Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
April 2014

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 27, 2014
4:00PM-6:00PM
Annual Meeting at
The Carriage House Pavilion
at Lake Lanier Islands

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

Message from the Board

Hello LLA members! As we enter 2014, a quick review of 2013 is in order. Last year was excellent for Lake Lanier as well as your Association. The lake enjoyed high water levels, even reaching 1073 feet above sea level for several months. There was no noticeable negative affect of this higher water level, in fact an additional 26+ billion gallons of available storage was prevalent and the Lake has never looked more beautiful.

Even more important was the initiatives regarding water safety implemented in 2013. Your association was instrumental in driving a Lake Lanier Water Safety Alliance (LLWSA) that brought dramatic awareness to water safety through education, meetings with the legislative caucus, new safety stickers for watercraft dashboards, etc. The results of these efforts by most Lanier Stakeholders, is reflected in the results! Boating accidents and deaths on the Lake were reduced by more that 50% in 2013 over comparable statistics for 2012 and we expect those improvements to continue this year. Your Association also kicked off the Marker Lighting System project. 20 lights have been placed on hazard markers at the south end of Lanier. Our 2014 plan calls for 60-100 additional lights to be installed, with more in the next several years.

We also continued our successes in Adopt-A-Lake with a new testing approach assisted by the Gwinnett County water utility department. More agencies in Georgia are using our data

2014 continued Progress & Programs

as we provide an excellent database for lake water analysis.

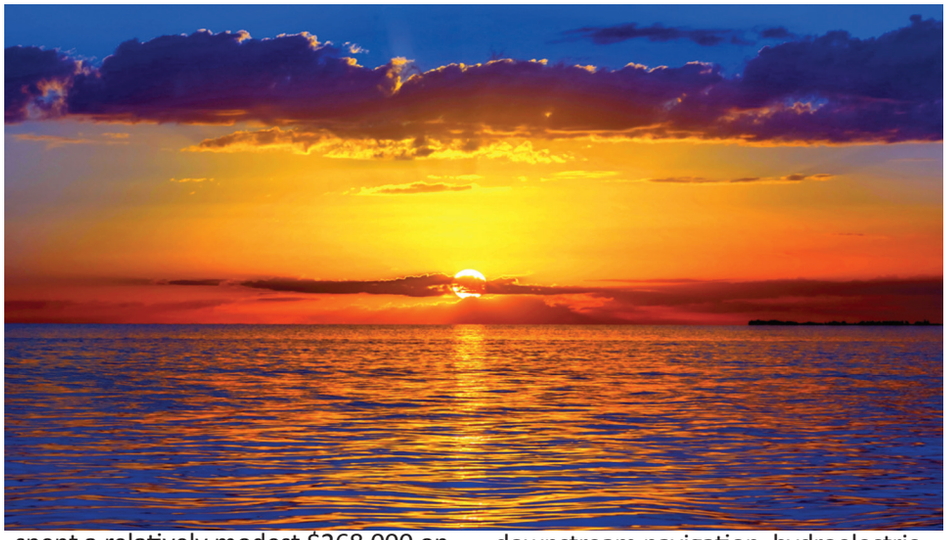
Shore Sweep was very successful with over 30 tons of trash removed from the lake. We also were responsible for coordinating the removal of several major projects including an abandoned houseboat as well as an abandoned dock from the lake. We plan to continue focusing on major large lake eyesores and safety problems into 2014.

Finally your Association is in sound financial shape as we conclude 2013 and begin 2014. A part of our financial position is based on significant grants. Forsyth County made a major donation in 2013, contributing to our position. We plan to spend a significant investment in the marker lighting System in 2014, and will be looking for additional grants from other municipalities as our implementation plans are concluded.

Val

The Dawn Of Recreation

By Clyde Morris,
Attorney at Law



The first article in this series discussed the goals and purposes Congress had in mind by authorizing Lake Lanier and the other ACF facilities via the River and Harbor Acts of 1945 and 1946. Just prior to passing the R&H Acts, Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1944, which did more than just recognize recreation as a legitimate purpose that could be served by Corps water projects. Section 4 of the FCA literally authorized the Corps to, "(c) onstruct, maintain, and operate public park and recreational facilities at water resource development projects under the control of the Department of the Army…." The Act went on to specify that, "The water areas of all such projects shall be open to public use generally for boating, swimming, bathing, fishing, and other recreational purposes, and ready access to and exit from such areas along the shores of such projects shall be maintained for general public use."

In its 1939 feasibility report to Congress, the Corps assigned a value of $50,000 a year to the benefits of recreation in the ACF. But through the directives of the FCA, the Corps was charged with facilitating recreation through the facilities it was to build. And so it did. According to a 1959 Cost Allocation Report, the Corps spent a relatively modest $268,000 on construction of "public use facilities." Today, we recognize the fruits of that investment around Lake Lanier in the form of campgrounds, boat ramps, picnic areas, and day-use parks.

But there is a natural tension among the various purposes served by Lanier, as we have seen over the last 20 years of the Tri-State litigation. That tension is not unique to the ACF. As described by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in South Dakota v. Ubbelohde, a 2003 case concerning the Missouri River, "…the Flood Control Act … sets up a balance between flood control, navigation, recreation, and other interests." As the Eighth Circuit recognized, one of the greatest challenges facing the Corps is to balance lake levels to support the potentially competing purposes of its reservoirs. At Lake Lanier, recreation, downstream navigation, hydroelectric power production, water supply, and flood control all vie for that support.

In the present day, we are all-too-familiar with the competition for water resources in the Southeast. But without the vision of Congress and the Corps of Engineers more than 75 years ago, Gainesville, North Georgia, and the Atlanta metropolitan area would be far different now. One need only look at Lake Lanier to recognize that the federal government at one time made substantial investments in the infrastructure of the ACF with the expectation of providing an enormous return in benefits. Few would argue today that the $268,000 spent on public use facilities in the 1950's has not returned many millions of dollars in benefits to all recreational users of the ACF.

Attention Kroger Shoppers:

Please be sure to enroll in the Kroger Community Reward Program and designate Lake Lanier Association as your affiliated charitable organization! If you already have a Kroger Plus Card, simply go to the website www.kroger.com/communityrewards and enroll your Plus Card number into the system and designate Lake Lanier Association, organization number 37224, as your Community Rewards organization. It is that simple! Then, every time you shop at Kroger, the LLA benefits – and you still get your gas discount points and shopping point from your Kroger Plus Card. Kroger does require that you update your designated organization every twelve months so please plan to update your profile on this website every year. Thanks to all the LLA members that have already done this – every little bit helps!

Lake Lanier Adopt-A-Lake

We changed our chlorophyll a testing methodology the first of January 2014.

Several months ago we recognized that EPD and the University of Georgia were using a different method for testing. Around this time Gwinnett Water Lab offered to do our chlorophyll a analysis along with AMPRO who had done our analysis for 14 years.

From left to right: Christine Clark, Brenda Edwards and Wanda Ledford.

The method we were using uses a spectrophotometer (this measures light that is reflected) and was the preferred method when we started testing for chlorophyll a in 2000. We met with our Limnologist (the study of lakes) friends, Dr. Marty Williams and Dr. Mary Mayhew*. They suggested that we compare methods for a few months. We did, sending duplicate samples to Gwinnett and AMPRO labs and couple of months we did triplicate samples including the water lab at UGA. The results from the Gwinnett and UGA labs were similar; however the spectrophotometric method had lower results. The Gwinnett Lab and UGA use a fluorometric technique with a special filter and measures fluorescence. The two methods of analysis are both approved but not comparable as the fluorometric method measures a broader spectrum of chlorophyll a and thus has higher readings than the spectrophotometric method. This was additionally confirmed in late March when LLA Director Bev Nicholls attended the North Carolina Lake and Watershed Management Conference with Marty and we conferred with professors studying chlorophyll.
The equipment for the analysis is costly and due to the incompatibility of the methods we have opted to have Gwinnett Water Labs conduct our chlorophyll a testing.

Our data collected since 2000 has been used by EPD and will be included in a North Georgia University, Gainesville campus, project to compare data collected on Lake Lanier and eventually other Georgia Lakes. Over the years we have shared our information with academic and government entities that work with water issues and we will continue with this collaboration.
*These wonderful ladies have always helped with any issues we have encountered with our adopt-a-lake program. They are founding members of the Georgia Lakes Society and involved with Southeast and North American Lakes and Management Society.

April Solar Light Committee Update

The solar light committee remains on schedule to place 20 additional lights on the south end of the lake starting mid-April. We will begin at Bald Ridge Creek. This program is made possible by Forsyth County. We look forward to Hall County and others assisting in our program soon. Solar light donations by interested groups and citizens are also helping maintain our light safety program. Contributions can be made through the Lake Lanier Association.

Joe Edwards of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 29 has his group monitoring our existing lights. They have been provided a tool to allow testing of the lights day or night. We also encourage all boaters to help in monitoring our lights and report problems to the Lake Lanier Association.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on April 27th. We welcome any comments you might offer.

Lake Alice Update

From an email dated 3/25/2014 from Jeffrey Bishop of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, below is an update on where the consent order stands related to the Lake Alice/Mashburn Dam break.

After lengthy negotiations a consent order was signed by the Director of EPD on November 18, 2013. The responsible parties (Mashburn family trust and City of Cumming) were required to work together to accomplish several things:

• Install best management practices (BMP's) to prevent further migration of sediment into state waters and provide for immediate stabilization of all disturbed areas.

• Within 60 days submit a plan to GA EPD which gives an assessment of the extent of sediment deposition into state waters and proposes a procedure for removal of the same with stabilization of affected areas to follow. A timeline for the implementation of this step was also to be included.

• After public notice and a period for public comment, then submit this plan for approval by GA EPD and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

We are now about ½ way into the second step. An attempt was made for stabilization with application of hydroseeding into disturbed areas of the Lake Alice bed. A silt curtain was installed in the cove to retain the migration of sediment farther into the lake with mixed success. A plan has been submitted, comments provided and resubmittal is anticipated very soon. The assessment is ongoing with public notice and period for public comment having passed. We hope to have an approved plan soon with the permitting process finished to allow work to proceed towards remediation.

Hall County Green Alliance Awards

Left to right: Bonny Putney, Joanna Cloud and Robert Eidson

The Lake Lanier Association was very well represented at the recent Hall County Green Alliance Awards ceremony. Two LLA directors, Bonny Putney and Robert Eidson, received individual awards for Volunteer of the Year and Private Sector Champion of the Year respectively. Joanna Cloud accepted an award for the Lake Lanier Association's Shore Sweep event as the Project/Initiative of the Year.

Lake Lanier Association Director, Gary Smith, recently met with the supervisor of the new COSTCO store construction project in Cumming regarding preventing construction runoff into Baldridge Creek. Below is a list of items T. D. Farrell Construction committed to having complete by April 9th, 2014.

1. Remove sediment build up against silt fence at pond #2. Approximately 6'' deep and about 10 square feet.
2. Remove sediment washed into existing on site retention ponds from recent rain event. (2-ponds)
3. Remove sediment build up at check dams along bald ridge acres. Install additional check dams as needed. (2-this location)
4. Remove sediment from holding ponds that feed into retention pond #1.
5. Rework/replace the filter gravel at all pond out falls.
6. Add additional rock at construction entrance.

WHAT IS ESD?

Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) is the result of the passage of a typically low level AC current through the body with sufficient force to cause skeletal muscular paralysis, rendering the victim unable to help himself / herself, while immersed in fresh water, eventually resulting in drowning of the victim. Higher levels of AC current in the water will also result in electrocution. Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) has become the catch all phrase that encompasses all in-water shock casualties and fatalities.

Although Electric Shock Drowning can occur virtually in any location where electricity is provided near water, the majority of Electric Shock Drowning deaths have occurred in public and private marinas and docks. The typical victim of Electric Shock Drowning is a child swimming in or around a marina or dock where electricity is present. The electricity that enters the water and causes Electric Shock Drowning originates from the wiring of the dock or marina, or from boats that are connected to the marina's or dock's power supply.

Would you consider stepping into a bathtub or swimming pool with a hair dryer? Think of the boat as the hairdryer. If an electric fault occurs on a boat while it is connected to a marina's or dock's shore power and the boat or marina is not properly wired to meet current ABYC and NFPA standards, the water surrounding the boat will become electrified.

WHY IS ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING A SILENT KILLER?

• There is no visible warning or way to tell if water surrounding a boat, marina or dock is energized or within seconds will become energized with fatal levels of electricity.

• In most circumstances victims do not immediately feel electrical current when they enter or swim in the water around a marina or dock, thus giving the victims the false impression that it is "safe" to swim. Most often, electricity enters the water when an electrical fault occurs aboard a boat. Often, the electric fault occurring aboard the boat is intermittent. For example, the fault that places deadly current into the water may only occur when a light switch is turned on, or when a hot water heater, battery charger, A/C unit or other electrical device cycles on. Water can appear and feel "safe" and in a split second become energized with deadly electricity.

• Under the typical scenario, the victim's muscles become paralyzed by the electrical current, he or she is unable to swim, and ultimately drowns. Unless there is a witness nearby to experience and report the sensation of electric shock in the water, the victim's death is typically labeled a common drowning. In the vast majority of Electric Shock Drownings, the victim's autopsy shows no signs of electrical injury and investigators often never learn that electricity was the cause of the drowning.

• Until very recently, there has been very little public awareness about the danger of Electric Shock Drowning. As a result, Electric Shock Drowning continues to kill and new families are devastated on a yearly basis with very little public awareness.

HOW DO YOU PREVENT ESD?

• NEVER swim in or near marinas, docks or boatyards.

• Tell others about the danger of Electric Shock Drowning. Most people have never heard of ESD and are unaware of the danger.

• If you are a boat owner, have your boat inspected by an electrician with current ABYC (American Boat and Yacht Council) Electrical Certification or by an ABYC Certified Technician. Boats with alternating current (AC) systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) standards, and should be serviced by an ABYC Certified® Technician.

• Talk to Marina owners or operators about the danger of electric shock drowning. Ask them to install GFCI's on all shore power pedestals and on all marina wiring circuits. Ask if they are having their marinas regularly inspected by qualified electricians who are familiar with National File Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70. [*Note: The Lake Lanier Association has communicated with all the marinas on Lake Lanier regarding ESD. All of them are aware of the issue and all have some procedures in place for testing.]*

• At private docks, encourage your neighbors to also have their vessels inspected. Boats in close proximity to your dock could be a hazard to you!

Reprinted with permission from http://www.electricshockdrowning.org/

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.

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LILBURN GA
ABC DIRECT

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2014 Annual Membership Meeting

LIGHT SNACKS AND COMPLIMENTARY SOFT DRINKS WILL BE SERVED. THERE WILL ALSO BE A CASH BAR AVAILABLE.

THIS EVENT IS PROVIDED AS A MEMBER SERVICE. NON-MEMBERS MAY ATTEND AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN AT THE MEETING.

Date: Sunday, April 27, 2014

Time:
4:00-5:00PM
Elected Official/Candidate Meet and Greet

5:00-6:00PM
Business meeting

4:00PM-6:00PM Concurrently
Lake-based business expo

Place:
The Carriage House Pavilion
Lake Lanier Islands
7000 Lake Lanier Islands Parkway
Buford, GA 30518

New location, day of week, and time this year!

Lake Lanier Association
Phone: 770.503.7757
Email: lakeinfo@lakelanier.org

- Meet elected officials and candidates for office for local, state, and federal positions.
- Updates from the Lake Lanier Association on activities over the past year as well as programs and initiatives for the upcoming year.
- Keynote Speaker Frank Norton, Jr. will present economic outlooks and real estate market trends around Lake Lanier. Find out what is happening with market activity and property values!
- Corps of Engineers Project Manager Tim Rainey will give updates on several Corps initiatives.

Don't miss this opportunity to get informed about what is happening with Lake Lanier!