



Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Spring, 2005

Volume XVII, Number 2

Letter from the President

Submitted by Mike Massey

What a great winter! The lake has been full all season and almost everyone we have heard from has expressed very positive feelings. Many people and organizations are responsible for the full pool conditions but none more than the Corps of Engineers at the Hartwell District. I know this did not happen without considerable “negotiations” on their part. Many, I am sure, within the Corps itself. On behalf of all LHA members I want to express gratitude for this decision. Whether or not this will continue in the future is still to be determined but it has been a very nice opportunity to add more data to the ongoing evaluation of the alternatives to Hartwell Lake water allocation and management.

You are invited to the LHA picnic! This year it is being held on April 30th at Big Oakes Recreation Park on Rte 29 in Georgia near the dam. There is more information in the newsletter article but I wanted to make a personal appeal for all members of LHA to attend. It is pretty much a fun-filled few hours. We do conduct a short business meeting but it is very casual and lighthearted and our guest speakers always promise interesting information. Do you have neighbors who are not members of LHA? Bring them along. Perhaps this introduction to us will get them to join and support our activities. I hope to see you there.

Interesting Information. I am always amazed when I hear of the number of visitors we attract to the area because of our beautiful Hartwell Lake. According to the Corps of Engineers, there are slightly over 10 million visitors that visit our lake annually. Compare that to Yellowstone National Park, one of the country’s most visited. Yellowstone National Park received slightly less than 3 million visitors in 2003. Imagine that! We get over three times the number of visitors that Yellowstone gets. Not only that, with Lake Lanier in Georgia and Lake Norman in North Carolina becoming very populated and busy, I expect more people will be heading our way. Not only to visit but to live here too. As a matter of record, the Grand Strand area of Myrtle Beach gets about a 13 million visitors annually. That number results in the total economic impact of the tourism industry in the Grand Strand area of \$4.9 billion annually. It is pretty clear that the future includes growth for the area and yes, we will be ready for it if we continue to plan and work together."

The PCB Settlement Plan. You may have heard of the meetings held in late February regarding the opportunity for the public to comment on a “Draft” of the *Lake Hartwell Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan*. Under the plan, Federal and State (GA and SC) natural resource agencies act as trustees for the public. Trustees may assess and recover damages for injuries and losses that occurred to the natural resource (Hartwell Lake) as a result of a PCB contamination situation in the upper area of the Seneca River portion of the lake. A settlement for the damages has been proposed and the trustees may use the settlement funds to plan and implement actions to restore, replace or rehabilitate injured natural resources.

Lake Hartwell Association representatives have attended the meetings and other activities to review and discuss the proposed plan. Under the guidance of the Technical Committee, LHA has offered comments to the plan and continues to work toward suggesting recommendations relevant to our members. We have significant concerns with a couple of proposed major recommendations in the plan and have requested an extension of the comment deadline in order to respond more accurately and completely. Please take a few minutes to review the article in the newsletter. If you agree with us, we strongly suggest that you use the form in the article and write to Mr. Paul League (address in the newsletter) and/or your local legislator and provide your opinion. Your voices are very important “for the sake of the lake.”

Until next time - let’s keep the lake “clean and deep.” To contact me, send an email to mail@lakehartwellassociation.org or call 1-864-222-1925.

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**Anderson County Council Passes
Savannah River Basin Resolution**

Submitted by Mike Massey

On January 4th, 2005, the Anderson County Council passed "**Resolution R2005-002, A Resolution Endorsing the Formation of a Regional Task Force to Study Issues Related to the Savannah River Basin; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.**"

This resolution was requested by Mr. Joey Preston, Anderson County Administrator, following a series of meetings with representatives of the Greater Anderson Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee, chaired by Mr. Juan Brown, and the Water Policy Subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Mike Gray. Members of the Lake Hartwell Association have also been very active in this effort and feel the resolution would allow more voices to be heard when activities present themselves that require action to protect the lake.



Left to right: Mike Gray, former SC Senator Robert Waldrep (Chairman of the SRB Coalition), Juan Brown, and Mike Massey (President of the LHA and member of the Water Resources Committee.)

In a December meeting to announce the desire to produce this resolution, Mr. Preston stated, "The Savannah River Basin (SRB) and the precious water resource that flows through it are of critical importance to all of the basin cities, towns and counties of both Georgia and South Carolina alike. Many forces are laboring in both states on the host of issues relating to the conservation and use of this vital resource. There are also forces that are seeking to control and to leverage to their advantage the very water that we take for granted each day. Not only

is the SRB a source of life sustaining water, it is also a powerful economic engine that is equally critical and vital to our way of life here in the upper basin." LHA has always been in complete agreement with this direction.

The resolution also mentions the 2003 Lake Impact Survey conducted by the Lake Hartwell Association as the vehicle that identified the Hartwell Lake economic value to the area. The LHA survey determined that the 2001-2002 drought resulted in a conservative revenue loss to the area of approximately \$123 million. We are proud that this effort has resulted in a better understanding of the significance of the lake to the area economy. We also thank Mr. Preston for his foresight and efforts to have local municipalities in both South Carolina and Georgia to "stand together to protect our most precious shared resource." It is expected that more meetings will be held in the future as more counties and municipalities pass similar resolutions. Be assured that the Lake Hartwell Association will be involved and will keep you informed.

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.

News From the Corps

*The Corps wants YOU to have water safety on your mind!
Submitted by US Army Corps of Engineers*

If you visit Hartwell Lake this spring and summer, don't be surprised if a Corps park ranger approaches you - it doesn't mean you are doing something wrong! Corps rangers will be out in force educating people one-on-one in parks, campgrounds and on the lake about how to be safe around the water. It doesn't matter whether you are boating, swimming, fishing or just picnicking. "We want people to think safety every time they think about Hartwell Lake," says Chief Ranger Sandy Campbell.

To further promote the water safety message, park rangers will pass out items such as sport bottles, footballs, sunglass holders, fishing lures, and boat and fishing license holders. Each item has a different water safety message on it and is something one can use during each visit to the lake. Ranger Campbell adds, "Having these items for visitors is a great and positive way to open up a conversation on water safety whether it be with children or adults." In addition, over 1,000 children's activity books are passed out to park visitors annually by rangers and campground attendants.

But water safety promotion goes far beyond the parks. You may be reminded to wear your life jacket or learn to swim the next time you see a movie or listen to the radio. The Corps will once again work with four local radio stations including a Hispanic station, and if you see a movie at the Amstar Theater in Anderson, look for a three slide series on alcohol and boating before the previews start.

Another new water safety initiative, which actually began last fall, is working with Clemson University. The water safety sport bottles were passed out during pre-game activities and cheerleaders tossed sport bottles into the crowd during football games while water safety messages were simultaneously announced. Water safety tips were also shown on the scoreboard

during the games. The Corps currently has several more innovative ideas in the works to expand water safety promotion to students this year. According to Ranger Campbell, "Statistics show that young adult males are the most likely to drown at Hartwell Lake, and we are fortunate to have a major university as a lake neighbor with plenty of young adults that we can educate about water safety."



Welcome Campers!

The 2005 recreation season is here. You are invited to experience Lake Hartwell by camping at one of the 9 campgrounds and over 550 campsites managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Corps' campgrounds offer excellent opportunities to enjoy many recreational pursuits, such as fishing, swimming, boating, watching wildlife or simply relaxing.

Campground amenities include restrooms, shower houses, playgrounds, boat ramps and more. Most campgrounds feature resident campground hosts who register incoming campers, provide information and ensure the campground is operated to provide the safest, most enjoyable experience for all visitors.

Corps operated campgrounds are located on both the Georgia and South Carolina sides of Hartwell Lake. Fees and seasons of the campgrounds vary. For additional campground information, contact the Hartwell Lake Operations Manager's Office and Visitor Center toll free at 1-888-893-0678 or 706-856-0300. For reservations, call the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) toll free at 1-877-444-6777 or go to the NRRS website at www.ReserveUSA.com. This website is a great resource to find available dates, amenities and maps of Corps managed campgrounds at Hartwell Lake.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Although the emphasis on water safety is in the warm weather months, it really goes on year round behind the scenes at the Hartwell Lake Office. "We present water safety programs upon request at anytime of year," Ranger Campbell said. The Corps will tailor the program to suit the needs of each group. Water safety is a great topic for company safety meetings, school groups, church groups and civic organizations.

The Corps also includes different types of water safety information (such as bookmarks, brochures or stickers) in almost every letter that leaves the office. In addition, water safety information is always available at the Hartwell Lake Office Visitor Center, is posted on lakeside bulletin boards, and bookmarks and book covers are distributed to area libraries and schools. Corps park rangers also participate in many community or company

health fairs and area boat shows. The Corps attempts to reach out to as many people as possible in its water safety program and is always looking for new opportunities to do so.

You may also access water safety information through Hartwell Lake's web site at www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell/. The Corps recently updated this website and it now contains a tremendous amount of new information about the lake.

If you have questions about water safety or would like information on scheduling a water safety program, contact the Hartwell Lake Operations Manager's Office and Visitor Center at 1-888-893-0678 or 706-856-0300.

Hartwell Lake has a New Website! Check out the Corps' new Hartwell Lake website located at www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell. This is the same address as before but there is a totally new look and lots more information at your finger tips. The website is best viewed with your computer screen set to 1024 x 768 pixels. If your screen is set a bit lower than that, just be sure to scroll to the right so you don't miss out on any of the interesting links. Check it out today!

Annual LHA Membership Picnic and Meeting Announcement

Submitted by Bert Menees

When you receive this newsletter, it will be springtime again in the South and time to enjoy the great outdoors on Hartwell Lake with friends and family. The Lake Hartwell Association's annual spring member information meeting will provide you that opportunity.

This is our annual outdoor cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings. It will take place this year on Saturday, April 30, at the Big Oakes Recreation Center, adjacent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers - Hartwell Project Manager's Office on Hwy 29 between Anderson and Hartwell. Admission is free and open to the public, so members and prospective members can bring along their family and friends. Mark your calendar now so you will not miss this important event.

The food will be served from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, followed by a short business meeting and some brief but interesting informational presentations. All activities should end by 2:00 pm.

The feature presentation this year will be made by State Representative Alan Powell of the Georgia 29th district, who will give us his views on legislative issues in Georgia that affect the lake and the Savannah River Basin. Representative Powell has served in the Georgia General Assembly for over 14 years. He has recently introduced two bills relating to interbasin transfers to the Georgia General Assembly. These bills will be of particular interest to LHA members. Mr. Powell previously served on the Hart County Board of Commissioners.

Also making a brief presentation will be Mr. Glenn Brill, the Executive Director of the new Anderson County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Mr. Brill has extensive experience in this field. He will tell us what his agency does and the important economic development benefits of a Convention and Visitors Bureau of this type in any county and what he expects to showcase regarding the lake.

Several LHA board members will make brief presentations of matters of interest to the membership. We will give away 10 small appliance door prizes. Door prize tickets will be distributed on arrival to each person attending.

Please come join us for this fun and interesting time.

Upcoming Events for LHA Related Activities

March 10, 2005 update

Event	Date
Southeast Lake Management Conference, Ashville, NC Registration 608-233-2836 or check http://www.nalms.org	4/13-15
Georgia Water resource Conference, Athens GA. 1-800-884-1381 to register	4/25-27
LHA Spring Picnic - All members and guests invited	4/30/05
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00PM LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St., Rm 108, Hartwell	5/9/05
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library	7/11/05
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00PM LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St., Rm 108, Hartwell	9/12/05
LHA Fall Public Information Meeting (Tentative)	11/3/05
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library	11/14/05

LHA Members Get Discount Rates to BoatU.S.

The Lake Hartwell Association is a participating group with BoatU.S., (*Boat Owners Association of the United States*). This association entitles LHA members to a 50% reduction in membership dues in BoatU.S., \$9.50 instead of \$19. Be sure to include our co-op number (**GA 83098B**). The organization is an

effective lobbying group looking out for the welfare of boaters. It encourages safe boating and boating education. An excellent boating monthly magazine is one of the benefits of membership. LHA recommends that its members take advantage of this offer. Call Dan Ray at 864-231-7007 for additional information about BoatU.S. membership.

Meet the Directors: Pamela Huntley – LHA Secretary and Telephone Contact

Submitted by Bert Menees

In this issue, we want the members to meet the LHA secretary - Pamela Huntley. Pam volunteered for service in 2002 and was immediately named assistant secretary. When Louis Gaby stepped down as secretary in 2003, Pam took over. She has been doing a great job for our association. She was elected to the Board of Directors in 2004.

As secretary, Pam is a member of our Executive Committee, which also includes the Past President, President, President-Elect and Treasurer. Also, as secretary, Pam has the responsibility of being our telephone contact for anyone wanting information. Pam has the LHA private line in her home and can take calls from anywhere on our toll-free line 1-888-200-4899. She can answer questions about LHA, but more often than not, she refers callers to the officer, board member or committee chair that has the information required by the caller. She said she often gets calls from people who think LHA is a rental agency, so if any one of our members operates a rental agency, call Pam and let her know if you want her to give out your name as someone who can provide that service.



Pam grew up in Mauldin, South Carolina. She has a BA from Mars Hill College in Elementary Education and Library Science and a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina. She has earned credits beyond the Masters in various education technology subjects. She has 34 years of teaching and library experience, 30 of which

have been in Greenville County schools. Currently, she is the Library Media Specialist and Technical Assistant Contact at Woodmont High School near Piedmont, S.C. She explained that, as TAC, she is responsible for maintaining all the computers in the school. If she can't fix the problem, she gets help from Education Technical Services at the district office in Greenville.

Pam and her husband lived in Austin, Texas, for 4 years. When they returned to South Carolina in 1996, they built a home on Hartwell Lake in the Fair Play Creek area in Oconee County. When her husband passed away in 2001, Pam decided to remain on the lake instead of returning to the house in Mauldin, which she still owns. She has about a 45-minute drive to work and back each day. Pam has two children, one in S.C. and one in Florida, and four grandchildren, two of which are 3-year old twin granddaughters.

Pam is thinking about retirement but says she will probably continue in her current job for a few more years. Woodmont High has a much larger school under construction 3 miles from the current location. It will have a library that can handle 2000 students. All the computers will be new which should make her job somewhat easier. The school opens this fall and Pam is looking forward to the move.

When asked about hobbies, Pam said music has always been part of her life. She sings in a ladies ensemble called Proclaim, which sings at churches and other functions. The group sang together from 1989-1999, disbanded for a while due to some family situations, but regrouped and started singing again in 2003. Pam is a member of the choir at the Beaverdam Baptist Church in Fair Play.

Pam said she is proud to be an LHA volunteer. She believes that LHA is a vital organization that keeps the members well informed and protects our property rights. She said she is amazed at what LHA has accomplished since she started as a volunteer. She does suggest, however, that we need more women on the board. What about it, ladies?

Newsletter Now Available by E-mail

LHA members may choose to receive these quarterly newsletters *via* e-mail in addition to or in replacement of the hardcopy that we will post. We will gladly send you a PDF attachment of each edition of the newsletter. This file can easily be opened using a free program downloaded from the Internet. Most newer computers come with Adobe Acrobat Reader already installed. However, you can browse to www.adobe.com and click the icon to download the free Reader.

To receive *LHA e-News* send your email address to LHANews@hotmail.com. We will not distribute these email addresses to any person, company or organization for any reason.



LHA member Fred Keller caught and released this 24.4 lb striped while trolling umbrella rigs in the Tugaloo River.

NPS Pollution: We Are All the Cause

Submitted by Larry Dyck, PhD

Non-point source pollution (NPS) is all the pollution that water-runoff picks up as it flows over or through the ground. This water runoff carries pollutants into our lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, wetlands, and groundwater. Where does it come from? It comes from the storm water runoff from the roof of my house and driveway, from your well fertilized lawn, from the developer's cleared land, from the farmer's cattle as they rut-out the stream bank, from the roadways that accumulate oils, grease and heavy metals, from animal waste that washes off of a pet's holding area. Without meaning to pollute, we all are responsible for non-point source pollution.

What can we do? We can begin by looking at Best Management Practices (BMPs). For years BMPs have been designed for farms and timber management, but now it's time to apply the same concepts to our yards and within our communities. One common BMP is the Buffer. A swath of vegetated land that intercepts runoff before it gets into the stream or lake. Buffers use grasses, trees, and other types of ground cover to reduce damage to surface and groundwater. These buffers can filter or trap pollutants carried by water. Buffers include vegetative buffers, filter strips, riparian forest buffers, field borders, grassed waterways and windbreaks.



"Buffers use grasses, trees, and other types of ground cover to reduce damage to surface and groundwater."

Buffers control NPS pollution by the following.

- Trapping pollutants on the surface and in the root zone to allow natural decomposition
- Allowing buffer-zone plants to use pollutants as fertilizer
- Reducing the speed of water so that soil erosion declines
- Allowing plant roots to increase the porosity of the soil so that water infiltrates and reduces runoff
- Increasing fish and wildlife habitat by improving migration corridors
- Adding diversity to the landscape in plants and animal populations
- Reducing dust and noise pollution
- Providing a visual screen thereby improving the aesthetics of the area

Fact: If you establish a 10 foot wide buffer of native plants, sediment carried in surface water runoff will decline by 60 to 70 percent. Make the buffer 15-18 feet wide and the sediment reduction rises to 70 to 90 percent.

A good example of a passive buffer is the Corps of Engineer's easement around Lake Hartwell. By restricting development, trails, underbrushing, tree clearing, etc. the Corp maintains a vegetative buffer around the lake, therefore protecting our lake water quality and environment.

Another example of a buffer is the use of native grasses and other native plants to stabilize and make buffers on shorelines. The technique is called "Bioengineering" and uses plants together with rock armor. The plants work as a buffer strip that traps non point source pollution while the rock resists wave action. (See the accompanying photo)

Forest buffers planted alongside streams and creeks (known as Riparian Forest Buffers) can be used to protect streams in urban and suburban areas, as well as in agricultural areas that drain into Lake Hartwell. These buffers can range from 20 to 200 feet, but a minimum buffer of at least 100 feet is generally recommended for adequate protection of the stream. This usually amounts to a buffer that is at least 3 to 5 mature trees wide on each side of the stream. Developers in our community should be encouraged and educated to protect streams during property development. There are many ways that land can be developed to reduce NPS pollution and protect natural features while still meeting economic objectives.

Want to learn more? Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or email Dr. Larry Dyck at Clemson University's Shoreline Restoration Research Project (dyckl@clemson.edu).

Want to learn more? Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or email Dr. Larry Dyck at Clemson University's Shoreline Restoration Research Project (dyckl@clemson.edu).

Editor's note: Read the two previous articles on-line. The first article on NPS pollution can be found in the Fall 2004 issue. The second article is in the Winter 2005 Issue. These issues of the newsletter can be found at <http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org>

Legislative Committee Update

Submitted by Joe Brenner

Boat Noise

In response to a number of concerns expressed by LHA members, the Legislative Committee formed a sub-committee to study ways to address excessive boat noise on the Lake. The common recreational boat or bass type boats do not appear to be the boats creating the excessive noise. The problem seems to stem from folks who run their high-powered, high-performance boats with open pipes or otherwise bypass factory-installed muffler systems. Both of these actions violate existing regulations.

The committee has researched existing GA and SC State and USACE regulations, as well as rules enforced in other states. Although there are currently some rules regarding boat noise in SC and GA, there appears to be a need for a better defined and enforceable policy. The committee plans to discuss these issues with our area legislators.

These boats are also occasionally run at night and there are many relatively narrow waterways in the lake where the noise creates a considerable disturbance of the peace. A little common courtesy and consideration of others will make the lake more enjoyable for everyone.

Georgia House Bills 53 and 55

On the Georgia side, Representatives Powell, Jamieson and McCall have introduced two water bills in the House. HB 53 primarily limits the distance over which interbasin and intra-basin water transfers may be made. HB 55 defines strict guidelines and criteria for permitting interbasin transfers. Both bills closely reflect the position of LHA and the Georgia Water Coalition of which LHA is a member. The bills have been through a second reading in the House, but it is uncertain whether they will be acted upon this session. For further information, the complete text of the bills can be found through the Georgia Legislative Website (www.legis.state.ga.us). LHA, through the Legislative Committee, will continue to monitor and comment on these bills when appropriate.

Volunteers Needed:

Program & Publicity Committee

Submitted by Bert Menees

Many of you have noticed and commented on the fact that LHA is now a more active, involved organization than we were a few years ago. That is true, but to keep this momentum going, we need new volunteers on our committees and on our Board of Directors.

One committee that is very understaffed relative to its role and responsibilities is the Program & Publicity Committee. The primary responsibility of this committee is to plan and organize the two annual LHA membership meetings and to provide other programs of interest to members consistent with our mission. A number of new programs have been suggested by the Board of Directors, including (a) clean water education programs, (b) open house tours via pontoon boats, (c) an LHA brochure which can be distributed to realtors and gathering places on the lake, (d) a Lake Appreciation Award program for people doing things that benefit the lake, and (e) an on-call speakers bureau available to schools and other organizations.

To accomplish these goals, we need volunteers from among our membership that can spare a few hours each week to work on the programs. Also, the term of office for the director who chairs this committee ends in December, and a replacement will be needed then. Volunteers who start their service now will be well trained and ready to step into that role when the time comes.

Over the years members dedicated to protecting the environment and improving our great water resource have volunteered to work on the LHA board and its committees, and our association is a leader today among area property owner associations

because of these volunteers. Getting inside our working group is a good way to understand, appreciate and enhance the enormous value of our lake. Join us now before you let it slip your mind. Call Mike Massey at 864-222-1925 or Bert Menees at 864-261-9474.

LHA Needs Photos for Newsletter

Share your photos. All you have to do is email images to us as attachments. JPG images are preferred, but we can use about any image format. Provide caption information such as names, location, etc. in the body of the email message. Send it to LHAnewsletter@yahoo.com



A nice largemouth caught by Jeremy Morrison from Fort Worth, TX. Jeremy caught this beauty in February while visiting his family, Jerry and Carolyn Morrison. The Morrisons are new members of the Lake Hartwell Association.

Attention! Settlement for PCB-Injury to the Natural Resources of Hartwell Lake Needs Your Comments

Submitted by Larry Dyck

Between 1955 and 1977 the Sangamo-Weston capacitor manufacturer released an estimated 400,000 lbs of PCBs into Town Creek, a tributary of Twelve Mile River which is a major arm of Hartwell Lake. PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are toxins with influences on fish and wildlife as well as on human health. PCBs degrade very slowly and remain attached to clay and organic sediments for many decades. They are mobilized from sediments into the food chain and may ultimately concentrate in the fatty tissue of fish. It should be noted that PCBs were not considered hazardous when the lake was being created, but for the past 30 years the Twelve Mile River and upper Seneca River Arms of Hartwell Lake have experienced a Fish Consumption Advisory, "Do NOT Eat Any of the Fish." Within other regions of the lake, the advisory also occurs, but it is reduced to recommendations to abstain from or limit the consumption of migratory fish (stripers and hybrid bass).

Although PCBs are declining in Twelve Mile River and Hartwell Lake, they continue to impact the natural resources of the region. Under CERCLA legislation (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act), certain Federal and State natural resource agencies act as trustees (USFWS, USACE, SCDNR, GADNR, SCDHEC) for the public. These Natural Resource Trustees assess and recover damages for injuries and losses that occurred to the natural resource (i.e., water, soil, fish and wildlife) as a result of hazardous substances. In addition they plan and implement actions to restore, replace or rehabilitate injured natural resources.

The trustees, working with the owner of the former Sangamo-Weston plant, have negotiated a tentative settlement. This document called the *Draft* "Lake Hartwell Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan" is open for public comment until March 22, 2005. The entire plan may be viewed and downloaded at: www.dnr.state.sc.us/lakehartwell/plan.html. The Lake Hartwell Association has requested and expects to be granted a 30 day extension for comments until April 22, 2005.

The plan is divided into two parts: Recreational and Ecological. In each part two tasks are performed: the injury is assessed and a compensatory-restoration is recommended.

Recreational Fishing Losses

- To assess this injury, an economic formula calculated the impact of the Fish Consumption Advisory on Hartwell Lake fishermen. The calculation estimated that between 1981 and a future time, when no advisory exists, the value of Hartwell Lake fishing trips will have resulted in a loss of between 7 to 18 million dollars.

- To compensate for the injury, the trustees' recommended using the money to:

- (1) Create new (off-Hartwell Lake) impoundments to catch PCB-free fish;

- (2) Create new access for fishing (e.g., build jetties below the Hartwell Dam);
- (3) Stock fish in the new fishing areas.

Ecological Losses

- To assess injury, the trustees reviewed the history of contamination to the natural resources; however, they did not place a dollar value on that injury.

-To compensate for the injury, the trustees recommend the removal of two of the three small dams on Twelve Mile River that impede the passage of clean sediment into Hartwell Lake. Clean sediment is required to cover and mitigate the PCBs contamination of the lake bottom. Following dam removal the stream corridor would be improved.

The Lake Hartwell Association Recommendations

The Lake Hartwell Association, although grateful for the effort of the trustees in generating this plan, is concerned about some of the proposed actions.

LHA Recommends

- (1) *Compensation-dollars for fishing-loss should be used to improve the natural resources within Hartwell Lake, not to build new structures off-site.*
- (2) *Selection of specific restoration projects should involve the input of Hartwell Lake users, property owners and other regional stakeholders.*
- (3) *The Ecological Restoration should remove all three dams in Twelve Mile River so that clean sediment will pass downstream in a natural manner, not in an artificial fashion that periodically flushes slugs of sand downstream.*
- (4) *Dredging and disposal of sediments from behind the dams must involve rigorous PCB testing and monitoring before, during and after dam removal.*

What can you do?

Until the "Plan" was announced in February, 2005, there had been no input from stakeholders (sportspeople, business, property owners and communities around Hartwell Lake). Now that the draft-Plan is released, a quick, but reasoned response is needed. Read about the "Plan" on the SCDNR website, and read the Association's position statement on the LHA website, then make up your own mind. We request that you send your comments to Mr. Paul League, attorney for SCDNR and spokesperson for the trustees. We have attached a suggested letter.

If you feel strongly about this issue, don't hesitate to send a copy of your letter (**see next page**) to your local state senator and/or representative. Ask them to intervene on your behalf for the good of the lake. Should you receive this notice after April 22nd, please send your comments anyway. Your voices are important and your legislators should still be involved.

Please remember this is a "once in lifetime" opportunity to improve Hartwell Lake and its watershed; let's make certain we do what's right...for the "sake of the lake."

Mr. Paul League
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 167
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Mr. League,

As a concerned property owner on Hartwell Lake, I would like to ask you to consider the following comments regarding the proposed "Lake Hartwell Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan" announced in local newspapers on February 11, 2005.

- (1) Compensation-dollars for Fishing-loss should be used to improve the natural resources within Lake Hartwell, not to build new structures off-site. Restoration and/or rehabilitation of natural resources within Lake Hartwell is preferred over off-site replacement options.
- (2) The users of Lake Hartwell, as well as the citizens of the affected counties (Pickens, Oconee & Anderson Counties in South Carolina, and Franklin, Hart & Stephens Counties in Georgia), should be considered stakeholders in the Restoration and Compensation Plan. The stakeholders should be allowed to participate in the decision regarding the allocation of monetary resources prior to any final agreement regarding how those resources will be used.
- (3) The Ecological restoration should remove all three dams in Twelve Mile River so that clean sediment will pass downstream in a natural manner. If the third dam remains, then slugs of sediment will be flushed downstream and will degrade the ecology of the river.
- (4) Dredging and disposal of sediments from behind the dams must involve rigorous PCB testing and monitoring before, during and after dam removal.
- (5) I recommend another public meeting be held with interested stakeholders prior to finalizing the monetary allocation for the "Lake Hartwell Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan."

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Name _____ Signature _____
 Street _____ Date _____
 City, State, Zip _____

WELCOME! New Members of the Lake Hartwell Association

We want to welcome our new members and thank them for joining LHA. Every new member helps us to continue our work for the benefit of the lake and the area. Your support is greatly appreciated.

New Corporate/Business Sponsors

Pediatric Dentistry - Angela & Charles McNutt

New LHA Members

- Rusty Ashmore
- Peter & Wendi Bailey
- Robert E. Bedgood
- Brett Chandler
- Stephen & Barbara Chapman
- J. Beach Foster
- Bill Fox
- Kevin & Laury Gardner
- David & Judy Hart
- Richard & Wendy Hilton
- Kathy Jannsen
- Lee R. Kratz
- Gerald & Carolyn Morrison
- Dan & Jill O'Connor

- Paul Sawyer
- Donald Shanks
- Larry & Marguerite Schmidt
- Steve Smith
- Thomas F. Smith
- Richard & Karen Tyrrell
- John L. Veal
- Steven Zahn

Your neighbors can be named here, too. Why not ask 3 people in your neighborhood to join LHA. It will make a difference.

USACE Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study Update

Submitted by Mike Massey

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the project manager for the *Savannah River Basin Comprehensive and Drought Management Study*. The study purpose is to review the current operating practices of the Savannah River Basin (SRB) and, if necessary, recommend areas for refinement. The study is funded by the Federal Government, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Georgia DNR.

A major part of the study is the development of a new Hydrologic Engineering Center Reservoir System Simulations Model (HEC RES SIM). Simply defined, it is a computer model where requirements from all stakeholders can be entered and different scenarios can be evaluated. The model is capable of calculating the effects (lake elevations, flow rates, etc.) caused by various operational and environmental variables throughout the SRB. It will be used to provide long-term simulations and real-time operations. It is capable of handling multiple operational scenarios with prioritized rules and computer logic criteria. The USACE indicated that it will be using 72 hour forecasts and Doppler radar inputs for rain amounts.

William Lynch, USACE Senior Project Manager for the study, called a meeting on March 3rd to review the status of the study and the results of some of the initial simulations. Lynch started the meeting by stating that “the Comp Study was not included in the president's fiscal year 2006 Budget as submitted to Congress on 07 February, 2005. Therefore, beginning 01 October 2005 there is no federal funding to continue the effort at this time. However, in the current fiscal year, we are continuing the priority work to address the drought condition and complete

a drought management plan update this fiscal year. Also, our Hydrologic Engineering Center in Davis, CA, is making good progress in working out the remaining kinks in RES SIM whereby the model can be ready to begin running the other scenarios relating to storage and flows changes this fiscal year. We should be able to share these results with the stakeholders group this summer. The model will still be useable and functional in future years with or without funding.”

Bottom line – this is disappointing to us here at LHA. We agree that the revision to the drought plan is very important but also we feel that the remaining study is important in order to fully understand and have hard, scientific data to permit a fair and equitable allocation of SRB water resources for the future. This understanding is extremely important if we are to come to some form of water allocation agreement between South Carolina and Georgia as part of a water compact agreement.

The stakeholders at the meeting did, however, review the drought mitigation scenarios in detail and suggested a number of preferred actions to the Corps. Most interesting was the scenario that depicted the largest impact to saving the water in the lakes was the one that included the recently improved pump-back turbines at the Lake Russell Dam. The use of these turbines to pump water back into Lake Russell during the day and generate electricity from the same water in the evening far outweighed the benefits of any of the other scenarios. As a result, the general consensus from the group was that the pump-back technology, along with a newly revised set of drought trigger points that started earlier (Start saving the water BEFORE it begins to drop a few feet) was where the Corps should direct its efforts. Mr. Lynch thanked everyone for their comments and indicated we would hear more once they have made their conclusions. We will naturally keep all members of LHA informed of their progress.

Personal Flotation Devices for the Ones You Love

Submitted by Dan Ray

Summer and the boating season will be here before you know it. It's almost time to clean up the boat, load up the gear and head for the lake for skiing, fishing or just running the boat. **STOP!** Have you checked your safety gear yet this year? If you're like most of us, the answer is probably no. Safety equipment is the most important thing you have on your boat each year and your life may well depend on it. You must have one approved Type I, II, III, or V Personal Flotation Device for each person on board. If your boat is over 16 feet, you must also have one throw cushion or life ring.

When you bought the boat you probably got PFDs and put them aboard out of the way somewhere.. Bring them out and look them over. Are any of them damaged? Children grow. Are the PFDs the right size? Even though everyone in your family can swim, do you know that type II or III vests while they meet minimum requirements and are cheaper, Type II vests are de-

signed to keep your head above water in calm protected waters. Type III are intended to help you float during wet boating activities like kayaking or water skiing. Type IV throwable devices are no longer allowed as substitutes for lifejackets.

The number of people who die in boating accidents due to lack of a life jacket is **four out of five**. The way to beat these odds is to wear that jacket. New styles of jackets answer that complaint that they are ugly. The relatively new inflatable PFDs are an answer to the comfort issue. In cool weather, the Float Coat is available. Look over the various kinds on your next visit to the sporting goods or marine store. A good rule of thumb is to have enough stylish, functional life vests aboard for the maximum number of persons allowed.

Get your children in the habit of wearing jackets. Children under 6 are required to wear PFDs at all times aboard a boat unless in a cabin of one over 26 feet. If heavy weather comes up, break out the PFDs and encourage or insist that every one wears one. Please make all of your boating adventures safe ones.

Essay Contest Winner: Jessica Greeson's essay was selected as the best submission in our recent essay contest. She won a fishing trip on Hartwell Lake for her and a parent. The trip will be guided by an LHA board member. Jessica's prize also includes fishing equipment, a shore lunch and a video of the outing. Portions of her winning essay appear below edited here for space restraints. Congratulations, Jessica, on a job well done. Read her entire essay at www.lakehartwellassociation.org.



18-year-old Jessica Greeson is a native of Loganville, GA.

A Walk by the Lake

By Jessica Greeson

As I immerse myself in the crisp fall air of the beautiful Lake Hartwell, I walk alongside the water's edge tempting myself to come in contact with the water's incoming steady waves. Knowing very well that the water is probably freezing at this hour of the morning, I still have the urge to tiptoe through the water. As the current brushes the embankment ever so slightly, the red Georgia mud dissolves into the bluish-green lake. All the sudden I hear a Flop, as a huge largemouth bass plunges out of the water and just as quickly as it emerged to the surface, it disappears to the depths of the bottom as if teasing the early rising fisherman, no more that thirty feet away.

So many people do not take advantage of the beauty and distinctive scenery; however, it is familiar to me and I cherish it. I absorb every second of this illustrious life surrounding me. The wind whistles past my ear as I overhear a love song being hummed by the creatures that make up this unique setting that I am part of for this instance. As I gaze around, the view takes my breath away as I glance across the open mass of water before me. Not being able to see land gives me the feeling that I am free. I inhale this fresh air and it fills my lungs with a whoosh of refreshment and fulfillment. For a moment, I can escape the pressures of life and reflect on what the good Lord has

created. Following the trail, whooper wills are singing harmonies in the background, as I see crickets hopping along becoming instrumentalists by rubbing their wings together producing a not so alluring sound.

Approaching a glimpse of light, I encounter a small snapping turtle, slightly tilting its head as it suns on a surfaced rock. Trying not to disturb these animals and their daily routine, I try to identify other species of wildlife to test my knowledge. Now as the afternoon is coming to an end, I am trying to embrace every moment I have left of this day. I turn and stumble trying not to step on a slimy earthworm that has just appeared beneath my tennis shoe. I bend down to get a closer look and think, "Even nature's littlest creatures need to be guaranteed a chance to enjoy their habitat."

I finally stroll past Tugaloo State Park which I have visited numerous times. I hear countless campers preparing their bonfire scheduled for a little past dark thirty. Many children are running about, ready to start roasting marshmallows and make s'mores. To my delight, I hear laughter of young children playing tag, which brings a wide grin to my face. As I glance behind me I see a child crying; I raise my eyebrow in curiosity. I come to realize that this kid obviously has been in the sun too long, as the days of my own childhood pop in my head. Even now the sunburned skin, due to the lack of sunscreen, still makes me cringe. I can almost feel the scorching heat added to my skin those summer nights ago and my mom coating my painful, red body with Aloe Vera; my heart goes out to that child.

I quietly reflect upon my day and treasure every minute, knowing that I will always take advantage of the nature around me. Sometimes it does not hurt to take the time to enjoy the treasure of this wonderful wildlife right under our nose. Lake Hartwell is one of Georgia's best kept secrets. I am surprised not to see a huge tourist attraction here; however, I am glad that we can protect this area and preserve its natural beauty. It is always good to know that a place like this still exists.

Deadline Approaching for Replacement of White-bead Flotation

Since 1989, with the implementation of the updated Hartwell Project Shoreline Management Plan, flotation on all new docks placed on the lake had to consist of material that would not become waterlogged, was resistant to damage by animals, and would not sink or contaminate the water if punctured. As a result, exposed white-bead flotation could no longer be used. Existing white-bead flotation was allowed to remain in place until it was no longer serviceable, at which time it was to be replaced with approved type flotation. This policy was based on a nationwide Corps requirement.

In October 1991, in an effort to expedite the removal of white-

bead flotation and reduce associated environmental concerns, a Savannah District policy was implemented that initially required all white-bead flotation to be removed from the Savannah District lakes by January 1, 2001. Because of the quantity of docks on Hartwell Lake and the fact that many of the subject docks were still serviceable, the deadline was extended to January 1, 2006, the date published in the current Hartwell Project Shoreline Management Plan.

The January 1, 2006, deadline is fast approaching. Docks with white-bead flotation will be considered non-compliant after the established deadline. If your dock still has white-bead flotation, you are strongly encouraged to make plans to replace it with approved type flotation prior to January 1, 2006. If you have questions concerning this policy contact Park Ranger Mark Dotson, toll free, at (888) 893-0678, extension 357.

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

Spring
2005

Membership Information: Check all that apply

New Renewal Address change Amount Paid _____ Date _____

Student/Single (1 vote) \$15 Family (2 votes) \$25
 Community, Association or Business (3 votes) \$100
 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 _____

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. ⇐⇐⇐

LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION, Inc.
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