

Lanier Outlook

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

LLA Golf Tournament
May 16, 2011
Lake Lanier Islands

LLA Annual Member Meeting
May 19, 2011
Forsyth Conference Center

Shore Sweep
September 24, 2011
Lake-wide

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Letter from the President



Spring is upon us and the promise of summer is just around the corner! The Lake Lanier Association has been focused on working toward resolution in the Tri-State Water Wars. Our efforts have been both inside, and outside, the courtroom setting. We have pushed for greater public awareness of the tremendous role

Lake Lanier plays in the North Georgia economy and are actively pushing the 1073 lake level concept.

There have been several recent articles published in local media outlets regarding our initiatives. If you haven't seen them, check out the Recent News section of our website.

Please mark your calendar for our annual meeting the evening of Thursday, May 19 at the Lanier Tech Forsyth Conference Center. The meeting starts at 6:00PM. More details to follow soon!

Water Wars Update by Attorney Clyde Morris

We've come a long way since July 17, 2009, when U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson ruled that Lake Lanier was not authorized by Congress to provide water supply for the Atlanta area. This time around, a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals gave strong indication that they disagree with Judge Magnuson's decision.

While we should avoid leaping to conclusions

until the 11th Circuit actually renders its ruling, the signals the judges sent during Oral Argument seemed unmistakable. All three judges indicated that they were inclined to remand the case to the District Court with a much different legal conclusion than Judge Magnuson reached.

On remand, I would expect the Corps of Engineers to be called on to do a different calculation of how much water supply is allowed under the

legislation that authorized Buford Dam. In the past, the Corps has issued inconsistent calculations of this amount, which led to what the judges suggested was an incorrect conclusion that additional Congressional authorization was needed to meet the area's needs. Judge R. Lanier Anderson (a Senior Judge from Macon) pointedly asked the Corps' attorney if the Corps has understated its authority under the original legislation.

Continued on Page 2



Water Wars Update — continued from Page 1

Both he and Judge Stanley Marcus (from Miami) suggested that Congress intended that a reliable water supply would be made available from Buford Dam as the region grew. (It is of more than passing note that judges from both Georgia *and* Florida seemed inclined toward this conclusion.)

There is also the question of how much water can be drawn from Lake Lanier by Gwinnett County, Buford, Cumming, and Gainesville. One of the most important factors is return flows of treated wastewater. Gwinnett County, for instance, is permitted to return up to 40 million gallons a day of treated wastewater to Lanier, which Judge Magnuson refused to include in his calculations.

(Astute LLA members will recall that the LLA challenged the Georgia Environmental Protection Division

and Gwinnett County a number of years ago regarding the cleanliness of those return flows, which resulted in a dramatic improvement in the standards for wastewater returned to Lanier that are now applied by all water supply providers.)

As the third judge, Richard Mills (a visiting judge from Illinois), indicated, the Corps will need to calculate the effects of return flows on the amount of storage needed for water supply out of the lake.

Of course, there is one other side to this litigation – Phase 2 - in which the Corps' ongoing operations and the impact of the Endangered Species Act are being scrutinized. Phase 2 is also before the 11th Circuit for oral argument, although no date has been set yet because the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is performing additional consultation regarding impacts to one of the endangered

species at issue. Phase 2 will be covered in future legal reports.

We do not yet know what the bottom line to the litigation will be. But two things now seem clear: the draconian ruling that Judge Magnuson issued nearly two years ago is unlikely to stand much longer, and the 11th Circuit judges seem convinced – unlike Judge Magnuson - that Congress intended for Atlanta to be able to continue to rely on water from Buford Dam for its water supply.



We want more people like you!

One of the best ways for us to get new members is from the recommendation of existing members.

Please consider talking to your friends and neighbors about joining the LLA.

If a new member joins and references an existing member, we will give a \$20 gift certificate to our new LLA e-store. The e-store is an online store that has many different LLA related apparel and accessory items.

Gift Certificate to e-store

\$20.00

Lake Lanier Association
New Member Referral Gift
www.lakelanier.org

See the e-store section of this newsletter for details

Shore Sweep 2011 is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2011. The Shore Sweep committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to start planning the event. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please send an email to lakeinfo@lakelanier.org and let us know. Also, if you know of specific locations around the lake that need attention at Shore Sweep, send us the GPS or lake coordinates and, pending volunteer availability, we will put it on the list of places to work on at Shore Sweep.



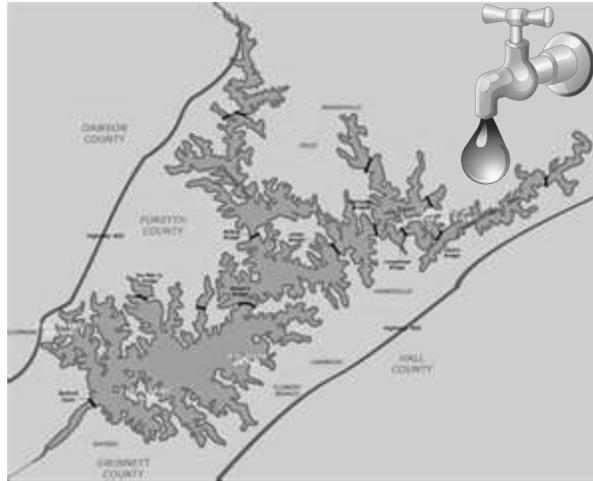
Conserve it

Ever since the Tri-States water wars began over 20 years ago, Lake Lanier has been one of the areas of debate, focus and contention. As we have often discussed, Lanier as the headwaters of the ACF system represents 65% of all the water storage on the system. In normal rain fall and seasonal water flow, the system operates reasonably well, and downstream users are generally satisfied. The significant debates occur when this region experiences a drought and the demand for water falls on Lanier for all users. This issue becomes compounded when planning for future water needs.

As the state of Georgia reviewed its plans for the future, it was apparent that more water was necessary for growth and future requirements. For the past several years water planning has been a focus item for Georgia, led by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD or District). Some excellent work has been done by the District in the areas of conservation, education and new awareness on the requirements for strong water management as Georgia moves into the future. The leadership of Georgia has brought significant water savings to the state for now and into the future.

WE CONSERVED MORE —NOW WHAT?

However, a new challenge faces the state as those water savings become effective. Unless there is a provision for storing the conserved water, these initiatives will have been wasted, and the water will simply flow downstream into the Gulf of Mexico. Obviously, additional water storage capability must



be developed for Georgia, and new water reservoirs are being studied and evaluated. In fact one of Governor Deal's focus items is new reservoirs for Georgia. However, new reservoirs are very costly--estimates in the \$100s of millions--and the time for completion is often measured in decades, due to the necessary permits, negotiations, as well as the time for development and construction.

1073 FULL POOL LAKE LEVEL

Your association proposed an initiative for additional water storage in Georgia in 2007 when we suggested to the US Army Corps of Engineers to raise the full pool water level of Lake Lanier 2 feet, from 1071 to 1073 feet above sea level. This action would give Georgia 26+ billion gallons of additional water storage, providing new useable water supply greater than all new reservoirs currently under evaluation by Georgia. Furthermore, this new capability could be implemented much faster and far less expensively than a newly created reservoir.

This concept has been supported by the Georgia legislature as well as many other interested groups including our US Senators and Congressmen. The Corps has indicated they would study the concept if adequate funding could

Save it

be obtained and there was agreement with the downstream states. We are convinced that this is an excellent approach that must be studied and implemented as soon as possible.

There are some challenges that must be considered as this action is evaluated. Beach availability, some bridges might be too low, marinas might have to adjust their electric and other services to accommodate the higher water levels, more erosion control could be needed, Buford Dam might need additional reinforcement are some of the issues that can be addressed. However, the benefits far outweigh these concerns. Drinking water supply for Georgia, insurance against the dramatic Lanier drawdown that occurred during the last drought, saving the economic contribution and jobs that Lanier brings to north Georgia are a few of the benefits.

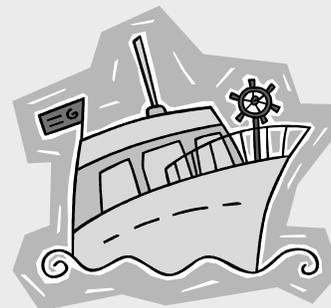
The LLA will continue to drive this "CONSERVE IT / SAVE IT" solution for the State as we move forward into the future.



Lanier World Record Raft Up

The LLA will be participating in the Lanier World Record Raft Up event scheduled for June 11, 2011—National Marina Day. The event will take place at Buford Dam, where a 2-story floating stage, secured in the middle of the formation will provide entertainment and serve as the Command Center.

- Boats will begin checking in at 9AM. Judging of the record will occur at 1PM.
- Entry fee is \$30.00 per boat, and yes, every boat must be registered for the count. All boats MUST be "Tied-up" for 60 seconds and each boat must have at least one person in it. Eligible "Boats" include Wave-runners, Sailboats, Houseboats, Cruisers, etc. All Boats must be registered by Midnight Monday June 6th.
- Every Registered Boat receives a "Gift Swag Bag" worth over \$50.00 in gifts, including two "Official Guinness World Record T-Shirts. (A limited number will be produced)"
- A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a local Children's Charity.
- The *mandatory* Captain's Meeting and party will be held at the Gwinnett Civic Center on Wednesday June 8th at 6pm, with a chance to win \$50,000 cash. Each registered boat gets one chance at the cash!
- An Adjudicator (or authenticator) will be here from Guinness to verify the record, and the New Guinness World Record Certificate will be awarded at the "Official Awards Ceremony" Sponsored by Sunset Cove and Lake Lanier Islands, after the event.



Volunteers are desperately needed. Including a minimum of 14-20 Large Houseboats for help with positioning. Each of those Houseboats can get its own "Group" together so that you all can be together. Additional houseboats can be added to the groups as they register. Perhaps a couple of Boats from one Marina along with their "Cruiser" friends can form one of the lines that will parallel the Dam. "Marina Liaisons" from each Marina and Boat Club will be needed to help organize your "group" in the line. As

members of your "Group" register, they just include the name of the group, and they will be put with the others in your group. For more information or to volunteer e-mail us at:

volunteer@lanierworldrecord.com.

For more information, go to the event website www.lanierworldrecord.com.



Attention Golfers! — Stadion Classic PGA event at UGA

The LLA is participating in the 2011 Stadion Classic golf tournament at the University of Georgia in Athens. 100% of the proceeds from our ticket sales go directly to the Lake Lanier Association! Come be a part of the exciting golf action as the Stadion Classic at UGA tees it up May 2nd-May 8th, 2011. To purchase tickets, go online to www.stadionclassic.uga.edu. Be sure to select Lake Lanier Association as your affiliated charitable organization!



*9th Annual
Lake Lanier Association
Golf Tournament
Monday, May 16th, 2011
At
Legacy on Lanier
Lake Lanier Islands*

PLAN NOW FOR A FUN DAY OF GOLF AT THE BEAUTIFUL NEW LEGACY ON LANIER GOLF COURSE.

ENJOY STUNNING VIEWS OF LAKE LANIER AND PLAY A COURSE

DESIGNED TO APPEAL TO GOLFERS OF ALL LEVELS.

We will be raffling tickets to the 93rd Annual PGA Championship in Augusta at our golf tournament!

TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

10:00 A.M.
REGISTRATION

10:30 A.M.
RANGE OPENS

11:30 A.M.
SHOT GUN START

4:30 P.M.
APPRECIATION RECEPTION AND AWARDS

AWARDS
LOW GROSS, LOW NET, RUNNER-UP NET
LADIES' NET

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES

ENTRANCE FEE TO LAKE LANIER ISLANDS
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST • CART RENTAL
GREEN FEES • APPRECIATION BARBEQUE RECEPTION/AWARDS
GOODY BAGS • CHANCE TO WIN GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES

REGISTRATION FORM

Corporate Sponsor, \$1,000 Sign Sponsor, \$400
 Foursome, \$600 Individual, \$150

Company Name _____

Address _____

Player 1 _____ Handicap _____

Player 2 _____ Handicap _____

Player 3 _____ Handicap _____

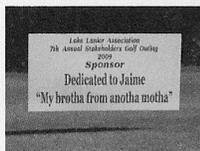
Player 4 _____ Handicap _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed or please charge my

MasterCard/Visa Number _____
Expires _____ Three Digit Code on back of card _____

Billing Address _____

Signature _____



SAMPLE HOLE SIGN

CORPORATE \$1,000
SIGNAGE ON TEE BOX • FOUR PLAYERS
NAME ON EVENT BANNER • LISTING ON WEB SITE AND IN NEWSLETTER

HOLE SPONSOR \$400
SIGNAGE ON TEE BOX
NAME ON EVENT BANNER • LISTING ON WEB SITE AND IN NEWSLETTER

Please make check payable to Lake Lanier Association

Mail to

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

770 • 503 • 7757



March 2011 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake has warmed to 49 degrees from a low of 43 in February. Our Secchi readings continued high with the average remaining at 9.8 feet. The lowest reading of 2.6 feet was near Kieth Bridge. The best were at three stations in the South Lake with readings of 15 feet. Our section A increased a foot from February to 5.9, B increased 1.3 feet to 10.7 feet and C decreased slightly to 12.4 from 13.3. Chlorophyll a readings continued low.

We will leave the LLI at **8** with our good Secchi readings.

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 volunteer 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.

ACF Stakeholders

In August 2008 Lake Lanier Association officers, Val Perry, Executive Vice President, and Wilton Rooks, Vice President – Technology, met with 7 other interested parties in LaGrange, Georgia. The meeting was exploring a radical concept. Could the diverse parties from Georgia, Florida and Alabama who have an interest in the waters of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers watershed agree to an equitable sharing of the waters. It was radical since for 18 years, the three states had been arguing through the courts. For the first time, the stakeholders in the ACF Basin were willing to sit together and discuss their use of the watershed.

After that first meeting, a year long process continuation produced a growing number of interested parties, charter, by-laws, mission statement,

goals and a governance agreement. The first quarterly meeting of the 56 member Governing Board met in December 2009 in Albany. Subsequent meetings have occurred in Apalachicola, FL, Lake Lanier Islands, Eufaula, AL and Lake Blackshear. Wilton Rooks of the Lake Lanier Association was selected to serve as the first Chairman.

Working together in committees, work groups and at Governing Board meetings, the diverse members representing virtually every aspect of water interests in the ACF Basin, the members have developed a growing trust and recognition of the needs of each other for equitable sharing of the water. The LLA believes working with this type of group is another step forward toward the ultimate resolution in the Tri State Water Wars.

Corps Corner

The U.S. Corps of Engineers invites the public to participate in one of three information meetings introducing policy changes to community docks on Lake Sidney Lanier.

The meetings will be held at Dawsonville County Middle School at 332 Highway 9 N, Dawsonville, GA, on March 29 from 6-8 p.m., Forsyth Central High School, 520 Tribble Gap Rd., Cumming, GA, on April 25 from 6-8 p.m. and West Hall High School, 5500 McEver Rd, Oakwood, GA, on May 24 from 6-8 p.m. Copies of the present Shoreline Management Plan and copies of the proposed change will be available.

For more information on the meeting, see the COE website at:

www.sam.usace.army.mil



LLA Member Meet and Greet Social

Thanks to all of the members that came out to the Meet and Greet social event in February at the Coo Coos Nest restaurant in Cumming. We had a great time and hope to do it again soon!



The LLA social events are informal and fun! We hope to do more of them going forward. To be sure you are notified about upcoming events, be sure you are on our email distribution list—send an email to lakeinfo@lakelanier.org to be added—and be sure to be a fan of our Facebook page to get the most current information!

LAKE LANIER
ASSOCIATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

15 F Oak Street, Suite 100
Gainesville, GA 30501



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



The LLA has a new e-store with lots of different Lake Lanier related apparel and accessory items. The e-store link is on the LLA website at www.lakelanier.org.

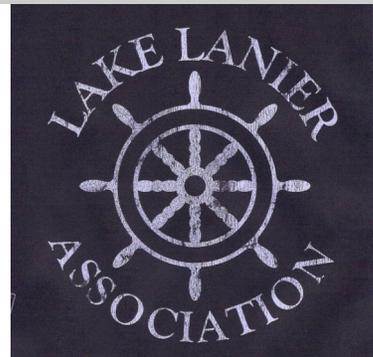
Once on the e-store site, you choose your item, graphic, fabric color, and size.

You pay for the item online by credit card and the item will ship directly to the address you specify.

Just in time for the holidays!

Golf shirts, t-shirts, hats, golf towels, beach towels, coolers, and more are available in the e-store.

Screen Print Graphics Available for t-shirts and sweatshirts!



Stitched Graphics Available for golf shirts, towels, hats, and more!

