Message from the President

Reflecting on 2019, Looking towards 2020

Fall is here and that means the Lake Boating Season is slowly coming to an end. Temperatures are falling and freeze warnings have already been issued. Dock furniture and boats are being winterized and stored and lake levels are falling as the USACE begins their drawdown for the winter recharge. The good news is that the fall foliage is peaking and we can still have a few more good days of lake enjoyment. Springtime will be here again before we know it. This is the time of the year we reflect on what we have accomplished in 2019 and begin our planning for 2020. By all accounts, 2019 was a very successful year for the Lake Lanier Association and the entire Lake Community. Commercial businesses around the Lake are experiencing a record year in sales and revenue. The lake levels have held at or above full pool throughout most of the season. Drownings and boating accidents reduced in the last part of the summer which contributed to a relatively safe 2019. Our programs yielded phenomenal results, i.e. ADD&V, Rip Rap, Solar Lights, Boating Safety, and Shore Sweep.

As we move into our planning for 2020, we will continue our many On-Lake Programs and expand our capabilities and capacity to ensure we continue to Keep Lake Lanier – CLEAN, FULL, and SAFE!!! We are in need of a “few good people” to join our Board of Directors to support the increase in activities we expect to accomplish in 2020. In particular, we are looking for potential Board Members who have good Project Management Skills, Financial/Accounting Skills, Selling Skills as well as consulting capabilities for Fund Raising and Grant Solicitation.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Lake Lanier Association as a Board Member and you have any of the skills listed, please reach out to me or Jennifer Flowers via lakelanier.org for further discussion.

As the Holiday Season approaches, we want to wish all of our members and their families a Safe, Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous Holiday Season. The success of our organization is firmly impacted by your membership participation and commitment – both financial and the energized spirit of volunteerism.

Thank you for your support and a Toast to all of you for making the LLA an Advocacy Group for Lake Lanier that is Making A Difference.

Sincerely,

John L. Barker
President, Lake Lanier Association

Clean! Full! Safe!
Find us at LakeLanier.org
Giving Tuesday

December 3, 2019 is GivingTuesday an international day of charitable giving to give back to the community organizations which serve you. We hope that you will remember the Lake Lanier Association when making your gifts on Giving Tuesday. You may give through our website, Facebook, GAGIVES.org, or mail your donation to LLA, 615F Oak St Suite 200, Gainesville, GA 30501. Every tax deductible donation goes to keeping Lake Lanier Clean, Full and Safe!

Sheila Davis, VP Marketing

Welcome to our newest Business Sponsors:

- CAVINbuilt
- Jet Trust Performance
- The Rhodes Group Insurance Agency
- AAA Boat Repair
- Cornerstone Schools
- DLP Construction
- Habersham Homeowners Association
- Hampton Inn and Suites, Flowery Branch
- HDG Engineered Products
- Sunrise Cove Marina

Thank You to our 2019 Business Sponsors!
Clean Lake Initiatives~
September’s Shore Sweep was One for the Record Books

The numbers for Shore Sweep were huge, not only with tons of trash but also with volunteers helping get all the trash off the lake. After weeks of pre-cleaning, advance sites and individuals working before 9/14, the grand totals were 160,000 lbs of trash and 1800 volunteers. I am sure this is a record not only for Shore Sweep but the South East. This event is truly a community project and could not be done without a lot of support from Dock Companies, Marinas, counties surrounding the lake, individual partners like the Clean and Beautiful communities and of course YOU!

We truly appreciate everyone that pitched in to help! The numbers are very deceiving, with 80 tons of trash collected, if you didn’t use the lake you would think Lake Lanier was an incredibly trashy place. The lake is beautiful and did not have huge amounts of “people trash” which was gratifying for all of us. Yes, we have the usual trashed islands, coves of floating debris, tires and pieces of boats and docks but that is expected with 11.8 million visitors and 10,000 docks. What was not expected was the hundreds and hundreds of dock floats, everywhere which attributed to most of the weight.

As we celebrate our victory over trash, please take a few minutes to look at all the people who helped get this record setting event done. I especially want to thank the location Captains. They are the heart of the operation, and we are so blessed to have so many fantastic volunteers who literally do all the heavy lifting during Shore Sweep. This is a hard job, and they deserve all the credit.

Shore Sweep Site Captains ~
Cynthia Cochran and Robert Edison at Aqualand,
Apryl Milam, Keep Forsyth County Beautiful at Bald Ridge,
Tom and Diane Rothberg at Balus Boat Ramp,
Michael Moon, Tess Nielsen at University Yacht Club,
Shanda Sexton and Scott Broome with Keep Hall Beautiful at Clarks Bridge,
Ranger Steven Emery at Don Carter State Park,
Beth de Neergaard at Gainesville Marina,
Lori Pietro and Lyn Clark at Gwinnett Park,
Hannah Warner from Chattahoochee Riverkeeper at Longwood Park,
Janet Schultz from Keep Forsyth County Beautiful at Aqualand,
Gordon Brand and Kirby Burt at War Hill Park.

I especially want to thank Lu Treadway and Robert Hathaway who will go from one end of the lake to the other just to help in any way they can, for weeks. You are my very special trashy friends.

We have listed all our supporters, sponsors, and people who helped Shore Sweep. If you know or work with any of the people, companies or use any of their services please say thank you. Please support the people who support your lake! I know they will appreciate it. We hope to see you next year Shore Sweep 2020 is 09/26, save the date.

Bonny Putney, VP Shore Sweep
Water Wars: FLORIDA v. GEORGIA

What’s Happening Now

When last we looked at this case, both states had filed supplemental briefs with the newly-appointed Special Master, Paul J. Kelly, Jr. The basic arguments are by now familiar: Florida says Georgia’s overuse of water is destroying Apalachicola oyster fisheries, and Georgia says its use of water is reasonable and the damage to Georgia so enormously outweighs any possible benefit to Florida that Florida’s proposed consumption cap would not be equitable. None of that has changed.

But the Court did not agree with the late Special Master Ralph Lancaster’s recommendation that Georgia should prevail. So on November 7, Judge Kelly will hear oral argument from both states on his way to rendering another recommendation to the Supreme Court Justices. Each side has been allotted only 45 minutes to argue its case, so there will not be much opportunity to drill down into a lot of detail. At this stage of the proceedings, the arguments are familiar and so is the evidence, so surprises are not expected. What is expected is a focused presentation of each side’s equitable apportionment argument.

What Happened Before

To review how we got here, recall that, after a five-week trial, Special Master Lancaster concluded that Georgia’s upstream water use was “unreasonable” and that the Apalachicola Region had sustained “real harm” as a result of the decreased flow of water into Florida. He pointedly noted that “Georgia’s position — practically, politically, and legally—can be summarized as follows: Georgia’s agricultural water use should be subject to no limitations, regardless of the long-term consequences for the Basin.”

Nevertheless, Lancaster concluded that, because the Army Corps of Engineers was not a party to the case, the Court was powerless to enter a decree because there was “no guarantee” that the Corps would not offset the decree’s effects.

But a majority of the Justices (Breyer, Roberts, Kennedy, Ginsburg, and Sotomayor) said Florida had made a legally sufficient showing as to the possibility of fashioning an effective remedial decree. They assessed the case thusly:

In sum, in respect to the evidentiary questions at issue, the Master assumed that: (1) Florida has likely suffered harm as a result of decreased water flow into the Apalachicola River; (2) Florida has made some showing that Georgia, contrary to equitable principles, has taken too much water from the Flint River; and (3) Georgia’s inequitable use of the water may have injured Florida, but more findings are needed. And in light of the Master’s assumptions, we conclude that: (4) an equity-based cap on Georgia’s use of the Flint River would likely lead to a material increase in streamflow from the Flint River into Florida’s Apalachicola River; and (5) the amount of extra water that reaches the Apalachicola may significantly redress the economic and ecological harm that Florida has suffered. Further findings, however, are needed on all of these evidentiary issues on remand.

continued on page 4
However, these same Justices ultimately also said that “Florida will be entitled to a decree only if it is shown that “the benefits of the [apportionment] substantially outweigh the harm that might result.”

Justices Thomas, Alito, Kagan, and Gorsuch dissented, concluding that Florida would not benefit from a cap. They also concluded that a cap would benefit Florida and that they needed a balance-of-harms analysis, they remanded the case to Judge Kelly to make the needed findings.

What’s Being Argued

The states, of course, disagree on whether Florida has met its burden regarding the balance of harms. Florida argues that by simply halting wasteful irrigation practices, Georgia can significantly increase the flow of water into the Apalachicola and restore the conditions in which the region thrived for centuries. But Georgia’s expert testified that Florida would receive only 5,000 cubic feet per second during droughts, no matter how much additional water was created by a cap. And the Corps filed an amicus brief confirming that, during droughts, “Apalachicola River flows would be very similar with or without a consumption cap.”

The Dissent cited Georgia’s evidence that it used just 4% of Basin flows in an average year and 8% of Basin flows in a dry year, leaving anywhere from 92% to 96% of Basin water for Florida. They repeated Georgia’s evidence that the proposed caps would impose costs of more than “$2.1 billion for municipal and industrial water users and $335 million for Georgia farmers . . . every single year.” Even more damning, they said “Florida’s own expert estimated that a cap on Georgia would produce only minimal benefits for Florida: Cutting Georgia’s water use in half would increase the oyster biomass in Apalachicola Bay by less than 0.6% in most instances, and only 1.2% during the worst droughts. These additional oysters would be worth only a few hundred thousand dollars.”

It is hard to see how Florida can meet its burden of proving that the potential benefits of its requested cap substantially outweigh the resulting harms to Georgia. Georgia accounts for 92% of the population, 99% of the economic production, and 96% of the employment in the ACF Basin, and ACF waters support a Georgia population of more than 5 million. Yet Georgia uses only 4% of the water crossing the state line during average years and 8% during dry years. And any increase in flows that resulted from a cap would not occur during droughts or in sufficient amounts to solve Florida’s oyster problems. As the Dissent pointed out, the requested cap would trigger losses in Georgia’s gross regional product of about $322 million, which dwarfs the annual revenues of $11.7 million produced by Florida’s entire Apalachicola Bay fishing industry.

So, it seems clear that the equities favor Georgia in this case. But next week it will resume in Judge Kelly’s courtroom, awaiting arguments and a decision that could have profound effects on the entire ACF region. While four justices are convinced that Georgia should prevail, five others feel strongly enough that Florida has been harmed by Georgia’s water consumption that they instructed Judge Kelly to assess the balance of harms between the states. And, as has been the case since 1990, the Water Wars continue on.

Drought lessoning, though it continues

With the recent rains, the flash drought that started abruptly in September is easing up across the state. However, our area is still experiencing a moderate to severe drought. This is showcased by the lower lake levels. We hope that the rain will continue and pull us completely out of a state of drought.
The Abandoned Docks and Derelict Vessels Committee ("ADDV") is closing out a very successful period. Since our last report, we have been an integral part in the departure of four boats, including “Six Pack Sally” from the lake. Sally was a 40 foot steel hulled houseboat that had sunk on Orr Creek.

The legend that surrounds Sally is that she was purchased for a six pack of beer. The new owner believed that Sally was going to help her realize a dream of owning a houseboat and living on the lake. Unfortunately, those dreams SANK along with Sally and she did not have the resources to address the problems created for the lake by Sally’s demise.

The cost of this removal, was over $10,000. This was the first boat removed utilizing the FY2020 funds earmarked by the Georgia Legislature through the Department of Natural Resources with half of the cost of removal covered by Hall County SPLOST funds. Thanks to this team effort, this eye sore and safety issue is now resolved.

In addition to Sally’s removal two smaller vessels and another houseboat “The silt boat” were removed. The Corps organized and funded the removal of “The Silt Boat” which sunk in its slip, along with the dock. LLA maintains a list of boats and docks that pose a threat to the lake and we meet with stakeholders, including the Corps and the DNR on a quarterly basis to review the list and develop strategy to deal with the problems. The most recent meeting was held on 10/29/19. At that meeting nine of these issues on the list were determined to be resolved and removed from the list. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of new items being added to the list and these can only be addressed with our partners and the assistance of our membership. As a reminder, if you have an old boat of no value, please dispose of it properly!

Matt Williams, ADDV Board Member
Docks, Docks Everywhere

Boats are not the only thing on the lake being abandoned. Docks have been appearing on a regular basis including a dock that mysteriously appeared on Wahoo Creek. LLA was able to identify a prior owner of the dock who believed it had been properly disposed of. Upon learning that it remained on the lake, the owner agreed to retrieve the dock and arrange for its disposal. The photo shows the dock heading to its appointment with destiny.

From docks pushed in coves near construction site docks to swim platforms floating around coves, abandoned docks are everywhere on the lake. Creating boating and safety hazards. Help be a part of the solution, if you replace your dock, know where your old one went. Use a reputable company, ask for proof of disposal, complete the Corps of Engineers dock change form. If you are selling your dock, ask how they will properly dispose of theirs. Be a part of ensuring docks are not dumped!

What Shore Sweep Revealed about ADDV

It is always expected that trash is found during Shore Sweep what was not expected was the hundreds and hundreds of dock floats, everywhere. We hear many explanations for why docks loose floats, the lake went up, the lake went down, I live in a “rough” cove, and even I did not lose a float. We can blame wake boats, or bad weather or cabin cruisers but we think it is deeper than that. It’s how are they are made and how are they attached. This is a huge issue, all those floats represent Styrofoam pollution, a capital loss to dock owners who must replace the floats when they come off, and the time and effort for Shore Sweep volunteers to move and remove them. This does not even take into consideration all the landfill space, and I would bet many of them could have been reused if we had some way to identify good floats and get them back to docks who need them. This is a problem your association is looking at and trying to figure out a way to solve this costly dilemma. We will share information as we find it, but everyone can help by making sure your floats are actually attached to your dock and not just shoved under it, and any floats taken off your dock are disposed of properly and not just kicked to the curb!

A tractor trailer of dock floats heading to the landfill after Shore Sweep!
Safe Lake Initiatives~
Catch those Fall Colors on the Lake, Safely

We are at the end of boating season for this year but there are still plenty of chances to enjoy the fall colors that surround Lake Lanier.

The Lake is down from full pool a little more than two and a half feet for the first time in quite a while, which means if you are out enjoying the fall colors be aware of underwater hazards that start coming up as the lake goes down. This is especially important at dusk and at night. The Lake Lanier Association has put out and maintains about 290 hazard marker solar lights that make boating at night safer, but you the boat operator must be aware of your location and the possibility of what may be hidden just a few feet below the surface.

Another important precaution that should be observed all year long but especially when the water temperature goes down is WEAR A LIFE JACKET!!

Lake Lanier water temperature can drop below 50 degrees in the winter. At these temperatures the time in the water before hypothermia sets in is greatly reduced. What would be a leisurely swim to shore or safety in summer could be a race against time in the winter. Don’t think it can’t happen to you; it can and does happen all the time. Falling in cold water can shock your body, wearing a life jacket will help to protect you from drowning during that initial shock and provide support as you swim to safety.

Lake Lanier Boating Statistics

This boating season was better in the areas in the number of incidents, injuries, and drownings compared to 2018. The numbers above are reported by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) compared to last year. The sad news is that the fatalities have been higher. However, as you can see, the other safety statistics are down, but there is certainly room for improvement. We need to do better.
New Boater Education Designation

A new partnership has made it easier for boaters to show they have completed a boater education course. Once a boater education course is completed, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will transmit that information to the Department of Driver Services. An anchor will be automatically printed on your license or ID each time it is renewed. This small anchor on your driver’s license eliminates the need to carry a separate boater education card.

As a reminder, anyone born on and after January 1, 1998 must complete a boater education class before operating a vessel on Georgia waters. While it is not mandatory if you were born before 1998 it is certainly a good idea to take a boating education course no matter how old you are. Please see the DNR website for more info: https://gadnrle.org/

Adopt-A-Lake Chlorophyll a Sampling:
Where Clean Lake and Safe Lake go Hand in Hand

Lake Lanier Index - October 2019

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<tr>
<th>QUALITY INDICATORS</th>
<th>October 2019</th>
<th>PREVIOUS MONTH</th>
<th>PRIOR YEAR</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<td>TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)</td>
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<td>83.4</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>Down 8 degrees</td>
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<td>LAKE LEVEL (feet above sea level on the 15th)</td>
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<td>1068.8</td>
<td>1069.8</td>
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<td>Section A</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<td>5.9</td>
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<td>8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section C</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Average</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHLOROPHYLL (micrograms per liter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section A</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>The Chlorophyll was higher only in A section from last month and higher in all sections from 2018. We have more stations in section A giving it greater weight.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7.8</td>
<td>9.4</td>
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<td>6.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Average</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.1</td>
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Lake Lanier Index

Higher Chlorophyll and Secchi readings so we will leave the Index at 5

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 between the 8th and 18th 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
One Good Thing About Lower Water Levels: Rip-Rap

The recent drop in lake water levels has allowed the resumption of installation work on the third round of Island Shoreline Erosion Control projects, which had been delayed due to the high water levels. This project, which is the largest we have ever attempted, includes seven more islands located in the south Lake that are experiencing severe erosion on their shoreline. Four of the islands are located at the southern tip of the Three Sisters Island chain. Three others are located on the east side of the lake north of Old Federal Park. These seven locations will require approximately 6,000 lineal feet of rip rap to protect their shorelines. This will require an estimated 9,800 tons of rip rap stone. The cost of this installation is approximately $530,000.

Why Rip Rap?

Many sections of the Lake Lanier shoreline are eroding due to wave action from boats and the wind. When a part of the shoreline collapses due to erosion, the dirt and debris which was previously above the waterline falls into the water. This decreases the total amount of water storage held in the lake. Lake Lanier serves as the fresh water supply for over 4 million people in the North Georgia area. If the water capacity of the Lake continues to shrink due to siltation, it will impact the drinking water supply for all of our communities. Shoreline erosion also causes trees and other debris to fall into the water causing safety hazards for boaters and swimmers.

▲ Islands that will have Rip Rap added to stabilize their banks.▼
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 use email based communications for several of our membership services.

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIPS (check one):

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<td>Silver</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS (check one):

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◊ Your company name will appear in the LLA Business Sponsor listing.
◊ Your company logo will appear on our Home page.
◊ Your company name will appear on the Shore Sweep t-shirt and banners.
◊ Your company will be invited to table, at no extra charge, at our Vendor Expo at our Annual Membership Meeting.

◊ Branding Opportunities/Logo Representation for key initiatives.
◊ Commercial Display at Events depending on your commitment.
◊ All Business Sponsor benefits, plus Web blast to membership.
◊ Custom marketing opportunity.
◊ All Business Sponsor and Partner benefits, plus Exclusivity options.
◊ Marketing collateral trademark.

You may renew by with a check by mail, or you may renew with a credit card. If you renew with a credit card via our website, you can choose to set up an automatic billing for your annual membership dues.

Credit Card Payment

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Amount ____________________
Name as it appears on card ________________________________
Account Number ________________________________
Expiration Date ________________________________
Three digit security code from back of card __________________
Signature __________________

All dues and donations are tax-deductible under IRS 501(c)3 Not for Profit tax code, as permitted by law 1/18
Committed to a clean, full, and safe Lake Lanier to enhance its economic value in Georgia.

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. The Lake Lanier Association has received over $1000 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](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.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail it is because you were given a Complimentary membership and we do not have your Email. To continue receiving our quarterly Newsletters & Updates, please email your name & email to: JFlowers@LakeLanier.org to be put on the Email Newsletter list.