet will provide a major buffer against drought impacts across the entire basin. Stakeholders in Georgia, Florida and Alabama will all benefit from officially changing the full pool authorization from 1071 to 1073 feet. Your association will continue to support and negotiate for this very positive change.

During the past year, significant focus by many Lanier stakeholders on safety has been rewarded by vastly improved statistics for 2013 over the same period in 2012. The Department of Natural Resources reports that boating accidents, boating fatalities and boating BUI arrests are down by at least 50%. Although the high rain fall this year has somewhat reduced lake traffic, these results reflect the renewed focus and awareness on safety by all people recreating on Lanier. Emphasis on education, safety classes, life jackets, alcohol consumption and sensitivity have contributed to the results. Hats off to all lake oriented entities for their work on safety – it truly has been a community-wide effort!

In the July issue of your newsletter, we introduced the concept of a significant safety driven program. We kicked

off the Solar Lighting Program in August. Twenty solar lights were installed on the south end of Lanier. The feedback on this program has been outstanding! Our plan calls for installing approximately 100 lights annually over the next 3 – 5 years. Initially our focus will be on boating hazard markers with subsequent phases of the project illuminating the mouths of some Lanier creeks and bridge spans for safety. The LLA is very excited with this initiative.

Last month we concluded our 25th annual Shore Sweep Lake cleanup. It was a tremendous success, highlighted by structured organization, over 1000 volunteers and significant trash removal. More detail on Shore Sweep is reported later in this newsletter.

Finally, the LLA is entering a major membership campaign. We will drive to increase membership by 20% in 2014. There is an article in this newsletter issue outlining a “Bring In A New Member” contest for existing members. Please watch for more information on this important program in the coming months.

Shore Sweep 2013 Super Volunteer



Our 25th annual Shore Sweep event was, by several accounts, our best yet! Great weather certainly helped and we had record breaking turnout at several locations this year. A lake-wide coordinated effort to scout debris in advance results in over 58 pieces of Styrofoam being brought in at one location alone!!! Thanks so much to all our volunteers that made Shore Sweep such a success – from the advance teams scouting prior to the event, to the day of the event volunteers, and OF COURSE the individual location Captains who put in many volunteers hours planning for the event.

We have so many great volunteers that do so much to make Shore Sweep a success, it is really hard to single out any one person that did more than anyone else. With that said, we do want to highlight an example of the one of many Super Volunteers we have at Shore Sweep. For Shore Sweep 2013, LLA member Ed Carruth of Dawsonville made 200 wood stakes from previous Shore Sweep salvaged wood. He also fabricated a nail fastener for encapsulated Styrofoam. Prior to Shore Sweep day, Ed participated in scouting of the shore line for trash location. He also created “Volunteers Needed” signs and placed the signs at various locations around Dawsonville. Ed picked up 20 large pieces of Styrofoam in advance of Shore Sweep, and then,



Super Volunteer – Ed Carruth – single handedly brings in several pieces of Styrofoam for proper disposal at Shore Sweep.

The following were Shore Sweep 2013 Zone Location Captains:

Aqualand Marina	Co-Captain	Bonny Putney
Aqualand Marina	Co-Captain	Jason Ulseth
Bald Ridge Marina	Co-Captain	Tammy Wright
Bald Ridge Marina	Co-Captain	Kevin Smith
Clarks Bridge Park	Co-Captain	Howard Bradley
Clarks Bridge Park	Co-Captain	Kelly Norman
Gainesville Marina	Captain	Beth de Neergaard
Habersham Marina	Captain	Wynne Kaputa
Holiday & Lazy Days Marinas	Captain	Dale Hopfer
Lake Lanier Islands	Captain	Patti Reilly
Lanier Harbor Marina	Captain	Tyler Young
Port Royale Marina	Captain	Robert Eidson
Sunrise Cove Marina	Captain	Patsy Kilmartin
War Hill Park	Co-Captain	Gordon Brand
War Hill Park	Co-Captain	George Daniel

on the day of Shore Sweep, he went out again and assisted a group from the Dawsonville Rotary Club and picked up another 15 pieces of Styrofoam and loose trash. When a late-in-the-day phone call came in reporting that two large pieces of trash had been overlooked, Ed went back out and picked them up.

Again, there are many, many volunteers that step up to help during Shore Sweep but the Super Volunteers, like Ed Carruth, make Shore Sweep so much more than a nice little clean up event. Volunteers like Ed help all of us to aspire to serve our community in bigger and better ways.

Thank you Ed!

Our friends over at the Lake Lanier Convention & Visitors Bureau came up with a great graphical representation of how much the 30 tons of debris pulled in annually at Shore Sweep.



How much trash does Shore Sweep Pull from Lake Lanier every year?
30 Tons!
 Which is about the same as...

ONE - 747 Jumbo Jet



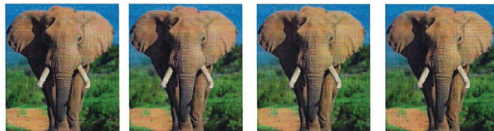
TEN - Killer Whales



SIX - Loaded School Busses



FOUR - African Elephants



September 2013 Lake Lanier Index

Adopt-A-Lake divides Lake Lanier into three sections "A" north of Brown's Bridge, "B" the center region south of the Bridge to a line from Six Mile Creek east to Aqualand Marina, and "C" south of this line to Buford Dam. We have 30 stations that volunteers test the first weekend every month. Secchi readings are taken by lowering a weighted disk into the water and measuring the distance it can be seen thus giving a gauge of clarity. Chlorophyll a is used to determine nutrients in the Lake.

The Lake has cooled to an average of 81 degrees. This is two degrees cooler than last month and one degree cooler than September 2012. Our average Secchi reading was exactly the same as August of 6.8 feet. Section A's average was 5.5 feet, 0.4 feet less than 2012 and August. The lowest reading was in the Little River area of 3.9 feet. B averaged 8.1 feet and C had an average of 8.8 feet. We had three readings of 9.1 feet in both B and C. Our best readings were 2 feet lower than the best readings in 2012. The highest chlorophyll a reading was off a dock in the upper Chestatee of 3 PPB and near Bald Ridge of 2 the rest were 1 PPB.

With the similar readings to August we will leave the Lake Lanier Index at 6+.

The Lake Lanier Index is only a measure of nutrients and clarity and not of water safety.

Thanks to our wonderful Adopt-A-Lake volunteers, AMPRO Labs for our chlorophyll a analysis, and the support of all Lake Lanier Association members.



®

SHORE SWEEP 2013 Thank you to our sponsors...



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 365 Peachtree Parkway
 Cumming, GA 30041

Advanced Disposal	Hideaway Bay Marina
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Bald Ridge Marina	Marine Trade Association
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Chattahoochee Riverkeeper	Mincey Marble Manufacturing
Coca Cola	Norman's Landing Restaurant
Gainesville Marina	Port Royale Marina
Habersham Marina	Republic Services



Legislative Update

[The following press release was distributed to media outlets in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia in late August as a response to Florida Governor Rick Scott's announcement of plans to sue Georgia over water rights in the U.S. Supreme Court.]

Lake Lanier Association Disappointed with Florida Legal Threat

GAINESVILLE – Joanna Cloud, Executive Director of the Lake Lanier Association said today that Governor Scott's intention to file a lawsuit in the U. S. Supreme Court is a major disappointment to the Lake Lanier Association, Inc. The LLA has been a significant voice in the water wars between the states of Georgia, Florida and Alabama for the past 20 years. The LLA has published a report regarding their position on this issue dated August 21, 2013. The report is available on the website www.lakelanier.org under the Resource | Library tab.

The LLA has empathy for the Florida oyster industry, having

experienced the direct impact of a major drought on a North Georgia economy. Lake Lanier area losses exceed \$100 million annually when Lake Lanier is drawn down to 1060 feet or below for prolonged periods of time. The LLA is convinced that Governor Scott has misdirected his resources by blaming the oyster problems on Georgia and Lake Lanier. There are several study efforts reviewing the oyster industry problems. Some have indicated that allowing too much salt water into the Bay from Sikes Cut, overharvesting the oysters, and poor seeding of the oyster beds are some of the causes.

The Governor's statement focuses on water consumption by metro

Atlanta citizens and businesses as being the primary cause of the oyster industry collapse. But there are numerous issues beyond just fresh water flows into the Bay that determine the health and productivity of the oysters, and the ultimate oyster harvest economy. Atlanta's water consumption, even in a drought, is only 2% - 3% of the flow of water into the Apalachicola River. Metro Atlanta has only 6% of the watershed from which to draw water for 5 million people. Fourteen percent of the ACF Basin is below Woodruff Dam on the GA – FL border with even higher average rainfall than occurs in the metro area.

The LLA's recommendation would be for Florida to invest in the several groups that are looking into this issue. One group, the ACF Stakeholders, has worked for the past four years analyzing and modeling the flows on the system. Included in that work is significant modeling of the Apalachicola Bay with focus on the factors affecting oyster productivity. Initial results of their work are expected by the end of 2013. The LLA encourages a collaborative working relationship between the state governors to establish a fair and equitable water sharing agreement without the delay and expense that would be incurred from legal proceedings.



ACF STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

During August and September, Dr. Aris Georgokakas, Director of the Georgia Water Resource Institute at Georgia Tech and his team have been running various ‘what if’ water usage models for the rivers and reservoirs in the ACF watershed. Water usage options modeled included various increases and reductions in water consumption by water utilities, agriculture, power generation as well as structural changes to reduce interbasin transfers that now occur from the ACF basin to the Atlantic Ocean and changes to reservoir full pool levels at Lake Lanier and West Point Lake. These model runs were

useful to determine the changes to the current river flows and reservoir levels if those alternatives were to actually be experienced.

The next model runs will be focused on changes to the reservoir operating rules and procedures used by the Corps of Engineers to manage Lake Lanier, West Point Lake and Lake Eufaula, all on the Chattahoochee River.

These model runs will inform the stakeholder’s organization as to which changes to incorporate into its recommended equitable water sharing



Working together to share a common resource.

reports to the COE and the 3 states. The stakeholders continues to be on track for a draft report by the end of the year with a final report targeted during the 1st or second quarter of 2014.

More details can be seen at www.acfstakeholders.org.

News Release

October 3, 2013

Contact: Greg Euston,
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HELEN, Ga. – October 3, 2013 – The Governing Board of ACF Stakeholders, Inc. (ACFS), an organization of local governments, power producers, farmers and oystermen, manufacturers and conservationists throughout the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) river basin, called on Florida Gov. Rick Scott to “delay any further legal action or the pursuit of any current lawsuit.”

Earlier this week, Scott filed a lawsuit against the state of Georgia, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to force Georgia to reduce its water consumption in the ACF river basin, which runs from the mountains of north Georgia to the Apalachicola Bay in Florida.

Rather than another courtroom battle, ACFS believes its recommendations for a sustainable water management

TRI-STATE WATER GROUP URGES GOV. RICK SCOTT TO SHELVE LITIGATION

ACF Stakeholders Say Water Dispute Can’t Be Solved In A Courtroom

plan can form the foundation of a tri-state consensus. This work is expected to be completed before June 2014.

“More than two decades of legal fighting has not led to any reasonable solution of this situation,” ACFS Governing Board Chairman Billy Turner said. “We firmly believe that any solution to this dispute will happen in a conference room, not a court room, and will rely on scientific data rather than legal debates.”

Since 2010, ACFS has been working on a sustainable water management plan based on science, good data and consensus. Over the last four years, the group has raised over \$1.3 million to accumulate and model the data necessary to develop a consensus-driven plan.

The Governing Board crafted and passed this resolution during its regular quarterly meeting at Unicoi State Park in Georgia. Past meetings have been held in Alabama and Florida.

The Governing Board is comprised of 56 individuals representing all aspects of the river basin’s economic, agricultural, aquacultural, recreational and environmental concerns. Membership on the board is divided equally among the four ACF sub-basins and includes membership from Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

ACF Stakeholders, Inc. is a group of water users in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) river basin of Alabama, Florida and Georgia who are working together for sustainable water management.

Solar Lights Update



The solar lights project is well under way, thanks to Forsyth County's financial support for lake safety initiatives, many volunteers, Marine Specialties, and the "Light the Lake" committee. You may already be aware of the hazard marking lights on the lake. We currently have 20 marker lights installed on existing lake hazard markers from Two Mile Creek to Young Deer Creek. The lights flash yellow during nighttime hours, one second on, three seconds off, continuously until daylight. Community feedback on the lighting program has been overwhelmingly positive and has exceeded our expectations.

Next year we hope to install between 60 to 100 more lake lights. Plans are well under way to establish locations. We welcome suggestions and comments concerning areas that need attention. We also welcome volunteers who can observe a section of the lake that has lights. Please report any lights that need attention to the Lake Lanier Association.

Forsyth County has again made plans for a 2014 financial commitment for Lake Lanier Association initiatives and we hope the other counties around the lake will consider financial support of our initiatives as well.

Announcing the Lake Lanier Association membership drive contest!

If you are reading this you are aware of the importance of Lake Lanier and the Lake Lanier Association to our community. We need your help to spread the word to your friends and neighbors how important a collective voice is to help protect our lake, and we are going to make it worth your while. New members MUST reference an existing member on their application in order for the existing member to receive credit.

will be featured in our newsletter and website.

We will be posting members who bring in new members on the website and in the newsletter as the contest progresses.

If we all do our part we can be sure we will have a stronger position to show our government agencies how many of us care about the health of Lake Lanier.

The member who brings the most members into the association by the end on this year will win a prize and




Now is the time to be thinking about year-end tax planning as well as budgeting for 2014 charitable contributions, stock donations, and sponsorships. The Lake Lanier Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations to the LLA are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. We have 2014 sponsorship opportunities for both the annual golf tournament as well as Shore Sweep.



**Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become members of the LLA!
 There is strength in numbers and for a mere \$50 per year,
 we can, together, accomplish so much!**



615F Oak St, Suite 100
 Gainesville, GA 30501
 770-503-7757
 www.lakelanier.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enter your name and address information below / New Address? Please write below
Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip
Phone Number:
Email Address*:

**Please be sure your email address is correct. We use email for much of our member correspondence.*

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

<input type="checkbox"/> Family, \$50-\$199		
<input type="checkbox"/> Captain's Club, \$200-\$499*	*Members joining or renewing at these levels will receive a gift certificate to the Lake Lanier Association e-store. See our website www.lakelanier.org for more information and products available on the e-store.	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer no gifts
<input type="checkbox"/> Admiral's Club, \$500-\$999*		
<input type="checkbox"/> President's Club, \$1000 and up*		

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS:

<input type="checkbox"/> Business Member, \$250	Name listing on LLA website
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsor, \$500	Name listing plus logo on LLA website
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Medallion, \$1000	Name listing, logo, plus brief company description on LLA website

My check is enclosed.
 ----- Credit Card Payment -----

Please charge my VISA MasterCard American Express Amount _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Three digit security code from back of card _____

Signature _____

YOU MAY ALSO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY PAYPAL VIA OUR WEB SITE, WWW.LAKELANIER.ORG. IF YOU HAVE A PAYPAL ACCOUNT, YOU MAY SET UP YOUR PAYPAL ACCOUNT TO AUTOMATICALLY ANNUALLY BILL.



Lake Lanier Association
615 F Oak Street, Suite 100
Gainesville, GA 30501

*Committed to a clean, full,
and safe Lake Lanier to enhance its
economic value in Georgia.*

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Show Your Support of Lake Lanier!



Starting in January 2014, we will be sending out window clings indicating annual membership in the Lake Lanier Association. We will send one cling per membership and the clings will designate Family, Captain, Admiral, President or Business level membership and will be printed in different colors for the different levels.

We encourage our members to place the clings on either a car or boat windshield to show their support of Lake Lanier!