



Committed to a Clean and Full Lake Lanier

Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association
February 2017

Calendar of events:

Annual Member Meeting
Saturday, March 25, 2017
Pelican Pete's
Port Royale Marina

Member Social
Saturday, April 22, 2017
Skogies
Gainesville Marina

Member Social
Saturday, May 13, 2017
Fishtales
Hideaway Bay Marina

Member Social
Thursday, June 15, 2017
Pig Tales
Aqualand Marina

Shore Sweep
Saturday, September 23, 2017

Lake Lanier Association

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Gainesville, GA 30501
770-503-7757
www.lakelanier.org
lakeinfo@lakelanier.org

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Message from the Board of Directors

If not LLA? Who?

Who would have removed 50 tons of trash last year? Who would have installed and monitored 250 lights on hazard markers? Who would have put rip rap on eroding islands? Who would have removed sunken 40 ft house boats?

If these and even more projects have value to you, join us in our commitment to make Lake Lanier sustainable for another 60 years. And spread the word to your friends and neighbors.

It is a new year. Your association is off to a great start as you will see in this newsletter. Our new website (lakelanier.org) presents the LLA story in greater graphic detail and offers new links to keep you informed. Our commitment is to make it the 'goto' site for news and updates about the lake. Visit it often.



2017 continued Progress & Programs

We commemorated Val Perry's retirement and can't thank him enough for 18 years of leadership. We look forward to his continuing participation as Past President.

Wilton Rooks
President

Water Control Manual Update

The recently published Water Control Manual contains good news for Metro Atlanta in that the water supply requests through 2050 have been approved and included in the operating plans for the USACE. In addition reducing the required daily flow at Peachtree Creek will be reduced to 650 cfs from 750 cfs during the winter months.

However the increased water supply will mean less water stored in Lake Lanier, i.e. lower lake levels, unless actions are taken to return more water to the lake. LLA is working with local water utilities to achieve that goal.

A more complete writeup can be seen at <http://lakelanier.org/water-control-manual-updates/>.

FLORIDA vs. GEORGIA - No. 142, ORIGINAL- IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

By: Clyde Morris, *Legal Counsel to the Association*

Testimony in the trial of Florida vs. Georgia finished in early December and both sides filed their post-trial briefs with the Special Master before the end of the year. Considering the length of the trial and the importance of the issues, the trial portion of this case was completed in amazingly short time. The Special Master indicated at one point that he would issue his recommendation on January 26, but as of this writing it had not yet been published.

At issue is the equitable apportionment of the waters of the ACF. Florida is asking for an order capping Georgia's consumptive water uses at 1992 levels, but as was the case throughout the Tri-State Water Wars it is also asking for an increase of 1000 cfs or more in flows across the state line.

The testimony proffered by both states was largely expert testimony focusing on Georgia's consumption of water and its effect on the Apalachicola oyster beds. Florida accuses Georgia of using too much water for municipal and industrial purposes in the Atlanta metropolitan area and for agriculture in the southwest part of the state. Georgia defends itself in part by pointing out that Florida has plenty of water except during droughts, which are not caused by Georgia, and that Florida actually gets more water because of the Corps' operations during droughts than it would from natural flows.



While it's hard to give you a flavor of the weeks-long trial itself, we can provide some interesting and important portions of both sides' arguments and testimony:

For Georgia:

- ACF Georgia is home to 5 times the land area, 80 times the employees, 56 times the population, and 129 times the GRP of ACF Florida.
- In 2014, approximately 92.2% of the ACF Basin's population resided in Georgia, while just 2.2% resided in Florida.
- As of 2015, approximately 96% of ACF employment was located in Georgia, while Florida accounted for just 1.2% of employment in the basin and less than 1% of the economic activity.

- The oyster industry Florida seeks to protect generates only \$5 - 8 million in revenue per year.
- Georgia's annual average consumptive use of ACF water has never exceeded 900 cfs, or about 4-5 percent of the amount of water crossing the state line, has never reached 2,000 cfs, and has only exceeded 1,400 cfs on rare occasions during extreme drought conditions.
- Delivery of 1,000 cfs of peak additional freshwater flow to the system in 2012, the year of the oyster collapse, would have resulted in changes in salinity throughout Apalachicola Bay of less than 1 part per thousand, within the range of natural variability to which organisms have already adapted.

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- Since the oyster population declined by more than 80% in 2012, an additional 1,000 cfs would have had no impact on the oyster population but would have been devastating to Georgia.

For Florida:

- Georgia depletes approximately 3,500 to 4,000 cfs on average in the summer of low flow years.
- Despite the fact that past historic droughts had less precipitation and similar temperatures, Apalachicola River flows were considerably higher in those past droughts than in 2011-2012.
- The fraction of rainfall that becomes streamflow declined approximately 3,900 cfs from 2003-2013, compared to the pre-1970 period.
- Many streams in the lower Flint drainage have experienced severe reductions in short-term and long-term flow. The combined effects of irrigation pumping and drought create non-flowing conditions that did not exist prior to the late 1990's.
- In 2011-12, intense irrigation pumping in the Upper Floridan aquifer consumed approximately half of the recharge—in other words, Georgia's pumping reduced the recharge precisely when it was needed most to replenish the aquifer. This ultimately resulted in the aquifer losing connection with river flow, resulting in the worst low river flows in recorded history.

- The majority of the ACF Basin area in Georgia (62 %) is essentially unregulated by the federal reservoirs because this area does not drain into the reservoirs with significant storage capacity.
- Lake Lanier simply does not receive enough water as inflow above its required minimum releases to enable significant additional water storage for substantial periods of time during droughts.
- There is little to no reason for the Corps to hold water for any significant period downstream of Lake Lanier at the two other reservoirs with storage capacity—West Point Lake and Walter F.

George Lake. Unlike Lake Lanier, which stores water for Atlanta's water supply, West Point and Walter F. George do not face similar water demands and receive much more inflow than Laker Lanier because water flows into these reservoirs from a greater portion of the Basin.

- A remedy capping Georgia's consumption will almost always provide immediate and significant flow benefits to the Apalachicola River in Florida. Indeed, it is a hydrologic certainty that the vast majority of water conserved in Georgia will flow over time to Florida.

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THANK YOU to all the existing members, and new members that joined, at the 2017 Atlanta Boat Show. Big congratulations to Tim Braman of Gainesville for winning Big Green Egg raffle prize from the show. The boat show is such a great way for us to interact personally with our membership. **Thanks to everyone that made the trek to downtown Atlanta!**



It's All About Oysters ... and Droughts *(continued)*

Prior to filing its lawsuit, Florida's Governor Scott reported that, in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, "[h]arvesting pressures and practices were altered to increase fishing effort ... due to the closure of oyster harvesting in contiguous states during 2010. This led to overharvesting of illegal and sub-legal oysters further damaging an already stressed population." Georgia, of course, pointed to the overharvesting as a primary cause of the oyster bed failure two years later.

This led to one of the more salacious points of contention, which centered on a 2015 peer-reviewed journal article by University of Florida scientists on the causes for the 2012 failure of the oyster beds. That report

found no correlation between low Apalachicola river flows and the oyster collapse. But an email from the lead researcher revealed that his article had triggered threats of retaliation from Florida's legal team: "On Thursday morning I received a call from a colleague at FWC ... to let me know that ... the lead attorneys representing Florida in the Florida versus Georgia case pending in the U.S. Supreme Court were 'not happy' with two manuscripts I have in journal review on oyster populations in Apalachicola Bay ... and that if they were published . . . they could 'make things difficult for me.'" There was no testimony as to whether the smell of desperation was different from that of stale oysters.

In short, the trial was largely a battle of experts, which makes it difficult

to sift the facts and science to find clear answers to factual questions about how much water there is, how much Georgia consumes, and to what extent that usage affects Florida. The legal issues focus on each state's right to use the water, whether Florida has proved that Georgia's consumption is causing damage, and what would be an equitable apportionment of the water in light of Georgia's overwhelmingly greater ACF geographical area, population, and agricultural, recreational, and commercial use of ACF water. But as all of us who live and work on Lake Lanier know, droughts are at the heart of everyone's ACF problems - and those are not in either state's, or the Supreme Court's, control. We can only hope the Special Master gets it.

Adopt-A-Lake Report

Lake Lanier Index - January 2017

QUALITY INDICATORS	January 2017	PREVIOUS MONTH	PRIOR YEAR	COMMENTS
TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)	52	57	53	The Lake cooled 5 degrees from December
LAKE LEVEL (feet above sea level)	1060.26	1060.83	1073.2	Just look at the 2016 level!
SECCHI (feet)				High 14 feet in Cocktail Cove. Low 2 feet in Wahoo Creek. The lower Secchi readings in Sect. A due to rain and low Lake levels. Overall readings slightly higher than in 2016.
Section A	4	5.8	*	
Section B	9.1	7.8	*	
Section C	13.5	8.7	*	
Overall Average	7.7	7	*	
CHLOROPHYLL (micrograms per liter)				We had two readings above 10 in Wahoo Creek and off Ahaluna Dr. The chlorophyll a average dropped 1.3 micrograms
Section A	8.4	9.3	*	
Section B	3.6	3.2	*	
Section C	1.8	3.1	*	
Overall Average	5.3	6.6	*	
Lake Lanier Index	7	6.5	*	Lower chla and higher Secchi

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

* Insufficient data due to high Lake levels in January 2016

Abandoned & Derelict Docks & Vessels Update

January 2017 marks the beginning of year 3 for the ADD&V Project. We are making significant progress thanks to the support of all project team members, most notably Capt. Johnny Johnson of GA DNR Law Enforcement Division and Nick Baggett and Stephen Cahn of the USACE office in Buford. The teamwork is paying off with successful results.

I am excited to announce Stephanie Woodard, Hall County Solicitor General, and her investigator Andrew Ledbetter will be joining our team in 2017. They will bring invaluable legal expertise to support our efforts. Many thanks to them for this commitment.

Our focus continues on resolving the many current dock and boat issues utilizing residual funds supplied by the DNR, Hall County and Forsyth County to remove

these safety hazards from Lake Lanier. In addition, we are pursuing long term deterrents to resolve the abandoned vessel issue. Namely, we are working closely with the local Marine Trade Association to get legislation passed that will require boat titles in the state of Georgia. This simple process improvement will provide us a clearer line of sight on boat owners who are abandoning their vessels on the Lake Lanier shoreline or worse, sinking them in open water. This legislation will also provide better asset protection for boat owners and bring our boat ownership data up to speed with the surrounding states. Georgia currently ranks 11th in state registered boats but ranks 4th in the number of boat thefts. We can fix this without significant expense to boat owners. The current proposal has NO FEE for a new title unless you wish a paper copy which would cost

\$10. We are working diligently to get this legislation in the current general session. Look forward to seeing more on this legislation in the next couple of weeks. We will need your support and assistance to get legislation across the finish line. If you haven't already, please go to our website and click on the link to respond to the poll asking your thoughts about boat title legislation.

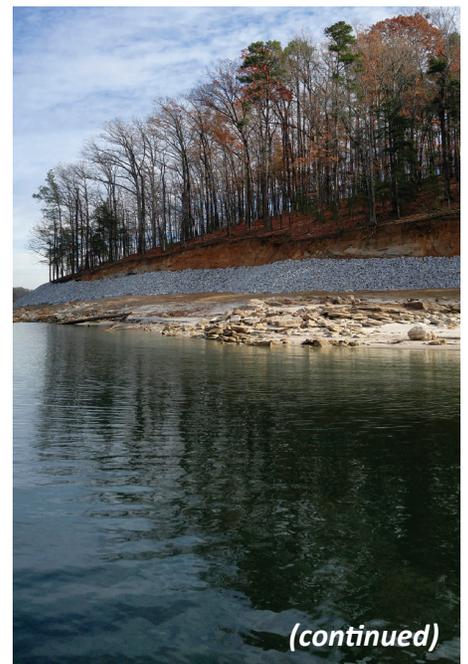
Lastly, thanks to the entire Lake Lanier community for getting involved and reporting issues as they occur. Early notification and detailed reporting of situations is key to a timely resolution. We are in this together. Working together we can eradicate Abandoned and Derelict Docks & Vessels from our beautiful lake.

Clean, Full, Safe - with your support we can make it happen.

Shoreline Erosion Control Update

The installation of over 3,100 lineal feet of shoreline protection and erosion control began in late October. Marine Specialties, Inc. is serving as the prime contractor on this project. They have had a large barge, related equipment and a crew working full time on this effort since the last week of October. Vulcan Materials, Inc. is providing the rip rack rock and Grizzel Trucking is hauling the rock from the Vulcan quarries in Dahlonega and Flowery Branch to the dispatch location at Aqualand Marina.

To date, they have completed 1,000 feet of rip rap installation on Van Pugh Island adjacent to Van Pugh Park. 500 feet of shoreline protection has been completed on Six Mile Island near marker SM 4. Aqualand Island, located at marker 18 just north of the Aqualand Marina gas docks has received 650 feet of rip rap. The last island in this project is Browns Bridge Island (marker 26) located just south of Browns Bridge and across from the norther section of Port Royale marina. 1,000 feet of rip rap will be installed on this island. In total,



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Shoreline Erosion Control Update *(continued)*

we expect to utilize approximately 6,400 ton of stone to help secure and protect the shoreline of these islands. We expect to complete Browns Bridge Island by the end of February.

Shoreline erosion is a serious problem for the lake. Boat wakes and waves driven by the wind eat away at unprotected shoreline and cause banks to collapse. This leads to increased siltation. As silt builds up on the bottom of the lake, it reduces the water storage capacity and also impacts water quality. Lake Lanier provides drinking water for over 4 million residents in North Georgia. Any

reduction in the amount of water available for drinking supplies is a serious concern.

The LLA has partnered with Hall and Gwinnett Counties and The Tommy Bagwell Family Foundation to fund over \$275,000 worth of shoreline protection to reduce the amount of erosion occurring on the island shorelines in the lake south of Browns Bridge. The Corps of Engineers has issued permits to the Lake Lanier Association for the completion of these 4 island rip rap projects. The Corps. has also contributed over \$11,000 to the help fund this effort.

Once this installation is complete, we will begin discussions with our various partners to consider additional shoreline protection projects to be completed in the fall of 2017.



Boating Safety Update

2016 was a tragic year for boating safety on Lake Lanier. We were on the high side of the average for the number of fatalities and injuries from boating and drowning accidents.

Lake Lanier Association will try to make our lake safer by initiating programs to encourage boaters to be more aware of boating safety and more informed about boat operation. You will find below links to several boat operating courses that are free or very inexpensive, that will make you a much more informed boat operator. Taking one of these courses is probably the most effective way to keep your family, and friends you entertain on your boat, safer and more comfortable on our busy lake. In many cases taking a boating safety course will get you a discount on

your boat insurance in addition to making the lake a safer place.

Many states require some form of boat operating license, Georgia is not one of them. The Lake Lanier Association is not advocating mandatory licensing, and would rather not see that become necessary, but if boat owners and operators don't voluntarily improve their skills, that will become a necessity.

Impaired operation (alcohol, drugs, and distracted driving) are always very high on the list of accident causes. Laws are already on the books to address those problems, but a change in attitude is much more effective. Always designate a boat operator who is well trained and unimpaired.

We are just at the beginning of this program, and as we move forward to improve the safety of our lake you will be seeing more things we all can do to help make Lake Lanier much safer.

We would like to thank Lake Lanier Association member Bryan Rider for his work to get this program going and his dedication to improving safety on Lake Lanier.

Below are links for more information on boater safety courses:

www.boat-ed.com/Georgia

www.boatersexam.com/usa/Georgia

www.georgiawildlife.com/boating/regulations

www.boatus.org/Georgia

Annual Meeting Update

Weather was no problem at the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting and will not be for 2017

If you were one of the 400 people that attended our 2016 Annual Membership Meeting and Fish Fry at Port Royale, you remember how good the fish and barbeque chicken were. You also learned a lot about what your organization has been doing and what we expected for the rest of the year...I can say we have exceeded our expectations in projects and membership goals. Because it was so successful, we have listened to you and plan to hold our **2017 Annual Meeting/Fish Fry** in the same location.

Due to the overwhelming success of the last meeting, we are requiring registration for this event. We will have an online advance registration system for speedy check-in as well as registration available at the event.

Date: March 25th

Time: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Where: Port Royale Marina

Come by boat or drive (additional handicap parking and golf carts will be available for assistance)

Cost for LLA members – **FREE to attend, but registration is required.** This event is a service for our members. Non-members are



welcome to attend and join the LLA at the event.

Check your emails and our Facebook site for further information and to get the registration details. Also, we need volunteers to help us staff the check-in lines, assist with food service and in general just help out. If you are willing let us know as we are all volunteers. Please email us at lakeinfo@lakelanier.org if you are available to volunteer for this event.



Why Does Georgia Need Boat Titles?



Because Georgia does not have a boat title statute, it is easy for the bad guys to steal our property—and get away with it. Georgia ranks 11th for registered vessels in the U.S., yet we are ranked 4th for the number of vessels stolen. All states with more registered vessels require titles.



TITLE VERSUS REGISTRATION

A title is a legal document that establishes proof of property ownership and can be used by law enforcement, banks and insurance companies to validate ownership.

Registration is simply an administrative way of levying or collecting taxes. It doesn't have the legal "teeth" that titles do in terms of validating ownership. The boat title proposed legislation does not change the way we register our vessels.



DO ALL VESSELS HAVE TO HAVE A TITLE?

No. The way the legislation is proposed, vessels that are non-motorized or have a motor of less than 25HP are exempt from having to have a title.

WHEN WILL I HAVE TO APPLY FOR A TITLE?

Don't worry, time is on your side for this issue. Existing vessels currently registered will NOT have to have a title.

Only when a new vessel is purchased, or if an existing vessel changes ownership does the title requirement come into play. If you purchase a vessel from a boat dealer, they will handle the paperwork for you. If you purchase a vessel from a private seller, you will need to file one-time paperwork to establish the title in your name.



HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST ME?

The proposed 2017 boat title legislation provides the first electronic title on any vessel FREE. To get a state-issued paper copy, there would be a nominal fee of \$10.

But the better news is that your insurance rates and financing rates on boat purchases will probably be LESS EXPENSIVE after Georgia becomes a title state.

The proposed legislation for boat titles has NO changes for the way personal property taxes on vessels are handled.

Please call or email your state elected officials and tell them you support the boat titles legislation!





MEMBERSHIP FORM

615 F Oak Street, Suite 200 Gainesville, GA 30501
770-503-7757
www.lakelanier.org

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 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership, \$250	Name listing on LLA website
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsor, \$500	Logo on LLA website, name on Shore Sweep t-shirt, invite to table at Annual Meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

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. 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.

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>