



Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
October 2017

Atlanta Boat Show
Thursday, January 18 -
Sunday, January 21, 2018
Georgia World Congress Center



Lake Lanier Association

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Message from the Board of Directors

How important is Lake Lanier?

As lake property owners and lake visitors, we know how important a clean, full and safe Lake Lanier is to our property values and quality of life. But it is often times forgotten how important it is to the entire state of Georgia. While the lake is not hydrologically connected to every Georgia resident or business, it is economically connected to everyone and every business in the state. Over 4 million people in Metro Atlanta depend on Lake Lanier for water supply, but the 6 million outside of Metro Atlanta benefit either from the use of water discharged from Lake Lanier or the economic value of Metro Atlanta. Atlanta is the source and destination for much of the exported and imported goods using the port in Savannah. It is the market for much of the state's agriculture industry. Metro Atlanta is the growth engine for jobs and economic development throughout the state and Lake Lanier water 'fuels' the Metro Atlanta engine.



Georgia's water future is inextricably tied to a sustainable and resilient Lake Lanier. The Lake Lanier Association is working at all levels of government to encourage water policies and infrastructure investments that will benefit a sustainable Lake Lanier. Better water management throughout the state will benefit Lake Lanier.

Georgia is fueled by water!

Wilton Rooks, President

Atlanta Boat Show is January 18-21st, 2017

Be sure to stop by the LLA booth #236 during the show! We will be giving away a small gift to everyone who JOINS or RENEWS their Lake Lanier Association membership during the show. PLUS we are giving away one fabulous raffle prize to the winner drawn from the entries!

Hope to see you there!



Abandoned and Derelict Docks and Vessels Update

GOING! GOING! GONE!

The abandoned houseboat located just north of Wilkie Bridge near lake marker 27C has been removed from our Lake Lanier shoreline. Thanks to the responsible property management company in charge of this seized property, no state, county or LLA funding was used to facilitate this removal which was performed by our business member, AAA Boat Repair in Dawsonville. This is the 5th abandoned and sinking houseboat removed from our shorelines since July of 2016. Quite an accomplishment and one that

couldn't have happened without support from our members, the USACE, GA DNR, Dawson, Hall & Forsyth County Commissioners and many of business partners who all assisted with their time and resources. Thanks to everyone.

On a separate note, the ADD&V team collaborated with our Shore Sweep initiative to target large pieces of dock debris for removal during the 2017 Shore Sweep Program. Pieces of dock debris too large for volunteers to remove

by hand, were identified and assigned to barges equipped and operated by Boat Dock Works, Marine Specialties and Martin Docks for removal during Shore Sweep. A big thank you to Brad Wiegand, Tom Child and Glenn Martin of those companies for their support and assistance on this new wrinkle to the annual Shore Sweep program.

Working together, we are making a difference and keeping our Lake Lanier - *Clean, Full and Safe!*



Abandoned Vessel 27C – has been removed with no state, county or LLA funding being used.

A Penny for Your Thoughts!

As a LLA member, you should have received an online survey from us, seeking your input and feedback on how well we are addressing the issues and opportunities surrounding Lake Lanier. We ask that you commit to a few minutes to complete the survey which will help us better understand who our current membership is and what motivates you to become or stay a member of LLA. We are conducting similar clipboard surveys at marinas and restaurants,

as well as, online surveys with dock permit holders to understand who our non-members are and how to attract more lake users and residents to the association. We have contracted with a local agency, Forum Communications, to collect and analyze this data, in order to grow our membership base and to become more effective and efficient when it comes to tackling the issues and opportunities presented to keep Lake Lanier - *Clean, Full and Safe*.



Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Safety Committee Update

Safety is one of the cornerstones of the Lake Lanier Association's mission of keeping our lake Clean, Full, and Safe. One of our largest and most popular safety programs is lighting many of the hazard markers that are placed around the lake by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

These markers warn boaters of potentially hazardous areas of the lake. Most of the markers warn boaters of rocks, shallow water, or other hazards that are in areas that from the surface look like open water, but just below the water is a hazard that cannot be seen. These markers are a great help to boaters, and go a long way to making boating on Lake Lanier safer for all. However there is an unintended downside to these markers. They cannot mark all hazards, all the time!

As most boaters know, lake levels of Lake Lanier vary greatly. Normal

seasonal levels can change from 8 to 10 feet. In times of drought or heavy rains the Lake can move even more than that. The summer seasonal level of Lake Lanier is 1071 (full pool) feet above sea level (winter is 1070). At times the Lake has been 20 feet below that, and other times 5 feet above that. Boaters must be aware that what may not be a hazard at normal lake level becomes a hazard at a lower level. The permanent markers locate points that are hazards at full pool level. The ACOE does put temporary markers at the most hazardous locations as the lake goes down, but they cannot mark them all.

The Lake Lanier Association safety light program is putting solar lights on many of the ACOE permanent hazard markers (over 250 at present), to give boaters out at night a better chance of seeing the markers. Temporary markers that are put out by the ACOE are not

lighted. It is the duty of all boaters to be aware what the current lake level is, where their boat is on the lake, and what hazards might be near. This becomes even more important at night. Lighting the markers goes a long way to making them easier to see, but does not relieve the boat operator of the responsibility of the safe operation of their boat. Something else to factor into boating at night is: while the Lake Lanier Association takes great effort to keep all the marker lights operational all the time, it is always possible that a light can malfunction or be damaged. Again it is the responsibility of the boat operator to use good judgment at all times, especially at night.

The Lake Lanier Association hazard marker lighting program and our other safety initiatives are great aids to responsible boaters enjoying Lake Lanier, but reckless behavior can overcome any safety program.

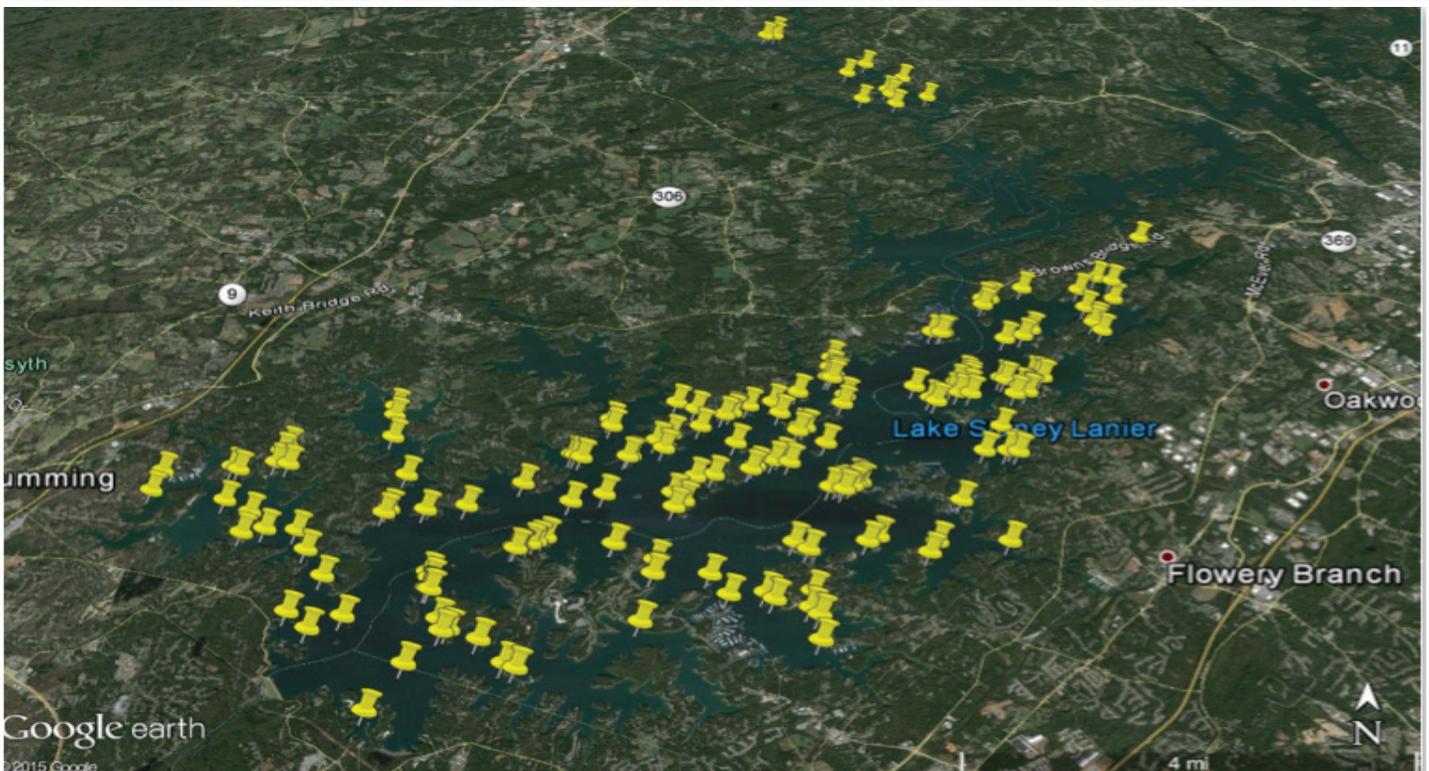


Solar Light Committee October Report

Since our last report we have been able to replace 15 solar lights on damaged hazard markers. We will be continuing repair work this week then conclude our 2017 install program by working north of Gainesville Marina. We will install as long as weather permits.

Fall has arrived and the weather has remained mild allowing boaters to get out and enjoy the autumn colors. Remember our daylight hours are becoming shorter so as darkness approaches use extra caution by slowing down and watching for shallow areas.

We hope users of our lake find our solar light hazard marker program beneficial to safe boating. We would like to hear comments you may have regarding this program.





The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

The Metro Water District develops plans and policies which guide water resources management in the 15 county Atlanta regions. There are separate Basin Advisory Councils (BAC's) that provide input to the Metro Water District. Lake Lanier is covered by the Lanier BAC. BAC members supply broad level input during the planning process and represent the wide variety of interests that are dependent on the region's water resources.

Any interested individuals are invited to apply for membership on a BAC by completing an application. Applications are available online at www.northgeorgiawater.org. The Lanier BAC meets about 4 times a year at locations around Lake Lanier. The meetings usually include visits and sometimes tours of area water and sewage treatment plants, and other water related facilities. The next meeting of the Lanier BAC is October 24, at 1:00pm. It will be held at the Linwood Ecology Center, Gainesville.

If you care about Lake Lanier, and would like some influence in the future planning of North Georgia water resources please consider joining the Lanier BAC.

Lake Lanier Stakeholders is another important group that has been active in the conservation and preservation of the lake. The group has representatives from water and sewage treatment plant operators, local government officials, state government agency leaders, environmental groups, and Lake Lanier Association members.

At the last meeting held in Flowery Branch, discussions occurred about the new TMDL proposed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This new regulation will measure the output of business and community treatment plants that affect Lake Lanier. It is a positive step in preserving the quality of the water that serves as drinking water for much of North Georgia.

The next meeting of the Lake Lanier Stakeholders will be sometime toward the end of the year. Lake Lanier Association will have representatives attending these meetings.

Your association had a meeting a few weeks ago with Governor Nathan Deal and State Senator Butch Miller to discuss issues and challenges facing Lake Lanier in the coming years. While this meeting was informal, we believe we were able to convey how important Lake Lanier is to the State, and how the planned growth will impact the lake.

We will continue to advocate for the lake and make sure all our state leaders understand the challenges our lake will face as the demands for continued growth increase.



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



Adopt-A-Lake Report

Lake Lanier Index - September 2017

QUALITY INDICATORS	September 2017	PREVIOUS MONTH	PRIOR YEAR	COMMENTS
TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)	76	84	83	The Lake is another 8 degrees cooler
LAKE LEVEL (feet above sea level)	1065.3	1065.2	1065.8	The Lake is up another tiny bit
SECCHI (feet)				
Section A	5.9	7.5	6.5	Our lowest was in Wahoo Creek of 2 feet and the highest of 15.9 near the dam.
Section B	8.8	8.5	7.9	
Section C	10.8	11.2	8.6	
Overall Average	9.4	8.3	7.6	
CHLOROPHYLL (micrograms per liter)				
Section A	11.3	7.5	6.9	Our chlorophyll a readings were much higher over most of the Lake probably due to heavy rains from hurricane Irma.
Section B	5.7	3.7	5	
Section C	3	2.2	4.1	
Overall Average	8	4.8	5.4	
Lake Lanier Index	5.5	6.5	6	Secchi readings were slightly higher however our chlorophyll readings jumped significantly

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

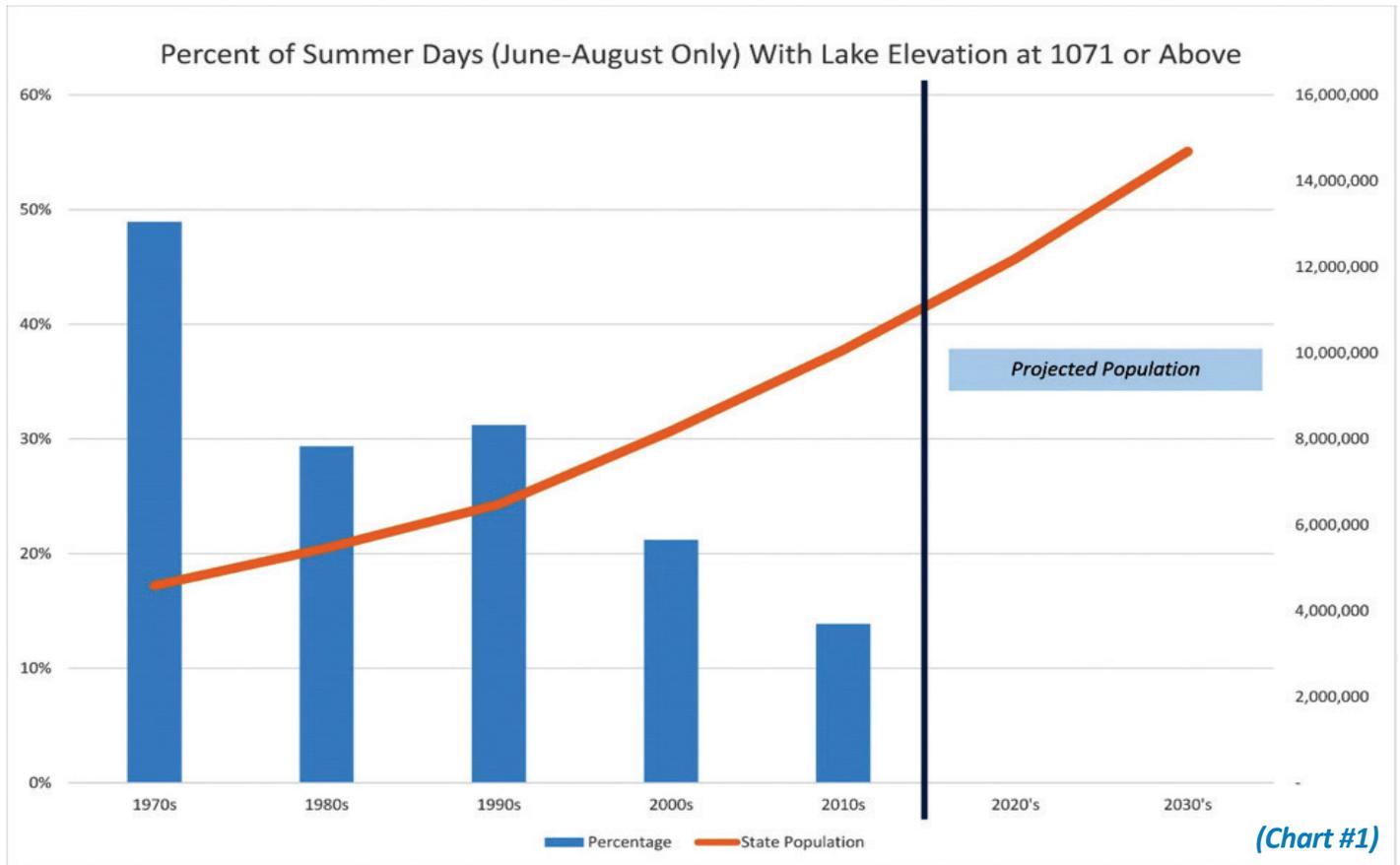


*Clean Lake,
 Full Lake,
 Safe Lake.*



www.lakelanier.org

Lake Lanier - Summer Full Pool Analysis By Decade



The Lake Lanier Association has done some analysis recently on different lake level statistics and we thought our membership might be interested in seeing some of this information as well. Population is a big factor on the water level of Lake Lanier. Downstream water demands as well as rainfall and water returns are obviously big factors as well. But those conditions being equal, the attached graph [\(Chart #1\)](#) dramatically illustrates the effect of population growth. All projections are for the population to increase, especially in the counties around the lake. To minimize the impact of population growth, less water should be withdrawn, more water returned to the lake and new sources of water explored.

There has been a great deal of discussion this summer about rainfall and lake levels. In response to those discussions, the LLA did some research and found the daily rainfall numbers for a 24 year span of 1994-2017 at the Gainesville, GA gauge. (1994 was the year that gauge was installed by the weather analysis people at the University of Georgia where we got the data from.) We pulled out the daily rainfall numbers from June 1 through August 31 for all 24 of those years. Then, we pulled the starting and ending summertime lake level elevations for those same years, calculated the delta, and charted the trend lines out.

It is interesting to look at 2017 specifically because, while we had only slightly higher than average

rainfall over the summer season this year – 15 inches for summer 2017 compared to a 24 year historical summer average of 12 inches – we had a significantly better than average delta lake level over the summer in 2017 – delta positive 12 inches for summer 2017 compared to an average historical delta of negative 31 inches. Part of the reason for this is since we started the summer season in 2017 at a lower lake level, we spent more time in the Zone 4 action level with the two hour surge blocks of hydropower releases suspended. The result is that in 2017, we actually show a more positive impact on lake level over the summertime than we have experienced in years with more significant rain.



Lake Lanier - Summer Full Pool Analysis By Decade (cont.)

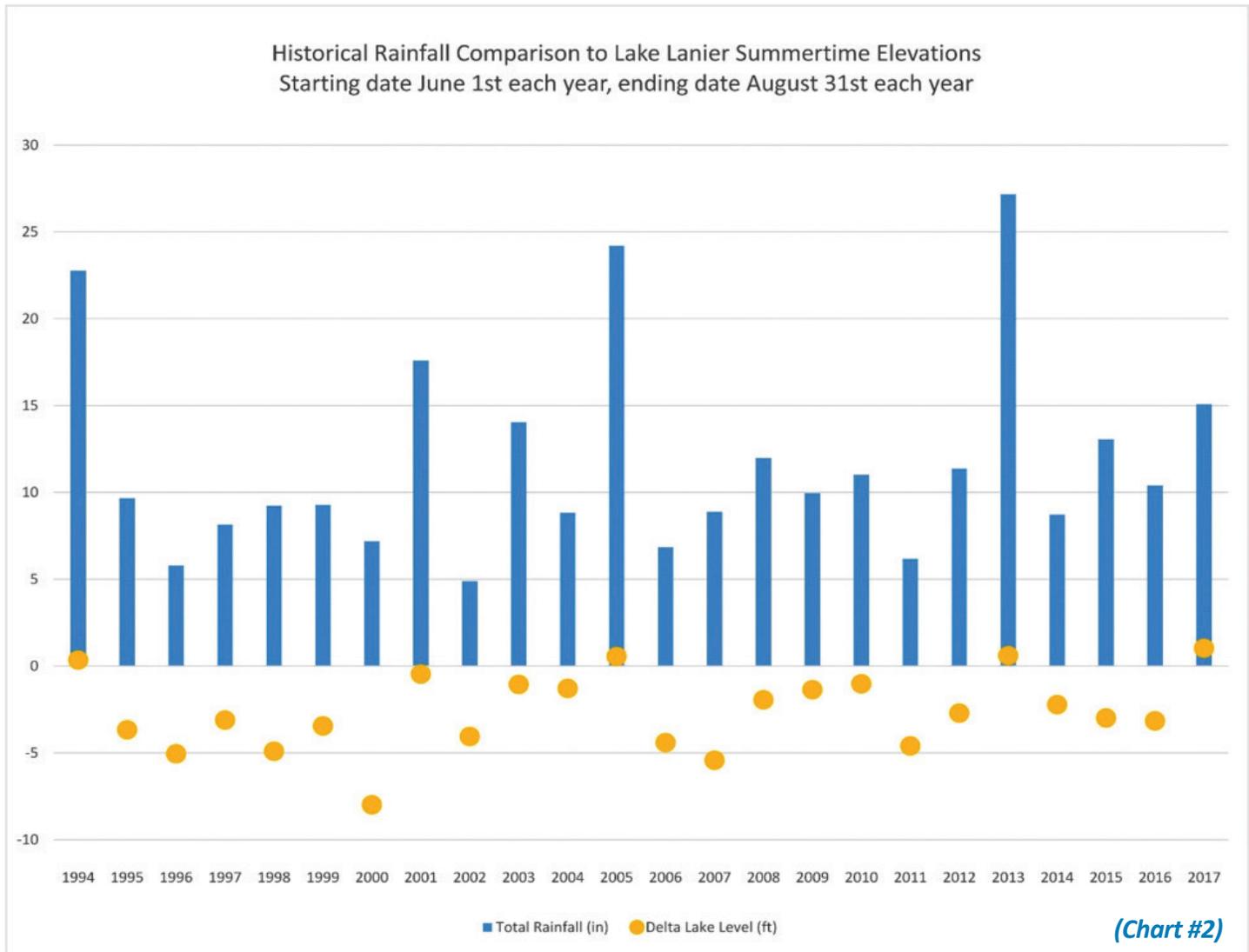
In other words, we got more “bang for our buck” with rainfall in 2017 than we did in 1994, 2005 or 2013 – because we started at a lower lake level and hit Zone 4 in 2017. Additionally, good rainfall downstream of us in summer 2017 helped reduce the pull on releases out of Lake Lanier. In 1994, 2005 and 2013, we were closer to or even above full pool so the Corps might have been releasing more those years as well to bring us back down to full pool. **(Chart #2)**

2001 is interesting because it doesn't follow that trend and

highlights what we all know – that lake levels are not directly correlated to rainfall in the area. There are a lot of other factors at play that are not easily simplified down to a single bar chart representation. For example, average temperatures during this same period of time would impact this as well, because it would increase or decrease the amount of surface evaporation depending on if we have a warmer or cooler average summer temperature. Of course, what is happening downstream of us greatly impacts releases

on Lake Lanier. Also, keep in mind, even if the outflows at Buford Dam are at a minimum level, any rain amounts flowing into Lake Lanier will need to offset the net amount of water withdrawn by the municipalities around the lake for drinking water purposes – City of Cumming, City of Gainesville and Gwinnett County – before we would see an increase in lake level.

If anyone has interest in seeing the detailed numbers behind this analysis, please email us with your request at lakeinfo@lakelanier.org and we will send it over.



Shore Sweep 2017 once again collects over 50 tons!



The 29th annual Shore Sweep was held on September 23th. The day was beautiful and we had 1000 volunteers come out to walk, wade and boat the lake from Buford Dam to Don Carter State Park and all points in-between in search of trash. When the day was over once again, ***Shore Sweep collected over 50 tons!***

Shore Sweep was timed perfectly this year coming a week after Hurricane Irma. The storm effected opening of the advance sites by one week. We are sure some of the black encapsulated black floats we removed came loose in the storm. Many lake dwellers and boaters lost power and property, we hope everyone has recovered from the storm.

Shore Sweep does not happen in one single day, it literally takes a

whole lot of people, equipment, coordination, access, boat and gas to get this done. People started planning weeks prior to the event and spent hours making it happen. There are many people to thank but at the front are our Site Captains. They are the ones running the sites, making sure everything that should happen does and everything that shouldn't happen doesn't. They do a great job with a difficult assignment. A big thanks to the following people.

Janet Westervelt: *Aqualand Marina*

Kevin Smith: *Bald Ridge Marina*

Diane and Tom Rothberg:
Balus Creek Boat Ramp

Tammy Thomas Wright and Marine Max: *Big Creek Park*

Eric Nesbitt and Howard Bradley:
Lake Lanier Olympic Venue

Dave Rosselle: *Don Carter State Park*

Beth de Neergaard: *Gainesville Marina*

Teri Summers: *Gwinnett Park*

Patti Reilly: *Lake Lanier Islands*

Bill Brookshire and Cheryl Hazel:
Longwood Park

Tammy Wright: *Port Royale Marina*

Gordon Brand and Kirby Burt:
Warhill Park

We have been getting more and more boat support for this event. We could not get near the tonnage without people using their personal boats to drag, fill and push trash. They put dirty wet trash in their boats and spend money on gas and supplies. They deserve our many thanks. We are very thankful for the support of Lake Lanier Boaters Group, Lake Lanier Dwellers and the many other Facebook groups and users for getting the word out and helping.

We had a lot of support from the following Keep Beautiful organizations. In addition to media support they provided food, boats, people and most importantly, time. Thank you Keep Forsyth County Beautiful, Keep Hall Beautiful, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful and Keep Dawson County Beautiful.

Every year Gwinnett Department of Water Resources borrows pontoon boats from Lake Lanier Islands and cruises the South end of the lake for trash. They always come back with multiple boats full. Many thanks to John Butler for his dedication to Shore Sweep.

Hall County, Forsyth County, Gwinnett County, Dawson County and the City of Gainesville Parks and Recreation Department all pitched in and helped make Shore Sweep happen, in a big way. Hall County had to bring heavy equipment to many of our sites after the event to load



A tractor trailer full of debris pulled from the lake as part of the Shore Sweep 2017 clean up.



A barge full of debris making its way from one of the advance drop site to a take-out location for appropriate disposal.

Board member John Barker has spent countless hours dealing with the “big stuff” and helping LLA pull off much of the tonnage starting the week before at Lake Lanier Olympic Venue removing 25 years of discarded docks and floats. The plan is to remove the rest of the floats and docks once the lake comes up a little. John’s dedication to removing derelict docks and sunken vessels has truly cleaned up the lake.

the heavy trash in the dumpsters. We received supplies from the Army Corps of Engineers and they supported us at various sites with equipment. Thank you!

If you are one of the thousands who love Lake Lanier and may not have helped that day but you pick up trash when you see it on the lake, please continue and we thank you.

This is a very expensive event, all the people, equipment, T-shirts, supplies and time costs lots of money. Support the people and businesses that support your lake! Please take a few seconds to read who sponsors LLA and Shore Sweep. The event could not happen without them.

This whole event has been continued 29 years by a very dedicated Lake Lanier Association Board of Directors. They all put in many hours of work into Shore Sweep and personally spent days on the lake moving trash and working the day of the Sweep.

Once again, Executive Director Joanna Cloud is a big part of the Shore Sweep event. Thank you, Joanna!

Please join us for the 30th anniversary of Shore Sweep on 9/22/18. We will have a celebration of one of the longest continuing and the biggest cleanup in the state of Georgia! Mark your calendars and remember our lake can be clean and beautiful all year, each one of us can make a difference.

Bonny Putney
Shore Sweep Committee Chairperson



SHORE SWEEP 2017



Thank you to our business members and sponsors!



AAA Boat Repair, LLC

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Pull Watersports

BankSouth Mortgage

Low Properties

Quality Marine

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MDS Excavation, LLC

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Mill Creek Environmental

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Ozaki, LLC

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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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:

 Business Membership, \$250

Name listing on LLA website

 Business Sponsor, \$500

Logo on LLA website, name on Shore Sweep t-shirt, invite to table at Annual Meeting

 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.

-----Credit Card Payment-----

Please charge my VISA MasterCard American Express Amount _____

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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
615 F Oak Street, Suite 200
Gainesville, GA 30501

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. To date, this program has generated over \$1,000 in income for the Lake Lanier Association

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.

Support Lake Lanier Association Inc.

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Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate a portion of the sale to the Lake Lanier Association! Use the below link to directly access the Lake Lanier Association support program from AmazonSmile!

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1264797>