



Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
April 2017

Member Social
Saturday, April 22, 2017
Skogies, Gainesville Marina

Member Social
Saturday, May 13, 2017
Fishtales, Hideaway Bay Marina

Member Social
Thursday, June 15, 2017
Pig Tales, Aqualand Marina

Member Social
Saturday, July 15, 2017
Twisted Oar, Holiday Marina



Shore Sweep
Saturday, September 23, 2017

Lake Lanier Association

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lakeinfo@lakelanier.org

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Message from the Board of Directors

Please read about our successful Annual Meeting! All I can say is WOW! Over 600 people had a party and learned a lot.

On A Very Different Note...

While water testing this week in Six Mile Creek I came upon the Forsyth Sheriff Department running sonar tracks to locate the victim of a jet ski and bass boat collision. While the details of what happened are not known, our sympathy goes out to the family of the victim. We are all looking forward to the beginning of an active boating season. The large number of opportunities now to get on the water just make it even more important that everyone is safety conscious and mindful of the boat traffic around us. Let's practice safe boating.

The lake level makes it even more dangerous with some areas of the lake are now not as navigable as when the lake is full. In addition, the forecast is for the lake to continue being impacted by the drought. The Corps of Engineers

continues to release only as much water as is needed for downstream users, primarily Metro Atlanta. As the temperature climbs, evaporation will play an even larger role on the lake level. Hopefully we will not experience 2007 again this year, but regardless, be careful.

A huge shout-out to our very active Board members and volunteers who manage all of the projects that are now underway. Check out our new website, **lakelanier.org**, for the latest information and opportunities. Tell your neighbors and join in the effort to sustain Lake Lanier.

Wilton Rooks, President

Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Go Back In the Water: Alabama Sues Corps

On March 30, the Corps of Engineers formally approved the new and long-awaited Water Control Manual for the ACF. On April 5, the State of Alabama sued to prevent the Corps from implementing the Manual, bringing back the Water Wars for a second quarter century of litigation fun.

Alabama complains that the new Manual is defective in numerous

ways and that it was adopted without following relevant case precedent and statutory requirements. The suit claims that Alabama will be hurt by reductions in navigation, hydropower production, and water quality, and it alleges that the Corps illegally reallocated storage in Lanier for Georgia's direct withdrawals.

No word yet whether Florida plans to join the party.

Docks matter (in lake home values)

Special Contribution Article from Bev Knight, lead agent for The Good Life Group, Lake Lanier specialists with Keller Williams Lanier Partners.

One of the most often overlooked aspects of a lake home's value is the dock. While the quality of the dock won't necessarily sell the house, it is often a tiebreaker when two homes have similar values. You might be surprised at how many million dollar lake homes have deteriorating or even unsafe old docks. The higher the price tag, the more important it is to maintain your dock properly. Here are a few suggestions for ensuring that your dock is an asset, not a liability.



Flotation

As you know, Lanier is a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers lake; so, the dock must meet the guidelines they set. They do require that the floats under your dock be encapsulated, not just the naked Styrofoam. When you transfer the ownership of the dock, the Corps will come out for an inspection. If the dock has the old flotation, they are going to require that the new owners get the encapsulated kind before they will transfer the permit. If they do an inspection for your renewal, the same rules apply. Replacing the flotation is fairly expensive, but you are going to have to do it eventually to keep your dock permit. A savvy lake real estate agent will certainly know that and will deduct the cost of replacing the flotation (and probably more) from their offers.

There are quite a few companies who will do this type of work, but it is in your best interest to find a reputable, experienced company

who knows the Corps' rules. Be sure to ask them how they dispose of the old flotation. Many just push it out into the cove and let it float away while others haul it to an island and dump it. That creates eyesores all over the lake, and groups like the Lake Lanier Association have to hold clean-up days to remove it. Instead, find a company who follows Corps' guidelines on flotation disposal. We all share this lake, so we should all do our best to be responsible stewards of its beauty and cleanliness.

Safety

Keep your dock safe, well-maintained and in good working order to ensure the well-being of anyone who might use it. Watch out for jagged edges and loose boards that might become tripping hazards. Don't let any part of the dock break off and become a boating obstacle for

other lake users. Control the rust on metal parts so the framing remains strong and durable. And by all means, make sure the boards on your dock are solid and adequate for their intended purpose. Potential buyers will definitely walk out on your dock. Aside from the fact that maintaining the dock is the right thing to do, you do not want the liability of someone getting hurt on a faulty dock. Replace rotting boards and be sure they are well-secured with screws, not nails.

Stay Afloat

As lake levels rise and fall, you definitely want to keep your dock in the water. This is crucial because it has a huge impact on the salability of the property as a whole, and it keeps your flotation from deteriorating. Sometimes it will crack when it dries out. If

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moving your dock is a physical challenge for you, there are quite a few companies who, for a fairly reasonable fee, will make sure your dock keeps its “feet wet” by repositioning it as water levels change. You don’t even have to call them. Once the contract is made, they just keep up with lake levels and handle it. If you don’t know who to call, ask a lake real estate agent or Google “Lake Lanier dock service.”

Appearance

Let’s face it, docks age quickly. They are constantly exposed to the sun, weather, waves, and wildlife. Even docks that are structurally sound often look old and tired. One inexpensive trick is to pressure wash the boards to make them look newer. If you get an inexpensive pump, you can even use the lake as your water source. (It just runs right back into the lake once it washes your dock.) Sometimes you can simply flip the boards to put the fresher side up and make it appear newer. After the boards are clean, apply a sealer to preserve the wood. Also, don’t leave ropes, paddles, floats and other junk on your dock. That clutter just becomes a home for spiders and makes the dock look smaller. Put lake items in a dock

box or secure them in a way that looks organized, not cluttered.

Stairs

Like just about every aspect of lake living, the Corps has guidelines for the installation of dock stairs. These guidelines exist to make sure your stairs are safe and long-lasting. Be aware that the permission for stairs does have to be added to your dock permit, and there are very specific rules for how they have to be built. Check with your contractor to make sure he knows the guidelines, or you can go to the Corps’ web site and read them for yourself. (Google *U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Lanier*.) In fact, it’s a smart practice to visit the guidelines section of their web site periodically to make sure you are in compliance. For example, they do not generally allow ceiling fans under the roof of a dock. If you have an old grandfathered-in boat house, you can’t rebuild it with a newer type of material. You can rehab it but only with the type of material originally used in construction. If you have a party deck, they don’t allow a gate on the lake side (because they don’t want people jumping off the roof). These are the types of issues that come up on a dock permit transfer or a permit renewal if there is an inspection.

Double-slip permit

The largest dock currently allowed on Lanier is 32’ x 32’. That does not include older docks that are grandfathered-in. In most cases, a dock that size will be a double-slip dock. If you want to maximize the value of your resale, consider applying for a double-slip (or 32’ x 32’) dock permit. You don’t necessarily have to put that size dock in place before the sale; but, just having a permit for the top size dock is a nice incentive for a buyer who wants a big dock. Be aware that if you decide not to sell the house, you may need to upgrade your dock or lose that designation on your permit at some point. Like everything, the Corps has rules about dock size upgrades. At full pool, the end of your dock (lake side, not shore side) will need to be at least 50’ from the next dock. You can’t impede docks beyond your dock from accessing the path out of the cove. Again, consult the Corps’ site for more information. Note that, because they prefer to take measurements at full pool, you may need to wait for the lake to rise before they will let you upgrade.

The lake, dock and view add considerable value to your home, sometimes as much as \$250k. It makes sense to take care of the dock just as you care for the home and the yard. It’s just part of living on the lake; and in the end, you will be the one who benefits from it.

Bev Knight is the lead agent for The Good Life Group, Lake Lanier specialists with Keller Williams Lanier Partners. You can reach Bev through her web site at www.HousesOnLanier.net. Many thanks to Joanna Cloud of The Lake Lanier Association and Marine Specialties for their contributions to this article.



Abandoned & Derelict Docks & Vessels Update

The Abandoned and Derelict Dock & Vessel program continues the momentum from 2016. On 2/27/17, we removed the “Musuem Houseboat” from the Bald Ridge Park area of the lake. This eyesore and safety hazard has been abandoned and beached for over 5 years. With the support of Marine Specialties and Renfroe Excavating, we conducted our first land based extraction successfully.

Additionally, we are currently in the process of removing a 20'+ runabout from Little Ridge Park. This boat was last seen moored near Aqualand last fall before it showed up abandoned near Mary Alice Park in Forsyth County. We anticipate this removal in the very near term.

From a long term solution perspective, we made some progress on boat titling legislation (HB357). This bill passed the House but was stuck in Senate committee at the close of the 2017 session.

It will start in the Senate committee in the 2018 session and we are hopeful. Also, a meeting with the Solicitor Generals for Hall, Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties was facilitated by the LLA to look for common ground and consistent enforcement processes for removing abandoned vessels from Lake Lanier. Progress is clearly being made on this issue. Thanks to everyone who help us keep our lake — **Clean, Full, Safe!**



The “Museum Houseboat” close to lake marker 8BR is finally gone! Thank you to Tom Child of Marine Specialties and Beau Renfroe of Renfroe Grading and Mining for their assistance, labor,

and equipment in getting this difficult project done!

Also gone is the abandoned boat house that was close to lake marker 10TM by Bethel Park. Thank you to everyone that helped work through resolution of this issue. In particular, Dane Michael of Lakeside Marine and Jason Sumner of Advanced Disposal were instrumental in getting this thing out. We are working with local authorities in terms of holding responsible owners accountable for the expenses of these large scale litter issues. Thank you to our membership for helping us identify when these items show up and giving us leads on ownership.



Adopt-A-Lake Report

Lake Lanier Index - March 2017

QUALITY INDICATORS	March 2017	PREVIOUS MONTH	PRIOR YEAR	COMMENTS
TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)	55.3	50.5	52	The Lake is already warming, up 4.8 degrees
LAKE LEVEL (feet above sea level)	1060.95	1060.91	1071	Still over 10 feet lower than last year!
SECCHI (feet)				Wonderful clarity near the dam and in Cocktail Cove over 17 feet.
Section A	5.3	5.8	3.2	
Section B	9.4	10	6.6	
Section C	17.1	9.8	11.9	
Overall Average	7.9	7.7	5.9	
CHLOROPHYLL (micrograms per liter)				We had three readings above 10 in Wahoo Creek, Thompson Bridge, and Little River. Wahoo was especially high.
Section A	10.5	10.4	8.2	
Section B	2.9	5.3	8	
Section C	1.9	2.9	3.2	
Overall Average	6.6	7.5	7.3	
Lake Lanier Index	7	6.5	5.5	Slightly higher chl a and the similar Secchi

Section "A" North of Brown's Bridge. "B" center region South of the Bridge to a line from Six Mile Creek East to Aqualand Marina. "C" South of this line to Buford Dam
 25 Stations Tested by Volunteers the First Week of Every Month
 Secchi Readings are taken by lowering a weighted disk into the water & measuring the distance it can be seen thus giving a gauge of clarity

Chlorophyll is used to determine nutrients in the lake
 Lake Lanier Index is a measure of nutrients and clarity, NOT water safety
 Thanks to Gwinnett Water Lab for our chlorophyll a analysis, our Adopt-A-Lake volunteers and Lake Lanier Assoc. Members

Shoreline Protection Project Completed



The installation of over 3,100 lineal feet of shoreline protection and erosion control in four locations at the south end of Lake Lanier was completed in February. The project began in October of last year. A 1,000 lineal feet of rip rap was installed on Van Pugh Island adjacent to Van Pugh Park. 500 feet of shoreline protection was installed on Six Mile Island near marker SM 4. 650 feet of rip rap was installed on Aqualand Island,

located at marker 18 just north of the Aqualand Marina gas docks. The last island in this project is Browns Bridge Island (marker 26) located just south of Browns Bridge and across from the northern section of Port Royale Marina. 1,000 feet of rip rap was installed on this island. Approximately 5,500 tons of stone was installed over a fabric base.

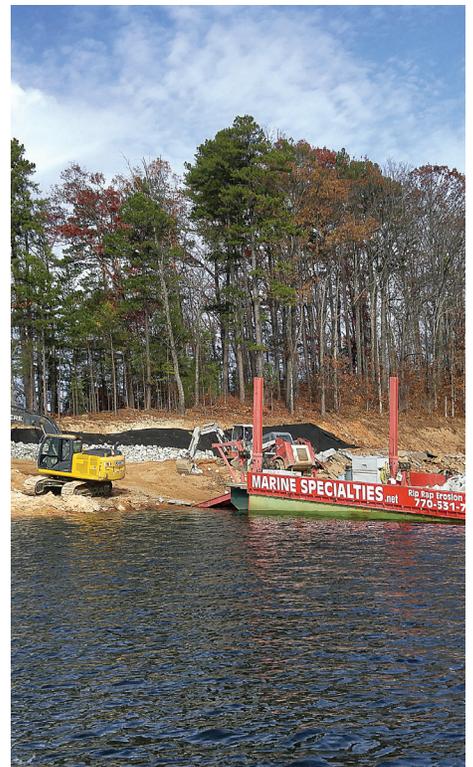
Shoreline erosion is a serious problem for the lake. Boat wakes and waves driven by the wind eat away at unprotected shoreline and cause banks to collapse. This leads to increased siltation. As silt builds up on the bottom of the lake, it reduces the water storage capacity and also impacts water quality. Lake Lanier provides drinking water for over 4 million residents in North Georgia. Any reduction in the amount of water available for drinking supplies is a serious concern.

Marine Specialties, Inc. served as the prime contractor on this project. Vulcan Materials, Inc. provided the rip rap rock and Grizzle Trucking provided trucking. We want to thank each of these great vendors for the effort

they provided that allowed us to complete the project on time and slightly under budget.

The LLA also wants to thank Hall County and Gwinnett County Government and The Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Family Foundation who provided funding for this project which cost approximately \$270,000. The Corps of Engineers also contributed over \$11,000. The installation of this shoreline protection will help reduce the amount of erosion occurring on the island shorelines in the lake south of Browns Bridge and help protect the future of the lake.

This spring we will begin surveying additional island to determine locations that are in urgent need for erosion protection. We will begin discussions with our various partners to try to secure funding to support this continued effort.



Water Control Manual

The new Water Control Manual is now in place and the Corps of Engineers is following it. In summary it provides the following:

- Provides Metro Atlanta water supply through 2050
- Enters drought operations sooner than the previous WCM. This results in more water storage in the reservoirs during droughts.
- Reduces the minimum flow requirements at Peachtree Creek from 750 cfs to 650 cfs during part of the year.

- Continues to restrict hydropower generation from Lake Lanier during drought operations.

The new WCM gives Metro Atlanta what it asks for and does provide some better management during droughts. However, as more water is withdrawn for increasing population consumption, there will potentially be less water in Lake Lanier. The Association is working at various levels of the state and federal agencies to minimize the impact on the lake from increased withdrawals.

Solar Light Committee report for April 2017

The Solar Light committee has plans for completing the installation of solar lights on lake hazard markers this boating season. All we need is about a five foot rise in the lake level so we can gain access to the hazard markers by boat.

The low lake level has also impacted our ability to replace solar lights on damaged or missing hazard markers.

The committee hopes everyone will be able to enjoy our lake but hope that you will do it safely. Remember just as seat belts save lives so do life jackets.

Annual Meeting sets a Record for 3rd Consecutive Year

WOW... we really hit it out of the park with the most recent annual meeting at Port Royale Marina. It began months before the event with a review of the improvements we had to make based on requests from our membership. Listening to those requests, we added new features such as having golf carts shuttle members from their cars, added and upgraded the audio/visual system, included music by the Band on a Boat, additional tenting (when our preregistration hit 615 – more than a 30% increase over prior year) and another great speaker in Brad Carver talking about what the opportunities in our adding water from a “tap into the Tennessee River”.

The weather was great, the fish provided by the Lanier Crappie Club never ran out as they added to their already large catch. Our business

members gave us an opportunity to see and hear about interesting features whether it was lake front real estate or boating accessories. More than 15 businesses were represented.

Our newly elected President, Wilton Rooks, gave an overview of your organization’s efforts to date: a robust increase in membership, adopt a lake testing, shore sweep’s tonnage of debris, rip rap placement on islands, removal of abandoned vessels and additional solar lights for boating safety.

Brad Carver informed us on the efforts by Florida and Alabama to take control of the reservoirs in order to deny Georgia’s use of its own water. Brad’s comments with regard to access to the Georgia water in the Tennessee River drew

the most interest, when he spoke about the long standing issue challenging the state border with Tennessee. As he mentioned, the best way to secure Georgia’s water future is to access the Tennessee River at Lake Nickajack - water that already drains from Georgia.

What was unexpected surprise was the award from the Corps of Engineers... especially nice since they said it was the first given to a volunteer organization...

You arrived early and left late. We can’t thank the volunteers enough that made this happen, many of you helped with the set up and take down as well as manning the booths for check-in.

Thank you, the members and guests, for your support that made this event such a success. We look forward to seeing you next year and welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements.



Lake Lanier Association Annual Meeting



See our website for a link to all the Annual Meeting 2017 photos!

Boating Safety Initiatives

In our last newsletter we talked about the need to encourage all boaters to learn safe boat operation and the “rules of the road” that need to be followed, if we are going to make our Lake a safer place for all to enjoy. As the boating season gets closer we continue to encourage all boat operators to take a boat operation course. They are inexpensive and can be taken online. Please see our website for the courses available.

Safety on or near the water is not only the responsibility of a boat operator. Every adult who is going to be in or near the water should be aware of water safety, not only for themselves but for their family and friends. Most people reading this either live, boat on, or visit Lake Lanier frequently. If you fall into one of those categories you should be aware not everyone is fully aware of how quickly a fun day on or in the water can turn harmful.

You can do a real service to your family and friends to be aware of some simple things you can do to make a day on the lake safer. Here are a few:



- Always encourage people near the water (on docks and ramps, beaches, etc.) to wear a life jacket, especially children. New automatically inflatable life jackets are now available that are light and comfortable. (Lake Lanier Association is working on a promotion with suppliers to make them more affordable

and available; watch for more details coming soon)

- Make yourself aware of where safety equipment is. A first aid kit, a throw-able floating device, a length of rope, etc. Quick action can save a life.
- Be aware of some of the hazards on the lake, and be sure the people around you who might not be aware of them, become aware. Things like swimming in high boat traffic areas, too much alcohol consumed to go for a swim, jumping off a high place into unknown water, etc.

The best defense we have to avoid injuries is to use common sense. Our Lake is a wonderful place to enjoy a day on and in the water with friends and family. If we all employ some common sense when near the water, it will be a much safer place for everyone.

APPLY NOW!

Join Our Stakeholder Group

Provide Input in the Management of
Your Water Resources



www.northgeorgiawater.org/ApplyNow

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District is seeking volunteers to participate the Lake Lanier Basin Advisory Council. *For more information, please contact Tom Vivelo at tvivelo@gmail.com.*

*I Am Doing My Part To
Keep Lake Lanier Clean
And Have Taken The
Property Owner Pledge.*



If you were not able to get a Property Owner Pledge sign at our recent Annual Meeting before we ran out, please contact Bev Nicholls at bevnic@bellsouth.net to coordinate signing the Property Owner Pledge agreement and getting your complimentary sign for display at your residence.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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www.lakelanier.org

Please enter your name and address information below / New Address? Please write below

Name: _____

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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 gift for my donation of \$200 or more. For online payments, email **lakeinfo@lakelanier.org** to request a gift be mailed to you.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS:

<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership, \$250	Name listing on LLA website
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsor, \$500	Logo on LLA website, name on Shore Sweep t-shirt, invite to table at Annual Meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Medallion, \$1,000	Logo on LLA website, invite to table at Annual Meeting, plus EITHER logo on Shore Sweep t-shirt OR social event commercial display opportunity.

My check is enclosed.

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Please charge my VISA MasterCard American Express Amount _____

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Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

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



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

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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. So far in 2014, the Lake Lanier Association has received over \$230 in income from Kroger to support lake programs and services

though 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.

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