

## Everything you wanted to know about Shore Sweep

### What is it?

Annual event where we coordinate the community of volunteers to clean the shores of Lake Lanier of debris and trash.

There are 12 locations around the lake where you go and find out where to go clean from the site captains. There will be a minimum set of supplies available (see below in what do I need)

Sites:

Aqualand Marina  
Bald Ridge Marina  
Balus Creek Access  
Big Creek Access  
Don Carter State Park  
Gainesville Marina

Gwinnett Park  
Lanier Islands  
Lanier Olympic Park  
Longwood Park  
Port Royale Marina  
War Hill Park

Once you have collected the trash, you bring it back to one of the locations above.

### What could I need?

Here is a basic list of supplies we found useful to have, along with alternatives on the attachment. There will be some limited supplies available at one of the locations above, including trash bags, stakes, etc. This is not a mandatory list, just one put together by volunteers of what they found useful to have.

**Safety first!** Please make sure you have life vests. Sun screen, water to stay hydrated. Have a first aid kit in case any scrapes or bumps. Also bug spray is a must. DO NOT WEAR FLIP FLOPS. You need a- good pair of work shoes, remember there is glass on the beaches.

Here is a list of supplies we have found useful to have.

Gloves

Rope (to pull floats from beaches back to drop site)

Wooden stakes

Sledge hammer (for pounding in stakes)

Machete and or ax

2x6x8 two boards really help in moving floats. Look for boards on beaches if you don't have these.

Tarp to keep your boat clean.

### What can I expect?

Typical experience is as follows. The day of the event, you go to one of the locations and check in. You get a tee shirt woohoo! You find the site captain. They will have maps of where the trash is and will give you a location to go clean.

Check your supplies, grab what you need. Head out to your designated location. Some sites need a crew, some sites are just trash pickup.

Trash pickup is just that, grab your gloves and a couple of trash bags and go to town. Once you are done, load up the trash and bring it back to the site. If you happen to be on a jetski and can't transport, leave the trash on the beach and come tell the captain you are done but need a pick up. That way they know to send a boat to get the trash.

Don't over fill bags so they can be lifted and don't break. Get sand and water out of trash so it's less heavy. Watch out for poison ivy and critters under and around trash areas and watch for broken glass.

Float retrievals are a bit more challenging. Floats do just that, FLOAT. When we have a lot of water in the lake they tend to float into coves and onto beaches. As the water recedes, they stay put whenever they landed. This could be anywhere from a few feet from the water to a LONGER distance. The goal is to get them back into the water.

We found flipping them end over end works great. Just remember these things are HEAVY. Some locations are muddy, you can't just slide them in the water. Sometimes floats have been there a while, and roots grow up into them. You will need to sever those roots to move the float. Sometimes floats are too big. We cut them in half to make the transport easier.

For muddy locations, we lay 2 boards under the front of the float, and slide them on to the boards. That way you can slide them a distance, remove the boards, go around front and repeat. Remember the goal is to get them floating again.

You then attach rope to the float. We found the dog coils work amazing. Easy in, easy out. Otherwise, drive a stake into the float and attach the rope to it.

You pull the float back to the drop location with your boat.

When you have a lot of floats we found it great to have a long rope as a lead rope, then use shorter rope to tie to the longer rope in a daisy chain configuration. You can pull quite a few floats this way. See illustration.



Keep an eye on your cargo as you transport them. Stakes come loose. Your speed needs to be monitored. If you are moving too fast the floats take a nose dive and become that much harder to pull.

There will be helpers there to receive your trash/floats. Remember to pull out your coils before they take the floats. If you left trash for pick up on the beach, let the site captain know.

If there is time, and you have the energy, ask the site captain where else you can go help. Sometimes they just need another set of hands to finish up a bad location.

Above all else, have fun! There is no greater feeling than to pull away from a beach that was an eye sore and leave it as pristine as mother nature intended it to be. Put on one heck of a pep in your step and a smile that lasts for days!

## Supplies and alternative



It is helpful to predrill a hole on the blunt end to stick a rope through. That keeps the rope from slipping off while pulling floats in the water.



An alternative to stakes are these dog yard coils. Get the ones with the biggest coils as the thin small coiled stakes slip right out of the dock float. The wider the coil the better it stays. The advantage of these over the stakes is the reuse factor. They are easy to insert, then remove once the float reaches it's destination. And there is no pounding so don't need the hammer.



Any kind of hammer works, but we found these short stubbies work best



Rope, not paracord. Remember you are pulling floats that can weigh 500 lbs. Yes they float, but can plow in the water. You need to tie this to your stake, or float. Something with ease to knot then unknot. Anchor rope works.



Machete or Ax. Floats that sit on beaches for long develop roots. In order to move them you have to cut the roots off that are holding them down. We also encounter extremely large floats (in excess of 500 lbs) and they are impossible to move. For those extra-large ones, we may cut in half for ease of movement.