



Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
July 2013

Upcoming Date to Remember



Shore Sweep
Saturday,
September 28,
2013

Lake Lanier Association.
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Message from the Board

As we conclude the 1st half of 2013, your Association has had an excellent twelve months.

The annual Golf tournament was a resounding success, as we have had the best net revenue for the tournament in the past five years. Although we were very anxious regarding the weather, we did not have any rain, and every one had a great time. The tournament is our biggest annual fund raiser we have, and our sincere thanks go out to the players as well as the major sponsors that supported the Association.

Our annual meeting (June 5th) was also very positive. There were over 150 attendees that were brought up to date on activities for the past year (copies of our handout materials are available on our web site):

- 1.) The Tri-States legal actions have been resolved in Georgia's favor with Lake Lanier being officially authorized for water supply for north Georgia. We have also settled our legal financial obligations regarding the Tri-States activities.
- 2.) Shore Sweep was a major highlight with over 30 tons of trash collected as well as some major trouble spots (sunken boats and major trash pollution) removed. Your Association was a significant driver in accomplishing the removal of these dangerous eyesores.
- 3.) Your Association is in very good shape financially. We are always driving to encourage more new members as we are the major advocate for Lanier in keeping the lake Clean, Full and Safe
- 4.) The Lake Lanier Water Safety Alliance under the leadership of your association

has made many advancements in the safety area: input the LL Legislative Caucus; design and implementation of new safety stickers for posting on water craft in Lanier; drive for awareness of safety education and issues throughout the region; continued focus on safety for your Lake.

A dramatic new project has been approved for providing a safer environment for boaters at night on Lake Lanier. The implementation of our Marker Lighting System on Lanier will install appropriate marker lights on Lanier to recognize the channels and significant hazards. This is a long term (2 -4 years) project and we hope to install at least 10 - 12 lights this year. The Association in partnership with the CORPS and the Coast Guard Auxiliary will manage this project. More on this plan is discussed in this newsletter.

A newsletter would not be complete without mentioning the lake levels. Lanier has been at 1072 - 1073 feet above sea level for over two months, and the beauty of our lake has never been more attractive. In discussions with the CORPS, we are confident that the Lake will be at full pool on July 4th for the first time in over 7 years. Also significant is the fact that at these outstanding high water levels there have been no major problems with lake usage or the infrastructure. At the higher level of a summer full pool of 1073, which the Association is advocating for, major droughts will not be as severe as they have been in the past.

Boating Safety Stickers

The Association recently started distributing, free of charge, adhesive decals with some Lake Lanier specific boating “rules of the road”. The stickers have been very well received by the public and we have received multiple requests from people wanting more stickers for themselves and their neighbors. If you didn’t get a sticker at the Annual Meeting, you are welcome to pick one up at the LLA office. There is a mail bin outside the office door containing stickers if you would like to stop by and pick one up. We also have stickers at several of the retail stores and marinas around the lake.

BOATING SAFETY

WEAR IT

Boating Rules of the Road

 One Short Blast Pass To Right	 One Short Blast Maintain Course	 Two Short Blasts Maintain Course	 Crossing Privileged Boat on Right. Pass Astern.
 Overtaking One Blast Right Two Blasts Left	100 Foot Rule Proceed at idle speed or less when within 100 feet of distance of stationary boats or water craft, docks, or persons in the water.		

Be Courteous with the Wake you Create

safe.lakelanier.org

Lake Lighting Update

The Light The Lake committee has been formed with the following members. Bill Tannahill, Rich York and Terry Lucas. We have met with the Corp of Engineers Manager, Tim Rainey, regarding our solar lighting program. Mr. Rainey has, with guidelines, given the lighting project the “go ahead.” A solar light sample along with a marker buoy has been obtained for study. A meeting with the West Point Lake Coalition members was held and proved to be very informative as they demonstrated their light, mounting bracket and light placement. We are currently investigating light manufacturers, mounting brackets and security hardware.

We have also discussed the lighting project with local marinas and have received valued input as to lighting suggestions and placement. Initially we will place eleven solar powered LED lights on the lake. These will be used to identify hazards and mark channels.

We have also received valued comments and suggestions from our Lake Lanier Association members. It is well noted that we can call upon them for assistance. Other organizations have also indicated a willingness to provide assistance with monitoring and maintenance.

The lights are to be used as a safety guide similar to street lights. They do not incur regulation. They will flash at a prescribed rate. The light equates to one candela (or candle) and will be visible for about one mile. All of the lights are USCG approved.

These lights are being installed and maintained as a service to our local community. While we will monitor the lights at regular intervals to document any burned out or broken lights, and will make every effort to repair or replace them in a timely manner, we cannot guarantee that all installed lights will be working at all times. Therefore, we recommend boaters use these lights, when and where available, as a supplement and not as a primary source of navigational aid.

We hope to have the first solar light in place by the end of the summer 2013 season.

Shore Sweep 2013



For all of our wonderful Shore Sweep volunteers: Please mark your calendar for September 28, 2013! This year will mark the 25th anniversary of Shore Sweep.

Thanks to the estimated 1,000 volunteers and sponsors who participated in Lake Lanier Association's 2012 Shore Sweep. Your efforts by boat and land collected over 32 tons of trash. The end results were a cleaner and safer lake. The Shore Sweep Planning Committee has been

busy since January and expects a significant increase in the amount of small debris that will need to be picked up due to the higher water levels. A significant portion of this small debris is in locations that are only accessible by boat therefore, we will need additional boat volunteers.

For organizational purposes and to insure we cover the entire lake, Lake Lanier is divided into 11 zones and 8 advance drop off locations. Each zone has at least one volunteer captain and who manages the Shore Sweep activities in their assigned zone. One activity that has helped the zone captains are volunteers who scout and identify the location, type and amount of trash prior to Shore Sweep day.

In lieu of one appreciation party at a single location, each zone has its own volunteer recognition activity.

The following are the 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 Hopper
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

May 2013 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake temperature increased to 61, 7 degrees higher than our April reading. Sixteen degrees below last year's average. Our Secchi average was 6.2 feet, this is 1.4 feet less than April's reading. The best reading was near the dam at 11.1 feet and the low reading of 1.6 feet north of the Rowing Venue. Section "A" averaged 3.9 feet, "B" 6.2 feet and "C" 9.4 feet. These were all lower than April results. We had two chlorophyll a readings at 4 PPB, one at 3, and two at 2 PPB, all in shallow coves. We will lower our Lake Lanier Index to 5.5 with the lower Secchi readings and an increase in the chlorophyll a results.

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.

Legislative Update

SAFETY LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 136 passed both houses of the General Assembly in March 2013. Known as the "Kile Glover Boat Education Law" and "Jake and Griffin BUI Law," the legislation contains many new provisions. Here are the most significant changes for boaters.

First, a person must now be at least 16 years old to operate a motorized vessel or a personal watercraft (PWC), although those 12-15 may operate a PWC if accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 or if the operator has successfully completed a government-approved boating education course.

Second, children under the age of 13 must wear approved personal

flotation devices at all times onboard any vessel or PWC unless they are within a closed, roofed cabin, compartment, or structure.

Third, the BUI "alcohol concentration" limit for operators has been lowered from 0.10 to 0.08 grams.

Fourth, anyone born on or after January 1, 1998, who operates any motorized vessel must complete an approved boating education course unless he or she is (a) licensed by the Coast Guard as a master, (b) operating the vessel on a private lake or pond, or (c) a nonresident who has in his or her possession proof that he or she has completed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators-approved boater education course or the equivalency from another state.

TENNESSEE RIVER RESOLUTION

Both houses of the General Assembly also passed resolutions in the 2013 session calling for an agreement with Tennessee that would resolve the nearly 200-year-old issue regarding the location of the state border. Under the new resolutions, Georgia would deed a portion of its land that is claimed by Tennessee in exchange for Tennessee's agreement to allow Georgia to retain a pipeline right-of-way on that land and draw about 500 million gallons of water per day from the Tennessee River. The Association is studying the issue and will report back to membership in the near future.



Thank you!

A big thank you to our Hole Sponsors at the recent Lake Lanier Association Annual Golf Tournament!

Moreland Altobelli Associates
John D. Stephens Construction
Barkley Geib /
Lanier Harbor Marina
Jacobs Engineering



ACF STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

The ACF Stakeholder quarterly Governing Board meeting was held in Columbus June 26 and 27 with 50 members of the 56 member board in attendance. In addition to various committee reports, the agenda for the meeting was to have GB acceptance of several key documents that have been developed by the consultants under contract to the ACFs. These documents included:

- Water Demands Report that documents the water that is being withdrawn and returned to the rivers in the basin by municipal, agricultural and thermoelectric users.
- Instream Flow Assessment that creates a tool to better understand the environmental issues on the rivers
- Performance Metrics that documents the desired operating characteristics for the 13 water interest categories in the 4 sub-basins
- Current Conditions modeling runs that illustrate how the ACF basin has evolved under different hydrological scenarios
- Water Management Alternatives that documents suggested

alterations to water consumption and reservoir operations.

Each of these documents were accepted by the GB for use in the upcoming iterative modeling runs to be conducted by the Georgia Water Resources Institute at Georgia Tech under the direction of Dr. Aris Georgakakos. These runs will model how the various Water Management Alternatives impact the flows and levels of the rivers at various nodes on the rivers. One of the model runs will investigate the impact of raising the full pool level of Lake Lanier by 2 feet. Other run runs will show the results of greater conservation, increased returns and reservoir operations.

The timeline for producing the final Sustainable Water Management Plan report is December 2013 with an interim report at the next GB meeting in early October in the Atlanta area.

Acceptance of these documents represents a major success for the organization that is composed of representatives from Georgia,

Florida and Alabama and from every water interests in the watershed. The criteria for 'acceptance' did not require every member to agree to every detail of each document but instead it was agreed that these documents could be used for the modeling runs. Modeling is not an exact science and the underlying data that is input to the model is understood to be imperfect. But it is understood that modeling is a useful tool even with imperfect data since the main objective is to compare the differences in the conditions when changing various parameters such as water withdrawals, returns and operations.

There will be dozens of model runs that reflect various changed conditions.

Your association has been an active member of the organization since its conception. Membership in ACF Stakeholders is open to individuals, organizations, and companies in the ACF Basin. For more details on the history, goals, mission and to read various reports visit www.acfstakeholders.org.

It is time to design...

Calling local artists of all ages!

Put on your artist's beret and start working on your design ideas for the 2013 Shore Sweep t-shirt design contest.

\$100 prize goes to the winning entry in the contest.

The artwork must be original and must have the artist's name, address, and phone number listed on the back of the sheet.

Submissions become the property of the Lake Lanier Association. The design must be submitted on no larger than 8.5"x11" inch standard size copy paper.

Deadline to submit is Friday, August 9th, 2013.

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





Federal Activity

There has been some activity at the federal level related to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure draft of the Water Resources Development Act that is concerning to the Lake Lanier Association. Below are recent letters both from the Florida congressional delegation to Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall as well as a response letter from the Lake Lanier Association to Chairman Shuster.

May 13, 2013

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

As the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure drafts a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), we urge you to address an issue of tremendous economic and environmental consequence to the State of Florida.

We believe that the Army Corps of Engineers is overstepping its authority by reallocating water from Georgia's Lake Lanier to Atlanta's metropolitan area without proper Congressional oversight. By

diverting this limited resource, the Corps is reducing the freshwater flow down the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River System and, thereby, preventing an adequate water supply from reaching the Apalachicola River Basin and Bay in the Florida panhandle.

Historically, Apalachicola Bay has provided more than 90 percent of Florida's oysters harvest and nearly 10 percent of the nation's oyster supply, serving as a major economic driver for the state. The low flows from the ACF system have decimated the local oyster fishery and, by extension, Apalachicola and the surrounding North Florida region that depend upon

the industry's success.

We are hopeful that you will work closely with our delegation, specifically the six Florida members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to ensure that a legislative solution is included in the Water Resources Development Act. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you on this critically important issue for our state and region.

This letter was personally signed by all 26 members of the Florida congressional delegation.

Below is the response letter written by the Lake Lanier Association to Chairman Shuster

June 23, 2013

Dear Chairman Shuster:

As you know the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a pivotal role in the evaluation and consideration of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation that will set the actions and responsibilities for the Corps of Engineers. We believe that this year's efforts to address a critical water issue in the Southeast require unusual insight and unbiased facts, rather than perceptions that are strong on emotion but weak on facts. Representative Southerland's letter to you places the blame for the conditions of the Apalachicola Bay (specifically the collapse of the oyster industry) on metropolitan Atlanta's water allocation from Lake Lanier.

We urge your committee to take the following facts into consideration:

1. In 2011, 70% of the water taken from the basin in metro Atlanta was returned to the basin. This is projected to

increase to 78% by 2040.

2. During 2011, Atlanta's net (withdraw – returns) consumptive use of water was only 110 million gallons per day (MGD). If Atlanta consumed no water, the average flow into Apalachicola would have risen less than 200 cubic feet per second (cfs). That should be put in context with the 5,000 cfs minimum required flow and average 20,000 – 30,000 cfs experience during normal weather years.

3. The Oyster Recovery Task Force of the University of Florida is performing a thorough and scientific based study of the oyster industry. Their report highlights numerous issues that contribute to the oyster collapse including disease, over harvesting, reseeding practices and other management practices.

Atlanta's water consumption is not the problem. Even projected water requirements for the future will not create a large decrease in water flow into Apalachicola. If future water withdrawals increased from 400 MGD to 800 MGD (as example), the net consumptive use would only

increase by 88 MGD since 78% is projected to be returned. Attempting to resolve water conflicts in WRDA sets a precedent that could open the door to other states across the country. Incorporating hard to define criteria such as 'health and productivity' into WRDA will continue the water conflicts as the USACE attempts to interpret those requirements.

The Lake Lanier Association fully understands the demands that are placed on Lake Lanier and we support the use of its waters for multiple purposes. Lake Lanier has served as a major contributor to the economic growth of the metro Atlanta area. That growth has benefitted the entire Southeast and the nation. Attempting to restrict this economic benefit through legislative action will harm the entire Southeast economy, including the Apalachicola region. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Val Perry
President, Lake Lanier Association

Your feedback leading to valuable service for all

As outlined in a previous version of the Outlook newsletter, feedback from our members has let us know that more information about the Corps' operations would be a valuable service. Beginning with this newsletter, we will publish a series of educational pieces discussing how the ACF system is operated, what the issues are for Lake Lanier, and the positions LLA has taken as its members' advocate in protecting the lake. Clyde Morris, the attorney that represented the LLA in the Tri-State Water Wars, has graciously volunteered to author this series of articles.

ACF BASICS

This is the first in a series of articles that will review the history and operation of the ACF. Many members have expressed an interest in a primer that explains how the Corps operates the system and why. This installment addresses the beginnings, which are crucial to understanding how we got to where we are today.

In the Beginning

In the late 19th century, Congress had the foresight to send the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on forays to find ways to bolster commerce through engineered solutions on America's rivers. In the Southeast, the Corps investigated ways to harness the power of rivers for moving goods and to control floods and their resultant damage. Together with the emergence of hydroelectricity as a viable source of power, all these things were viewed as valuable and worthy investments for the nation.

Congress intended for the Corps'

ACF projects to achieve the ultimate purpose of improving social and economic conditions, including ensuring an adequate and reliable supply of water to the citizens of Atlanta and providing for the economic benefits that a major recreation facility like Lake Lanier would create. In a 1939 report, the Corps told Congress this:

An increase in the general prosperity of the tributary area would result in a greater per capita income, greater taxable values and a greater per capita wealth. These social and economic improvements cannot be evaluated in monetary terms, but with the wealth and income of the territory increased, the State and county agencies would be able to provide better educational facilities, more libraries and hospitals, better health conditions and additional roads. All of these improvements would be of immense benefit to the human welfare of the region.

So, there were multiple benefits that were originally intended by the Corps and by Congress, and they were listed: savings to the public in transportation charges, value of hydroelectric power developed, value as a facility for national defense, increased commercial value of riparian lands, recreational value, and value as a source of industrial

and municipal water supply. Sharp eyes might note that flood control was not included in this particular list, though that is one of the important functions that all of the dams and reservoirs on the ACF serve.

Although the Corps recognized that Buford Dam in particular would have a "real and large" impact on the North Georgia economy, it vastly underestimated the impact of the mighty economic engine that Lake Lanier has become. The Corps' report allocated a mere \$50,000 to the recreational benefit of the ACF facilities, a figure that is dwarfed by the now-estimated \$300 million impact it contributes each year.

With this background, the construction of the ACF facilities was authorized in the River and Harbor Acts of 1945 and 1946. It would take many years to acquire the necessary land for the reservoirs and design the dams and control systems before construction began, but before the middle of the last century Lake Lanier was already well on its way to changing the course of North Georgia for the better – and, hopefully, forever.





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

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