

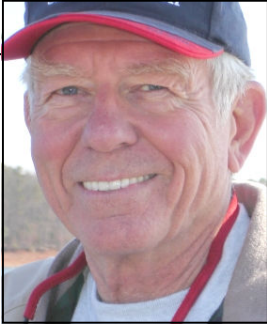
Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Fall, 2009

Volume XXI, Number 4

Letter from the President

Submitted by Herb Burnham



Please recall that earlier this year your LHA Board of Directors voted to have at least two regional meetings rather than the usual spring picnic. Attendance at the picnics had been waning because it was a long drive for many. The first regional meeting was held May 14th, in Lavonia, Georgia and was a great success with a "packed house." The second was held at Clemson on August 24th and was also well attended and provided members a wealth of information as summarized later in this newsletter. The board intends to continue this regional meeting concept and welcomes members' feedback regarding content, time and place of meetings. A new and even more informative program is being planned for our annual general membership meeting at the Anderson Civic Center on October 29th. **That meeting will also be a celebration of LHA's 20th anniversary, so don't miss it!**

Since its beginning in 1990, LHA has grown to become the most recognized and respected advocate for the sustainability of Hartwell Lake. This was built over the last 20 years by steady and consistent growth in membership, demonstrated strength in advocacy, highly recognized technical capabilities, unparalleled experience in addressing lake related issues and building positive and productive working relationships. Among our challenges for the next 20 years will be to continue to improve in all these areas.... **"For the Sake of the Lake."**

In many ways a much tougher challenge will be finding ways to avoid the looming crisis of water shortages. One LHA board member is on one of the new Georgia Water Planning Councils and another is a co-author of the Comprehensive State-wide Water Plan that is moving through the South Carolina congress. These two members keep the LHA board advised of any water management related issues in the two state capitols that may impact Hartwell Lake. In addition, the LHA technical committee director has more that 30 years experience in large river basin water management with the USGS. These two examples are a mere "snapshot" of the experience and technical capabilities LHA has available to meet future challenges and ensure the sustainability of Hartwell Lake. **We are ready for the challenge!**

Our new Covekeeper Program is growing and "coming of age"; and if you like hands-on activities where the results of your work are readily evident and **make a real difference**, this may well be the volunteer job for you. The training you will receive as a Hartwell Lake Covekeeper volunteer is unique, unavailable anywhere else and presented by professional educators. If you are unable to volunteer as a Covekeeper or other committee member, you can serve by telling others about LHA and recruiting them as members. **We all know the strength of numbers especially at the ballot box.**

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LHA ANNUAL MEETING & 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

When: Thursday, October 29, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Anderson Civic Center

Theme: "Watershed Planning -- Avoiding Crisis"

Speakers: Brigadier General Todd T. Semonite, Commander, SAD, USACE

Dr. Carol Couch, Director, EPD, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Come early and meet our business members who will be setting up displays and booths.

Lake Hartwell
Association, Inc.

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**The Lake Hartwell Association - 20
Years as Lake Advocates**

Formed in 1989 as an all volunteer, non-profit organization, the Lake Hartwell Association (LHA) is celebrating its 20th year as the primary voice and advocate of all aspects of water needs for Hartwell Lake.

LHA is the oldest and most active volunteer organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and quality of Hartwell Lake for everyone. LHA owes its success to its membership support, which has grown from a few hundred families to over 2,000 families, community organizations and businesses.

Over the past 20 years LHA has earned the respect of organizations and experts in water management, water quality and shoreline preservation and restoration. The association's technical staff includes experts well-known for their credentials, research and hands-on involvement directly related to water management.

While striving to maintain high water levels in the lake has been the top priority through the years, there are many other issues that must also be addressed for the economic health of the lake and the community. LHA tackles these additional concerns as part of its total ongoing effort as lake protectors.

During the recent 2008 drought LHA members rallied with other lake groups to press elected officials, state agencies and the Corps of Engineers to adopt a reduced flow and adaptive management strategy to retain more water in the lake. This approach was adopted and, coupled with a more normal rainfall, resulted in a recovery of over 20 feet in the lake's level early this year. In fact, during the 61 day period of the months of March and April, the outflow from Hartwell Lake was completely shut off for 51 days.

More recently LHA joined with other water organizations from the lower lakes to propose a three phase plan to the Corps recommending a more permanent drought management approach by reducing the discharges out of Lake Thurmond on a more permanent basis.

LHA's technical staff assisted to define a long-

term PCB improvement plan and defended the proposal in federal court in 2006. The final decision resulted in the court is ordering \$11 million in compensation to the states for fishing area losses.

The association, recognizing that water resources are and will continue to be a key factor in the economic future of our region, actively participated in the four year development of the new Georgia Comprehensive Statewide Water Plan. The efforts were rewarded when Governor Purdue appointed an LHA member to the new Georgia Regional Basin Planning Council for the Savannah River.

Protecting the Savannah River from potential water transfers to other parts of Georgia is another major priority. Since South Carolina currently lacks a Comprehensive Statewide Water Plan similar to Georgia's, state agencies cannot meet with representatives of all surrounding states, especially Georgia, on an equal footing to negotiate such measures. LHA has worked with state legislators to draft and introduce legislation creating a State Comprehensive Water Plan. House Bill 3132 and Senate Bill 358 are receiving powerful legislative support.

The association is working for the completion of a Corps managed water allocation study to identify all water users in the basin to more accurately identify water needs. A congressional status report from Congressman Barrett's office indicates that funding for this study may now be pending.

"CoveKeeper" is the most recent major LHA program initiated to protect the lake. Member volunteers are trained by experts to patrol the lake shoreline, observe and report situations that may create a hazard or may have a negative impact on water quality or the environment. Early results have been impressive. New CoveKeepers are being recruited.

LHA members are actively involved in water safety programs and ongoing lake clean-up activities. This year Anderson County Keep American Beautiful, the nation's largest volunteer group, awarded LHA members the 2009 Litter

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LHA's Second Regional Meeting

Submitted by Ruth Anne Maciag

The Lake Hartwell Association held its Second Regional Meeting at the Ramada Inn in Clemson, South Carolina, on August 24, 2009. There was a full house and a VERY full agenda.

LHA President Herb Burnham began the meeting with the good news that Lake Hartwell was 9.62 feet higher that day than it was on the same date in 2008. This rise was due to several factors: Mother Nature blessing us with slightly higher

than normal rainfall this spring, as well as a commitment by USACE General Schroedel last January to exercise adaptive management, resulting in a lake level rise of more than 20 feet this spring.

Don Bowen, SC House District 8 representative, was introduced and reported on positive progress being made in the SC House and Senate on bills regarding statewide water management. He reported that Hartwell Lake is worth an estimated \$200 million a year to the area's economy and said that Duke Power has expressed an interest in joining him, SC Sen. Bryant, Gov. Sanford and Mike McShane in these legislative efforts.

Dr. Larry Dyck, LHA director, gave an update on the LHA CoveKeeper Program and its goal of helping to preserve Lake Hartwell as a natural resource. CoveKeepers are volunteers who act as a first-alert or neighborhood watch for the lake by observing a stretch of shoreline to which they are assigned, twice a year. They receive on-the-water training and meet periodically with their River Captain to discuss observations/problems. The eight River Captains confer with the Lake Keeper, Larry Dyck.

Gary Lance, River Captain for the Upper Tugaloo, gave a brief Power Point presentation on the kinds of things CoveKeepers are looking for such as abandoned boats, lack of silt fences at a construction sites and neglected/dislodged docks.

Next on the agenda was Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever. Founded in 1998, this organization seeks to promote sensible growth and protect special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. Wyche explained their

three programs are clean air and water, sustainable communities and land trust. He said studies show that by 2030 the Upstate will have 235,000 more people and we need to plan intelligently to accommodate this growth and preserve our natural resources, open space and environment. To learn more about Upstate Forever, visit the website, www.upstateforever.org.



River Capt. Gary Lance waits to inform members about CoveKeepers project

Larry Dyck took the podium again to update attendees on the combined efforts of LHA, Upstate Forever and U.S. District Judge Anderson to accomplish an ecologic restoration of the 12 Mile River. The river, which is contaminated with PCBs from the manufacture of capacitors from 1955-1977, flows into Lake Hartwell. Federal Judge Anderson has recently ordered the removal of two of the three dams associated with the con-

tamination and has set a hearing for October 13 on the removal of the third dam. Larry said the dismantling of the dams and the removal of the sediment behind them will allow the river to flow free and open that area to fish migration and recreation.



Col. Kertis wraps up with LHA's Pat Goran (right)

Col. Edward J. Kertis, USACE Savannah District Commander, spoke of water releases through the Hartwell Dam. He said releases now are at 4000 cfs; the Corps is planning to drop to 3600 cfs in the fall when the water is cooler; releases could possibly go to 3100 later if needed. Kertis said the recent drought has given the Corps new data points and that a new drought plan is needed and in the works.

Col. Kertis introduced Joyce McDonald, his new communications officer and said the Corps can now be seen on UTube, Facebook and Twitter.

LHA Invited to Attend Congressional Water Caucus

Submitted by Mike Massey

“In many states poor management of water and loss of water resources due to leaking infrastructure are causing a man-made drought.” Congressman George Radonovich, R – CA

On Wednesday, June 24, I was invited to a presentation and discussion as part of a U.S. Congressional Water Caucus at the U.S. Capitol building for the purpose of discussing the condition of the USA water resources. Sponsors were Congressmen Costa and Radonovich of California and Linder of Georgia (Metro Atlanta). It occurred to me that the above line spoken by Congressman Radonovich was extremely significant and appropriate to the situation involving the Savannah River Basin. We don't need man-made droughts.



Mike Massey at DC Capitol

Congressman Linder stated there will be a number of forums over several months to increase the awareness, understand the issues and suggest processes to correct our water problems. A description of an upcoming forum reads: "Over consumption, climate change and significant population growth have led to water shortages in almost every state. **At least 36 states expect to face water shortages within the next five years**, according to a 2008 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office which also reports that "Conservation, storage strategies and water reuse programs are three tools states can use to protect their citizens from devastating droughts." As you are aware, all are important to the SRB but the **Lake Hartwell Association** is most interested in revising the "storage strategies" process which will.

Following the remarks by the congressmen a number of speakers and water experts gave short presentations and remained on the stage for a question and answer session. A few points made by the speakers were

- √ The significance of water needs is not a priority for most legislators yet,
- √ Policies regarding water management are weak or non-existent in many cases
- √ There is a lack of federal funding to support initial water studies and infrastructure improvement,
- √ Most water infrastructure was built to last approxi-

- mately 75 years and most cities have had a majority of infrastructure in for over 80 years – some much longer.
- √ Most cities are losing between 20 to 40% of their treated water due to infrastructure leakage because of old pipes,
- √ The cost to repair infrastructure is borne by the taxpayer and due to water company ownership and management processes there is little or no way to obtain capital through investment processes (other than municipal bonds) to companies willing to search for and make repairs.
- √ One job directly related to water management equates to 3.8 indirect jobs,



Massey and Bob Young, former mayor of Augusta, GA

Following the formal proceedings there was an informal opportunity for one-on-one discussion in a post-meeting gathering. One of the speakers was Bob Young, former mayor of Augusta Georgia. I took the opportunity to discuss the concerns and status of the Savannah River Basin water needs with him. A main part of that discussion concerned keeping more water in the lakes and releasing it when needed to meet minimal downstream needs when drought or low water conditions existed to assure water was available when needed. Also discussed was the Augusta Canal which he said he would welcome the opportunity to hear about alternatives to that situation. We will be meeting to discuss this case.

While it was refreshing to hear a number of our politicians expressing deep concern over water needs, it was also frustrating to see how little progress has been made in this country to understand and protect this resource. Water is apparently not in the immediate vision of many legislators. The congressmen supporting this specific set of forums are from California and Georgia – where water needs have recently been a major concern. Others have apparently not recognized the pending problem. All speakers said that water WILL be the next major issue in the U.S. WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN? We have been saying that for years!

Update on GA's Water Planning Process

Submitted by Pat Goran

As many of you know, earlier this year Georgia officially embarked on its statewide water planning process. This is a major undertaking and could guide water issues in Georgia for decades to come.

For the purposes of long-range water planning the state has been divided into eleven regional water planning councils, including the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District which was created by an act of the legislature in 2001. Although the regional councils just started meeting earlier this year, it should be noted that the overall planning process started several years ago and LHA has been actively involved since the beginning. We are members of the Georgia Water Coalition and LHA Past-President Joe Brenner was a member of the Savannah – Ogeechee Basin Advisory Committee, a forerunner of the current water planning council.

The work of the councils includes but is certainly not limited to the following: providing a regional vision desired for the future; understanding the capacities of the water resources and forecasting future water needs; identifying shortfalls between available water resources and future needs, along with recommendations on how to deal with those “gaps”; and selecting policies, procedures and practices to ensure there is adequate water to meet future needs in a sustainable manner.

In essence, each of the water planning councils will recommend a plan for their region to Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD). This must be done by December, 2010. EPD can accept a council's recommendation, ask them to make revisions and re-submit or write its own plan. Nothing that the councils do can be in conflict with existing Georgia law, but we can recommend changes to the law. Each region's final plan must be adopted no later than June, 2011.

Each of the regional councils has conducted three meetings so far and the fourth meeting will be held between November 9 and November 20. You can go to the website addresses near the bottom of this article beginning in late October to find the date and address of the next meeting. All of the council meetings are open to the public and public comments will be accepted at each meeting. I encourage you to become actively involved in this process.

You can visit www.georgiawaterplanning.org for further information on the overall statewide water planning process. For information on the Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council, you can visit www.savannahupperogeechee.org. LHA encourages you to submit comments to EPD, which can be done by clicking on “contact us” at the bottom of the website page.

LHA Comments to Regional Water Planning Council

Submitted by Joe Brenner

LHA has been heavily involved in the statewide water planning process in Georgia. The current phase of development of a Comprehensive Water Plan is the work of Regional Planning Councils to add basin and area unique perspectives and input to the overall plan. LHA Director Pat Goran currently serves on the Savannah/Ogeechee Basin Regional Council. LHA plans to provide the following input to the Council as part of their public comment period.

- LHA strongly supports statewide water planning efforts as a means to achieve the equitable sharing of our finite resources. We were an early member of the Georgia Water Coalition and participated on the Savannah/Ogeechee Basin Advisory Committee. We are heavily involved in achieving similar water planning legislation in South Carolina.
- LHA believes in the principles of riparian water rights in that all users in a basin have the right to reasonable consumptive use. Water is not a commodity to be sold, traded or moved to users outside the basin.
- Decision making for the SRB must include dialog and consensus with South Carolina and the Corps of Engineers; otherwise any agreement will be worthless. LHA strongly supports completion of the Basin Comprehensive Study by the USACE. This should provide necessary data to achieve fair allocation of resources and a congressionally approved interstate compact.
- Current USACE management of the SRB is far from optimum, particularly in drought situations. We support development of an adaptive management approach wherein lake outflows are continuously controlled based on real-time monitoring of inflows and downstream flows and conditions.
- Due to its proximity to the Thurmond Dam, the operation of the Augusta Canal places severe limitations on the ability to implement effective adaptive management. We believe the Regional Council should review this system to determine whether the benefits of this operation justify the overall impact on the SRB.
- Climatologists universally agree that future southeastern droughts will get progressively more severe. This has been proven in the past decade with successive droughts of record. Water planning must take this into account. Using only historical data will grossly over estimate available water resources.
- The USACE Drought Contingency Plan is inadequate. It must be made more aggressive in timing and action to preserve water resources for all basin users to supply

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“GO FISH GEORGIA” Megaramps & Fishing Piers

Submitted by Vern Sauer

Most of us are aware of the PCB problem in the Twelve Mile River branch of Hartwell Lake in South Carolina that occurred during the period 1955 to about 1977. For more information about this problem see the previous LHA newsletter (Summer 2009). This unfortunate problem resulted from an estimated 400,000 pounds of PCBs released into Twelve Mile River from the Sangamo-Weston capacitor plant located near Pickens, SC. A court settlement in 2006 resulted in \$12 million in damages to be paid by Schlumberger Technology Ltd. These funds were allocated 1/3 to Georgia and 2/3's to South Carolina to promote fishing in the two states. To date, only projects for Georgia have been approved and are underway and are part of a Georgia plan known as “Go Fish Georgia.” The purpose of this report is to describe the progress of the four projects currently underway in Georgia that will promote fishing in and near Hartwell Lake. The design and construction of these projects are the responsibility of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. If you would like to learn more about the “Go Fish Georgia” program go to the internet site http://www.georgiawildlife.org/gofish_fishing.aspx.

The four Hartwell Lake projects in Georgia include two megaramps and two fishing piers. One megaramp is located in Franklin County at Tugaloo State Park just north of Interstate Highway 85 and the other is located in Hart County, about 3 miles east of the city of Hartwell at the Gum Branch Corps of Engineers campground and boat ramp. One fishing pier, already under construction, is located just downstream from Hartwell Lake Dam. The other fishing pier will be in the Bruce Creek COE Recreation Area in Stephens County along the Tugaloo River arm of Hartwell Lake.

The megaramps are multi-lane boat ramps designed to handle a number of boat launches simultaneously. At each of these sites, there will be 6 parallel boat ramps with walkways along each ramp. A large parking area will be provided at each site capable of handling approximately 200 vehicles and trailers. The primary purpose of the megaramps is to attract large fishing tournaments on a regional, state and national scale, as well as many local tournaments. In addition to the ramps and parking areas, the original design plans include a large floating dock, an amphitheater and permanent rest rooms, but funding is currently not adequate to include these features. For large fishing tournaments it is proposed that portable toilets be moved to the megaramp area.

The megaramp at the Tugaloo State Park site is currently under construction; however a completion date is not yet known. Construction of the megaramp at Gum Branch has not yet started but should be underway by early October this year. The campground at the Gum Branch site has been closed for a number of years, is no longer maintained and will be converted to a parking area.



Megaramp construction at Tugaloo State Park near Lavonia

The single boat ramp at this site is still in use but will be replaced by the 6-lane megaramp.

The fishing pier at Hartwell Dam will be 400 feet long and will be located a few hundred feet downstream from the dam along the Georgia side of the Savannah River. It will be parallel to the river in the Hartwell tailrace and will be accessed via a 400 foot long boardwalk which is already under construction at the Georgia Rivers Recreation Area. It is expected that this project will be completed near the end of November.

The construction plans for the Bruce Creek fishing pier are nearing completion. This project will include fishing piers, a courtesy dock and a restroom facility. It is expected that construction will begin at this site in early winter this year.

A primary concern of the Lake Hartwell Association regarding these projects, especially the megaramps, is that we do not trade one pollution problem for another. In other words, we want to be assured that runoff from the large parking lots and surrounding area of the megaramp sites is treated in such a way that sediment, oils, chemicals and other pollutants are not washed into the lake. Larry Dyck and I met with Anthony Rabern, project leader for

the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, to discuss these concerns. Mr. Rabern said he shares our concerns and that every effort will be made to protect the lake water. For instance, there will be a 25 foot buffer zone of natural vegetation around the project area maintained during and after construction, as required by state law. During construction, sediment fences will be used and maintained.

Several bioretention ponds at each megaramp site will be constructed to detain and filter runoff. There will also be monitoring of runoff at selected points around the project area to check for unwanted pollutants. Mr. Rabern plans to designate each megaramp site as a runoff protection demonstration site and that public signs will be posted to describe the measures being used for protection of the lake waters.

We also expressed our concern about the fact that public rest rooms would not be available at the megaramp sites. In addition to large fishing tournaments, the megaramps will probably be used extensively throughout the year by local fishermen, including local fishing tournaments. We feel that rest room facilities should be made available.

In summary, it appears that the settlement funds are being well spent on the Georgia side of Hartwell Lake. There are obviously not enough funds to do everything that we would like, but the current plans will definitely promote fishing and if things go well there should be few if any problems regarding lake pollution or safety.

Recreational Facilities Enhancement

A number of LHA members have asked the association to encourage the Corps of Engineers to consider installing courtesy docks at the more popular boat ramps. This would enable the physically challenged and solo boaters easier access to boating on the lake. Our encouragement increased as the Corps made up their "wish list" when federal stimulus money was to become available. That money became available and the following new and improved facilities resulted.



Visitors use new dock at 18 Mile Creek

Five new 10' X 20' courtesy docks with 60' gang walks have been installed the following public ramps. *Carters Ferry* and *New Prospect* ramps in Hart County, GA. *Townville* ramp, *Camp Creek* ramp and *18 Mile Creek* ramp in Anderson County, SC. In addition, there is a **new handicapped accessible fishing dock** at the *Twin Lakes* ramp area in Pickens County, SC.



"Custom" dock & gangway being installed at 18 Mile Creek

Other work that will be completed prior the re-opening of public campgrounds and parks next spring includes **new shower house facilities** at *Watsadler Campground* in Hart County, *Springfield Campground* in Anderson County, SC and *Twin Lakes Campground* in Pickens County, SC. Several campgrounds and boat ramp access roads and parking lots have already been or will be repaved.

DONT MISS LHA's ANNUAL MEETING & 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Lake Hartwell Association Annual Meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 29, 2009**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Anderson Civic Center. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Come early and meet our business members who will be setting up displays and booths.

The theme of the meeting will be

"Watershed Planning -- Avoiding Crisis"

We are pleased to have two outstanding speakers for this event:

Brigadier General Todd T. Semonite,
Commander, South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers

&

Dr. Carol Couch, Director, Environmental
Protection Division, Georgia Department of
Natural Resources.

This is a great opportunity to learn about water management from those who know what it takes and are getting it done.

Please join us – FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAKE

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minimum needs throughout future droughts.

- Until it can be established that water supply is available to meet basin needs now and in the future in severe drought conditions, no new permits should be issued for significant consumptive use from the SRB. This would include the proposed Plant Vogtle expansion. And any new permitting should require best available technology to minimize consumptive use.
- Ongoing demands to increase capacity at Savannah Harbor will further stress SRB resources due to water quality impacts. The same is true of further shifting water supply to the city of Savannah away from groundwater and to the river. The Regional Council needs to work with their coastal counterpart to ensure that all efforts are being made to mitigate the impacts particularly during droughts. Examples would include oxygen supplement systems for the harbor and moving the Savannah drinking water intake sufficiently upstream to avoid salt-water intrusion at low in-stream flows.

The CoveKeeper Program is Growing and Looking for Volunteers

Submitted by Larry Dyck

Want to have another reason to get out on the lake?

Consider joining the CoveKeeper Program. The program has two primary purposes. First, CoveKeeper volunteers become “first alert” eyes and ears for the lake and its environment. Not long ago the CoveKeepers in the Six and Twenty region spotted a fire on one of the islands. They took it upon themselves to report the fire to Corps and county officials. Other CoveKeepers make a point to let neighbors know if they see problems with docks becoming un-tethered or with other issues that might cause damage to personal property or the lake. These aspects of the CoveKeeper Program are similar to what might be called a “neighborhood watch” on the water.

The second purpose of the program is to become educators and ambassadors for “doing the right thing for the lake.” Volunteers are asked to observe what’s happening around the lake and then to discuss potential issues with other



Volunteers who recently completed CoveKeeper training turn to show off their newly earned and easily recognizable shirts.



CoveKeepers at periodic meetings. Based upon findings and discussions, the CoveKeeper Program will introduce education programs to educate neighbors and lake users about good lake practices. One of the issues that has already surfaced is the need to encourage homeowners to maintain a vegetation buffer around their lake property. Such buffers act to filter overland runoff and to reduce the flow of sediment, fertilizer and pesticides into the lake.

The CoveKeeper Mission Statement:

The purpose of the CoveKeeper Program is to maintain and enhance Hartwell Lake as a high quality water body and natural resource. The program’s stakeholders are all users of the lake including, but not limited to, homeowners, businesses and water recreation participants. The CoveKeeper Program empowers a cadre of knowledgeable user-volunteers to undertake periodic surveys of the lake’s status and to use that and other information to help educate lake-users about best management practices. As a program within the Lake Hartwell Association, the CoveKeeper effort adheres to its motto: “For the Sake of the Lake.”

What’s expected of a CoveKeeper Volunteer?

To have an interest in maintaining Lake Hartwell as a high quality natural resource and to be willing to share knowledge about best management practices with neighbors and lake users

- ✓ To be willing to undertake no less than 2 surveys of the lake each year along approximately 10 miles of shoreline. Survey regions are assigned but are generally near your home or area of interest
- ✓ To receive instruction on carrying out a lake survey
- ✓ To report results of any survey to an assigned River Captain and to consider the need for user-education and follow-up reviews
- ✓ To participate in approximately 6 bimonthly seminars over the year. Seminars are on topics such as the dynamics of the lake, water pollution, fish and wildlife and best management practices.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need a boat?

A: Yes, but if you don’t have one you can team-up with a volunteer who has a boat.

How much time is involved?

A: It depends, but each survey should take about ½ a day; follow-up will depend on what is found. You will also need to allocate 6 evenings a year for educational sessions.

What other equipment and information will I need?

A: We will supply you with evaluation sheets and will help you generate maps to guide your survey. We will supply you with a CoveKeeper T-shirt, identification cards and educational brochures that can be shared with neighbors. We will supply the names and phone numbers of CoveKeeper members who can assist you with questions. We will help you research potential

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Status of the Proposed Plant Vogtle Expansion

Submitted by Curt Barton

On March 22, 2009, the Lake Hartwell Association testified at a hearing conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the proposed expansion of the Plant Vogtle Nuclear Power Station near Waynesboro, Georgia. Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Southern) is proposing to install two additional reactors (#3 & #4) on the same site as their existing #1 & #2 reactors. The NRC recently renewed the operating license for units #1 & #2. This hearing was to take testimony regarding Southern's application for an Early Site Permit (ESP) for units #3 & #4 and not a hearing to discuss Southern's application for a Combined Operating License (COL) for those new units. An ESP does not authorize Southern to construct a Nuclear Power Plant. A COL must be granted before Southern can construct Units #3 & #4.

Since the March 22, 2009 hearing in Waynesboro, NRC has conducted two other hearings regarding Southern's application for an ESP (one on Contested Environmental Matters & the other on Uncontested Matters). Testimony at these hearings was limited to the Joint Intervenors (various environmental organizations), Southern and NRC staff. The Joint Intervenors shared LHA's concerns regarding the additional consumptive use of Savannah River water for cooling units #3 & #4. Under drought level 3 flow conditions, this additional consumptive use of 42 million gallons per day is about 3.5% of the river flow. The Intervenors proposed that NRC force Southern to use a dry cooling system and LHA's testimony at the March 22 hearing in Waynesboro suggested that Southern use a different reactor design, which would only consume about half as much cooling water.

In May, NRC published the NRC staff's recommendations regarding the contested and uncontested matters discussed at the above noted hearings. With regard to the additional consumptive use of Savannah River water for cooling, the NRC staff's recommendations supported Southern's proposed consumptive use of 42 million gallons per day for cooling units #3 & #4. Following its review of the staff's recommendations the Commissioners approved issuance of the ESP in August and the permitting process for the COL has begun. The Intervenors have appealed the issuance of the ESP.

The first step in the COL process will be a scoping meeting (informal hearing) and general comment period (usually 60 days) on Southern's application for a COL. If an organization wants to become an Intervenor in the COL process, there will be an opportunity during this comment period to file for Intervenor status. Following the scoping meeting and general comment period, the NRC Staff will begin preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Plant Vogtle Expansion. The draft EIS will be published for comment and a formal hearing will be held to receive comments. The NRC Staff will then prepare a final EIS taking all the comments into account. Following the publication of a final EIS, the

commissioners will review the EIS and make a final decision to approve or deny the COL. The COL permitting process will take 18-24 months.

The LHA Technical Committee will follow and participate in the COL permitting process and report back to the LHA membership on the status of the COL process as appropriate.

(Continued from page 2)

Prevention Award for their visible contributions to keeping the Lake Hartwell shoreline clean.

The Lake Hartwell Association, through its active board and dedicated members, has been a major positive influence on Hartwell Lake issues and decisions for 20 years and will continue to apply its experience and lessons learned to carry on the tradition of protecting this precious resource for future generations. For more information or to join, please view LHA's website at www.lakehartwellassociation.org.

(Continued from page 8)

water pollution activities that might be occurring in your survey area. You will need to supply personal items (sunscreen, drinking water, PFD, lunch) as well as your boat, fuel, data collection aids and supplies such as a clipboard, notepaper and pencils, digital camera and binoculars.

How is the CoveKeeper Program organized?

All volunteers become CoveKeepers and will be responsible for a section of the lake. The lake is divided into 9 geographic regions or river sections. Each river section has a River Captain who is responsible for organizing, training and assisting their CoveKeepers. In turn River Captains and all CoveKeepers can get assistance from the Lake Keeper...that's me, Larry Dyck. So if you volunteer I look forward to working with you personally.

Are CoveKeepers the "lake police?"

The answer is NO! We are a group of volunteers who look to see if there is pollution or other problems around our lake neighborhood. If we find problems we work with the River Captain and Lake Keeper to inform the appropriate agencies. We are involved in helping our neighbors and in the education of lake users about good lake stewardship practices.

The best part of being a CoveKeeper is its fun! You get to meet your neighbors and other CoveKeepers and learn neat stuff about the lake. You also get the satisfaction of helping to maintain and to improve the quality of the lake environment for today and the future.

Join the Covekeeper Program

Email: Hartwelllakekeeper@yahoo.com

Boat Wakes Make People Angry and Can Injure

Boat wakes -- those long, frothy, V-shaped waves trailing from the stern of a powerboat as it slices through the water -- have a sinister side. When other vessels encounter them, they can hurt people. They can make people angry and bring the wrath of law enforcement, for good reason.

Here are some tips to help prevent boat wake injuries to you and other boaters.

Slow early: Boat wakes travel distances, so slow down before you reach a slow-speed zone, not as you pass the marker.

Just a little slowing down isn't good enough:

Upon entering a no wake zone, some boaters react by only slowing the vessel slightly and then plow through with the bow way up and stern dug down, actually *increasing* the wake. Come *completely* off plane.

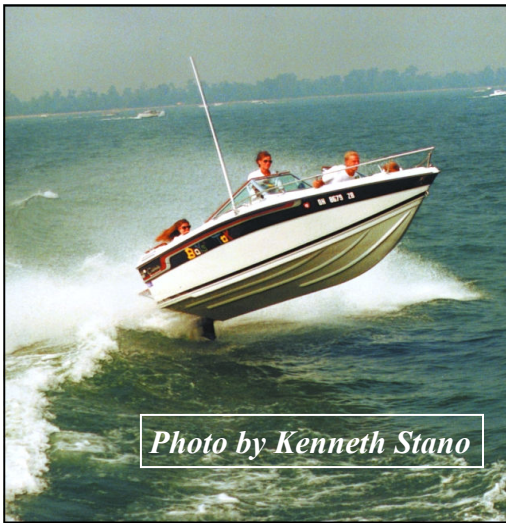


Photo by Kenneth Stano

Make her level: Without using trim tabs, a slowed vessel should be level in the water. With some smaller boats, shifting passengers around can help, as too much weight aft increases wake size.

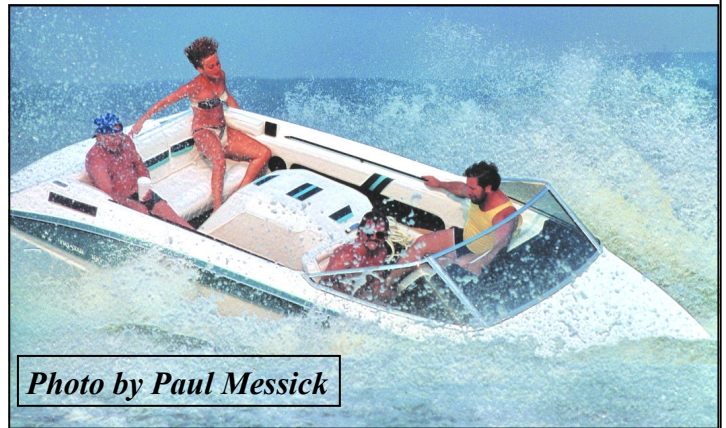


Photo by Paul Messick

Watch the shallows: Shallow water increases wake size.

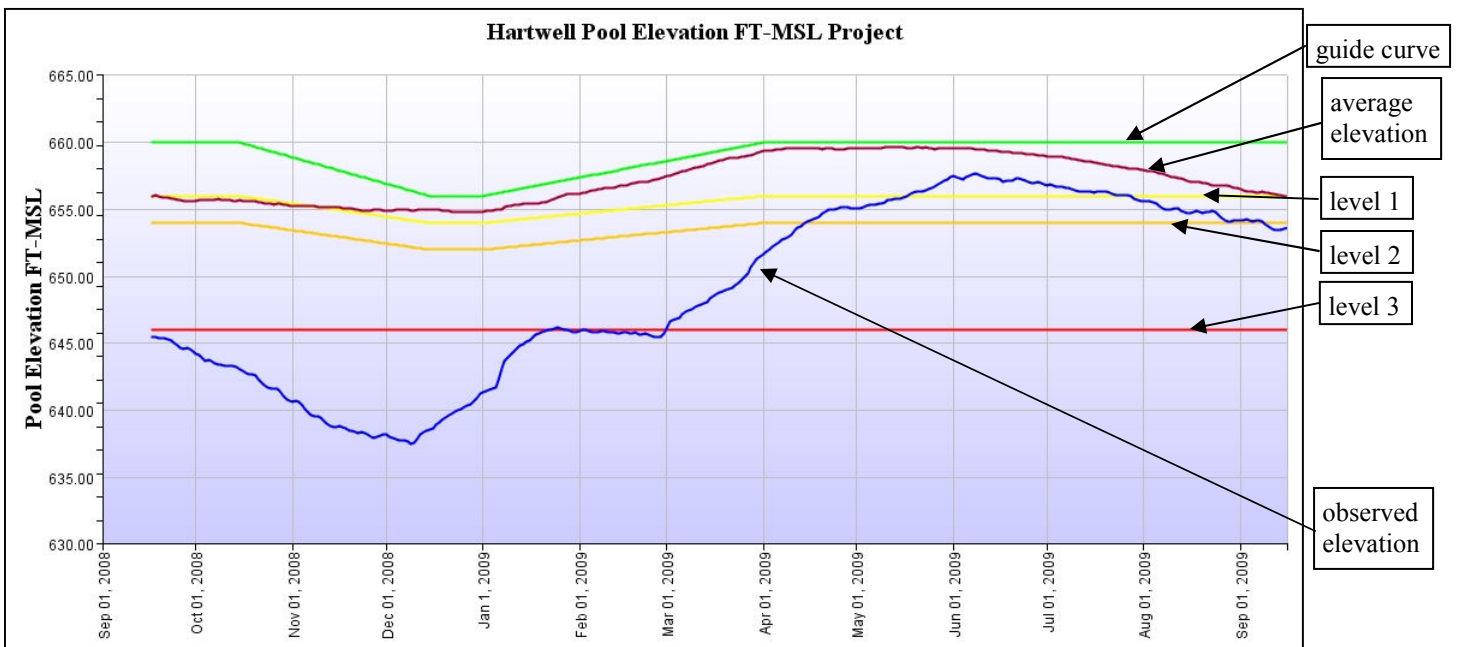
Small boats aren't innocent: Wakes are not just a big boat issue -- small vessels in the stern-down position can throw surprisingly large wakes.

When approaching a wake, slow down but don't stop: Motorboats are more stable when underway, so stopping could make things worse. Avoid taking a wake on the beam or head on. The best approach is at a slight angle. This will keep your passengers in your boat.

Take care of older crew: Persons over the age of 50 have the most personal injuries, mostly as a result of being seated near the bow when the boat slams into a wake. It's best to seat passengers -- especially older passengers -- amidships.

Warn the crew: A simple "Hold-on. Boat wake" should do the trick, just as long as you shout the warning well before the wake arrives.

Source: press release by Boat Owners Association of the United States



Thank You LHA Community & Business Members!

Please support the businesses that support LHA “for the sake of the lake!” Their contact information can be found on the “Community & Business Partners” webpage at www.lakehartwellassociation.org.

- Anchor All Realty & Mortgage - Tammy Mobley
- Anderson Regional Joint Water System - Scott Willett
- Big Water Marina - Jane W. Davis
- Bill Brissey Real Estate – Bill Brissey
- Billy Howell Ford Lincoln Mercury – Billy Howell
- Brysan Utility Contractors, Inc. – Christopher Barber
- Captain Dave's Boating World - David Strickland
- Cateechee Golf Club - Pamela Camp
- Closet Tailors of Anderson - Robert Colcough
- Currahee Club - Chris W. Whitley
- Custom Steel & Wood - Don Haynie
- Dock Depot & Marine Supply - Richard & Georgeanne Henshaw
- Docks South LLC - Bill Griggs
- Dr. Andrew Adams, DDS
- Eric Nilsson
- Foxwood Hills POA - Bill Lewis, Mgr
- Good Buy Good Bye Fine Furniture Consign. - Susan Savage
- Harbor Light Marina - Larry Rich
- Harding Waterfront Construction - Pete Harding
- Hartwell Marina & Boat Sales - Brant Tew
- Indian Creek Contracting - Lori Duke Jones
- Ingrid Lee Realtors, LLC - Ingrid Lee
- Interiors by Penelope – Penny Holst
- Keller-Williams Lanier Partners - Jerilyn Wiech
- Kroeger Marine Construction, Inc - Dave Kroeger
- Lake Hartwell Sail & Power Squadron - Mary Orem
- Lakeside Chiropractic, LLC – Dr. Cindy Pradhan, DC
- Lee's Marine LLC - Randy Lee
- Leeward Landing Assn of Boat Dock Owners - Bobby Medlock
- Marine Specialties, Inc. – Richardson Garrett
- Mike Sanders Boat Storage - Michael W Sanders
- Paradise Point Inc - William Roberts
- Paul & Susan Meng
- Phil Jewelers – Phil Silverstein
- Portman Marina - Dave Freeman
- Robert & Connie Banks
- Robert T. Foster & Rudolph M. O’Neal III Public Accountants
- State Farm Insurance - Terence Roberts
- Superior Dock Systems - Scott Conquest
- Swaneys Point Association - Danny Shook
- The Bait Shop - Tim Marchbanks, Townville, SC
- T N Construction - Thad Strickland
- The Hartwell Sun - Robert Rider
- USACE Hartwell Project - Tanya Grant
- View Point Lot Owners Association
- Ward S. Stone, Jr., Greenville, SC
- William M. Callahan, DDS

LHA Membership: Welcome Aboard & Thank You!

We are grateful to all our members for your support of LHA’s efforts to protect the beauty and value of our beautiful lake and watershed. Please join us in welcoming the following members who have joined since our last newsletter:

New Family Memberships

Janet & Harry Clayton, Wayne & Rebecca Cooke, Todd Davidson, Barbara Fox, Jimmy & Cheryl Gambrell, Robert & Sarah Gaskins, Ty Gregory, Alice A. Mann, Craig Rudow Family and Sandra Schuster.

New Community & Business Member

*Lakeside Chiropractic, LLC – Dr. Cindy M. Pradhan, DC
1415 Pearman Dairy Rd Anderson, SC 29625*

Member Donations to LHA

Special thanks to the following LHA members whose generous donations will enable LHA volunteers to continue working “for the sake of the lake.”

Robert & Carol Bray, Charles & Dorothy Cleveland, Vincent & Laura Dillon, Peter & Wilhelmina Fleuren, Wayne & Sonja Gaskins, Ricky Patel, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor, Marie Van Hoof and Robert & Julie Williams.

Thanks to all our members for all that you do “for the sake of the lake.”

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



To all of you who participated in the USACE - LHA Hartwell Lake Cleanup Campaign, we say thank you for your efforts. We will all enjoy a more beautiful lake because of you. See a special article in the next newsletter issue. You can send photos of your cleanup activities to LHANewsletter@Yahoo.com

Upcoming LHA Events

Event	Date
LHA Technical Committee, 7:00 Anderson County Library	10/5/09
Covekeeper Pilot Meeting, 6:30 Anderson County Library	10/20/09
LHA Annual Meeting, 7:00 Anderson Civic Center	10/29/09
Covekeeper Pilot Meeting, 6:30 Anderson County Library	11/17/09
LHA Technical Committee, 7:00 Anderson County Library	12/7/09
Covekeeper Pilot Meeting, 6:30 Anderson County Library	12/15/09

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Anderson, SC 29621

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Web Site: <http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org>

LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
P.O. Box 2122 Anderson, SC 29621

*Fall
2009*

Membership Information: Check all that apply

New Renewal Address change Amount Paid _____ Date _____

Family \$25 Community, Association or Business \$100
 Gift Membership Additional Donation _____

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____
(Family Membership Application Only)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-Mail _____

Occupation(s): Yours _____ Spouse's _____
(If retired, check here and give former occupations above)

Lake Address & County _____
(*or Gift Recipient's address) _____

Give something back to the lake.
Select a committee on which you
would be willing to serve.

- Legislative
- Program
- Financial
- Lake Cleanup
- Safety
- Technical
- Membership
- Publications

Pay by Check: Make checks payable to **Lake Hartwell Association, Inc.** Send to address above.

⇒⇒⇒ Your membership fees and donations are fully tax deductible. ⇐⇐⇐