



Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
July 2014

Important Dates to Remember



Saturday, September 27, 2014
Shore Sweep

Monday, October 20, 2014
Golf Tournament at
Legacy Lodge at
Lake Lanier Islands

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

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(770) 503-7757

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Message from the Board

Hello LLA members! As we enter the 2nd half of 2014, it is appropriate to quickly review the highlights of the start of this year. Lake Lanier has continued to be at full pool (1071 feet above sea level) for the past 18 months. The Lake has never been more beautiful than it is now as we enter the summer months.

In April, we conducted our annual meeting at the Lake Lanier Islands venue. As we have always done in election years, we provided a forum where political candidates had the opportunity to meet with our members and discuss issues regarding the Lake. We also changed the format by having the meeting on a Sunday afternoon providing the potential for more attendees. All in attendance felt the meeting was excellent, particularly Mr. Frank Norton's presentation on the future of Lake Lanier and North Georgia. We had approximately 150 attendees, and we expected to have a few more. We are interested in member comments on the meeting and suggestions for increased attendance.

Water safety continues a major focus for the LLA. We have distributed 10,000 safety stickers indicating the boating "rules of the road" for placement on watercraft dash boards. The feedback on these stickers has been extremely positive.

Our solar light project, initiated last year, has been continued by placing 50 additional lights on water hazards in the first half of 2014. We plan for approximately 50 more light installations the remainder of the year. This program will continue for the next several years, with ultimately 300 to 500 lights installed. The LLA is prepared to monitor and maintain the lights into the future. We



2014 continued Progress & Programs

have had excellent positive feedback from many Lake stakeholders on the lights.

We would like to thank Forsyth and Hall counties for their annual investments in your association. We would not be able to tackle these types of major programs without significant support. Hopefully other municipalities around Lake Lanier will make similar investments as we continue to drive to keep Lanier Clean, Full and Safe.

2014 will be a great year for the Lake and your association. New programs are under consideration including a partnership with the CORPS and the DNR where we would assist in cleaning up larger items such as abandoned boats and docks. We are also investigating the potential of curtailing the erosion that occurs on the many islands that people recreating on Lanier enjoy.

Finally we are always seeking new members for the association. Large membership enhances the strength of our voice on Lake issues.

ACF Stakeholder Update

The ACF Stakeholders continues to make progress toward producing a Sustainable Water Management Plan for the entire ACF Basin. The details of the plan will be based on modeling work performed by the Georgia Water Resource Institute. Recent Task Orders were issued to GWRI to produce optimized reservoir management rules for both current conditions and projected 2050 conditions related to water consumption by Municipal and Industrial users, agriculture, navigation, recreation

and other water interest groups.

In addition, GWRI will be working on a drought management plan that will identify triggers for drought prediction and operating rules that are targeted at reducing the severe impact from droughts.

To date, model runs have been made based on increases and decreases in consumptive usage throughout the basin, reductions in Interbasin transfers and increases



Working together to share a common resource.

in reservoir storage such as raising the full pool curve at Lake Lanier by 2 feet.

The organization plans to have a draft report prepared by this fall.

Solar Light Sponsors

The Lake Lanier Association would like to express our appreciation to the

Troy, Cheryl, and Harrison Wheeler family

Solar Light sponsorship costs \$250. To sponsor a light, contact the Lake Lanier Association at lakeinfo@lakelanier.org, by phone at (770) 503-7757, or see the sponsorship form on our website under the Safe Lake tab.

Solar Light Update

The solar light install program for 2014 is well under way. As of the end of June 68 lights have been installed and we plan to have 90 lights in place by mid-July. We will be installing solar marker lights along the Hall County side of the lake. Hall County is contributing to our lake safety program and this allows us to continue to properly mark hazardous boating areas. The Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 29, is doing a great job of monitoring our lights. We urge all users of our lake to report any problem with our marker lights by calling the Lake Lanier Association solar light hotline at 855/460-5483. Reports can also be made to the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Corps of Engineers office.

We hope all boaters are finding our solar lights are helping to provide safer nighttime lake use. Please remember that nighttime boating requires us to be more mindful of hazards and we should all boat at a speed commensurate with visibility and weather.

Lake Lanier Association at Homeowners Association Meetings

Did you know that board members and staff from the Lake Lanier Association frequently speak at homeowners association and other community group meetings giving an update on lake related concerns as well as information on programs and services offered by the Lake Lanier Association to the lake community? If you have an HOA or other community group that would be interested in hearing from the Lake Lanier Association, please contact us at 770.503.7757 to get a meeting time scheduled.

NEW BOATING SAFETY LAWS NOW IN EFFECT!

Reprinted with permission.
Courtesy of
Meg Mirshak
The Augusta Chronicle

Boaters taking the helm will have new rules to follow after a Georgia law takes effect this summer.

Beginning July 1, any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1998 must complete a boat education course to operate a motorized boat on public waters in Georgia. Upon completion of the course – which must be approved by the state’s Department of Natural Resources – a card issued to the test-taker must be with the boat driver on the water.

The new boating regulation, named for 11-year-old Kile Glover, who was struck and killed by a jet ski on Lake Lanier in 2012, was signed into law last April by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal. It was part of sweeping boat safety legislation spurred by the deaths of Glover and Jake and Griffin Prince – who were also killed on Lake Lanier – that included lowering the blood-alcohol content for boaters to .08.

The new law, which this year will require education for boat drivers under age 16, will eventually educate all boat drivers on water safety, boat operation, water laws, lifejacket requirements and other guidelines for navigating waters.

“Each year, as the law grows, we’ll have all of our boating folks who are operating on water taking a

class,” said Georgia Department of Natural Resources Capt. Mike England.

The law’s birthdate cutoff will not change, so each subsequent year will require a higher age bracket to have passed a boat education course.

“If you ever plan to operate a boat, it’s good to get it out of the way,” England said.

Because the law goes into effect in the middle of the summer boating season, boat enthusiasts, especially those under age 16, should prepare to take a class to avoid missing days on the water.

So far this spring, Georgia DNR has not seen people rush to take a boat education class. Many children ages 12 to 15 have completed a boating education course because it has been required for the age group to operate a Class A vessel or personal water craft such as a jet ski without an adult, England said.

Classes can be completed online for a fee, or DNR occasionally offers a free classroom course. For non-Georgia residents, boat education courses approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, or an equal exam, will be honored.

“It’s an opportunity to really educate the boating public, which we feel like we’ve never done before,” England said.

May 2014 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake temperature increased to 67, 9 degrees above April’s reading and 6 degrees warmer than last year. Our Secchi average decreased a foot to 7.8 feet. This is 1.6 feet better than in 2013. The lowest reading was in the upper Chattahoochee branch of 2.9 feet and the highest reading of 11.4 feet was near Old Federal Campground. “A” averaged 5.4 feet, “B” 9.9 feet and “C” 9.5 feet. The chlorophyll a averaged 4.5 micrograms/liter a small increase from April’s reading. “A” averaged 5.61, “B” 4.26 and “C” 2.71. With the increase in chlorophyll a and decreased Secchi readings we will lower our Lake Lanier Index to 6.5

Our Index has been updated using a newer method for chlorophyll a testing. The new method is more sensitive, thus higher readings. We started testing in 2000 and AMPRO labs purchased equipment for the analysis of our samples using the best method available. In fourteen years there have been improvements in chlorophyll a testing and the cost of equipment is expensive. We are very fortunate in that Gwinnett County Water Labs has offered to do our testing using the new method, the same one used by Georgia’s EPD and the water lab at UGA.

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, 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!



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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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.**

1073 OR BUST?

By Clyde Morris, LLA Attorney

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've probably heard of the LLA's efforts to raise full pool on Lake Lanier to 1073 MSL (1073 feet above mean sea level). And even if you have been living under a rock, you probably read about the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Sandy on northeastern U.S. shores. So, what's the connection? Flood insurance. But it's not what you might think.

The National Flood Insurance Program has been around for many years. I remember having to interrupt the closing on my very first house purchase to go get a flood insurance policy, even though nobody had told me I needed one and my house was not in a flood zone. Back in the 80's when that happened, flood insurance was pretty cheap – but not any more.

As a result of a series of large losses that kicked off with Hurricane Andrew back in 1992 (the costliest hurricane in U.S. history at the time) and four even more costly hurricanes since, NFIP premiums have escalated

dramatically. So, recently some folks have asked whether raising Lake Lanier to 1073 might have any effect on flood insurance requirements. The answer is, "no," and here's why.

Buford Dam's infrastructure was built with specific, physical limits or "design characteristics." The top of the dam is at 1106, but water doesn't flow over the top because it's an earthen dam and such flows would quickly destroy it. Instead, water usually flows through turbines mounted low in the dam that produce electricity. Because in an extreme flood event flows through the turbines might not be enough to manage the lake's level, the Corps built a spillway a short distance east of the dam that is designed to channel water around the dam and into the river channel below the dam if the lake ever reaches 1085. In the event of an as-yet-unseen flood event, that spillway would allow water to flow out of the lake before it ever got high enough to reach the top of the dam. Flooding downstream in such an event would likely be very destructive, but not nearly as catastrophic as it would be if the dam failed completely.

So as a practical matter, Lake Lanier is not ever expected to exceed 1085, and as long as the design characteristics of Buford Dam are not changed, LLA's proposed increase in the full pool level would not influence NFIP floodplain management standards or insurance rating.

If you would like to do more research on your own, the basic online references for Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Georgia are these:

- 1) FEMA Map Service Center online – <http://msc.fema.gov>
- 2) Georgia Flood M.A.P. site – <http://www.georgiadfirm.com> or link directly to the Map Viewer at <http://map.georgiadfirm.com>
- 3) Local Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Clyde is a LLA Business Member who practices law in Gainesville and Alpharetta. You can learn more about his practice at clydemorrislaw.com.

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.

ALWAYS ON THE WATER ---
THINK SAFE, BE SAFE!



Pirates of Lanier Poker Run

The Lanier Partners of North Georgia are hosting their annual Pirates of Lanier Poker Run on July 18th and July 19th, 2014. This event is a fundraiser for Camp Sunshine, a camp for children diagnosed with cancer, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hall County. The Lanier Partners have asked the Lake Lanier Association to get the word out to our members about the event and to let everyone know that this year there are five different designated Spectator Areas to allow people who may not be participating in the Poker Run to safely come out and watch the



excitement of the event.

If you choose to be a spectator please be aware that there will many boats in the event going up and down the lake, so please use extreme caution and remember the 100 foot rule. The website link for the Spectator Area map is listed

below as well as the specific lat/long coordinates for each area.

For more information visit: http://www.piratesoflanier.org/2014_spectator.php

Of course, if you want to participate in the Poker Run, you are welcome to do that too! There are all kinds of different boats and floating creations that will be in this event and it is a lot of fun to be involved. There will be a mandatory Captains Meeting on Friday, July 18th and the Lake Lanier Association will be in attendance. If you are participating in the event, be sure to stop by our table at the Captains Meeting and say hello!

-  Spectator Area #1 Lat: 34.1961111 Long: -84.0077778
-  Spectator Area #2 Lat: 34.1880556 Long: -84.0461111
-  Spectator Area #3 Lat: 34.2094444 Long: -83.9866667
-  Spectator Area #4 Lat: 34.2422222 Long: -83.9555556
-  Spectator Area #5 Lat: 34.2758333 Long: -83.9477778

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 2014 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 14th, 2014.
Mail submissions to
Lake Lanier Association
615F Oak Street, Suite 100, Gainesville, GA 30501



FOR A CLEAN, FULL, AND SAFE LAKE LANIER



Join the Lake Lanier Association and Community Leaders around North Georgia by helping fund the “Lanier Rip Rap Project”.

The funds raised by our golf tournament and other contributions will pay for installation of erosion prevention measures on the public shorelines of uninhabited islands and public park properties of Lake Lanier.

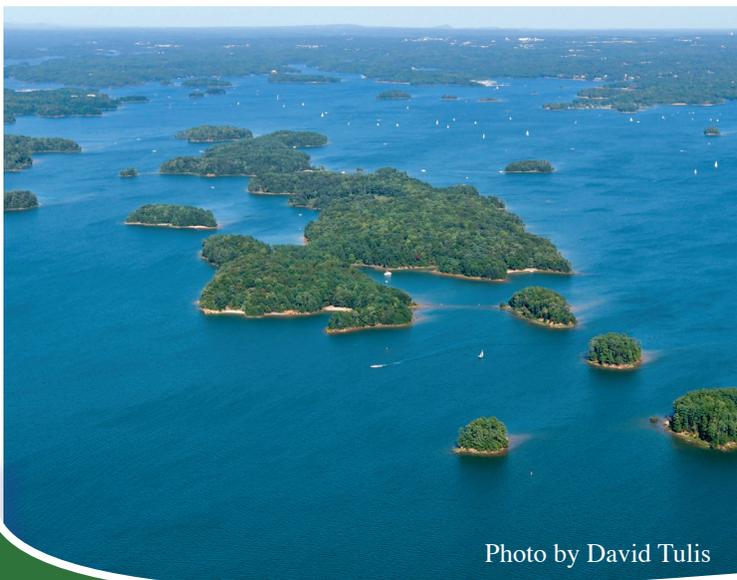


Photo by David Tulis

The **Lake Lanier Association’s** (LLA) mission is to protect Lake Lanier and its watershed ensuring a clean, full and safe Lake Lanier that enhances the lake’s economic value to Georgia.

Lake Lanier Association in fulfilling its mandate of protecting the lake through its programs of education, action and advocacy.

All dues and donations are tax –deductible under IRS 501 (c) (3) not for profit tax code, to the extent of the law.

Thank you for your support.

**Join us for the
12th Annual
Lake Lanier Association
Golf Tournament**

**October 20, 2014
at
LEGACY ON LANIER**



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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We need your help!

Members – we need your help! The golf tournament is our major fundraising activity which helps us fund our lake advocacy objectives like the rip rap project on the eroding islands. Please consider playing or sponsoring the golf tournament. If you are not a golfer, please encourage your friends, neighbors, or business associates to participate.

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle will be our honorary Tournament Director this year and several members of the Lake Lanier Legislative Caucus are expected to be in attendance.

***Please Make Check Payable & Mail To: Lake Lanier Association
615F Oak Street, Suite 100, Gainesville GA 30501
770.503.7757***



Registration Form

Corporate Sponsor, \$10,000, \$5,000 Hole Sponsors, \$1000

Foursome, \$600 Sign, \$400 Individual, \$150

Company Name _____

Address _____

Player 1 _____

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

My Check for \$ _____ is enclosed or please charge my
Mastercard/Visa/Amex No. _____

Expires _____ Three digit code on back of card _____

Billing Address

Signature _____

