



# LANIER OUTLOOK

The LLA Newsletter



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the holidays approach, gratefulness is in the air. I'm especially grateful for the outstanding work done by the LLA, its staff, our board and our incredible volunteers. Lake Lanier is Cleaner (Shore Sweep!), Fuller (E&S activities!) and Safer (Life Jacket Loaner Stations!) due to the great work of our team. I'd especially like to thank our staff - Amy McGuire, Julie King and Victoria Clevenger, for helping manage the organization through incredible change (New Office!) while accomplishing these things.

We are so fortunate to have a 'working' board of generous, enthusiastic professionals who contribute their time, their unique skills, and their financial support to this organization, and a host of regular volunteers who do the same. We are going to be calling on our volunteers even more in 2024, so thank you in advance to those who choose to join our mission in an even more meaningful way. Together, we can and will reach new heights.

## Winter / Year End Review 2023

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As we turn our attention toward next year, we are going to focus on our existing programs and expansion, putting the focus of our fundraising and energy there. Key to our success is that we manage our administrative budget and are prudent with the funding we allocate toward paid staff. We are making a concerted effort to ensure every dollar possible goes toward lake programs, and as a result, we are reducing our paid staff in 2024. While this decision was difficult to make, this is an organization which has thrived and contributed to our local community in meaningful ways for over half a century. It is incumbent upon us as trusted board members to ensure our budget aligns in a balanced way with our goals and objectives each year, and we endeavor to focus every possible dollar on programs designed to keep the lake Clean, Full and Safe.

I'm happy to announce that Victoria Clevenger has been promoted to Executive Director. Julie King will remain with the organization on a part-time basis as our Membership Coordinator. Victoria has been contributing meaningfully to our success for nearly 3 years, and we look forward to expanding her reach and impact with this notable promotion. Congratulations Victoria! We are all grateful to have you.

If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Victoria, we hope you'll have the opportunity to introduce yourself soon. We look forward to gathering the LLA community in our new office space, at the Annual Member Celebration and around the topics that have the heart of us all - our on-lake initiatives.

Thank you for your continued support in 2024 and Happy Holidays!

Todd Baxter, LLA President

**LLA HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER (770) 744 - 4547**

*As of September 1st, the LLA is no longer reached at (770) 503-7757. Please update your records.*



# Board of Directors

- President**  
Todd Baxter
- Vice President, Secretary**  
Clyde Morris
- Vice President, Treasurer**  
Jim Bailey
- Vice President**  
Billy Powell
- Vice President**  
Bonny Putney

- Bev Nicholls
- Dan Ohman
- Kelly Marlowe
- Tom Child
- Matt Williams
- Skip Short
- Tom Shillock
- Kirby Scheimann
- Dan Youngblood
- Terry Morrisey

# Staff

- Executive Director**  
Victoria Clevenger
- Membership Coordinator**  
Julie King

**Lake Lanier Association**  
821 Dawsonville Hwy Suite 110 Gainesville, GA 30501  
(770) 744 - 4547 | lakelanier.org  
lakeinfo@lakelanier.org

**We moved! Stay tuned for details on our Grand Opening! If you'd like to stop by the office, please be sure to make an appointment to ensure we don't miss you.**

This edition of the LLA Newsletter, Lanier Outlook, is written, sourced and designed by Victoria Clevenger.

# Shore Sweep 2023

## 35th Annual Shoreline Cleanup Hosts Most Volunteers Ever!



### **BY BONNY PUTNEY, DIRECTOR**

Throughout the month of September, many volunteers staged trash along the shores of Lake Lanier in anticipation of Shore Sweep. Some individuals assisted and prepared for the 35th annual cleanup by boat, others by walking the shoreline and pre-bagging trash, or staging large debris near docks or islands for removal from the lake. On the morning of September 23rd, a record breaking number of you came out to finish the job – over 1,500 volunteers participated in this year's Shore Sweep!

Shore Sweep is not just an event, it's an opportunity given to all of us to do something. Something that makes a huge difference in the quality of our shoreline and the cleanliness of the lake water. Ultimately, it makes a huge difference in our community and in our hearts as we give a little love back to Lake Lanier.

This year marked the 35th anniversary of Shore Sweep and I can't even begin to imagine what the lake would look like without this cleanup. Over the past 35 years, Shore Sweep has removed a collective 2.3 million pounds of trash. This year alone, a shocking 80 tons of trash was collected and removed.

It's hard to fathom what that would mean for Lake Lanier if Shore Sweep didn't exist. Shore Sweep is an amazing effort for a small non-profit like the Lake Lanier Association to pull off and greatly thanks to a deeply caring lake community that annually supports the effort. Many of you show up and roll up your sleeves and support year after year. This multi-decade cleanup wouldn't be possible without the volunteers that make it happen. If you have helped with Shore Sweep at any point over the past 35 years, let me personally say to you – THANK YOU.

In addition to the outstanding volunteers, there's a whole team of dedicated individuals and sponsors to thank for supporting this cause. From our enthusiastic Site Captains, dumpster suppliers, county partners and the heavy equipment operators – ALL of you are what makes Shore Sweep possible. No matter what part you played in Shore Sweep, we thank you for your support in 2023 and we look forward to gathering together to do it again next year.

Special thanks to our Shore Sweep Signature Sponsor, United Rentals, who generously supplied the heavy equipment and certified operators for many of the Shore Sweep sites. This is the second year in a row that United Rentals has supported Shore Sweep in this significant way. Heavy equipment is absolutely necessary for a successful cleanup to this magnitude and without the support of United Rentals, it would be a great expense to the LLA. Thank you United Rentals for partnering with the LLA and supporting our effort towards a clean Lake Lanier.

I'd also like to take a moment and thank the many unsung heroes of the day – many dock companies and suppliers who step up and donate their time, equipment and funds to fuel this effort.

Special thanks to Marine Specialties and Southeastern Dock Supply who went above and beyond with their contributions this year. Their efforts started days in advanced of the cleanup and lasted long after most of us went home, insuring that ever last piece of staggged trash, reported large debris and abandoned dock floats was collected for removal.

If you'll take a moment to appreciate the LLA Business Sponsors on the back of your 2023 Shore Sweep t-shirts – these are the businesses who are proud to stick their names behind the cleanup effort, who ask how they can help or get involved and they show up on the big day to cleanup the lake. Please take a moment to look at the list of LLA Business Sponsors and if possible, thank them for their contributions and support of Shore Sweep. If you are able, please consider them for your own needs or give them some attention on social media. A simple "like," "comment," or "share" on social media, or by leaving a Google Business Review, are all easy ways to support the businesses that support a Clean, Full and Safe Lake Lanier.



35TH ANNUAL LAKE LANIER

# SHORE SWEEP

SPONSORED BY:



hansgrohe



SHORE SWEEP 2023  
TOGETHER WE REMOVED:

80  
Tons of Trash



That's 160,000 pounds of trash removed at the hands of over 1,600 volunteers!

We cannot do this without excellent community partners. Keep Forsyth Beautiful, Keep Dawson Beautiful and Keep Hall Beautiful all managed Shore Sweep sites, helped in planning and brought people and resources to make this event successful. We also have considerable help from Hall County, including provided dumpsters and people working to support our efforts at the Hall County sites. Hall County is unique in that we are able to separate dock floats from every day trash. We're mindful of this disposal option when it's available and we're appreciative of Hall County for making it possible for the second year in a row. Dawson County provides people, equipment and dumpsters for War Hill, which is Shore Sweep's biggest site. Gwinnett County provides boats and crews from Water Resources and Keep Gwinnett

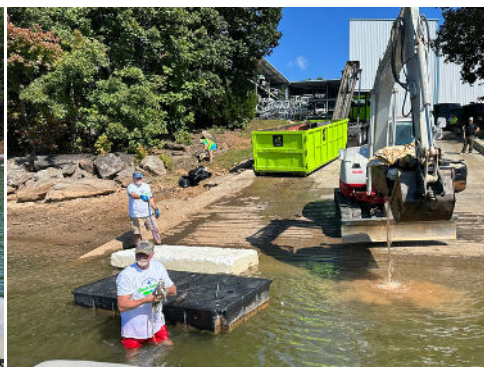
Clean and Beautiful contributed to the supplies provided at the Gwinnett Park location. Gwinnett Park is the lone site in the county, but worth noting the 7 tons of trash that was removed from this location alone! I want to mention them, because they are my lake neighbors and they wanted to make a huge effort and make a big impact this year – and they did. It's why this event is so successful and has lasted 35 years.

I would also like to thank Chattahoochee Riverkeeper for hosting a site and, as always, supporting this Clean Lake event and others like it. If you like to cleanup the lake, (Yes, many of us find this enjoyable, even fun! 😊) the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has "Sweep the Hooch" taking place on March 23rd, 2024. The Lake Lanier Association will be hosting a site with Keep Forsyth Beautiful, and we plan on being able to capture and dispose of dock floats. It will be one of many sites available during that cleanup event and if you can participate, we'd love to see you out there!

I know what you're thinking... low water levels played a tricky part in the 2023 Shore Sweep. The low water level kept many of the floats high and dry, in unreachable locations and unable to be moved. With winter rain (fingers crossed) and some more hard work, our hope is that at Sweep the Hooch we can get the floats that we could not tackle during Shore Sweep. We will make sure our members and fans know when and where, stay tuned for more details.

The Lake Lanier Board of Directors and Staff thank each and everyone of you who donates time, equipment and or money to Shore Sweep. It can't happen without your generous support. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year September 21, 2024.

**Save the Date for Shore Sweep 2024: Saturday, September 21st**



# Meet Victoria Clevenger

## LLA's New Executive Director



Victoria Clevenger was named Executive Director in November 2023. She is no stranger to the LLA community – She first joined the staff of the LLA in February 2021, as Membership and Communications Coordinator.

Over the past three years, she has spearheaded internal communications to LLA members through the quarterly newsletter, social media, email marketing and website updates. She has had direct interactions with volunteers working on our signature events – the Annual Member Celebration and Shore Sweep.

She earned her MBA and undergrad degree from Lee University in Cleveland, TN. She is an Ohio native and spent many years in Tennessee before relocating to Georgia to join the LLA team. She came to the LLA with over five years of sales and marketing experience for a higher-ed non-profit in Tennessee. She brings to the LLA team a creative eye, excellent project management skills and a passion for building strong relationships.

To the Lake Lanier Association Community -

It is a great honor and privilege to step into the role of Executive Director. Over the past 3 years, I've come to deeply love this community and the warmth it's shown me since day one. As you may have noticed from my bio, Georgia hasn't always been my home. However, now that it is, I'm so pleased to have the Lake Lanier area as my backyard. It's always an exciting topic to discuss with friends and family who live out of state. For me, Lake Lanier is the source of so many fond memories with friends, it's the place I bring out of town guests - as they never fully grasp its size until they see Lanier with their own eyes. The lake, much like it is for so many of you, has quickly become my happy place. As I make my way into this new role, I am eager to make everyone proud of the Lake Lanier Association and its work towards a Clean, Full and Safe Lake Lanier.

To our current members, business sponsors and community members - thank you for the support you've shown us since 1966. Though I've only experienced it for a few years, I know the strength, pride and love for Lanier runs deep in the heart of this community. Thank you for so graciously welcoming me into this new role and I look forward to seeing you all around the lake in the new year.

Lastly, to the LLA Board of Directors, a special thank you for entrusting me with this new responsibility. I could speak for hours about the encouragement, guidance and grit I've been taught by this group since joining the LLA team. It is an honor to work and serve this community alongside each of you. The immeasurable support has been an overwhelming experience as I step into this new role - and I thank you for it.

Whether the lake is your backyard, the place of your business, your playground, or just your drinking water - please know that the LLA is here for Lanier. The LLA team, myself included, is looking out for its preservation and protection for generations to come. If you aren't already, I urge you to support our mission in 2024 and join us. Any donation amount can make a difference - like a small pebble thrown into a puddle, a ripple effect emerges. Will you be a part of the ripple effect and help LLA make bigger waves this upcoming year?

I invite you all to join us in our efforts to protect the area's most valuable resource. It truly takes us all working together to accomplish a Clean, Full and Safe Lake Lanier for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Clevenger". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Victoria Clevenger, Executive Director

# It May Be Time to Push Your Dock Out. Again.



## BY CLYDE MORRIS, DIRECTOR

It looks like we've seen a rather sudden regression to the mean for Lake Lanier water levels. We were almost at 1069 on August 1, but as of this writing, the lake is down to 1062.94, placing it in Action Zone 3. Not since 2016 have we seen levels this low, and we've even dropped well below the November average (since 1989) of 1065.26. We know that rainfall and Corps operations control lake levels, so here's what we can tell you about each.

### Rainfall

If you think it hasn't been raining much, you're not alone. But believe it or not, Gainesville's rainfall for the year as of this writing (according to the National Weather Service) which is 2.95 inches higher than the average. But that total is greatly inflated by high rainfall in January, June, and August; those three months contributed 25.41 inches of the total – roughly half, and nearly eleven inches more than average for those months.

What's driven lake levels so low has mostly been a deficit in rainfall since August - about 6.5 inches below normal. Lake levels have dropped about 4.5 feet since September 1 and 2.5 feet since Oct 1. A lot of people noticed that the lake was dropping rapidly back then, and we published an explanation in our last newsletter. (Summer Wrap-Up 2023, available at [www.lakelanier.org/get-involved/newsletters-and-webinars/](http://www.lakelanier.org/get-involved/newsletters-and-webinars/)). Fortunately, the National Integrated Drought Information System forecasts above-normal precipitation this winter due to a strong El Nino.

## Corps Operations

Average daily inflow to the lake was 724 cfs in September and only 410 cfs in October, while corresponding average daily outflows were 2043 and 1296, respectively. According to the Water Control Manual, releases from Jim Woodruff Dam should equal ACF Basin Inflow, which was running about 6400 cfs in late November. However, USGS data showed that releases from Woodruff were 7400 cfs. Ramp rates did not explain this divergence, so we inquired of the Corps as to why releases were not decreasing. Their explanation was that backwater effects on the Flint River delayed down-ramping. That has now been corrected.

In addition, West Point Lake and W.F. George are currently in Action Zone 1 while Lanier has been in Zone 3 for over a month. So, it appears that the Corps may recently have been keeping more water in West Point and W.F. George lakes than it should, to Lanier's detriment. The Corps attributed those lakes' higher levels to localized precipitation but agreed that the additional water should be used to satisfy Apalachicola flow requirements, which hopefully takes at least some pressure off of Lanier.

# LLA's Monthly Water Testing Provides a Look at Water Clarity, Temperature and Algae Accumulation

## November 2023 Lake Lanier Index

Since 2000, volunteers have been testing and sampling the waters of Lanier each month - this is called the LLA Adopt-a-Lake Water Testing Program!

Did you know that this is one of the longest surviving volunteer testing programs? Or what about the fact that this is the only program to test every month on Lanier? That's right, the Adopt-a-Lake program and our dedicated volunteers are pretty amazing!

Each month, our volunteers test for the following things in over 20 carefully selected testing locations across Lanier.

**WATER CLARITY:** Volunteers take Secchi readings by lowering a weighted disk into the water and measuring the maximum depth at which it can be seen, thus giving a gauge of clarity.

**TEMPERATURE:** Volunteers take temperature of air, as well as lake water at various depths.

**ALGAE ACCUMULATION:** Volunteers fill water jugs and send them out to Gwinnett Water Lab for algae testing that defines the Lake Lanier Index. This Index is a measure of Chlorophyll a (which determines nutrients levels) and clarity, NOT water safety.

Lake Lanier Index - November 2023

QUALITY INDICATORS	November 2023	PREVIOUS MONTH	PRIOR YEAR	COMMENTS
TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)	64	71	58	Rainfall for November was 0.92" even lower than October. Average for Nov 5.5"
LAKE LEVEL (feet above sea level on the 15th)	1063.1	1064.8	1066.4	The Lake dropped another 1.7'
SECCHI (feet)				
Section A	6.8	5.5	5.5	Clarity was better in Section A and down in B and C. Cocktail Cove the highest 16.3' and lowest 3.9' in Wahoo Creek.
Section B	8	8.2	7.7	
Section C	11.6	12.9	12.1	
Overall Average	8.2	7.6	7.8	
CHLOROPHYLL (micrograms per liter)				
Section A	8	7.4	7.5	Chlorophyll varied from Section to Section. Wahoo, Ada, and Flat Creek were above 10 micrograms/liter.
Section B	7.3	7.6	5.8	
Section C	2.8	4	2.9	
Overall Average	6.8	7.6	5.8	
Lake Lanier Index	5.5	5.4		We will raise our Index with slightly better numbers

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 every month. . . We have more stations in Section A, giving it greater weight.  
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



To learn more about the Adopt-a-Lake program, visit [www.lakelanier.org/adopt-a-lake/](http://www.lakelanier.org/adopt-a-lake/)



# Charitable Giving & Donor Advised Funds

By Dan Ohman, Director

**What is a Donor Advised Fund?** Donor Advised Funds are philanthropic giving vehicles that allow individuals/families to deposit irrevocable charitable contributions/assets into a managed investment account and realize an immediate tax benefit (while invested contributions can accumulate over time tax free) without choosing a specific recipient right away. When the donor decides on a worthy charitable giving recipient, they can send money from the account to the nonprofit organization of their choice as a grant. These accounts act like a charitable giving investment account, and have grown in popularity over the past decade with total assets growing to more than \$234 billion in 2021. The largest donor-advised fund sponsors include Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, Vanguard Charitable, and American Endowment Foundation.



I would suggest reaching out to a financial/wealth and or tax advisor to learn more about whether a donor-advised fund would be a good tool to help your family achieve your philanthropic goals. Donor Advised Funds accept cash contributions as well as non-cash assets, such as stocks, mutual funds, and bonds, as well as complex assets, such as private S- and C-corporation stock.

While the tax benefit of donating to a Donor Advised Fund is immediate, there is no time requirement for making the grants to worthy charitable organizations. That means there is a lot of money that has been irrevocably given and is sitting idle and not making a positive difference as intended by most charitable donors. The rest of this message is about asking you to take the next step in making a difference.

**Supporting the LLA with Donor Advised Funds:** If you have been fortunate enough to create a giving legacy through a donor-advised fund or just want to make a direct contribution, and support the mission of the Lake Lanier Association to keep our beautiful lake Clean, Full and Safe, I would ask you to consider making a one time or ongoing grant, or direct donation to the LLA to help us in our work to preserve and enhance our great resource (bringing 11.8 million visitors annually and provides drinking water to 4 million Georgians) and ongoing source of so many wonderful memories. As a reminder, LLA on-lake initiatives include:

- Shore Sweep with over 1600 volunteers cleared 80 tons of trash from the lake shoreline in 2023
- Solar Light installation and maintenance to enhance night time navigation (289 lighted markers across the lake)
- 11 Life Jacket Loaner stations installed, stocked, and maintained by LLA at park beaches and boat ramps across the lake.
- Water Testing monthly to monitor water quality and algae levels
- Erosion & Sedimentation Committee monitors shoreline development to prevent and correct stormwater damage to the lake
- Island Shoreline Protection – Rip Rap installed for over 2 miles of linear shoreline
- Abandoned and Derelict Dock and Boat program to ensure removal and enhance the beauty and useability of the shoreline
- Informational and Educational webinars and communications to keep our members informed about issues and opportunities

I would again ask those of you advancing your charitable giving through donor-advised funds, private trusts, or direct donations to support as my family has chosen to do, the great work of the LLA in keeping our lake Clean, Full and Safe.

The Lake Lanier Association is easily searchable to advocate for grants through most, if not all, donor-advised funds, and charity search engines. Below is helpful information, which can be used in searching and selecting the Lake Lanier Association for your charitable giving.

**Lake Lanier Association, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit**

821 Dawsonville Hwy Suite 110

Gainesville, GA 30501

Federal Tax ID: 58-1264797

Thank you for your consideration and support of LLA's work towards a Clean, Full and Safe Lake Lanier!

## Board Member Spotlight: Get to Know Dan Ohman



Dan graduated with a BBA in 1984 from The University of Texas at Austin. He enjoyed a 34 year career with UnitedHealth Group, where he served as Chief Executive Officer of several UnitedHealthcare businesses, and served on the Executive Leadership Team for UnitedHealth Group.

Dan currently serves as CEO of Tributary Enterprises LLC, an investment and advisory business. In addition, his not for profit activities include his board role with the Lake Lanier Association, serving on the board of the UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation, and serving as the chairman and board member of The Ohman Family Foundation.

Dan and his wife Connie of 38 years currently reside in Roswell, with most weekends spent at their lake house in Gainesville. Here they enjoy spending time with their adult children, Jake and his wife Caitlin, their daughter Casey Nixon and her husband Todd, and grandsons, Walker and William, along with other family, friends and dogs.

As an LLA Board Member, he spearheads the Life Jacket Loaner Station program and shares his passion for water safety with the Lake Lanier community. Since inception in 2020, the Life Jacket Loaner Station has grown to include 11 loaner stations at various parks in Forsyth Co., Hall Co., and the City of Gainesville. The Ohman Family Foundation is a significant contributor to the program and the LLA is grateful for their continued support.

*Pictured Right Top: Dan Ohman and Victoria Clevenger, Executive Director, at the inaugural stocking of the loaner station located at River Forks Park.*

*Pictured Right Bottom: Dan and his wife, Connie, and daughter, Casey, participating in an "in-office volunteer day" at the LLA Office.*



# Dredging Miller's Cove – A Success Story Five Years in the Making

By Clyde Morris, Director

Miller's Cove was named after an antiquated mill situated next to a small stream that flows into Lake Lanier just off of Buford Dam Rd. near Habersham Marina. The mill was small and likely abandoned by the time the lake came along, but it was still there, as was the stream. And a picturesque place it must have been, hidden in the woods and unencumbered by the trappings of civilization that have mushroomed around the lake in the many decades since it was built. But then development happened – and you know what that means.

The failure of erosion control measures at a housing development uphill from the mill caused a substantial volume of sediment to wash down the slope and into Miller's Cove. The result was not unlike a myriad of such occurrences that have cumulatively contributed to the siltation of the lake, reducing its water storage and bringing in whatever pollutants stood in the way. It's an occurrence that's happened countless times over the last 65 years since the lake first filled, ultimately leading LLA to form its Erosion & Sedimentation Committee to help prevent similar incidents from occurring.

In this case, a conscientious and concerned LLA member contacted the committee, initiating a series of actions that finally came to fruition during the week of Nov. 12: dredging of sediment that entered the lake as a result of the failed erosion controls. Nobody has kept records of this sort of thing, but to our knowledge this is the first time in at least 30 years that a developer has been required to remove such sediment from the lake.

The effort required the support of the Forsyth County Division of Engineering, which required the developer to calculate the volume of sediment that had been discharged and withheld the final certificate of occupancy to ensure the remediation was performed, and the Corps of Engineers, which issued the dredging permit. To its credit, the developer, McKinley Homes, stepped up and contracted for the dredging, with the help of United Consulting.

It took five years to finally bring the initiative to fruition, far longer than we thought it would. And while few lake users may ever notice what was accomplished here, we'd like to think that the effort has established a beachhead for protecting the lake in the future. It is our hope that the Corps will demonstrate leadership in holding developers accountable for illegal sedimentation by requiring them to remove the actual sediment and not just an equivalent volume from a location more accommodating than the impacted site, thereby protecting those who dwell on the lake and use its wonderful resources as Congress intended when it commissioned building Buford Dam back in 1944.



# Update on the significant progress made regarding Aids to Navigation (AtoN)



## BY TODD BAXTER, PRESIDENT

As you all know, LLA maintains all 289 solar lights on the lake, and we work to ensure those lights are fully functional year round. Over 100 out of warranty or inoperable lights were replaced this year by LS3, our contractor partner. Due to their great work and your support, we started the busy summer season with a record high number of lights in operation and we will continue to ensure they are fully operational in 2024.

We also replaced 12 channel markers along the Chestatee portion of the lake. LLA, partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, who provided the green and red marker replacements), and Marine Specialties Inc. (MSI, for unique markings applied to markers and installation) on the project, this work was completed earlier in the year. We will continue an assessment to determine which channel markers are most in need of replacement in 2024.

The USACE, in partnership with the LLA, is dedicated to addressing navigation concerns around Lake Lanier. Over the past year, USACE made substantial progress in replacing missing and damaged Aids to Navigation (AtoN). USACE created six new permanent AtoN locations and deployed temporary buoys at 27 missing AtoN locations awaiting replacements and at 45 low water hazard sites. USACE replaced numerous markers and buoys with new equipment and a fresh style of AtoN. It's worth noting that, in the past six months alone, USACE initiated and successfully completed 198 new AtoN work orders. Furthermore, in partnership with USACE (who contributed necessary materials), LS3 completed installation for 12 of these AtoN work orders. Where necessary, USACE or LS3 ensures solar lights are replaced as well. This year LLA provided USACE with 60 replacement lights for installations atop missing markers and buoys as those work orders were completed.

Keep in mind, especially at recently low lake levels, many previously 'safe' areas become hazardous. Aids to Navigation are designed to alert of potential danger at or near full pool. Rocks and land may be exposed or the water may now only be a few inches deep - even great distances from these markers. As we were wrapping up work for the year, Terry from LS3 said it best - "Stay at least 200 feet away from any marker on the lake. Anywhere you see several markers in a row, NEVER take a boat or other water craft between them. The water is always shallow and particularly dangerous at these levels."

As of November 14th, 2023, USACE is on track to complete the remaining 12 reported AtoN work orders on Lake Lanier by the end of the year. LS3's work is fully complete for the 2023. As you can see, through our collective efforts and partnerships, we have accomplished a great deal over the past year. Thank you for your support of LLA and our efforts - we are all Safer for it!

**Check out this photo snapped during hazard marker repair!** These rocks are usually 3-4 feet under water when Lake Lanier is at full-pool. This is just one example of why this effort is so important for maintaining a safe Lake Lanier!

If you **See Something, Say Something!** You can always report issues like hazards and downed markers at [www.lakelanier.org](http://www.lakelanier.org)!



## Shoreline Management Plan Revisions How LLA Members Can Get Involved

**If you've ever griped about the Corps' rules and the things your local Ranger may prohibit you from doing or how you are required to do something pertaining to your dock, now is your chance to have input into the system.**

The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is the set of operational rules the Buford Project office follows in issuing and revoking dock permits, approving golf cart paths, and permitting or issuing violation notices for things like cutting trees.

The Corps has not comprehensively revised its SMP since 2004, and before that 1988. But LLA has been invited to provide input into the next revision, so we're going to give members an opportunity to submit their suggestions, which we will use in preparing the revisions we submit to the Corps. Of course, not every suggestion can be included and our proposals are subject to the Corps' acceptance, rejection, or modification, but this is the FIRST TIME lake dwellers, boat owners, and other lake users will have had the opportunity for direct input in an organized fashion.

**Want to make your voice heard?** You must be an LLA MEMBER to have your suggestions included, so be sure your membership is current and keep an eye out for an announcement of the online poll, which will go out via email to all members in good standing.

# Lately with LLA

A sneak peak into the recent events of the Lake Lanier Association!



## COURTEST LIFE JACKETS OFFERED AT THE FALL LAKE LANIER BOAT SHOW

At the Fall 2023 Lake Lanier Boat Show in early October, LLA was present with "Miss. Jackie," the LLA tritoon. Our vessel was positioned at the beginning of the on-the-water showroom, where courtesy life jackets were offered to children so families could shop the show with peace of mind. LLA also participated in the event with a booth in vendor village, where attendees could learn about LLA programs to help keep Lake Lanier clean, full and safe.



## ROTARY CLUB DAWSON CO. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Prior to Shore Sweep, the LLA team spent some time speaking with various groups in the community. The goal of these speaking engagements was to share the LLA mission and invite groups to participate in the Shore Sweep cleanup.

Thank you Rotary Club of Dawson County for inviting LLA to speak at a September breakfast meeting. Pictured left is LLA Board Members, Kirby Scheimann and Jim Bailey, along with LLA Staff, Victoria Clevenger. The group was very engaged with the presentation and as a result, over 30 Rotary participants joined in at Shore Sweep 2023!

## LLA VOLUNTEERS SHINED BRIGHT AT THE POKER RUN EVENT

LLA would like to give a special thanks to the volunteers that helped man the boat ramps and boat docks for the 2023 Poker Run! The weekend was rainy at times, but our volunteers continue to be top notch - smiling faces, rolled up sleeves and ready to help wherever needed.

This was LLA's first year getting involved with the annual event, hosted by the Lanier Partners. We learned so much about the event and were pleased to help coordinate volunteers for this important fundraiser.

Congrats to the Lanier Pirates Poker Run on a successful event! The event was a great turnout and Camp Sunshine, Camp Twin Lakes, and the Boys and Girls Club of Lanier will benefit greatly from the efforts of this year's Poker Run!



LAKE LANIER ASSOCIATION'S 2023 YEAR END REVIEW

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS PROGRAMS & IMPACT

Thanks to our member support and community partners, LLA made a big splash in 2023 to keep Lake Lanier Clean, Full and Safe.



## MINI SHORE SWEEPS



Pre-Shore Sweep Mini Cleanup took place on Three Sisters Islands with a crew from Johnson Outdoors

## SOLAR LIGHTS

100 New, 50 Replaced and 289 maintained Solar Lights across Lanier



## SHORE SWEEP

SHORE SWEEP BY THE NUMBERS:

13 day-of sites around Lake Lanier  
7 advance sites  
Over 1,600 volunteers  
80 tons of trash collected

This year marked the 35th Annual Cleanup. A record breaking number of volunteers participated, making it LLA's largest volunteer based cleanup to date.

## LIFE JACKET LOANER STATIONS



Installed 3 additional Life Jacket Loaner Stations. Volunteers helped maintain a total of 11 stations this season.

## NEW STAFF

Julie King joins the LLA team as Membership Coordinator



## SOLAR LIGHTS

289 Solar Lights maintained for safer night-time boating



## EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

LLA spoke to many groups throughout the year and educated on the importance of a clean, full and safe lake. Groups including the Rotary Club of Dawson Co., Leadership Hall Co. Students and UNG students.



## ANNUAL MEMBER CELEBRATION

Hosted over 800 members at the 2023 Annual Member Celebration.

## CHARLIE SPENCER AWARD

LLA's first ever volunteer award was presented to Lu Threadway at the Annual Member Celebration. The award honors the late Charlie Spencer.



## WHALE TAIL CLEANUP

1.2 Tons of Trash collected from this targeted cleanup near Don Carter State Park.

## LLA ESTABLISHED NEW HEADQUARTERS

LLA took the plunge in creating first ever community footprint with a dedicated office space in the Village Shoppes of Gainesville off of Dawsonville Hwy. In this new space, the LLA will be able to host special events and educational sessions, conduct daily business and on-lake initiatives, as well as offer community meeting space to sponsors.







## UNITED RENTALS PARTNERS WITH LLA AT SHORE SWEEP

For the second year, LLA partnered with United Rentals to provide heavy equipment and certified operators at 11 of the Shore Sweep day-of sites. Their partnership ensures efficiency and safety in the equipment use at the annual shoreline cleanup



## VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

In-Office, Life Jacket  
Stamping, Cleanups  
and More

## LLA AROUND LANIER

LLA attended 3 boat shows and many special events, LLA was present around Lake Lanier all year long.



## NEW LOGO & TAGLINE

LLA's mission has a new face with a refreshed logo and tagline, which now boasts "Clean, Full, Safe, Together"

## SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

LLA responded to reported concerns such as downed markers, erosion and more.



## MICHAEL JAMES REMODELING PARTNERSHIP FOR LIFE JACKET LOANER STATIONS

For the second year in a row, the LLA partnered with Michael James Remodeling to help build 3 new Life Jacket Loaner Stations. Michael James Remodeling generously donated the time and labor to build the new stations.



## WATER QUALITY TESTING



27 sites around Lanier are tested monthly for algae and turbidity by over 20 volunteers

## SAFE LAKE ADVOCACY

LLA offered courtesy life jackets to children at Lake Lanier Boat Shows so families could shop the docks with peace of mind.



## RIP RAP & SHORELINE EVALUATION COMPLETED

Secured funding from county, city and philanthropic sources for future shoreline protection projects As well as completed a shoreline study to determine areas most in need for future projects. Projected to begin estallation in 2024.

## MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

LLA meet with local governments and officials, including the Corps of Engineers, to discuss efforts and issues related to a Clean, Full, and Safe Lake.



# NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In 2023, the LLA welcomed 4 new Board Members. Together, they bring a wealth of knowledge and a lot of passion for a Clean, Full and Safe Lake Lanier.

*Photos from left to right: Jim Bailey (Treasurer), Terry Morrisey (ADDV & Shore Sweep), Kirby Schiemann (Marketing & Shore Sweep) and Dan Youngblood (Membership & IT).*

