



Committed to a Clean and Full *Lake Lanier*

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
February 2012

Upcoming Dates to Remember

LLA Promotional Event Lake Lanier Islands Arts & Crafts Festival and Boat Show

Lake Lanier Islands
Saturday & Sunday,
April 14 & 15, 2012

LLA Promotional Event Spring Chicken Festival Downtown Gainesville

Saturday, April 28, 2012

LLA Annual Golf Tournament

Legacy Lodge
Lake Lanier Islands
Monday, May 14, 2012

LLA Annual Member Meeting

Gainesville State College
Gainesville Campus
Oakwood, GA

Thursday, May 24, 2012

Lake Lanier Association.
615 F Oak Street, # 100
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-503-7757
www.lakelanier.org
lakeinfo@lakelanier.org

Lake Lanier Association Board of Directors

President
Jackie Joseph

Executive Vice President
Val Perry
Vice Presidents
Gordon Brand
Wilton Rooks
Paul Flood

Secretary
Roger Bauer

Treasurer

Directors
Donna Baray
Ron Coleman
George Daniel
John Heard
Patsy Kilmartin
Tammy Levi
Bev Nicholls
John Richardson
Charlie Rittenhouse

Executive Director
Joanna Cloud
jcloud@lakelanier.org

Letter from the President

Welcome to 2012! The lake has risen several feet in the past several weeks and we are looking forward to a very interesting year. It is expected that our state legislative session will have significant focus on water issues this year, we are expecting rulings on Phase II of the Tri-State Water Wars, the Corps of Engineers update on the Water Control Manual is expected this summer, and indications are that Governor Deal is making headway

in his negotiations with Florida and Alabama on the Tri-State litigation. Will all this come to pass in 2012? Only time will tell, but certainly, we've got an interesting year ahead of us. As always, the Lake Lanier Association will monitor these issues closely and will inform our membership of developments on all of these issues.

What does my membership in the LLA do for me?

As an LLA member, you may be asking, what does your annual membership fee get you? The LLA, as an organization, continues to represent a stakeholder interest in Lake Lanier on a wide variety of fronts. Our primary goals are Clean Lake, Full Lake and we try to focus resources and efforts around those two objectives. In addition to the more visible things like Adopt-A-Lake and Shore Sweep, we also apply for grant funding for project specific tasks related to both clean up and safety concerns around the lake. We try to stay in close contact with city, county, state, and federal politicians to let them know our views on potential legislative issues. We also stay in close contact with the Corps of Engineers regarding their operating procedures at Lanier to first, educate ourselves and our members of the

framework surrounding lake operations, and second, to influence change where possible.

We have an active dialog with our local, state and federal legislators to educate them about Lake Lanier issues that we feel need attention from a legislative standpoint. In the last 12 months, LLA board members have personally met with Governor Deal, Congressman Woodall, Senator Isakson, as well as Hall, Gwinnett, Forsyth, and Dawson County Board of Commissioners representatives to discuss lake issues.



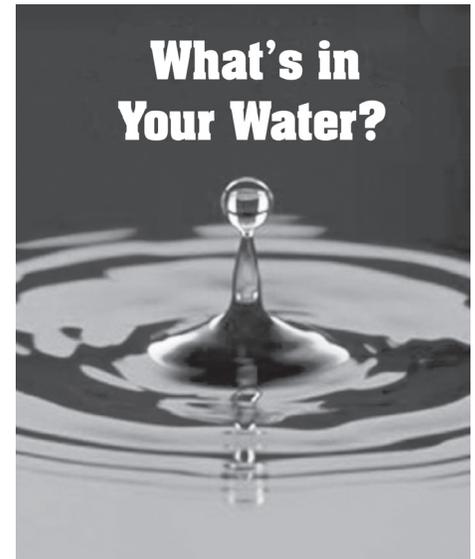
Adopt-A-Lake December 2011 Lake Lanier Index

The lake temperature dropped ten degrees in early December to 54. Our Secchi readings went up to an average of 6.5 feet from November's low of 5.5. Our low was in the Wahoo Creek area of 2.4 feet and the high was 8.5 feet at three stations on the eastern side of the Lake off the Old Federal Campground area. "A" section had an average of 5.2 feet, "B" 7.8 feet and "C" 8.1. Our Chlorophyll a readings dropped to 2.5 PPB average with a high of 4 PPB in Wahoo Creek and two stations reporting 3 PPB one in the Little River area and the other in Flat Creek. With both our Secchi and our Chlorophyll a readings improving we will boost our Lake Lanier Index to 6.

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 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.



What do these items all have in common?

- Invitation to LLA's several member socials held in 2011 for members to come out and meet other lake-minded individuals;
- The call for members to submit online comments on the Governor's Water Supply Task Force plan;
- An alert message in August 2011 about lake levels dropping quickly, and another alert message in January 2012 about lake levels rising quickly and a word of advice on both messages to check dock cables and anchor poles to be sure they were adjusted adequately;
- The opportunity to submit your lake home as a candidate for the TV show "Bang for the Buck" about recent home renovations with a grand prize of \$10,000. Three Lake Lanier candidates were chosen. Show will air later this fall;
- The opportunity to submit your lake home as a potential film location for a Times Warner film project taking place in 2012.



The common element among these items is that they were all ONLY communicated to our members via email. When we ask for your email address on the membership forms, it is to be sure we can most effectively communicate with you—for your benefit! Some items that we communicate would be too costly, or don't have enough lead time, for us to include in a newsletter or separate member mailing.

If you are not getting the email announcements from us, send us an email at lakeinfo@lakelanier.org to be sure you are included. Also, please check your renewal paperwork and be sure the correct email address is listed for you.

Supreme Court Appeal by Florida, Alabama, and the SeFPC

By Clyde Morris
Attorney for the Association

On February 13, Florida, Alabama, and the Southeastern Federal Power Customers filed appeals in Phase 1 of the Water Wars with the U. S. Supreme Court. They are asking the Supreme Court to overturn the decision by the 11th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals that declared water supply is an authorized purpose of Lake Lanier.

The petitioners raise three key issues: whether Congress excluded water supply as an authorized purpose in the original legislation, whether the Water Supply Act of 1958 requires Congressional approval for allocating water in Lake Lanier to water supply, and whether the 11th Circuit ruling is in conflict with a prior ruling by the D. C. Circuit.

On the first issue, the 11th Circuit clearly and emphatically ruled that water supply was authorized by Congress in the 1946 River and Harbor Act. On the second issue, the 11th Circuit ruled that the 1958 Act supplemented the water supply authority created by the 1946 Act. Astute followers of the Water Wars may recall that in one of the seven lawsuits in the litigation, the D. C. Circuit Court ruled that a settlement agreement among the Corps of Engineers, Georgia, and the SeFPC regarding compensation for



hydropower allegedly foregone in favor of water supply could not be enforced. The D. C. Circuit's ruling is, thus, the subject of the third issue.

There are essentially two steps involved in an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court: getting the Court to accept your appeal in the first place and then, if it does, convincing it to rule in your favor. As to whether the appeal will be accepted, the Supreme Court receives about 9,000 petitions a year but grants only about 90 of them, or about 1%. The cases must present important legal issues, generally ones about which Circuit Courts have issued conflicting opinions. While this case clearly presents an important issue regarding water supply, in our view the 11th Circuit's ruling does

not conflict with the D. C. Court's ruling because the latter did not address the authority for water supply in the 1946 Act. Because of this, there is no conflict among the Circuits and the odds are against the Supreme Court's accepting the appeal.

However, even if this case is accepted, the petitioners will still have to convince the Supreme Court that the 11th Circuit was wrong. So, the challenges for the petitioners to succeed in getting the 11th Circuit's ruling overturned are great. If they succeed, the effects on Georgia's water supply will be huge. But the LLA's goal in the litigation is to protect its members' interests, including keeping Lanier available for water supply. We will report the ongoing proceedings as they occur.

Update on the Apalachicola-Chatahooche-Flint River Stakeholders Initiative

In August 2008, a small group of people interested in the waters of the ACF Basin met in LaGrange Ga to explore the question – “Can a diverse group of stakeholders work together to share a common resource, the waters of the ACF Basin”.

Since that tentative beginning, the group has grown to consist of water utilities, environmental organizations, power companies, agriculture, chambers of commerce, industries, recreational advocates, navigation advocates – and more throughout the ACF Basin and in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. The Lake Lanier Association is a charter member of the ACF Stakeholders group. With no power base, except the power of a unified voice, the group has hammered out governance provisions, issue investigation and has voted to move forward with progressive projects to develop solutions for shared water usage that have not been addressed before.

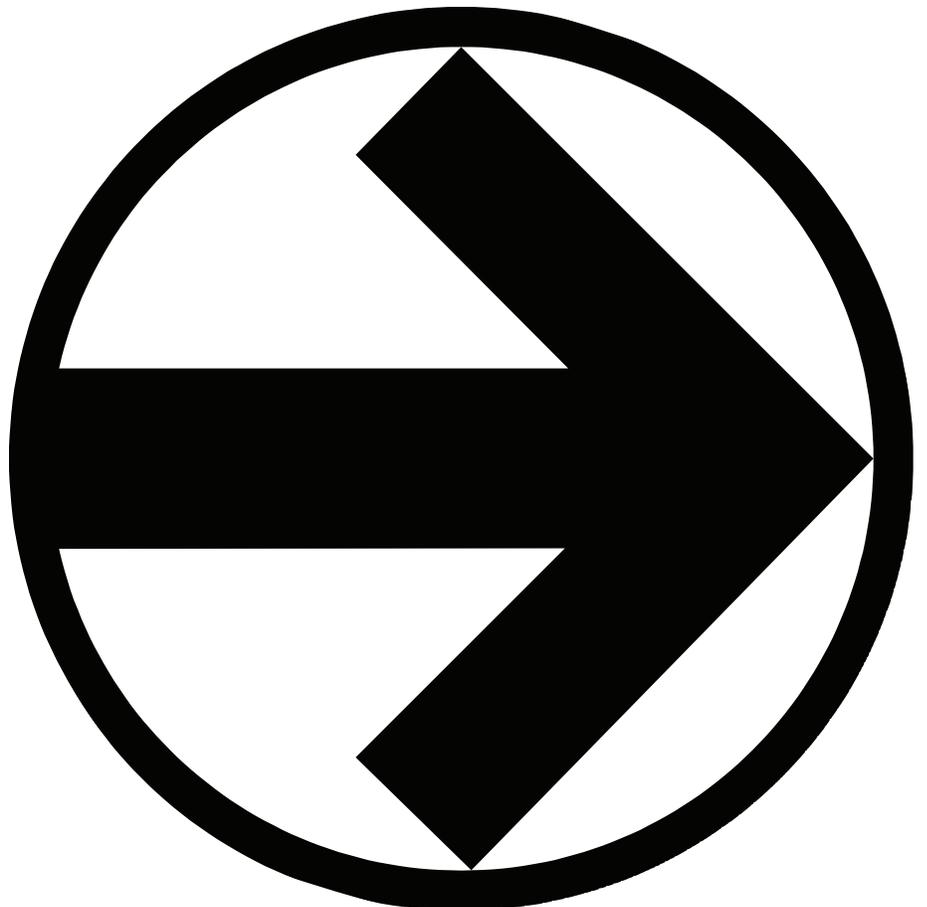
Most recently, the organization has solicited proposals for two major undertakings for 2012:

- A Sustainable Water Management Plan – Black & Veatch was selected as consultants for this project which will perform modeling tasks to assess the availability of water in the ACF Basin to meet the needs of stakeholders. Each stakeholder

category, such as recreation, water supply, environmental, etc. have been asked to document their needs for water during normal weather conditions and during drought conditions. These performance criteria will be used by B&V as input to computer models to determine the adequacy of water to meet those needs under various climatic conditions.

- An Instream Flow and Lake Level Assessment – Atkins Global was selected as consultants for this project which will define the flows and levels in the various rivers in the ACF Basin to support the environmental needs.

In addition, the organization is conducting a Best Management Practices survey with the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of Georgia to define ways for the waters to be used more efficiently. All of these projects have a single goal of defining more efficient ways to use the waters of the ACF Basin so that all users can benefit. The data developed through the SWMP and IFLLA projects will help inform water policy and water management operations. So 2012 should be a busy year. Follow ACF Stakeholders on its website, www.acfstakeholders.org.



Interview with Jim Farmer, Cast Away Bait & Tackle

Jim Farmer is the proprietor of Cast Away Bait & Tackle, a custom tackle shop based on Lake Lanier. The Lake Lanier Association recently interviewed Jim about his business.

What type of fishing lures do you make and what kind of fish are they designed for?

I make lures for striped bass, hybrid striper bass and, more recently, largemouth and spotted bass.

While I started in Lake Lanier, the business has expanded to other lakes in the southeast, and in fact, I've sold lures in almost every state.

How long have you been making lures and why did you decide to start making them?

I've been a lifelong fisherman. About 28 years ago I was in the US Navy stationed in California. Lots of great fishing around me, but I didn't have the funds to buy the tackle I wanted. Necessity is the mother of invention so I started carving my own out of wood. I found that I loved to make something and then have success with it in the water. After that, I guess you could say I was hooked.

When did Cast Away Bait & Tackle get started?

After I retired from the Navy, I went to work for Lockheed Martin. As a basement hobby, I made lures and gave them to my fishing buddies in a local striper club. Interest in my products started growing and about 10 years ago I decided to launch a full time business with it. I retired from Lockheed Martin and have been making tackle full time since. I pride myself in making an



Cast Away Bait & Tackle proprietor, Jim Farmer.

American made product and firmly believe that my tackle is higher quality than the foreign imported gear. I am one of the few guys that still makes lures by hand.

How did you learn to make lures and how do you test them?

I learned by trial and error. I looked at other lures that I thought were successful and tried to find ways to both replicate and improve. I know what fish feed on, and I've fashioned lures to that. I go out in my boat, sometimes with a guest, and test out new lures. I keep track of variables like water temperatures and cloud cover to try and get an objective assessment of the effectiveness of a particular lure.

What kind of materials do you use for your baits?

I use primarily deer hair but also plastics, silicone, and feathers. I do lots of experimentation with different materials to see what works.

What trends have you noticed on Lanier over the past ten years or so?

The biggest trend is that 10 years ago, there were only one or two lure manufacturers out there. Now, there are more manufacturers,



A LLA member helps Jim test out a new prototype lure.

and the individual manufacturers offer a lot more choices in terms of colors, sizes, tones, designs, etc. My website alone has over 275 designs!

Why do you need so many choices?

Fish see the same thing over and over and get used to it so they won't bite. If a fish sees something different, they get curious and want to check it out. I am constantly introducing new things to the lake to see what the fish go for and what they don't go for -- what works and what doesn't work.

Jim Farmer

Cast Away Bait & Tackle
678.641.5160

www.castawaybaits.com

<<http://www.castawaybaits.com>>



PRSRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LILBURN GA
ABC DIRECT

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Recent promotional events

The Lake Lanier Association recently sponsored booths at the Atlanta Boat Show, the Great Southern Fishing Show, and Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Buy Local Expo. Thanks to all our helpful volunteers for spending time at the booth promoting the Clean Lake | Full Lake mission of the LLA! We have several new members as a result of those promotions. All of those events were a

great opportunity for us to spread the word about who the LLA is, what we do, and why our advocacy role is critical for Lake Lanier. Promotional events are also a lot of fun! Be sure to check out the upcoming events section of this newsletter, and watch your email, for announcements of upcoming promotional events where we are participating. We hope to see you there!



Executive Director, Joanna Cloud, at a recent promotional event.

TAX PLANNING FOR 2012

As you are planning your taxes for the 2012 calendar year, remember, all donations and annual membership dues to the Lake Lanier Association are tax deductible under IRS 501(c)3 tax code to the extent of the law. Donations may be made either in the form of cash, check, credit card, or shares of stock.