



# Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Fall, 2006

Volume XVIII, Number 4

## Letter from the President

Submitted by Joe Brenner



The summer season is winding down, and all too soon we'll be able to enjoy the beautiful colors of fall around the lake. The drought has taken its toll on our water levels, and we all need to be cautious navigating in unfamiliar waters.

**LHA Update:** About the time you receive this newsletter we'll be holding our lake clean up picnic. It's great to have so many folks who care about our lake participate in this event. The LHA programs committee has done a great job planning for the picnic to make it enjoyable for everyone.

Our thanks to all the LHA members who took the time to return the survey from the last newsletter. Look inside to see what your fellow members think about a number of important issues. The LHA board will hold a planning session this fall and use your input to set our future goals and priorities.

Ed Garbe has been elected Director and Programs Committee Chair. Marvin Tabor has agreed to serve as interim treasurer replacing Jerry Morrison who is stepping down from the board.

Please mark your calendars for October 19 to attend the LHA Fall Member Meeting. This is a great chance to meet fellow members and hear interesting presentations. See the article inside this newsletter.

Please take a moment to read the article about LHA member George Rogers. This is a tremendous example of what one individual can accomplish "for the sake of the lake." Thanks, George!

**Corps/Lake Update:** On September 8 the Corps announced the approval of the Revised Savannah River Basin Drought Plan. This process took longer than we had hoped but the new flow rates (4000 cfs vs. current 4500 cfs) will provide additional relief at the present drought level 2 condition.

The Corps issued the revised Shoreline Management Plan and the 30-day comment period has closed. LHA submitted a number of comments and a number of LHA members also submitted individual comments. On balance, though there are some specifics we disagree with the revised plan should relieve many dock crowding problems, and address permitting abuses that have begun to occur as property availability has tightened.

### LHA Mission Statement

**We** will develop and establish the Lake Hartwell Association as an organization that promotes and encourages cooperation, assistance, and information exchange among those concerned with Hartwell Lake and the Savannah River Basin.

**We** will provide a forum to collectively represent our membership on issues that pertain to the development, preservation, and comprehensive management of Hartwell Lake.

**We** will collect and distribute information on matters affecting Hartwell Lake.

**We** will maintain liaisons and communications between the Lake Hartwell Association and educational, governmental, scientific, and other communities.

**Water Issues:** Now that the PCB Consent Decree has been finalized, we continue to work with the state agencies to see that the settlement funds are used in ways that provide maximum benefit to the lake. See the article inside.

Later this month I will be attending the meeting of the Joint Governors' (GA, SC) Savannah Basin Committee. This group is addressing issues relative to sharing the basin resources. We are hopeful that this process will lead to an interstate compact, thus avoiding litigation and federal involvement that has caused conflict for other basins.

We continue to participate in the Georgia Statewide Water Plan development through the Basin Advisory Committee. This group will have a fourth meeting in September to review recommendations on water quality and assimilative capacity policies.

The strength of LHA is in our membership base. We continue to try to attract new family and business members. Please do your part "for the sake of the lake" by volunteering your time to an LHA committee or bringing in a new member. If you have any questions or comments, contact us by email at [mail@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:mail@lakehartwellassociation.org) or call 1-888-200-4899.

## Inside this issue

Lay Waste to Water Pollution	2
Some Life Saving Tips	2
LHA Member Survey Results	3
LHA Member Survey Results continued	4
Around the Lake - Hiking Trails	5
VHF Radios: "Dos and Don'ts"	5
Thank You - LHA Community and Business Members	6
Welcome Your New Neighbors and Friends with a Gift Membership to LHA	6
Georgia DNR Proposes PCB Settlement Projects	7
LHA Recognition Policy	7
Upcoming Events	7
Fall Meeting Notice	8
New LHA Members	8
Lake Elevations	9
Savannah District Implements New Drought Management Plan	9
Making a Difference - One "Iceberg" at a Time	10
Corps Bans Kite Tubing on All Savannah District Lakes	10

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**OFFICERS &  
DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

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Mike Massey,  
*Membership*

**Lay Waste to Water Pollution**

*Submitted by Dan Ray*

Most communities have two types of drainage systems: sanitary sewer and storm drains.

The sanitary sewer, or wastewater, system carries household sink, toilet and washing machine wastewater through plumbing to a sewage treatment plant where it's filtered and treated for pollutants.

The storm drain system carries untreated water from city streets through gutters into curbside catch basins and then back into our waterways.

Anything other than pure rainwater in the storm drain system can contaminate the water we boat, fish, ski, snorkel and swim in. The storm drain system is a primary example of how our actions on land affect our safety and health on water.

Illegal dumping and trash disposal in street gutters and storm drains are among the largest sources of water pollution in this country. When it rains, water runoff carries these pollutants through the system and into our lakes, streams and rivers.

Motor oil is one of the main products illegally dumped into the storm drain system. One pint of oil can cause an oil slick the size of two football fields. Even tiny amounts can smother fish eggs and harm waterfowl. Other illegal products include chemical lawn fertilizers, weed spray, pesticides, paints and antifreeze.

You can help:

- Report illegal dumping to your county health department or city hall.
- Use environmentally safe products to wash your car, and shut off the hose when you're not using it.
- Sweep your driveway and sidewalks instead of hosing them.
- Compost your yard waste and grass clippings, or take them to a local compost site.
- Use environmentally friendly fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.
- Pick up after your pet. Picking up pet waste prevents it from entering gutters and storm drains.

Remember, the solution to pollution is in your hands.

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Written by Staff Commander Andrea Davis, United States Power Squadrons

*This article was originally published in the September/October 2006 issue of THE ENSIGN magazine, a United States Power Squadrons publication.*

**Some Life Saving Tips**

*Submitted by Dan Ray*

Having someone going overboard off your boat due to bad weather is unlikely on Lake Hartwell. However if high waves or some other reason causes a person to fall off your boat, you may have a serious problem getting him or her back on board. Planning how to handle this issue ahead of time just makes good sense. Of course, having all on the boat wearing PFDs is a good first step, just as you fasten your seat belts in your car.

If someone goes overboard, you should throw a life ring or cushion to the person. Assuming you have



another crew member on board, have him point to the person in the water until you have returned the boat to the person. It is surprising how difficult it is to see someone in rough water. In a small boat it is often easiest to pull the person back into the boat over the stern. As you approach the person, kill the engine and get the person back on board.

Practice bringing a boat back to a point where you have thrown something which floats until you have confidence in handling the boat. Try retrieving someone to find the easiest way to get him back on the boat. There are inflatable slings which may help.

A good write-up of retrieval methods and equipment can be found at [boat.us.com](http://boat.us.com) in the "Final Crew Overboard Report."

\*\*\*\*

**"Leaving the dock is optional, returning is mandatory."**

*While you are at the BoatUS website, you may find interesting the "Cruising Logs" of sailors who are live-aboards who cruise the Caribbean, Central America, and the Bahamas.*

**Share Your Photos**

If you have digital photos that you would like to share with other LHA members, submit them to the email address below. Include the names of recognizable people and information that can be used in a caption.

**LHANewsletter@yahoo.com**

## LHA Member Survey Results

By Joe Brenner

Shown below is a summary of the LHA Member Survey included in the summer newsletter. The board would like to thank all our members who took the time to complete the survey and share their ideas. The LHA board is here to represent your interests; therefore, it is very important that we periodically make sure that we are on the right track.

It is clear from the results that our members are very interested in water quality, lakeshore development and boat noise. We also received two pages of individual suggestions and comments, which are not included here due to space but will certainly be addressed.

The board will be conducting a planning session this fall. Our purpose will be to set a clear direction for the future of LHA and to establish priorities and goals for the coming year. The member survey and your comments will serve as critical input to this process.

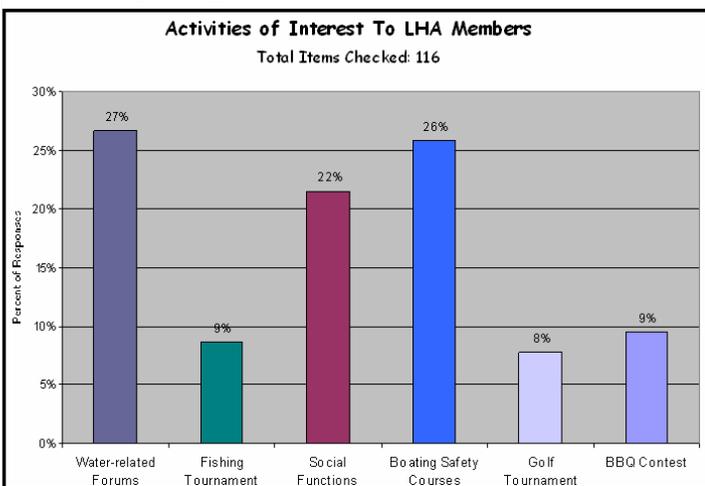
Survey says...



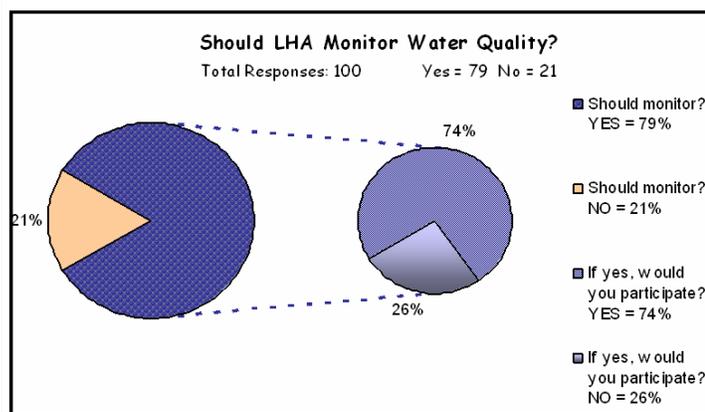
### LHA Member Survey - Results Summary Summer 2006

Total Number of LHA Member Surveys: 111 (Survey Postmarks: Georgia - 38; South Carolina - 63; All Others - 10)

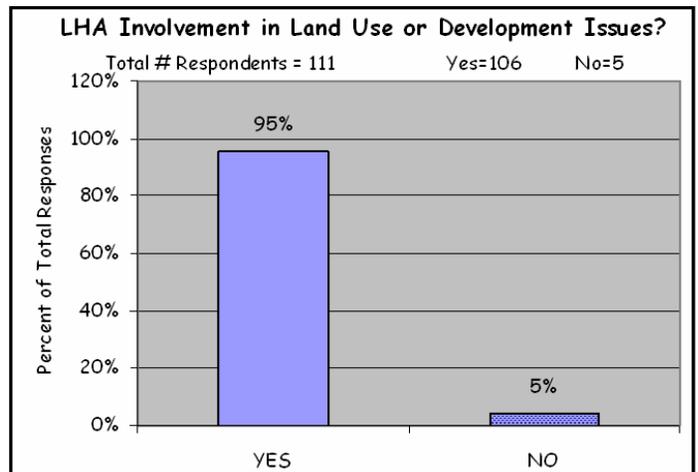
**Q1:** *We would like to offer more activities of interest to our members. Please check any of the following in which you would participate.*



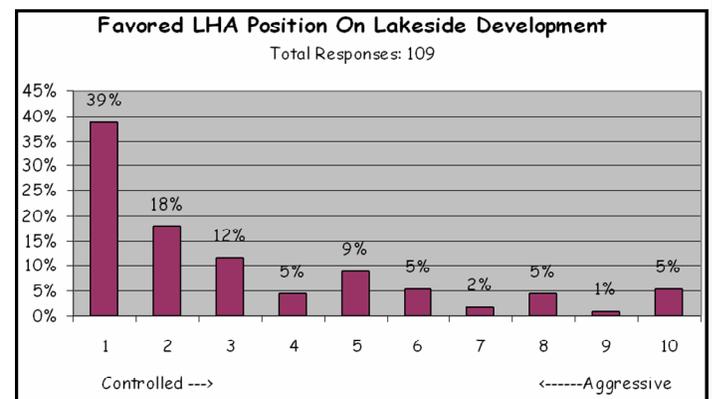
**Q2:** *Many lake organizations monitor water quality through data collection or observation programs conducted by volunteers.*



**Q3:** *A nearby lake has recently had some contentious issues relative to a planned high-rise development. This lake, as with Hartwell, has little development control due to lack of land use or zoning ordinances in surrounding counties. Should LHA become involved in issues regarding land use or specific development on the lake?*

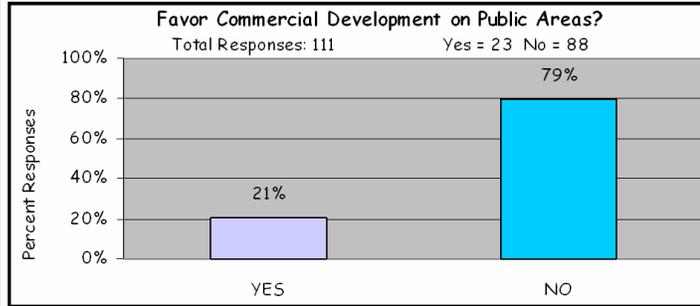


**Q4:** *If LHA were to take a position on lakeside development, circle your preference, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 represents very controlled development with mainly single family dwellings and limited commercial establishments, and 10 represents aggressive lakeside and commercial development.*

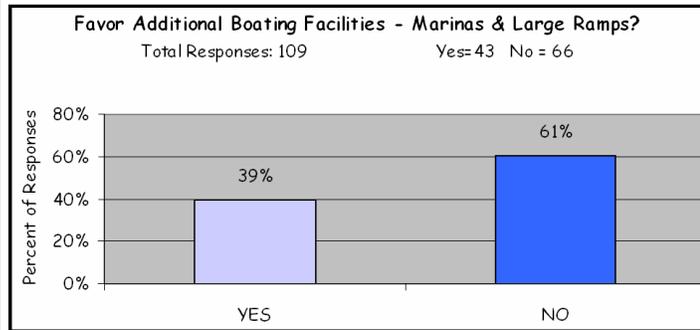


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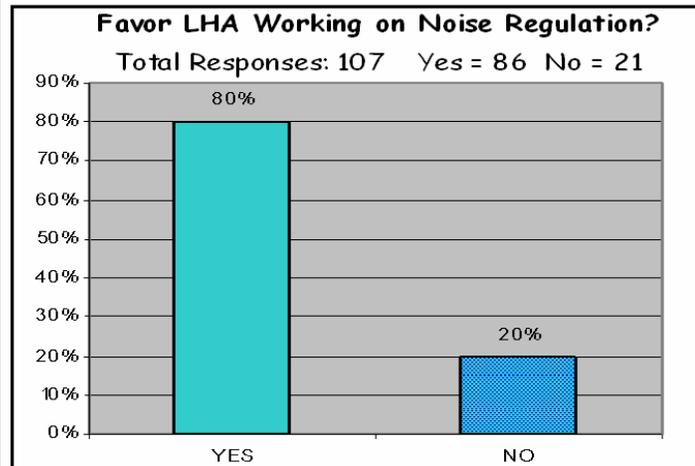
**Q5: Would you favor commercial development on the public areas of the lake, for example, on the islands? These might include resort type facilities.**



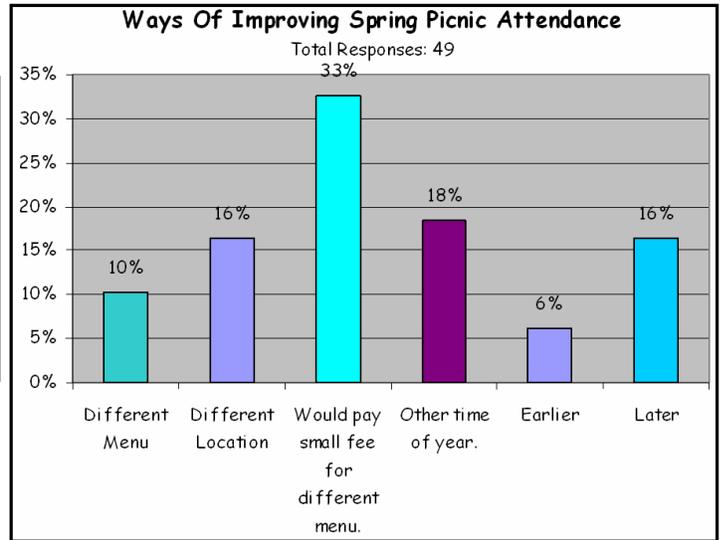
**Q6: Would you favor additional boating facilities, such as marinas and large boat ramps?**



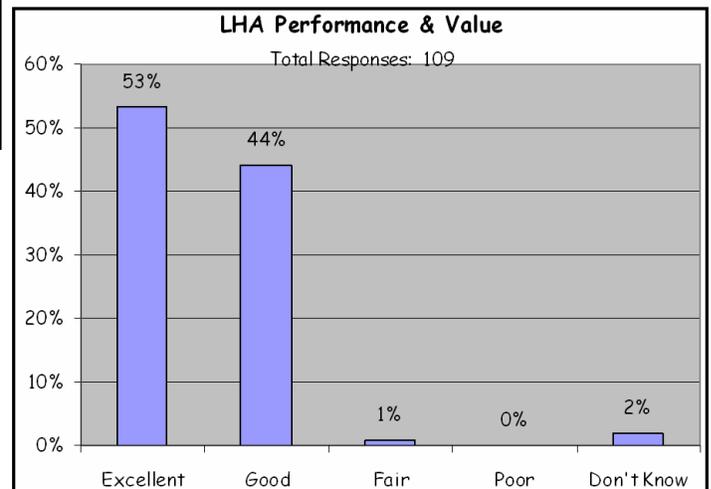
**Q7: There are currently no boat noise regulations in South Carolina. Do you favor having LHA work on getting boat noise regulation passed?**



**Q8: We would like to increase attendance at the LHA spring member picnic meeting. Which of the following would make your attendance more likely?**



**Q9: In your opinion how well is the LHA Board doing in representing your interests and providing you value as an LHA member?**



**Send LHA Your Email Address:** To receive timely notices on key issues and events that affect Lake Hartwell, be sure to update your email address on your renewal form or send an email to [feedback2lha@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:feedback2lha@lakehartwellassociation.org)

## Around the Lake - Hiking Trails

Submitted by Pam Huntley

I often watch with amazement all the boats and jet skis whipping across the water. People are being pulled on skis and assorted flotation devices. All I can say is, "Been there, done that and have all the bruises." Now I like the milder form of activity and exercise. The purpose of this article is to introduce our members to some of my favorite hiking trails. This is for all the people out there who would like to enjoy the beauty of the lake without endangering their lives.

I find that walking or running is a great form of exercise, and there is a special peace of mind and relaxation that comes from walking around the lake.

The Corps of Engineers has two walking and running trails available to the public. One is located on the Georgia side of the lake. The other one is just about 1 mile away on the South Carolina side.

The trail on the Georgia side is happily referred to as the Walking, Waddling and Running Recreational Trail. Located just off Highway 29 in Hart County, it starts at the entrance to Big Oaks Recreation Area. The trail follows the shoreline of Lake Hartwell to the concrete part of the Hartwell Dam on the Georgia side. Each quarter of a mile you have a marker that tells how far you have walked. There are also benches and trash receptacles at several of these markers. The trail which is 2.75 miles round trip is paved and is handicap accessible. Because it is on the dam it is located higher than the lake which makes the view of the lake more beautiful. Although there are no trees on the trail itself, Big Oaks Recreation Area has lots of trees. One branch of the main trail leads off to the right and takes the hiker to a beautiful shaded area with benches. Restroom facilities can also be found in the recreation area.

I did not notice a name for the trail on the South Carolina side of the lake. The trail begins at the South Carolina Overlook which is located on Highway 29 on the South Carolina side. This trail also follows the shoreline of Lake Hartwell Dam on the South Carolina side and is 1.5 miles round trip. Markers are placed every half mile. The trail ends at the concrete part of the Hartwell Dam on the South Carolina side. This trail is paved and is handicap accessible also. There is a pleasant shaded area that includes a picnic table at the beginning of the trail; however, there is no restroom.

It appears to me that these two trails were joined at one time. Perhaps the heightened awareness of "homeland security" has restricted public access and the concrete section of the dam has been closed to walkers dividing one trail into two trails.

I located another walking trail that was located off Highway 11. But when I called I was told that it had been closed. That is a shame. We need more walking and running trails for everyone living around this area. If you know of any trails around Hartwell Lake please let us know at: [ForTheSakeOfThe-Lake@gmail.com](mailto:ForTheSakeOfThe-Lake@gmail.com)  
Enjoy our beautiful fall on the lake and happy trails to all.

## VHF Radios: Do's and Don'ts

Submitted by Dan Ray



The most important channel on a VHF radio is Channel 16, the international distress and calling frequency. Channel 9 is used for haling, radio checks plus some other functions. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates marine radio traffic and dictates that all other uses are secondary to safety, so chatting is frowned upon by the FCC and is forbidden on Channels 16 and 9. The marine band is monitored by the FCC and the U.S. Coast Guard and both agencies have sensitive radio direction finders that can track a violator, for instance, a false "Mayday" caller.

### The Do's

- Monitor Channel 16, unless you are communicating on another channel.
- Before transmitting, listen for 30 seconds to hear if the channel is in use.
- At the beginning and end of your transmission, identify your vessel by its name or your call sign.
- Use Channel 16 or 9 for calling and when contact is made, switch immediately to an unused working channel.
- Set the radio to the low power setting whenever possible.
- Speak slowly and clearly with the microphone about an inch from your mouth.
- Keep all communications as brief as possible.

### The Don'ts

- Don't call the Coast Guard requesting a radio check.
- Don't monopolize any channel with long conversations.
- Don't let children use the radio or think it's a toy.
- Don't broadcast a Mayday unless there is immediate danger to life or property.
- Don't broadcast profanities or insults. It is a criminal offense to transmit obscene, profane, or indecent language or meanings.
- Don't speak on Channel 70; it's reserved for Digital Selective Calling (DSC) only.

### Channels Available for Recreational Boats

* Distress, Safety, Calling	Channel 16
* Calling	Channel 7
* Coast Guard	Channel 22 (after using 16)
* Recreational Use	Channels 68-69, 71-72, 78
* Marine Operator	Channels 24-28, 84-87
* Locks, Canals, Bridges, Pilots	Channel 13
* DSC	Channel 70
* Weather	Channels WX1-3 (receive only)

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Reprinted with permission from the Golden Anchor, newsletter of the Golden Corner Lakes Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. (Adapted from BOATUS Guide to Radio Manners and FCC.gov.)

## Thank You -LHA Community/Business Members

Submitted by Petra Massey



**Thank You LHA Community/Business Members.** LHA recognizes that its greatest assets are the 2200+ families and businesses that support LHA. But this past year, more than ever before, LHA has realized the importance of our “strength in numbers” as we addressed a myriad of issues and topics affecting Lake Hartwell specifically, and the Savannah River Basin, in general.

In this issue, the LHA Board of Directors wants to express a special thanks to our Community/Business Members who support LHA. Through their contributions and advocacy of LHA’s work to their constituent and customer bases, Community/Business Members enhance LHA’s ability to represent our diverse membership and to influence policies that might affect Lake Hartwell for decades to come.

**Support Our Community/Business Members.** The LHA Board of Directors encourages all of our members to join us in thanking and, whenever possible, supporting the following Community/Business Members:

Anderson Regional Joint Water System – Scott Willet  
 Robert & Connie Banks  
 Branch Banking & Trust Company  
 Currahee Partners – Chris Whitley  
 Foxwood Hills Property Owners Association – Bill Lewis  
 Hartwell Lake Properties – Mike Gray  
 Lake Home Renovations – Paul A. Erickson  
 Leeward Landing Association of Boat Dock Owners  
 Paul & Susan Meng  
 Paradise Point Inc – Jerry Lehner  
 Pediatric Dentistry – Angela & Charles McNutt  
 Pintail Point Property Owners – Sheree Moate  
 Portman Marina – David Freeman  
 Re/Max Properties – Charlene & Anthony Lee  
 Terence Roberts State Farm Insurance  
 Thad Strickland  
 Superior Dock Systems – Dick Lantier  
 Swaney's Point Association – Tom Williams  
 The Hartwell Sun – Edith Gaines  
 US Army Corps Of Engineers  
 View Point Lot Owners Association

**Encourage Others to Support LHA:** The LHA Board members and volunteer teams work hard to protect our beautiful lake and watershed. LHA members-at-large can also help by encouraging others to join LHA.

Do you know of any other Community/Business entities that share our commitment to, and enthusiasm for, maintaining the water quality, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of Lake Hartwell?

Do you know of any other Community/Business entities that directly benefit from the fruits of LHA’s work or from commercial interaction with LHA families and business members?

*continued next column.....*

If you answered “Yes” to either question, why not ask these organizations or businesses to join LHA?

LHA membership application forms are available inside the LHA brochure and at our website: [lakehartwellassociation.org](http://lakehartwellassociation.org).

If it would be more convenient for you, feel free to send the prospective Business Member’s name and contact information to [membership@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:membership@lakehartwellassociation.org) or call toll-free 1-888-200-4899.

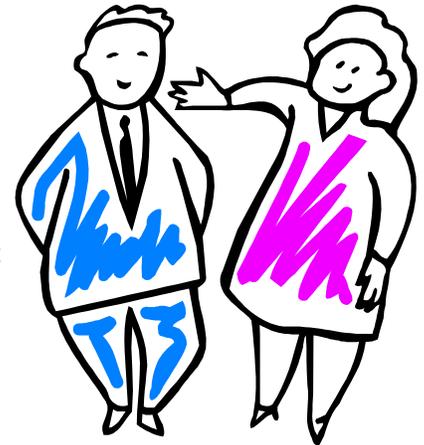
We’ll gladly follow-up on your leads!

**Once again: Thank You, Community/Business members!**

## Welcome Your New Neighbors and Friends with a Gift Membership to LHA

Submitted by Mike Massey

Have you met your new neighbors yet? Do they know about the Lake Hartwell Association? Want to give them something that will be useful, informative and appreciated? Something that also makes a terrific housewarming gift!



How about giving them a membership to the Lake Hartwell Association? What better way to

welcome a new neighbor, relative or friend to Hartwell Lake! As members of LHA they will be informed of many activities and issues related to the lake whether they are legislative, technical, safety oriented or environmental.

They will also receive four LHA newsletters each year packed with interesting lake information, invitations to meetings and forums related to lake activities and issues. Of course, they also will receive access to the LHA toll-free telephone number, website and email distribution to ask questions or receive up-to-the-minute updates on issues.

So if you know someone you would like to welcome into LHA, simply fill in the membership form on the back of this newsletter. Fill in the name and address of the person to whom you are sending the gift membership. Check “ Gift Membership” to indicate that this is a gift. Include your check and your name and address. LHA will send them a “Welcome to LHA” package and let them know they have been given a membership by you.

What a generous and useful way to welcome a new neighbor to Hartwell Lake! They will think of you with each newsletter issue.

## Georgia DNR Proposes PCB Settlement Projects

*Submitted by Joe Brenner*

As part of the PCB Consent Decree, Georgia, through DNR, receives almost \$3.7 million in compensatory damages. These funds are designated to be used (1) to create opportunities for the public to harvest fish that are not subject to fish consumption advisories currently in place for Lake Hartwell and 12-Mile Creek, (2) to enhance the recreational fishery of Lake Hartwell, 12-Mile Creek, and the surrounding area, and (3) to implement projects designed to improve the habitat and natural resources within the 12-Mile Creek corridor.

In August, GA DNR held two public meetings to present project proposals related to spending the PCB settlement funds, and to receive public feedback on the proposals and additional input and project ideas. LHA Board members Joe Brenner, Larry Dyck, and Dan Ray attended the Hartwell meeting. At that meeting DNR presented four projects for consideration: (1) fishing jetties in the Lake Hartwell tailrace, (2) two large boat ramp facilities, (3) fish stocking enhancements in the Lake Hartwell area and (4) construction of a new public fishing lake.

About 65 people were present at the Hartwell meeting. When asked for comment, the group overwhelmingly supported the boat ramp proposal. (Note that there is a very active coalition of business and public interests in Hart and Franklin counties pursuing these projects for economic development reasons, and their presence was significant). There was essentially no support for the fishing jetty or new fishing lake projects. LHA has always taken the position that any settlement funds should be spent to the benefit of Lake Hartwell based on public input. We have taken a position against the offsite lake because it does not meet these criteria. We strongly support using a portion of funds spent in Georgia to enhance both fish habitat and the non-migratory fish population in Lake Hartwell.

During the public comment period, and subsequently in a letter to DNR, LHA President Joe Brenner made the case that the best use of any settlement funds is the remediation of the PCB problem. The current plan calls for a silt "cap" to form over the PCB's by natural flow down 12-Mile Creek. However, the settlement only requires removal of two of the three 12-Mile dams. This process will be extremely inefficient and will take potentially decades longer than if all dams were removed.

We urged DNR to consider spending at least a portion of the settlement funds, in cooperation with South Carolina agencies, to negotiate removal of the Easley-Central Dam. We believe there are sufficient funds to accomplish this in addition to undertaking other proposed projects. We believe that this is the only project that truly meets the intent of the Consent Decree to enhance the Lake Hartwell fishery and improve the natural resource. It will also optimize the return of Hartwell to its natural state, and some day will allow removal of fish consumption advisories on the lake.

*continued next column...*

We have been encouraged in meetings with SC DHEC that they also support using SC settlement funds to pursue the third dam removal. We will continue to lobby these agencies to work together and properly address the PCB contamination problem.

## LHA Recognition Policy

*Submitted by Joe Brenner*

The LHA Board recently formalized and approved a recognition policy. It is felt that we need to recognize individuals who make significant contributions and provide their time and service for the benefit of the association.

There are recognition awards available for both members and non-members. These will typically consist of gift items or gift certificates with value not to exceed \$50. Any member may recommend someone for a recognition award which will require board approval. If you know someone whom you feel has provided outstanding service to LHA, please contact any board member and let them know why you feel the individual deserves recognition. You may also submit your recommendations in writing to either address below.

We would also like to remind members that the LHA bylaws allow for the election of individuals to "emeritus member" status which merits a lifetime association membership. This designation is reserved for individuals who have provided long term, distinguished service to LHA. Again, any active member may make nominations for board consideration. All recognition awards will be publicized in the newsletter and presented at member meetings.

**LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 312**  
**Fair Play, SC 29643**  
[membership@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:membership@lakehartwellassociation.org)

## Upcoming Events for LHA Related Activities Fall 2006 update

Event	Date
Hartwell Lake Clean-up Campaign	Aug10 -Sept 30
Clean-up Campaign Appreciation Picnic. Big Oaks Park	Sept. 30
LHA Fall Public Information Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Civic Center	10/19/06
LHA Board Meeting and Planning Session, 9:00 AM, Anderson Public Library	11/01/06

## - LHA MEETING NOTICE -

### 2006 LHA ANNUAL FALL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

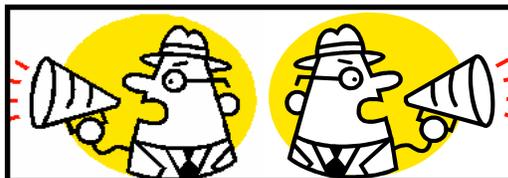
*This Meeting Should Not be Missed!!!*

*Submitted by Mike Massey*



Please put this important LHA meeting on your calendar!

What - LHA Fall Public Information Meeting  
Where - Anderson Civic Center  
When - Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2006, 7:00PM



If you have any interest in what is happening in and around Hartwell Lake, you are urged to attend the 2006 Lake Hartwell Association Annual Fall Public Information Meeting. This has been an exceptionally important year and the topics are particularly significant to anyone who owns property or a business on the lake or just uses the lake for recreation.

The keynote speaker this year is Mr. Dean Moss, member of Governor Sanford's Savannah River Committee and General Manager of the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority. The Savannah River Committee was formed last year at the same time as a similar Georgia committee formed by Georgia Governor Purdue. The purpose is for the two state agencies to study the issues and concerns as well as current and future needs of the Savannah River Basin water and work to develop a mutual agreement for future water allocation.

Mr. Moss recently stated that "It's not unreasonable to think that Atlanta, as its water demands continue to grow, will be looking at the Savannah River and we need to develop a plan before that happens, so we won't have to spend 20 years in federal court trying to work things out." He will present the latest status, issues, successes and roadblocks to the Savannah River water allocation.

In addition to the above, other very important topics for the meeting are expected to be:

- The 2006 revision to the Corps Shoreline Management Plan for Hartwell Lake.
- Status of the federal consent decree for the "Lake Hartwell Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan" for PCB's.
- An update of the plan to capture the white bead dock floats ("icebergs") that have been released into Hartwell Lake by some people instead of properly disposing of them.

A question and answer session.

LHA urges you again not to miss this years meeting. The meeting will be open to the public. We urge you to bring a friend or neighbor. Light refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes as well.

## **LHA Membership: Welcome Aboard and Thank You!**

We know we couldn't do it without all of our dedicated members and donors, who share a commitment to support LHA's efforts "for the sake of the lake!" Please welcome the following members, who have joined and donated much needed funds to LHA since our last newsletter:

### **New Family Memberships**

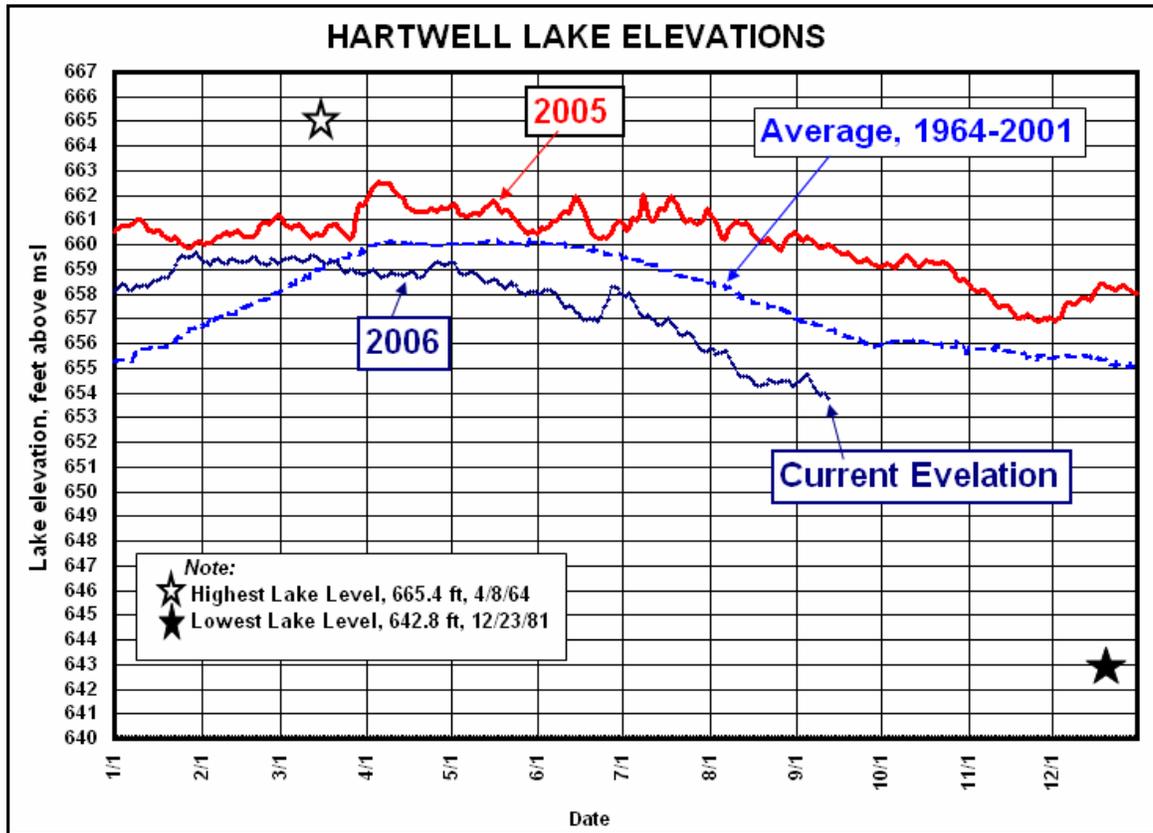
Jim & Mary Ashenfelter, James Bushey, Ronald & Jane Clausen, Debbie & Jim Cook, Mike & Kay Dillard, Terence & Florence Doyle, Carter Gower, Dave & Peg Haus, Lawrence & Joan Korth, Len & Helen Meinhold, Beth McCrae, Charlene & Doug Pigman, Ralph "Ty" Raines, Kim Sargent, Joe & Debby Shonka, Jeffrey & Susan Wages, Phillip & Susan Wall, Dan & Anna Lisa Wilson, Jerry Wolcoveick.

### **Donations to LHA**

We also wish to thank the following LHA donors. If you happen meet them along the way, be sure to let them know how much we all appreciate their generosity!

Mrs. Frank Elarbee, Len & Helen Meinhold, William McCullough

Welcome aboard & thank you all for your ongoing support "For The Sake Of The Lake!"



“As everyone knows, lake levels have been gradually declining since mid-March because of the extended drought we are in. In late June we had a short-lived increase of just over a foot, but then lake levels declined sharply through the summer because of low (or no) rainfall. As of mid-September we are about 6 feet below the normal pool level of 660 ft, and almost 3 feet below the long-term average for this time of year,”



Vern Sauer

## Savannah District Implements New Drought Management Plan

USACE Press Release

The commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District, approved a new drought management plan governing Lakes Thurmond, Russell, and Hartwell on the Savannah River. This culminates a review that began at the end of the last drought in 2002.

“This plan improves the way we respond to droughts in the Upper Savannah River Basin, and balances the impacts on hydropower generation, recreation, water quality and supply, while maintaining environmental stewardship,” said Col. Mark S. Held, the Savannah District Commander. Colonel Held signed the *Finding of No Significant Impact* as part of an environmental assessment, to implement the updated plan. “This is the first major change we have made to the drought management plan since 1989.”

Colonel Held said the updated plan represents a needed and active approach to improve water management on the Savannah River during drought periods. He said the frequency and severity of droughts in the southeast region appears to be on the increase since the early 1980s. “I felt it was prudent to update the 1989 Drought Contingency Plan to conserve more water in the lakes in the earlier stages of a drought while considering and balancing the needs of all the waters users in the basin,” he said. Colonel Held went on to say that all users suffer to one degree or another during a drought.

“We actively sought and received input from the states of Georgia and South Carolina, other state and Federal agencies, major commercial, residential and environmental stakeholders from the upper basin downstream to Savannah,” Colonel Held said. “It was a highly cooperative

effort following years of hard work from all the stakeholders.” The District developed this drought plan update as part of phase 1 of the Savannah River Basin Water Resources Comprehensive Study.

The major changes of the update include decreasing water releases through the dams earlier than in the previous plan. In addition, when recovering from a drought, restrictions will be lifted in steps as the pools rise rather than remaining in place until the lakes reach full pool under the old plan. This incremental increase will more closely mimic the river’s natural recovery.

Under the new plan drought level 1 will limit discharges to a weekly average of 4,200 cubic feet per second (cfs). There were no level 1 flow restrictions under the old plan. The lakes are currently in drought level 2 which limits the average weekly discharge from Thurmond Dam to 4,500 cfs. Under the new plan the level 2 limit will be reduced further to 4,000 cfs. Under the old plan level 3 restricted flow to 3,600 cfs, but under the new plan level 3 increases to 3,800 cfs. Holding the pools higher earlier in the drought provides greater recreational opportunities while increased flow at level 3 better maintains downstream habitats all the way to the estuary.

Savannah District will implement the new plan with its water flow restrictions as soon as practical.

When releases from Thurmond Dam are limited, the other lakes adjust flow to keep all the lakes in balance. On Sept. 1, Thurmond lake stood at 324 feet above mean sea level (ft./msl) and Lake Hartwell was at 654.4 ft./msl. At these levels, underwater objects pose a greater hazard. Boaters should remain in marked channels or use extra caution when outside the channels. All lake users are urged to wear life jackets while swimming or boating.

# Making A Difference – One “Iceberg” A Time

*Submitted by Petra Massey*

**“I kind of enjoy it. It gives me something to do.”** – George Rogers, regarding his one-man iceberg clean-up project.

Looking around the well-maintained grounds of their beautiful lakeside home and property, you might think George Rogers always has plenty “to do” just keeping the grass mowed, and the surrounding property and storage areas so clean and tidy. Nevertheless, in the last month George has somehow found time to single-handedly remove hundreds of those discarded white beaded flotation devices that had blighted the beautiful shores of Lake Hartwell near his Inlet Pointe area home.

The Corps had mandated the replacement of the old type floats with new encapsulated style by January 1, 2006. Since the average property owner would not have the ability to replace these floats on their own it is surmised that unscrupulous contractors have released them into the lake instead of disposing of them properly. These floats have been dubbed “icebergs” by the Lake Hartwell Association (LHA).

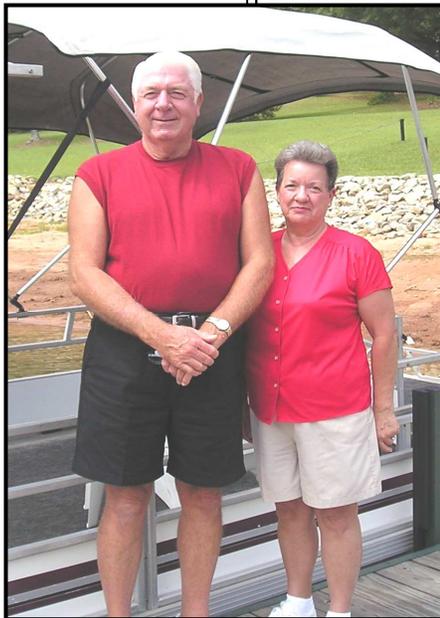
George and Janice Rogers are long-time residents of the lake. They are among LHA’s remaining “charter members” having joined the association in July 1990, even before LHA was officially incorporated in August 1990. They both recall lake life during the early days of Lake Hartwell. George has been enjoying Lake Hartwell since the 1960s when he would travel from Charlotte to accompany his father, who kept a boat at the Harbor Light marina. He recalls back then all they needed was

some “Little Debbie Cookies” and then they would go to Dad’s Restaurant in Lavonia for one meal a day. Janice also recalls coming to the lake as a young girl, and then later in their lakeside home as their daughters were growing up.

George noted that while he has been a member of LHA since 1990, this was the first time he had gotten so actively involved in

LHA activities. He says it all started when he read the article in the Summer 2006 LHA newsletter, “LHA and Corps Concerned About Dock Floats.” The article ended by announcing the annual Lake Clean-up campaign from August 10 through September 30, including a plea for members to assist in picking up some of the “icebergs” in their areas. George read the article, looked over the photos, and decided he could do something to help rid the area of icebergs near his home. So, realizing he wanted to help clear some of the icebergs from the lake and not quite sure how one might go about it, George set out one morning in his pontoon boat with some gloves, old shoes, rope and a few tools to see what he could do and learn about the iceberg removal process. One of the first things he learned was that, “You get your boat really dirty.” Another was that the icebergs can be really heavy or so embedded in shoreline vegetation they’re hard to dislodge. At first he tried towing the icebergs with steel reinforcing bars (re-bars) driven into them, but he soon found that the bars would pull loose.

That’s when he went shopping at the local dollar store in downtown Fair Play, and bought himself a few “doggie tie-downs.”



*George and Janice Rogers on the dock of their lake property. (Photo: P. Massey)*

*The Humble Tie-Down Stake: Secret to Effective Iceberg Pulling*



**George Rogers – All in a days work**  
*(Photo Courtesy: Linda Ward)*

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

At first George thought the Corps wouldn't be too happy with him taking it upon himself to pick up the icebergs. But after he had gathered several he wondered if he couldn't drop them off somewhere closer to his area than the nearest Corp ramps. He called and spoke to Corps Rangers Tanya Grant and Mark Dotson. They were very cooperative and soon they had arranged drop-offs with the Harbor Light Marina and Lake Hartwell State Park, where the Corps picked them up. He was also able to drop icebergs at the nearby Big Shoals County Park. It seems that everyone was very happy with him taking this task on himself.

One Saturday, he had dragged 40-50 icebergs to the nearest ramps for collection by the Corps before he decided to call it a day. As he encountered new situations, he made a few adjustments and soon enough he mastered the art of iceberg tagging and pulling. As the end of August neared he had cleaned icebergs off the shores of Payne Creek, Durham's Access, and Glen Ferry areas. So far he's made his way from buoy T54, almost 4 miles up the river, nearing buoy T19. From Gum Log Creek to Payne Creek is "all clear now" states George. His personal target is to rid the shores of icebergs from T54 all the way to T19! He has a terrific start on accomplishing that goal.

Even if he hasn't accomplished that goal yet, if there ever was such a thing as an "iceberg pick-up record," George would have easily set the record in both the Individual and Team categories. In just one day, he single-handedly removed 100 icebergs off the Tugaloo River shores!

And to think it all began with an article in his quarterly newsletter from the Lake Hartwell Association, the same organization that he and other forward thinking members joined and have supported since 1990!

What does George think of LHA after sixteen years of membership? George states that LHA is doing a great job. He especially appreciates that LHA keeps the membership informed of all lake related activities so they know what is happening all around the lake area. He was recently surprised to learn that some of his neighbors were not yet members. As he always does whenever he meets a non-member, he gave them the LHA brochure and tells them they should join and receive the LHA newsletter to keep up with what's happening around the lake.

George and Janice said they've seen a lot of change since the early days, and they stayed focused on the good things the lake and the area have to offer.

"I know we're very grateful to him," said Ranger Tanya Grant of the US Corps of Engineers. The Corps has many folks are helping with the clean-up, but no one has come close to the number of icebergs that he has cleaned up on his own. And Tanya should know, she writes the work orders for the Lake Clean-Up trash pick-ups. While not everyone can accomplish as much as George Rogers, he has shown us all what a difference one person can make! Likewise, the Lake Hartwell Association is also proud of George and thankful for his singular efforts to keep the lake shore clean of icebergs and other debris. George is truly working "For The Sake Of The Lake"!

## Corps Bans Kite Tubing on All Savannah District lakes

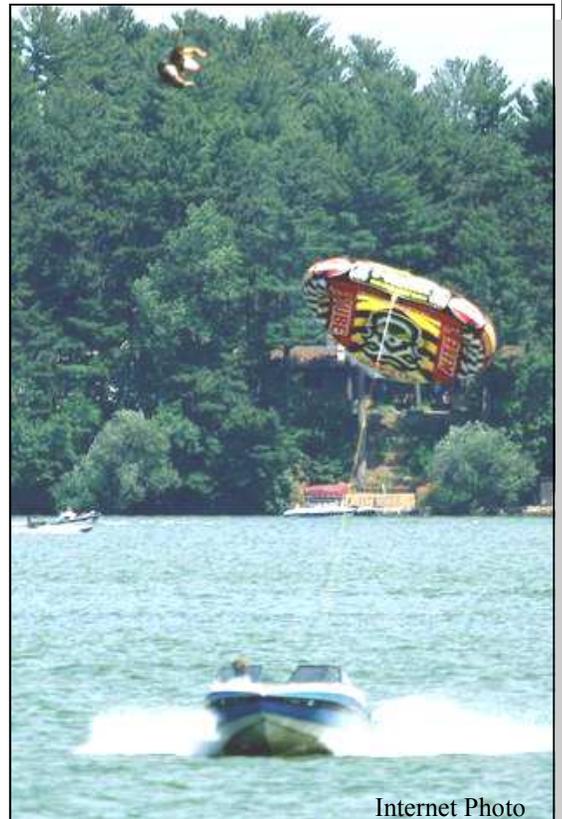
*USACE News Release*

SAVANNAH, Ga. – Beginning last week the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, banned kite tubing on all waters under its jurisdiction in Georgia and South Carolina.

Tube kiting is a new "extreme" water sport gaining popularity in America. Tube kites are large inflatables with a solid fabric floor that are pulled behind high-speed boats much like water skis. Unlike skis, however, tube kites become airborne with a rider on top. A lack of lateral stability and controls often result in the tube slamming hard into the water surface, overturning, or throwing the rider.

Serious, even life-threatening injuries have been reported at other Corps of Engineers lakes and by the National Park Service. The Consumer Product Safety Commission blames tube kites on at least two deaths this year. Other injuries include broken necks, broken ribs, chest and back injuries, and fractured jaws. A tube kite can unpredictably dive into the water with the force equivalent to a 70-foot drop.

"The danger associated with these devices far outweighs the benefits of their unrestricted use," said Col. Mark S. Held, commander of the Savannah District. "I ordered the immediate ban on tube kites on Savannah District lakes to protect the safety of our visitors."



Internet Photo

The lakes affected by this ban include Thurmond Lake, Russell Lake, and Hartwell Lake. All sit on the border between Georgia and South Carolina. Park rangers assigned to these Corps lakes will enforce the ban.

LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
P.O. Box 312 Fairplay, SC 29643

Fall  
2006

Membership Information: Check  all that apply

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 Gift Membership\*    Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s): Yours \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's \_\_\_\_\_  
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Give something back to the lake.  
Select a committee on which you  
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