Letter from the President

Happy Holidays! Even though we may not be enjoying the lake as much in the winter as we do in the summer, it is a year round commitment working to protect and enhance Lake Lanier. I appreciate all the work our member volunteers have put forth during the past year toward keeping Lake Lanier full and clean. I am excited about 2011, moving toward resolution on the Tri-State Water Wars, and working with the local communities on several different Lake Lanier projects. This newsletter contains dates for all of the Lake Lanier Association’s events for 2011. I hope you all will mark your calendar for those events and I look forward to seeing you there. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2011!

Welcome to our new Executive Director

Joanna Cloud of Cumming is the new executive director of the Lake Lanier Association, succeeding Vicki Barnhorst.
Active on several executive boards and serving as an elementary school PTO president, Cloud has been involved in many different aspects of the community.
A Georgia Tech graduate, she has worked for about 20 years with a software development company, prior to moving into the LLA position.
She hopes to stress community awareness about the association.

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She hopes to stress community awareness about the association.

The LLA will have a booth at the upcoming Atlanta Boat Show, January 13-16, 2011 at the Georgia World Congress Center.
We need volunteers to help work the LLA booth speaking to boat show patrons about the LLA.
Working the LLA booth gets you free admission to the boat show!
If you are interested in being a boat show volunteer, please send an email to lakeinfo@lakelanier.org to get on the schedule.
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. See the e-store section of this newsletter for details on the e-store!

Gift Certificate to e-store

$20.00

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

Out and About in the Community

The LLA frequently speaks at local community group meetings. Recently, the LLA presented at the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce and the North Forsyth 400 Rotary Club. If you know of a Homeowners Association, Garden Club, or community group that would like to know more about the Lake Lanier Association and what we are about, please call or send an email to lakeinfo@lakelanier.org to schedule a representative for your meeting.

You’ve got mail...

Based on member feedback, and our continuing efforts to keep our costs down, the LLA will be moving toward more email, website, and Facebook communication methods. We will still be mailing out newsletters and renewal letters, but we will be scaling back on the frequency of our hard copy newsletter publications. To be sure you stay in the loop on Lake Lanier happenings, be sure your email address is printed correctly on your renewal form. You can also be a friend of Lake Lanier Association on our Facebook fan page.
LLA In The News

Part of the mission of the LLA is to be an advocacy group for Lake Lanier. Our volunteer board members are frequently asked by different media outlets to give input on Lake Lanier issues. Just in the past few months, LLA board members have been interviewed or quoted for many newspaper, TV, and radio articles.

A few of the recent media articles are listed below:
* Sept. 6th, Val Perry on Channel 5 News regarding economic impact of the lake being at full pool
* Sept. 9th, Jackie Joseph on Channel 2 News regarding new state park in Gainesville
* Sept. 22nd, Val Perry in The Gainesville Times regarding tri-state water war
* Sept. 30th, Val Perry in The Gainesville Times regarding proposed US Senate legislation for Lake Lanier

Legal Update

As we have reported over the past several years, the primary Legal focus of your association has been the Tri-States litigation between Georgia, Florida, Alabama and the US Army Corps of Engineers among others. The LLA is engaged in the litigation representing the recreation based economy that is provided to North Georgia by Lake Lanier. LLA is the only non-municipality or non public monopoly that participates in the litigation.

Phase 1 of the litigation (authorized purpose of Lake Lanier) was ruled upon by judge Magnuson in July 2009. In his order, he gave the states 3 years to agree upon a water management strategy and plan, and to have the official authorization of Laniers’ purpose stated by the US Congress by July 2011. Actions were initiated by the Governors of Georgia, Florida and Alabama to have an agreement in place by December 2009. Several delays and date changes have occurred, making it almost impossible to reach an agreement even by December 2010. Since all three Governors will leave office in January 2011, it probably will fall upon the new Governors to make an agreement on the water management. Once the new Governors take office, there will only be 18 months remaining for compliance with the Judges ruling. This may not give enough time for the states to agree and for the US Congress to issue proper authorization. Clearly our Congressional delegation headed by Senators Isakson and Chambliss will have to drive the authorization through the US Congress once the Governors reach an agreement.

Georgia also has appealed the Phase 1 ruling to the District court, and that process is on going. All documents and briefs have been submitted, and the oral arguments will be presented on January 25, 2011. The District court can then make a ruling, which could take several months.

Georgia must consider alternatives to the Governors agreement and the appeal as we move forward in case a decision is not reached by the Judges deadline. Your Association has intervened in this litigation on the side of Georgia the ARC and Gwinnett county, and we will follow these actions as they develop.

Phase 2 (management of the ACF system) also has had a ruling by Judge Magnuson, denying Florida’s request for more water for the endangered species from the Chattahoochee River. This was a victory for Georgia, but Florida has appealed that decision, and that request for appeal is being considered by the District court. Very little action has occurred in the past several months. We will continue to focus on this Phase 2 since it has a major bearing on the US Army Corps of Engineers Water Control Plan which is under development with a schedule completion date in 2012.

We will continue to monitor the legal maneuverings in this situation. As the only entity involved in the litigation that is not a government entity or a power company, we are committed to continuing our unique role in this matter representing recreational use rights.
Shore Sweep 2010
Shore Sweep 2010 turned out to be a big success with 800+ volunteers at 13 different lake locations. Over 30 tons of trash was pulled from the lake. Special thanks to all the location captains that worked with the volunteers at each location. Tremendous thanks goes to all the hard working volunteers that spent their Saturday morning helping clean our beautiful lake!

Shore Sweep 2010 Sponsors

By donating either financial or physical resources, these generous sponsors helped the LLA minimize our out of pocket expense for this event.

* Advanced Disposal
* American Proteins
* Bald Ridge Marina
* BB&T Bank-Gainesville
* Boat Dock Works
* Coca Cola
* Diamond Auto Spa and Lube

* Gainesville Marina
* Habersham Marina
* Hideaway Bay Marina
* Home Depot-Dawsonville
* Home Depot-Gainesville
* Lake Lanier Islands
* Lowe’s-Cumming
* Marine Specialties
* Marine Trade Association
* Mincey Marble Manufacturing
* Norman’s Landing
* Port Royale Marina
* Publix-Flowery Branch
* S&S Ace Hardware

Lake Lanier Index

The Lake has cooled from 77 in October to an average of 61 in November due to our lower than normal temperatures. Our lowest Secchi reading was in Wahoo Creek at 2.6 feet and the best reading in the South Lake at 11.4 feet. The A section averaging 5.2 feet an increase of 0.6 feet from October. B increased 0.6 feet also to 9.1 feet and C increased 1.3 feet to 10.4. Our Lake average was 7.5 feet a foot above last month. The increase was probably due to decreased boat traffic and little rain before our testing date. We had one chlorophyll a reading of 5 in the North Lake with all others at 1 PPB (parts per billion). This is within the parameters for embayments in Lake Lanier.

We will raise our LLI slightly to 7 ½ with our Secchi readings edging up and chlorophyll a readings remaining low.

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

Check out our new e-store!

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!