



Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
July 2015

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Important Dates to Remember



**Saturday, September 26, 2015
Shore Sweep**

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Message from the Board

The summer of 2015 has begun with outstanding success! Spring rains have kept the Lake at higher water levels than past years. As we enter the second half of the year, let's reflect on what the second quarter brought us:

1) Our annual meeting, held on April 18th, was the best meeting we have held in 15 years. There were approximately 400 attendees at Port Royale Marina, a site perfectly placed at the middle of the lake, affording attendees the opportunity to easily reach a convenient location. The Crappie Club of Lanier conducted a fish fry for everyone's pleasure and appetite. Ken Cook, our keynote speaker, was positively received with stories of the Lake and his experiences. Many lake vendors (LLA Business Members) had booths displaying their capabilities. They were appreciated by the attendees. We also had several new members join that day. Even with a short downpour, a great time was had by all. I guess a little rain cannot slow down lake people.

2) The "Abandoned/Derelict Boat and Dock" program, formally initiated this year, experienced success in the 2nd quarter, with a current tally of the removal or repair of 5 boats and 2 docks from the Lake. The program, a partnership with the Corps and the DNR, is working well with appropriate roles defined and implemented. These abandoned eyesores not only detract from the beauty of Lanier but are potential safety hazards. We see this program continuing into the future, as more abandoned boats and docks are discovered and managed.

3) Attaching solar lights on hazard markers, one of our newer programs experienced growing pains in 2014 as indicated in the last newsletter. Our new monitoring and maintenance approach has been fully operational for the past 4 months with excellent results. With another few months of success, we anticipate renewing a solid installation program in the fall of 2015. The current plan is to conclude the southern end of the Lake and begin solar light placements north of Browns Bridge. As we have cautioned in the past, the lights are an



aid to safe night time boating, however slower speeds and prudent operation of watercraft at night are the best safety procedures available.

4) Plans for Shore Sweep, our signature "Clean Lake" program are in full swing. As we approach September, significant logistical activities are ongoing. In addition to recruiting volunteers, financial supporters and dumpster locations, we have developed an automated process for identifying items to be removed. This is an enhancement to the scouting process in place for several years. We will be able to have significant trash identified with a picture and long/lat coordinates for easy collection on Shore Sweep day. This automation with pictures is the first time we have had coverage this strong for Lanier. Hats off to the team for their innovation and commitment to a Clean Lake.

The safety programs initiated on Lanier by many organizations have resulted in fewer fatalities from boating accidents than in past years. As the summer continues, we expect Lanier to continue to have significant high water levels, to be even cleaner, and to maintain the excellent safety record of the first half of the year.

As we are always looking for new members, we encourage you to recruit some of your friends to join the Association. Having more members gives us a stronger voice with other organizations as we strive to improve and protect the Lake.

Have an outstanding and safe summer on Lanier.

Abandoned/Derelict Docks & Vessels



Special thanks to Marine Specialties, Inc. for helping to get this abandoned dock eyesore and safety hazard off the lake.

The abandoned and derelict vessel and dock (ADV&D) project is continuing to make progress. As of July 2015, the project team, consisting of team members from the LLA, the Corps of Engineers and the DNR, has resolved a total of 7 (5 vessels and 2 docks) issues. An additional 4 issues (2 vessels

and 2 docks) are being targeted for resolution by year end. These are truly outstanding results, largely due to our focus and commitment from all team members.

We are also working on identified long term solutions - boat titling legislation and a sustainable

funding mechanism. We are partnering with Marine Trade Assoc. to re-introduce boat titling legislation in next year's state legislative session. We are exploring funding opportunities with the Corps via a partnership program in 2016. Where possible, we are applying pressure to the vessel or property owner to get resolution on the issue. For others, we are actively seeking commercial partners to assist with a few of our more difficult and expensive sunken vessel removals.

Steady progress is being made. We fully expect to achieve our mission of creating a sustainable process for resolving ADV&D issues going forward.

Many thanks to everyone who is supporting our efforts to keep Lake Lanier Clean, Full and Safe!

ACF Stakeholders Report

After agreeing by a consensus vote of 56 Governing Board members of a final Sustainable Water Management Plan, the ACFS has focused on how to make state and federal officials aware of the plan and to solicit their comments and support. Because of the current litigation in the US Supreme Court, there are challenges to creating forums for open discussion among the states. Currently the organization is creating a Transition Coordinating Council made up of invited state and federal officials as a pre-cursor organization to a basin wide water management resource.

These are challenging efforts and will require time to achieve success but the process that the stakeholders engaged in for the last 6 years is a good model for ultimate resolution of the water conflicts in the basin.

The SWMP contains numerous provisions that will benefit Lake Lanier. The ultimate goal is to save more water when it is available which translates into a fuller Lake Lanier so that it can be used for downstream purposes when it is needed during droughts. LLA believes this is preferable to



Working together to share a common resource.

discharging more water than is actually needed downstream which has been the practice in the past.

The full SWMP and the Executive Summary can be downloaded from www.acfstakeholders.org.

Rain Gardens—Simple Solution to Stormwater



Rain gardens are the simple and cost effective solution to the leading cause of damage to lakes, rivers and creeks—stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces of roads, parking lots and buildings.

Rain gardens mimics natural ways to capture stormwater runoff—the culprit responsible for 70% of all water pollution, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. By creating a depression in the landscape and filling it with soil, mulch and plants, a rain garden holds the flow of stormwater until it can percolates back into the ground, filters pollutants of roadways, controls erosion of streambanks, and cools high temperatures of stormwater runoff so harmful to fish and wildlife. As a bonus, a rain garden transforms unsightly drainage areas into lush gardens of trees, shrubs and flowers.

Widespread construction of rain gardens on residential property, municipal sites or commercial developments throughout our region can do much to reduce pollution and sedimentation of Lake Lanier. Properly constructed and maintained, a rain garden holds water no more than two or three days, not long enough for mosquitoes to establish but long enough for the soil and plants to absorb the nitrogen and phosphorous polluted runoff from impervious paving and buildings and



reduces runoff velocity that causes flooding and erosion.

Construction of a rain garden is simple.

- Identify the source of water flow from impervious pavement of driveways, patios, sidewalks or buildings, preferable on a gentle slope with partial to full sun..
- Stake out a rectangular area sized to cover the drainage area at least 10 feet from a house foundation and 25 feet from septic tank fields or wellheads.
- Starting from the top, dig out a depression by hand tool or equipment 4 to 6 inches below ground level.
- Heap the excavated soil to create a berm across the lower edge of the area that is as high as the upper area.
- Fill the depression with a mixture of 50% coarse sand, 25% top soil, and 25% compost or leaf litter.
- Plant trees, shrubs and herbaceous native plants and grasses that can withstand intense periods of rain as well as drought-like conditions; attract insects and birds; and create a diverse habitat for wildlife. [Magnolia virginiana, Viburnum, Iris, Black-eyed Susan]
- Top with 2 to 3 inches of mulch, preferably leaves, to hold moisture, reduce weeds and minimize maintenance.



Use of rain gardens community wide can improve our residential, commercial, and municipal landscapes' ecological footprint at much lower cost than other landscaping strategies—\$3 to \$5 per sq.ft. Plants selected account for most of the cost, plus expense of mulch, sand, soil and tools needed.

The rain gardens constructed on the Linwood Nature Preserve by the Redbud Project for Gainesville Parks and Recreation exhibit models suitable for both residential, municipal and commercial application. Located at the Springview Drive entry, the three rain gardens are designed to control stormwater runoff from 100 acres from the upper area of Thompson Bridge Road, which is said to be traveled by some 33,000 vehicles a day.

As the best management practice for sustainable development, rain gardens are also the least costly and the most aesthetically pleasing way to capture stormwater runoff that threatens the water quality of Lake Lanier. For more information about rain gardens, contact:

Margaret Rasmussen
Executive Director,
The Redbud Project
678 989 1813 cell 607 382 4358
redbudproject@gmail.com

Solar Lights Update

Our solar light program is pending approval from the Corps of Engineers to continue installations. As an adjunct to the solar lights, we are also working on getting approvals to add highly visible yellow reflective tape on the existing hazard markers as a secondary reflective measure for nighttime boating.

Thank you to the Plastek Werks

company for donating over 100 plastic mounting rings for us to use in the solar light installation process. We expect the plastic rings to expedite our installation process going forward.

We continue to monitor the solar lights operational status on a monthly basis. We always welcome comments from boaters regarding damaged hazard markers.

Have you LIKED Lake Lanier Association on Facebook?



Lake Lanier Association offers many ways to stay updated and informed and appreciates your commitment to a clean and full Lake Lanier. Visit www.lakelanier.org for more information.

Shop Amazon Smiles

**Support
Lake Lanier
Association Inc.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

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Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate a portion of the sale to the Lake Lanier Association! Use the below link to directly access the Lake Lanier Association support program from AmazonSmile!
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1264797>

Kroger Community Rewards



Don't forget to update your Kroger Community Rewards designation for the Lake Lanier Association nonprofit organization as your beneficiary. Kroger requires individuals to update their beneficiary organization annually. In 2014, the Lake Lanier Association received over \$230 in income from Kroger to support lake programs and services through our members shopping at Kroger and designating us as the beneficiary!

If you haven't already signed up, you need a Kroger Plus Card to participate. You can get a Plus Card at the customer service desk at any Kroger store. Once you have a Kroger Plus Card, go to the Kroger website <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> and register your Plus Card. As part of that registration process, you will be asked to designate a beneficiary organization. Please choose the Lake Lanier Association, organization #37224.

Staying Connected to your Neighbors

Social media has completely changed how we communicate with each other. Whether it is Twitter, or Facebook, or any other of the thousands of sites on the internet, people are more connected with each other than ever before. The Facebook Lake Lanier Dwellers group was formed by LLA member, Lu Treadway, to give people who live on the lake a place to connect. We all have the same thing in common, our back yard, which just so happens to be Lake Lanier.

While there are many sites on Facebook that are centered around our lake, and all the activities such as Lake Lanier Boaters Group, Lake Lanier Ski Group, Lake Lanier Fishing, etc., the Lake Lanier Dwellers group

is very specific to property owners around the lake. It is a friendly group who come and share news about the lake, discuss events that are coming up, schedule meet up locations on the lake, share the most amazing photos, and just share in each other's wonderful lake lives. Think of it as the picket fences of the past, where you'd walk to your side of the fence and talk to your neighbor who was on the other side.

What is fun about the site is that it's not just about the chit chatting, there is a real sense of community. We've had neighbors ask for help and this group responds. Whether it's needing a ride to the store when trapped by a tree across the road during last year's storms, or finding

a loose boat and getting it back to its owner's dock, or asking for referrals for all kinds of home services. When we schedule a weekend to clean up a cove's shores of trash or Styrofoam float, this group has a vested interest. They stand up and say "Me, I can help this weekend! Where do we meet?" Neighbors helping neighbors, that's what this group is all about. Come join us!



On Facebook, search for "Lake Lanier Dwellers" and submit a one-time request to join.

June 2015 Lake Lanier Index

Our warmer weather raised the average Lake temperature 10 degrees to 78. This was one degree cooler than 2014. The overall Secchi reading dropped to 8.1 feet from May's 9 foot and a slight decrease of 0.2 feet from last year. "A" averaged 4.7 feet a foot lower than last year and 0.1 less than May. The low reading was in Wahoo Creek of 3.3 feet. "B" dropped 3.3 feet to 8.5 and a foot from 2014. "C" was up 0.7 from last year and 0.1 in May with a reading of 11.4 feet. The highest reading of 15.9 feet was again in Cocktail Cove. The chlorophyll a average matched 2014 of 4.08 micrograms/liter. This was a drop of 2.4 from May. "A" averaged 7.45 with a high of 12 at the 2000 meter marker in the Upper Chattahoochee. "B" 2.69, and "C" 1.98 with a low of 1.55 at Cocktail Cove. With lower Secchi readings and lower chlorophyll a readings we are leaving the Lake Lanier index at 7. As we have noticed the Lake levels have dropped. June 1st 1070.5, 15th at 1070 and the 30th 1069.2. This is about a foot drop from May.

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

Thanks to our wonderful Adopt-A-Lake volunteers, Gwinnett Water Lab for our chlorophyll a analysis, and the support of all Lake Lanier Association members. We are forever indebted to AMPRO Labs for testing our samples for over fourteen years and being professional and delightful to work with.



We always want more members to help us achieve our goals of keeping Lake Lanier clean, full, and safe. Below is a membership application to give to your friends and neighbors who may not already be members and ask them to join us!



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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 are moving toward email based communications for several of our membership services.

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Family Levels: Bronze \$50 Silver \$100 Gold \$150

- Captain's Club, \$200-\$499
- Admiral's Club, \$500-\$999
- President's Club, \$1000 and up

_____ Please send me my free Lake Lanier Association hat for my gift of \$200 or more. For online payments, email lakeinfo@lakelanier.org to request a hat be mailed to you.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS:

- Business Membership, \$250 Name listing on LLA website
- Business Sponsor, \$500 Name listing plus logo on LLA website
- Business Medallion, \$1,000 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 _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

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

All dues and donations are tax-deductible under IRS 501 (c)3 Not for Profit tax code, as permitted by law

27TH ANNUAL LAKE LANIER ASSOCIATION SHORE SWEEP

Saturday
September 26th 2015
8:00 Am-1:00 Pm

Last year 1,000 Shore Sweep volunteers collected over 50 tons of trash.

Holy moly, what a display of volunteerism!

An awesome experience best describes the feeling of participating in Shore Sweep. Removing trash has a positive impact on every lake user, embracing the beauty of the lake and making it a safer for all.

SHORE SWEEP CONTINUES TO GET BETTER AND BETTER!

To assist in the location, size and type of trash, Shore Sweep for the first time will start using a mobile app called TrashOut. This mobile app allow users to take a photo of trash and have the locations transmitted to a data file that Lake Lanier Association can access. This information will be given to the 12 Shore Sweep Zone Captains. The TrashOut app is free to download.

See the corresponding article in this newsletter for more information about TrashOut.

The number of participating zone locations have been increased from ten to 12 for this year.



Participating locations for 2015 are as follows:

Dawson County
War Hill Park

Forsyth County
Bald Ridge Marina
Port Royale Marina

Gwinnett County
Gwinnett Park

Hall County
Aqualand Marina
Balus Creek Access
Big Creek Access
Clarks Bridge Park
Don Carter State Park
Gainesville Marina
Lake Lanier Islands
Longwood Park

To assist the 12 zone captains in obtaining a list of boat volunteers, a new Shore Sweep Boat Volunteer Committee has been formed. Lu Treadway, a super Shore Sweep volunteer with lots of Shore Sweep experience and a member of the Shore Sweep Planning Committee has volunteered to be the committee chair. Lu will be working with Joanna Cloud to register boat volunteers for scouters who will survey the shore line for trash prior to Shore Sweep day and the day of Shore Sweep.

The eight advance drop off locations has expanded the time to drop off trash from one to two weeks prior to September 26th, Shore Sweep day. With the exception of Nix/Deer Island, all trash must be dropped by Friday evening September 25th. Nix/Deer Island 12:00 Noon September 26th, Shore Sweep day.

Shore Sweep day itinerary

Time: Start at 8:00 AM and conclude around 1 PM

Registration: 8:00 AM at all 12 participating zone locations
Volunteers will receive Shore Sweep t shirts, snacks and beverages.

If you have any questions or are not available on the day of Shore Sweep, call or email Joanna Cloud at 770.503.7757 or jcloud@lakelanier.org, to learn how you can get involved on the days preceding Sept. 26th Shore Sweep.



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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Trashout App for reporting trash sites!

We are trying something new this year in preparation for the Shore Sweep event. There is a free app called Trashout (both Android and iOS) that the LLA is asking members to download on their mobile device. You need to do a one-time simple account set up and log in. Once in the app, be sure to tap the “head and shoulders” icon in the lower right hand corner to bring up your profile and then pick the Lake



Lanier Association as your affiliated group. When you are out enjoying the lake and you see trash on the shore or islands, you simply take out your phone and launch the Trashout app. You take a picture, pick the kind

of trash it is (plastic for floats, household trash, etc.) and the app will mark the coordinates and upload the picture. From there we will be notified of where the trash is located.