



# Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

**Spring, 2007**

**Volume XIX, Number 2**

## Letter from the President

*Submitted by Joe Brenner*



It's time to start looking forward to another great recreation season on the lake. Unlike this time last year, we're all more focused on water levels and drought. Though rainfall continues below normal, the current Corps forecast calls for near full pool levels in early May. Of course that assumes there will be a reasonable amount of rain; so here's hoping!

**LHA update:** As we do each spring, the LHA Board has included our "report card" in this issue. You will find articles on our 2006 accomplishments, as well as our 2007 goals. Much of the latter is based on your feedback and input through the member survey. Your board and committee volunteers give much personal time and effort working on your behalf. This issue highlights members of the Programs Committee. Take the opportunity to say thanks when you see them at our member events.

The LHA Members' Spring Picnic is set for May 12 at Big Oaks Recreation Site. We expect a fun and informative agenda. Dr. Frank Carl of the Savannah Riverkeeper organization will be our guest speaker. See the enclosed article and try to attend...and bring a friend.

We are asking you, our members, to support LHA in a more direct and personal way...by volunteering your time and energy by serving on the Board of Directors. LHA can only remain a viable organization if we can continue to staff our key volunteer positions. Please consider taking on a job that you will find both challenging and rewarding. See the article on director nominations or feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

We are pleased to announce that LHA has received a grant from BoatUS to print and distribute our navigational brochures to all lake permit holders. Thanks to Dan Ray and Petra Massey for securing the grant. We will also partner with the South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources in establishing shoreline vegetation for improved fish habitat through a grant from B.A.S.S. and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.

### 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.

**Corps/lake update:** The final version of the revised Shoreline Management Plan was approved in late January. An article from the Corps highlights the primary changes in the plan. There are also a few items covered in the "Ask the Corps" section. You should have all received your copy of the new plan. If not, please contact the Corps office.

LHA partners with the Corps each year to conduct the Lake Clean Up campaign and appreciation picnic. We jointly received an award this year from Rivers Alive for this effort. See Mike Massey's article for more details.

Have a safe and enjoyable recreation season. I look forward to seeing many of you at the spring picnic or on the lake. If you have questions or comments, contact us by email at [mail@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:mail@lakehartwellassociation.org) or call 1-864-224-LAKE (5253).

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**Spring Picnic  
May 12th**

**Sat, May 12, 2007 from 11:30 to 2:00  
Big Oaks Recreation Center  
Bring the family next door**

Lake Hartwell  
Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 312  
Fair Play, SC  
29643

(864) 224-LAKE

**OFFICERS &  
DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

Joe Brenner,  
*President*

Dr. Larry Dyck,  
*Vice President*

Mike Massey,  
*Past-President*

Marvin Tabor,  
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Treasurer*

Pam Huntley,  
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*Legislative*

Dr. Larry Dyck,  
*Technical*

Jim Gardner,  
*Publications*

vacant,  
*Program/  
Publicity*

Dan Ray, *Safety*

Vern Sauer,  
*Webmaster*

Mike Massey,  
*Membership*

**Around the Lake:  
Let's Go Birding on Hartwell Lake**

*Submitted by Vern Sauer*

Birdwatchers usually do most of their watching in their back yards or in the woods. Many times they travel to distant places to see new and different kinds of birds. But if you live along Hartwell Lake, one of the best places to see various kinds of birds, mostly waterfowl of course, is out on the lake, along the shoreline, in the upper ends of coves and in swampy, shallow areas.

The Corps of Engineers published a brochure some years back (date unknown) entitled "Birds of Hartwell Lake," a seasonal checklist. Unfortunately, this publication is now out of print and difficult to obtain, but it contains listings of more than 250 different birds and waterfowl that occur on or around Hartwell Lake. I say this brochure was published some years back because it lists the Canada Goose on Hartwell Lake as rare and unusual. Well, you and I both know that this isn't true today. But, nevertheless, this is a good publication to have if you are a birder, and it would be good if someone would update it and republish it. Another place you might try to find a copy of the brochure is at Clemson University because they participated in its preparation.

A few of the more common waterfowl that you can expect to see are Loons, Wood Ducks, Canada Geese, Teal, Mallard, American Black Ducks, Ring-Necked Ducks, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Green Backed Heron and Egrets. Large birds, such as vultures, several types of hawks, Bald Eagle (rare), Golden Eagle (rare) and Peregrine Falcon (rare) may also be seen. Some types of birds can be seen on or near the shoreline such as Killdeer, Kingfisher, woodpeckers, various Sandpipers, and swallows. Although fairly common years ago, the Pileated Woodpecker can occasionally be seen, although it is rare today. This is just a start and certainly not a complete or detailed listing of the various birds around Hartwell Lake, so be sure to take a good bird book with you.

A great way to watch waterfowl and birds is to go out on the lake in the late afternoon and early evening. My wife and I invite a couple of friends every week or so, pack a picnic lunch (sandwiches, chips, cold drinks,

and a thermos of coffee) and go out in our pontoon boat. Do this during the week, not on weekends, because you will find that there is very little boat traffic after about 5 or 6 pm, and you'll have the lake virtually to yourself. Cruise slowly and quietly into the upper ends of coves. These are usually good places to find the Great Blue Heron and various other shorebirds. Out on open water it's fun to watch the common loon dive and then resurface a hundred or so feet away. In the spring, you'll frequently see a Canada Goose with her brood of gosling. Under the various bridges you see swallows making their nests. Besides the bird watching, if you stay



until early evening you'll almost always enjoy a spectacular sunset. Be sure to take a couple pair of good binoculars, a camera and a bird book.

A cell phone and a GPS are good to take also, just in case you get lost or run into any trouble.

Enjoy our lake and happy birding.

**Call for Director Nominations!**

The success of Lake Hartwell Association depends entirely on its volunteer board and committee members. There is currently a serious need for additional board members. Your existing board is stretched thin with several folks trying to handle multiple responsibilities. Most have served multiple terms. The only requirement to become an LHA board member is one year of association membership. The only qualifications are the time and energy to work on projects and issues to protect our great water resource.

This is your organization, and it will only remain viable with continued active support from the members. If you or someone you know is willing to share in achieving our mission, contribute ideas and enjoy making a difference, please submit a nomination by phone at 1-864-224-5253 or by email at [membership@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:membership@lakehartwellassociation.org), or by contacting any Board member.

## LHA 2006 Accomplishments & Activities

*Submitted by the LHA Board*

Following are the past year's accomplishments of your LHA team of directors, administrator and committee members. The effort that goes into protecting our great resource is sizeable and the challenges are always increasing. If you would like to lend a hand and participate as a director or committee member or provide comments or suggestions, please contact us at [membership@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:membership@lakehartwellassociation.org) or by mail.

### Officers and Board of Directors

- Developed position description, recruited and hired an Executive Administrator, LHA's first paid position.
- Conducted a member survey to better align board positions and priorities based on member input.
- Created an LHA recognition policy and awarded the first member and *Emeritus* member awards.
- Continued to meet with other southeastern volunteer water associations to discuss issues and identify best practices to assist each other with our policies, practices and goals.
- Maintained memberships in and coordinated with other Georgia and South Carolina state and public water organizations to share ideas and knowledge of water initiatives and activities.
- Attended meetings and provided input to the Greater Anderson Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee. (LHA is a member.)
- Actively participated in the Hartwell Lake Chamber of Commerce and Municipal Coalition and provided LHA input and resources as required.
- Attended a number of local, state and regional water conferences to improve our knowledge and skills regarding water issues.
- Provided presentations about LHA, Hartwell Lake or other water related topics when requested by LHA members or other civic organizations.
- Conducted a board planning session to identify LHA long-term strategies and priorities, consistent with member input.

### Safety

- Submitted relevant safety articles for each LHA newsletter.
- Maintained boat ramp bulletin boards and child life jacket loaner program at marinas.
- Developed a Navigating Lake Hartwell brochure. (This was extremely well received in the community for providing valuable boating and safety information.)
- Applied for and received two grants to support printing and distribution of the navigational brochure; \$1000 from the National Safe Boating Council and \$3700 from BoatUS.

### Legislative

- Actively participated with the Georgia Water Coalition to develop consensus guiding principles for the Georgia State Water Plan.
- Developed a boat noise strategy; obtained legislative sponsorship for a regulation similar to Georgia's. (A bill has been submitted for 2007 committee review.)
- Participated with numerous Savannah River and Basin groups including the Savannah River Basin Coalition and the Friends of the SRB; supported activities to develop a working relationship across state lines to better address water needs. (The Savannah River Committee formed jointly by the GA and SC governors began discussions on common issues and resource sharing.)
- Actively participated on the Savannah/Ogeechee Basin Advisory Committee as part of the Georgia Statewide Water Planning process.
- Petitioned federal legislators to obtain funding support for key Corps projects: the Thurmond Oxygen Injection project and Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Basin Study.

### Membership

- Developed an evergreen member recruiting process using the permit list as a basis and conducted recruitment effort.
- Developed a strategy and resource package to conduct a business membership drive.
- Developed value driven approach for business members including listings in the LHA newsletter, business table at LHA meetings and a separate section in the new website.
- Continued to revise and document the membership process to improve efficiency and results; developed standards for billing, renewals and member retention.
- Developed an updated LHA brochure to better identify the mission and function of LHA in protecting the natural resource of Lake Hartwell.

### Technical

- Participated in all facets of the PCB damage remediation and settlement; made several presentations to the federal judge at the settlement hearing; presented LHA's position on best use of settlement funds to GA DNR; established dialog with SC DHEC to solicit support for removal of the third dam in Twelve Mile River.
- Attended Corps' presentations and gave input to revisions to the Drought Contingency Plan; informed members of various aspects of the plan.
- Reviewed the final draft of the revised Shoreline Management Plan and gave LHA comments to the Corps; provided technical assistance to the Corps to develop an effective shoreline vegetation list.
- Actively engaged with other lake organizations; participated in SE Lake Management conference in Columbus, GA;

(Continued from page 3)

presented two workshops on financial impacts of low water levels and shoreline restoration.

### Programs

- Organized and managed “operation iceberg” to remove discarded white bead flotation from the shoreline; enlisted the Corps to provide resources and support this effort; removed several hundred foam blocks representing tons of debris.
- Co-sponsored the annual Hartwell Lake Clean-up Campaign with the Corps of Engineers and organized and managed the volunteer appreciation picnic.
- Managed and supported the LHA Spring Picnic and Fall Information Meeting by providing members with opportunities for fun and informative networking.
- Developed internal standardized processes for LHA routine activities such as member meetings and the Clean Up picnic.

### Publications

- Generated high quality quarterly newsletters; introduced two new informative sections for members: “Things around the lake” to promote area attractions and “Ask the Corps” to provide answers to members’ issues and questions.
- Produced an updated LHA membership brochure and a new boating safety and navigational brochure.
- Managed information distribution to members; increased use of eNews to improve delivery time and reduce LHA costs.
- Developed a group mail process to send email notices to members on key information and issues. (This has been very effective in providing timely, low cost communication.)

### Financial

- Developed investment strategy for LHA cash on hand to increase income for the organization.
- Secured non-profit postal status for LHA mailings to significantly reduce costs.

### Website

- Developed requirements and bid package for redesign of the LHA website; received proposals from several vendors and are under review.

## LHA Goals for 2007

*Submitted by the LHA Board*

Following are the major goals identified by the LHA Board for the coming year. We believe that achieving these will positively impact protection of our lake and enhance value for our members. We continue to focus on the ideals expressed in our mission statement “for the sake of the lake.”

**President and Board:** Fill all open director positions with highly qualified candidates and develop a candidate pool within the committees. Implement a process to formalize the LHA committee functions and increase organizational effectiveness.

Develop a plan to increase LHA visibility in the community.

Develop an LHA strategy and position regarding commercial and large-scale development around the lake.

**Technical:** Work with the Riverkeeper organization to implement a Covekeeper program to enhance monitoring of water quality.

Interface with the Corps to address effective water level management and develop long-term optimum strategies through completion of Phase 2 of the Basin Comprehensive Study.

Advocate for best uses of PCB settlement funds to provide maximum benefit to the natural resources of Lake Hartwell.

Provide appropriate monitoring and follow up on the Corps’ river flow purge program to ensure protection of Hartwell waters and fishery.

**Webmaster:** Complete the redesign of the LHA website to make it more effective for users and provide a credible and professional image for the organization.

**Membership:** Develop and conduct an evergreen member recruiting process to ensure sustained growth of LHA and achieve budgeted membership.

Enhance benefits for LHA business members to encourage membership by business partners who can provide value to the organization.

Conduct a business membership drive to increase business memberships by 100%.

**Programs:** Identify and implement new programs and activities to improve the image of LHA and Lake Hartwell.

Conduct a series of water forums at various locations around the lake.

Develop materials to better inform members and potential new residents of key provisions in the Shoreline Management Plan. Coordinate this activity with the Corps. Manage and support all LHA member meetings and activities to provide good value and informative presentations.

**Publications:** Increase value of the LHA newsletter to members by implementing new features like “Ask the Corps,” and activities of interest around the lake.

Increase member use of email services for newsletter and notices to reduce LHA costs and improve timeliness of information.

**Safety:** Conduct a mass mailing of the LHA Navigational Brochure to all lake permit holders in accordance with the BoatUS grant.

Conduct two boater safety courses in cooperation with the Power Squadron.

**Treasurer:** Formally document LHA financial processes, including budget development, auditing and tax filing.

**Legislative:** Support and lobby for enactment of South Carolina boat noise legislation similar to Georgia’s.

Ensure that outcomes from the Georgia water planning process safeguard our water resources, particularly through stringent controls on interbasin transfers, by active participation on the Savannah/Ogeechee Basin Advisory Committee.

Inform South Carolina area legislators of LHA’s positions and concerns.

Lobby federal and state representatives to provide funding for the Lake Thurmond oxygen injection project and Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Basin Study to better protect water levels in Lake Hartwell.

## Updated Hartwell Project Shoreline Management Plan Fully Implemented

In June 2005 the public review process for updating the Hartwell Project Shoreline Management Plan (HLSMP) was initiated with the announcement of a planned update and acceptance of public comments. The public review process consisted of an initial four months of accepting public comments, four public workshops, another 30 day comment period, the presentation of a draft/interim plan on June 27, 2006 and a final 30 day comment period. Based on public input and management responsibilities, the final HLSMP was fully implemented January 30, 2007. A copy of the new plan and a cover letter highlighting specific changes has been mailed to each permit holder. Below is an abbreviated list of the changes noted in the cover letter along with a short reason for the change:

*Change* - Docks must now be installed within one year of approval date. Docks issued prior to June 27, 2006, must be installed by January 1, 2008, or within one year of dock plan approval, as applicable.

*Reason* - Prior to 1998, a one year time limit for dock installation was in place on Hartwell Lake. That requirement was removed with the '98 plan. Experience has proven that a time limit is essential from a management standpoint. Time limits are currently in place for other Corps and private lakes across the country. The purpose of issuing a dock is to provide needed mooring privileges, not to reserve space for potential future use.

\* *Change* - Access requirements. In order to qualify for consideration of an initial dock permit in limited development (green) areas or underbrushing in protected (yellow) areas, the subject private property must share a common boundary with public land for a minimum of 75 feet.

*Reason* - Overcrowding issues was one of the major concerns expressed during public review process. This new requirement will help reduce crowding conflicts.

*Change* - Down-light shielding on all lights and coloring of concrete walkways will apply to all permit holders. Requirements will be implemented at change of ownership, renewal of existing permits and for initial permits.

*Reason* - Another major concern expressed during public review process was that Hartwell Lake was losing its natural appeal. Specific comments were received in relation to lighting and concrete walkways. New requirement will help reduce light pollution on public land over a five year period and will reduce visual impacts of bright concrete.

\* *Change* - Water depth requirement. Consideration for new dock permits will require a minimum four feet of water at the location where the proposed gangwalk and dock would connect. *Reason* - Like time limits, this is the re-establishment of a previous practice. Re-establishing a minimum water depth for docks reduces crowding conflicts and increases usability of docks.

\* *Change* - Improved walkways and utilities will no longer be approved in protected shoreline areas (yellow zoned areas).

*Reason* - Such structures encourage unauthorized mooring of vessels to the shoreline and impact areas originally allocated as protected.

\* *Change* - Minimum size dock that will be considered has increased from a 6' X 6' structure to a 200 square foot structure with no one side being less than 10'. The minimum gangwalk length has increased from 6' to 16'.

*Reason* - Based on comments from individuals, dock builders, and field experience, 6' X 6' docks and 6' gangwalks are not practical and often times are not functional.

\* *Change* - Second stories on docks can no longer be covered. If a dock is relocated, it will have to be modified to meet current specifications.

*Reason* - As noted above, docks are issued for the mooring of vessels. Over the years, dock designs have evolved to include features that are not necessary for the intended purpose of moorage. Our new policy will limit excessive features on docks but still provide for practical and recreational use of docks.

The changes marked with an (\*) above will not affect existing permits. Permits legally issued under previous criteria will be honored to current and future owners provided permit conditions are maintained.

**NOTE:** The above list is an abbreviated list of changes and is not all inclusive. Please read entire plan so that you will be aware of changes that may affect you. If you have questions concerning the new plan, please contact Park Ranger Mark Dotson, toll free, at (888) 893-0678, extension 357.

### Corps Annual Passes Now Available

This is a reminder that Corps day use area annual passes can be purchased at the Hartwell Lake Office as well as day use areas and campgrounds with a park attendant. The annual pass costs \$30 and is good nationwide at Corps operated day use areas. Displaying the pass means that you do not have to pay a \$3 or \$4 daily user fee which is charged at many Corps parks and launching ramps (the pass permits one vehicle and the occupants of the vehicle). The passes are good valid for 12 months from the month of sale. Passes can also be purchased by calling the Hartwell Lake Office at 888-893-0678, or by mail.

### Newsletter 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. To receive *LHA e-News* send your email address to [LHAnews@hotmail.com](mailto:LHAnews@hotmail.com). We will not distribute these email addresses to any person, company or organization for any reason.



## ASK THE CORPS....

The purpose of the "Ask the Corps" section of our newsletter is to provide our members with an opportunity to ask questions of the USACE and to share their answers with our entire membership. Thanks to those who emailed the questions below to [ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.com](mailto:ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.com) and to the Corps for their responses.

1. I am wondering if anyone has raised the idea of raising the I-85 bridges if they build new ones for the widening project that they are preparing to do so taller boats can go under.

*GA Department Of Transportation (GADOT) is conducting preliminary field work to replace the I-85 bridge at the GA/SC state line. Any comments or concerns about bridge heights should be addressed to GADOT for consideration. The Corps is not aware of any plans for any bridge replacement in SC. Additionally, any comments or concerns about bridge height should be addressed to the SCDOT.*

2. I understand that a Lake Lanier group similar to LHA has requested the Corps to increase the depth of Lake Lanier by an additional TWO feet. Supposedly this will increase the available water for Atlanta by 25%. Is there any reason that this could not be done with the water level at Lake Hartwell to provide more available water for downstream use? I understand that there will be some erosion issues. However different erosion situations will occur on any lake that experiences any change (increase or decrease) in the maintained water level.

*We just don't know the full impacts to the shore and other parts of the environment. The benefits and tradeoffs associated with reallocation of storage from the flood control pool to the conservation pool would need to be studied more thoroughly to determine the effects on the Corps reservoir system.*

*While raising guide curve two feet during winter keeps more water in storage, it also reduces the storage space available to capture runoff from storm events that will happen in the basin. We can't just look at one aspect of the reservoir, but need to look at the entire system from headwaters to the Atlantic Ocean. Downstream users may have more water held in the pool to provide timed pulses for ecosystem benefit, but they run a higher risk of seeing damaging flows when Hartwell and Thurmond run out of storage.*

*Just recently Thurmond rose a foot literally overnight. While rare, such events do occur unpredictably. Without the storage capacity in the flood pool we run a risk of needing to release vast amounts of water quickly, potentially flooding low-lying areas downstream and causing unpredictable damage.*

*The most effective way to evaluate operational changes such as these is through a comprehensive basin study with well-developed reservoir modeling to evaluate these scenarios for a range of weather conditions. This change is one of the alternatives to be considered in Phase II of the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study.*

3. Why does the Corps not require a performance bond for all major work done on or across Corps property, thereby allowing them to recover damage costs from contractors.

*Any work done on or across public property is coordinated and directed by the Corps. The Corps does not have the authority to require a contractor to provide a performance bond for work being conducted on private property that could incidentally impact public property. If actions on private property cause injury/damage to public land, then the Corps will seek restoration from the private property owner and possibly the contractor.*

4. Does anyone at the LHA know why the Corp of Engineers does not take advantage of the low water level and remove all of the trees that loom just below the water when the lake is at or near full pool? Is there a person to whom we can report the location of these dangers?

*The Corps of Engineers is aware of the small pockets of standing timber on Hartwell Lake. In fact, these areas were purposely left standing to provide both fish habitat and areas for anglers to concentrate their fishing effort. In man-made reservoirs, woody debris constitutes a large percentage of the available fish habitat. As reservoirs age, this material decays and habitat is slowly lost. The findings of a recent study presented in the July 2006 issue of "Fisheries" magazine found that the removal of woody debris resulted in changes to largemouth bass feeding behavior and consequently slower growth rates relative to a population where the amount of woody debris had not been altered. Recreation comes in many forms. The most recent creel survey completed on Hartwell Lake in 1992 provided an estimate of 728,489 angler-hours of effort exerted in recreational fishing. Thus, fishing is a major component of the recreational use of Hartwell Lake.*

*The policy for marking navigational hazards on Hartwell is as follows: All boating hazards within marked navigational channels will be removed, signed or buoyed. The preferred method will be removal of the hazard if possible. Permanent signs and buoys will be used on hazards at the 655 feet msl or above. Hazards outside marked navigational channels that are at 655 feet msl or above will be marked or removed when both of the following criteria are met: when the hazard is located in an open water area that serves as access to a developed public recreation area and/or marked navigational channel; if the hazard is located where high speed travel would reasonably be expected while operating in a safe and prudent manner. During varying lake levels, all remaining navigational hazards which are below the 655 elevation and located outside marked navigational channels will not be marked or removed. Many of the areas of standing timber are outside the marked navigational channel.*

**If you have questions, you may contact the staff at the Hartwell Project Office at 888 893 0678 for additional information or specific areas of concern.**

## Hartwell Power Plant - 10 Years of Continuous Improvements

Submitted by James Payne, USACE

Most readers of the LHA newsletter are usually focused on the current and projected lake levels, water safety, water quality, shoreline management as well as many other concerns important to lake users.

But perhaps you didn't know that power plant folks are hard at work on behalf of you the American tax payer. If you have ever traveled US Highway 29 between Hartwell, GA and Anderson, SC and looked upstream, you may have noticed water released for power generation.

The heart of any power plant is the generator. In 1962, the Corps began operation of the power plant with four generators that were rated at 66,000 kilowatts of electricity each for a total rated capacity of 264,000 kilowatts. From 1997 through 2000, the Corps replaced the windings (or coils) of the generators which resulted in a new rating of 88,500 kilowatts of electricity per generator for a total rated capacity of 354,000 kilowatts of electricity. That is a 25 percent increase in power using the same amount of water! A fifth generator is rated at 80,000 kilowatts which brings the total rated capacity of the Hartwell power plant to 434,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Just like your home, the Hartwell power plant is changing to keep up with better electronic technology by modifying each generating unit's governor (controls the flow of water to rotate the turbine and generator) to operate with electronic controls, the slightest change in speed of the generator can instantly be detected and adjusted automatically. Each generator's voltage output is now controlled by an electronic exciter and voltage regulator run by computers that include a touch screen monitor at the generating unit and a second one in the control room for the power plant operator to watch.

In the last 10 years, the US Army Corps of Engineers has spent more than \$32 million dollars upgrading the Hartwell power plant and switchyard. Along with the rehab of the generators, we refurbished four turbines and replaced six main transformers with just two that could do the job even better. In addition to the exciters and voltage regulators, we replaced high voltage breakers in the power plant and switchyard that require less maintenance. From an environmental standpoint, the Hartwell power plant has improved in many ways. The new breakers operate using a gas chamber instead of opening and closing in huge tanks each holding thousands of gallons of oil (that could have spilt into the Savannah River). Where oil is still needed, like in the new main transformers, the Hartwell power plant has an underground oil/water separator the size of a swimming pool to contain any possible spills. Today, an operator on duty is monitoring numerous computers that allow operation of the Hartwell Power plant with the click of a mouse.

The Corps expects to issue a news release later this spring to officially announce the completion of the Hartwell power plant rehab in a ceremony to be held on-site.

## Corps and LHA Receive Award for 2006 Lake Clean-Up Campaign

Submitted by Mike Massey

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Project and the Lake Hartwell Association were among several organizations that received an award by *Rivers Alive* at the "2006 Outstanding Waterway Cleanup and Leadership Awards." The ceremony was held at the Gwinnett (GA) Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford Georgia on March 7. *Rivers Alive* is Georgia's annual volunteer waterway cleanup event that targets all waterways in the State including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches and wetlands. The mission of *Rivers Alive* is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources.



*Mitch Russell, Rivers Alive Director, presents award to Ranger Sandy Campbell who accepted the award on behalf of Ranger Grant while LHA President Joe Brenner (left) and Director Mike Massey look on.*

The awards event recognizes organizations for significant contributions to the most recent "Clean-up Campaign." The Campaign at Hartwell Lake is managed by the Corps of Engineers and Ranger Tanya Grant. LHA is proud to support the Corps and the effort, through various activities including managing and sponsoring the "Volunteer Appreciation Picnic" for all those who participated as well as collecting hundreds of door prizes for distribution at the picnic.

Over the past several years, the clean up has averaged 625 volunteer participants who gather litter from around Hartwell Lake and bring it to various Corps designated site for pick-up and disposal. While it is difficult to measure the amount of waste and debris collected, estimates put it at many tons. In 2006, Ranger Tanya Grant, who headed the effort for the Corps, also had a goal to increase the number of volunteers participating. This was accomplished by revising picnic announcements and communication, adding extra gifts and prizes to participants and providing additional activities at the picnic. LHA also had the picnic catered by Sonny's Barbeque of Anderson. The additional effort resulted in an increase in participants to 884 for 2006, a 40% increase of over 250 people.

The award by *Rivers Alive* was presented to the area that had the most participant groups assisting in their campaign. LHA and the Corps are proud of the effort of all the people that helped make this years campaign a huge success. LHA would also like to extend a special thanks to Tanya Grant for the outstanding job she did in 2006.

**Grant Awarded to Increase Fish Habitat**

*Submitted by Gene Hayes, Freshwater Fisheries Biologist SCDNR*

The Bass Anglers Sportsman’s Society (B.A.S.S.) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) recently announced the awarding of a \$34,476 grant to South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and its partner organizations to enhance fish habitat on two Savannah River reservoirs. The grant supports a cooperative effort to establish shoreline vegetation on Lakes Hartwell and Russell to improve fish habitat. Grant partners include Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), Georgia and South Carolina B.A.S.S. Federations, Lake Hartwell Association (LHA), SCDNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE).

The project will demonstrate first hand to bass anglers and homeowners how to use native aquatic vegetation to improve fisheries habitat. B.A.S.S. and LHA volunteers will work with government agency personnel in planting 5,000 water willow and 2,000 maiden cane plants at pre-selected sites on the two reservoirs. Three thousand water willow plants will be allocated for Lake Russell and the remainder of vegetation will be planted on Lake Hartwell. Tentative plans are to begin the planting efforts on Lake Hartwell in mid-May 2007. Specific planting dates will be announced in April.

Forty sites on Lake Hartwell and 30 sites on Lake Russell will be selected based on topography, soil type and identified lack of established emergent aquatic, shoreline vegetation. The plantings will stabilize shoreline substrates and provide structural habitat for shoreline spawning fish species, such as largemouth bass, redear sunfish and bluegill. Plantings will also provide a stable, protective nursery area for juvenile fish. A project goal is to attain at least a 450 sq ft coverage area at each site.

A follow-up evaluation is planned during Fall 2007 to assess plant survival and degree of area coverage. Subsequent annual evaluations will be conducted over a three-year period.

For more information on this project or how you may volunteer, call Gene Hayes with SCDNR at (864) 223-1307, Jamie Sykes with USACOE at 1-800-944-7207 ext. 3425 or Larry Dyck of Lake Hartwell Association at 864-885-7026.

**Two Opportunities to Become a Safer Boater**

Consider signing up for one of these boating classes and make our lake a safer place to recreate.

**US Coast Guard Safe Boating Classes**

The USCG will be its conducting its safe boating class, *America’s Boating Course*, on April 21 and again on May 12. These classes will be held at the Army Corps of Engineers offices near the Lake Hartwell Dam which is located 1 mile south of Hartwell Dam on US Hwy 29N. Both classes begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. The cost is \$30. To reserve a seat call Jim Rudy at 864-972-2085 or Glenn Barbee at 706-376-0096.

**Georgia DNR Offers Boating Classes**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will be offering free boating classes on the following dates: Mar. 31, Apr. 28, May 19 and June 23. The six-hour course runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Classes are open to the public and there is no registration fee.

The boating classes will be held at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hartwell Lake Project Office located at 5625 Anderson Hwy., Hartwell, Ga. Participants must be at least 12 years old. Classes are limited to 25 students.

For more information or to register, contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources at (770) 535-5499 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**BoatU.S. Grant Approved**

Lake Hartwell Association was notified recently that a grant for \$3700 was approved by the BoatU.S. Foundation which will enable



LHA to produce Navigation Brochures to promote boating safety. The grant was selected “from a very competitive field of 148 proposals all of which merited serious consideration.” Printing and distribution of 20,000 brochures will be made possible by the grant.

An earlier grant from BoatU.S. funded the construction and installation of ten bulletin boards at some of the most widely used boat ramps on Lake Hartwell. Safety messages and information about boating safety classes are now posted on the bulletin boards.

*LHA member Jim Pearson recently caught this 34 lb striper on a jigging spoon. It took 20 min to land the beauty and 30 min to revive it. The fish was released unharmed. Fishing with Pearson were Ronnie Hendrix and Don Brown both from Greer.*

**Send your photos to [LHANewsletter@Yahoo.com](mailto:LHANewsletter@Yahoo.com)**



## Lightning on the Water: Be Safe

Submitted by Dan Ray

The technology of lightning protection hasn't changed significantly since Ben Franklin invented the lightning rod in 1752. The best way to protect boat and crew from this random force is still to provide the strike a straight, low-resistance path to ground. If the highest metal structure on the boat is properly grounded, the risk of structural damage or personal injury is extremely small.

Onboard electronics are, unfortunately, not protected. Lightning induces current to flow in any conductor it passes near, and a powerful strike even 100 yards away may induce currents that exceed the capacity of the low-current components inside most marine electronics. You can gain limited protection by twisting all electronics power leads so induced currents will tend to cancel. Electrical wiring should run perpendicular to bonding wires to minimize the inductive effect of current flowing to ground. Ground the chassis--the metal housing--to protect internal circuits and components from directly induced currents. A surge protector in the supply line may stop a limited range of lightning-induced power spikes. But despite every protective effort, if lightning strikes your boat, your electronics have only one chance in two of not becoming toast--so keep your insurance paid up.

Article reprinted with permission of Don Casey and BoatUS.com

## New Website for LHA

Submitted by Vern Sauer



**LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION**  
"For the Sake of the Lake"

We are currently in the process of having a new website developed for Lake Hartwell Association. Accessing the new site will be the same as our current web site, simply by going to <http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org>. And for a while during the next few weeks, there will be no apparent change except that it will be hosted by a different web hosting company by the name of Net Doctors, located in Seneca, SC. At some point, probably late March or early April, the website will take on a completely new look and will have some new features and new information. We hope you like it and that you will visit the website often to get current information about what we are doing, what the lake is doing, the calendar of activities, boating safety, safety training courses, meetings and special events. These and other things will be added to the new site and kept current to the best of our ability. We invite your comments and suggestions which you can email to [webmaster@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:webmaster@lakehartwellassociation.org). Tell your friends about the website, and we hope you enjoy it.

## The USACE Announces the Opening of Parks & Campgrounds for the 2007 Recreation Season.

Submitted by USACE

Lake Hartwell offers many Corps managed recreation areas for people who want to spend the day, or maybe just a few hours at the lake. Most of the day use areas have picnic tables, playgrounds, boat launching ramps, courtesy docks, restrooms, picnic shelters and swim beaches. The picnic shelters may be reserved and are great for family reunions, birthday parties or other group outings. Facilities currently open for day use are as follows: Singing Pines, Weldon Island, 12 Mile, Lawrence Bridge, Fairplay, Mullins Ford, Stephens County, Gum Branch, Long Point and Twin Lakes. On April 1 Broyles, River Forks, Friendship, Poplar Springs, Elrod Ferry and Hart Group Day Use areas will be open.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages 9 campgrounds at Hartwell Lake. Many of these campgrounds feature restrooms, showers, boat ramps, sanitary disposal stations, playgrounds, electric and water hook-ups, courtesy docks and designated swimming areas. The following campgrounds are already open on Hartwell Lake - Watsadler, Georgia River and Twin Lakes Campgrounds.

Opening April 1 are Crescent Group Camp and Springfield Campgrounds and May 1 are Oconee Point, Coneross, Paynes Creek and Milltown Campgrounds.

Reservations for campsites or shelters may be made by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) toll-free at 877-444-6777 or online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). For general questions concerning the parks and campgrounds on Hartwell Lake, contact the Hartwell Lake Office at 888-893-0678, or go to [www.sas.usace.army.mil/hartwell](http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/hartwell).

## LHA Families Invited to Open House

LHA member Steve Kiemele is commodore of Western Carolina Sailing Club on Hartwell Lake. He recently announced the 3rd annual Open House... free and open to families of the Lake Hartwell Association. The sailing club has nothing to sell, but would like LHA members to see and enjoy the beautiful clubhouse, grounds and harbor filled with relaxing sailboats. Open House is set for Saturday, May 5th, on club grounds and the waters of Hartwell Lake near Anderson, SC. Overnight camping is available by reservation.

Everyone will be treated to a free, grilled hot-dog cookout for lunch. Activities include the following: art show with local artists displaying paintings, sketches and sculptures of sailing and lake living, free sailboat rides with a competent WCSC Skipper, in-the-water dealer displays of new sailboats, lawn displays of new sailboats, golf-cart tours of grounds including camping areas, boat storage, clubhouse, docks and emerald harbor.

Driving directions to the sailing club (SC side near buoy S-20) may be found at <http://www.wcsc-sailing.org/> or by calling 864-260-9058 in South Carolina and 706-376-6404 in Georgia.

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

We are pleased to welcome our newest members who have joined LHA since our last newsletter.

### **New Family Memberships**

Robert E. Alexander, Tony D. Ashley, Peter & Wendi Bailey, Paul & Jan Barbas, Richell Barkdale, Jeffrey Bell, John Bickerstaff, Kelly & Debby Bollinger, J. William Butler, Damon Camp, Hershel Carithers, Louis F. Seltman & Mary Castle, Robert J. Clark, Ralph Clement, Earl & Phyllis Clowers, Patrick L. Condon, Morris & Susan Cowan, Dan L. Cox, Jake & Katie Crossan, John & Lila Culbreth, William R. Davis, Susan Dobre, Douglas Doll, Ken & Joanne Donahue, James Dubeau, Bill & Sandra Elks, Brad & Janet Fried, Richard & Shelly Goupil, Bart & Lisa Harris, Mark Hendrix, Lee & Alyce Hurley, Mel Justice, Edward & Ruth Kerl, Robert & Bernadette Kluft, Stanley & Cheryl Klin, Art & Judy Laberge, Patricia J. Labonge, Karl & Karen Lee, Virginia Legris, Albert & Carolyn Mckie, Harland & Kyndle Meyer, Richard Neel II, Sandra Noah, Mike & Beth Owens, Joe & Karon Pacifici, Jim Pearson, Neil Phillips, Hill & Lynda Powell, Alan & Deborah Prevost, Robert Reese, Art Reifentstahl, Billy & Sandra Rhodes, Howard & Betty Robins, John & Debbie Robinson, J. Frank Robertson, Richard R. Roush, Edmund M. Sadlock, Vic & Shelley Sainato, Harriet & Harold Samler, Cory & Tanya Schilling, Frederick Schoh, Gary Seymore, Richard & Yvonne Shand, Andy & Pamla Skelton, Clyde & Theresa Smith, Charles Smith, Wayne F. Smith, Rebecca Sorrow, S. David & Juanita South, Richard Spencer, Brett & Elaine Stoll, John & Meryl Streeter, Mike & Karen Sullivan, Richard & Gloria Toledo, Doug & Pam Turnbull, Brian & Linda Watkins, Monty & Dottie Williams.

### **Donations to LHA**

We also wish to thank the following LHA members who generously made special donations to support the ongoing work of LHA volunteers. We are also very grateful to these LHA members for generously making special donations:

Robert E. Alexander, Luther C. Boliek, Ellen Bost, Brodie Brigman, J. William Butler, Nancy Carter & Pat Keegan, Charles & Shirley Byrd, Ed Dempsey, Mack & Mary Lynn Eberhart, Mrs. Evelyn Francis, James & Nancy Hellams, Diane Hoefener, Nancy Markley, Harland & Kyndle Meyer, Alton & Mary Moore, Carl & Brenda Oehmig, Jim & Pat Patterson, Jack & Cindy Plating, Lee & Kelly Powell, Cory & Tanya Schilling, Charles Smith, Riley & Becky Stephens, Dennis L. Thompson.

### **Please Support our LHA Community & Business Members**

Anderson Regional Joint Water System – Scott Willet, Robert & Connie Banks, Coldwell Banker Fort Realty – Fort Oglesby, Currahee Partners – Chris Whitley, DALCO Custom Homes – Flay Dalrymple, Foxwood Hills Property Owners Association – Bill Lewis, Mgr., Hartwell Lake Properties – Mike Gray, Lake Home Renovations – Paul A. Erickson, Leeward Landing Association of Boat Dock Owners, Paul & Susan Meng, Paradise Point Inc – Jerry Lehner, Pintail Point Property Owners – Sheree Moate, Portman Marina – David Freeman, Remax Properties – Charlene & Anthony Lee, Terence Roberts State Farm Insurance, Thad Strickland, Superior Dock Systems – Dick Lantier, Swaney's Point Association – Tom Williams, The Hartwell Sun, US Army Corps of Engineers, & View Point Lot Owners Association

## **2007 Annual LHA Spring Picnic**

By Mike Massey

It is time to have you reserve the date of Saturday, May 12, 2007, for the annual LHA spring picnic and information meeting. The admission is free!

Are you interested in the latest activities of the LHA or the status of the revision to the Shoreline Management Plan? Do you have questions about other lake issues such as the status of the GA and SC Governors' Savannah River Basin Study Committee or GA and SC DNR's plans for the PCB settlement funds?

Do you want to hear some interesting speakers, have a picnic lunch and possibly win a door prize?

The LHA annual spring picnic meeting is the time to find out about these and other issues and meet many of the people at LHA, the Corps and other organizations.

Our annual outdoor cookout with hamburgers, hot-dogs and all the fixings will take place this year on Saturday, May 12, at the Big Oaks Recreation Center, adjacent to the Corps Office on Hwy 29 in Georgia near the Hartwell Dam. Admission is free and members and prospective members are urged to bring along their family and friends. The meeting is also open to the public. Mark your calendar now so you will not miss this important and fun event.

The food will be served from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, followed by a few brief but interesting informational discussions. All activities should end by 2:00 PM.

The keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Frank Carl, Executive Director of the Savannah Riverkeeper Organization. The SRK, based out of Savannah, GA, has a mission similar to LHA but takes an overall Savannah River Basin approach. Frank will discuss the SRK organization, a few of their current activities and the relationship and coordination with LHA.

Joe Brenner, LHA President, as well as several members of the LHA Board of Directors, will make brief presentations of current topics of interest to the membership. Corps of Engineer representatives will also be present to discuss items of interest such as the new Shoreline Management Plan and to answer your questions on other Hartwell Lake topics. We will also have a drawing for a number of very nice door prizes.

This is always a fun and interesting day for members, family and friends. Please come and join us, have a few hot dogs, get the latest information on lake activities and meet your LHA team. We look forward to hearing from our membership on a personal basis. You may even leave with a nice door prize. Mark your calendar today!

## The Programs Committee Deserves Our Thanks

*Submitted by Joe Brenner*

Many of you have attended a number of meetings and activities that LHA has held, sponsored or supported. They are the direct result of the hard work of the LHA programs committee. I would like to take this opportunity, as president of LHA, to publicly thank the members of this committee for their tireless work to make these events well organized and a lot of fun.

A few examples of their efforts are as follows: The LHA spring meeting where lake information is provided and accompanied by a great picnic (May 12 this year – see accompanying article on page 10), The Lake Clean-Up Volunteer Appreciation Picnic where LHA supports the Corps for its annual Lake Clean-up Campaign by sponsoring this event and providing food, music and door prizes (collected by LHA from area businesses), and the annual LHA fall information meeting where speakers involved with major lake or basin activities from SC and/or GA provide an opportunity for LHA members as well as the public to ask questions and provide feedback on specific issues.

All the activities have some form of refreshments as well as door prizes associated with them and are always given high marks by the attendees.

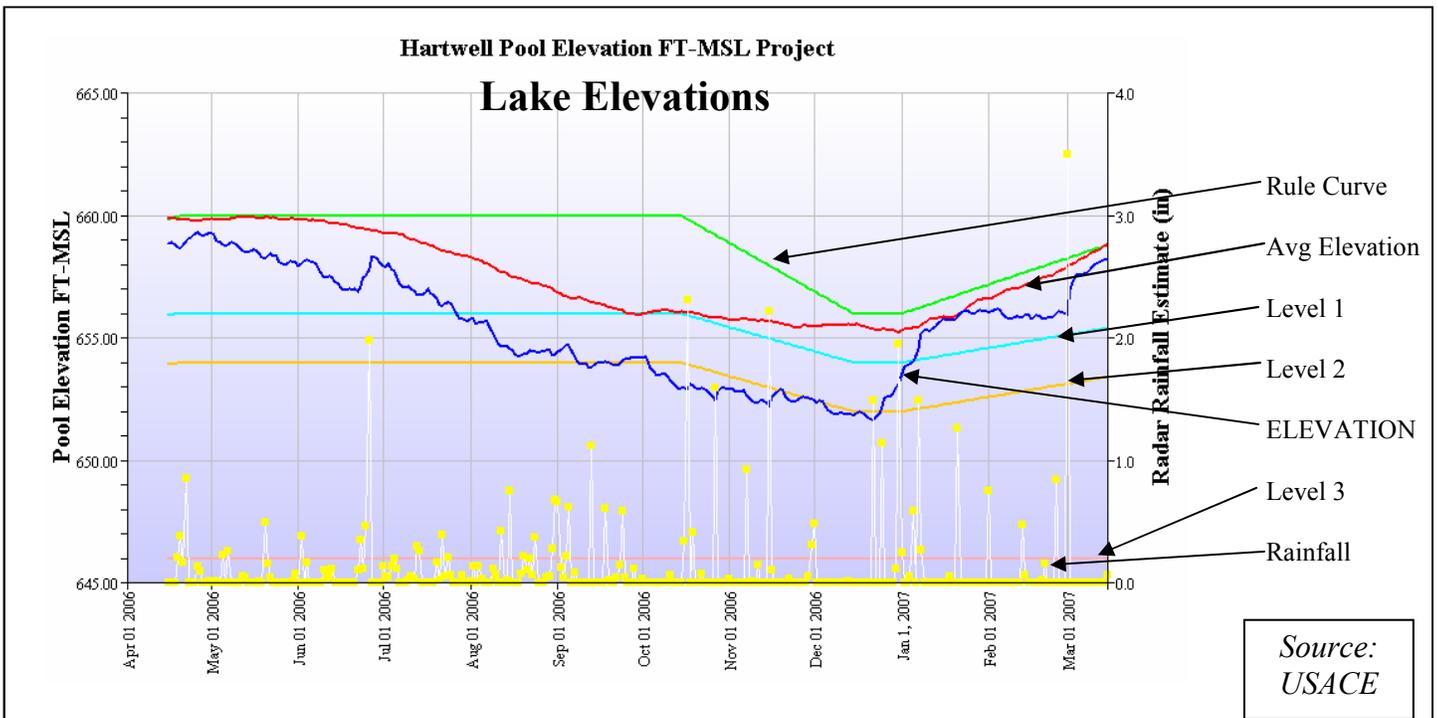
If you know them or see them at some of the LHA gatherings, please take a minute to say hello and let them know how proud you are of their work; I certainly am. And by the way, there is room on this committee for you. Contact us for more information.



*LHA Programs Committee from left to right: Jim Bushey, Rufus Moss, Anne Hinson, Jay Savage and Mike Massey. Absent is Ed Garbe*

## Upcoming Events for LHA-Related Activities

Event	Date
LHA Spring Meeting	5/12/07
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St, Room 108, Hartwell, GA	5/14/07
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library, 300 N. McDuffie St, Anderson, SC	7/9/07
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St, Room 108, Hartwell, GA	9/10/07
Hartwell Lake Clean-Up Campaign Appreciation Picnic at Big Oaks Recreation Park Hartwell, GA	9/29/07
LHA Fall Public Information Meeting	11/1/07 (Tentative)
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library, 300 N. McDuffie St, Anderson, SC	11/12/07



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

Spring  
2007

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
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- Technical
- Membership
- Publications

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

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