



Lake Hartwell Association, Inc
P.O. Box 312
Fairplay, SC 29643
Phone 1.888.200.4899

Summer, 2003

Volume XV, Number 4

Letter from the President

Submitted by Mike Massey

For the last four years Pat Goran has been President of the Lake Hartwell Association. He has spent thousands of hours leading LHA through some interesting and difficult times. After all that effort, Pat has decided it is time to step down and spend a little more time with his family. Well deserved! A few of the major activities and accomplishments (certainly not all) that come to mind during Pat's tenure are:

- Presided over LHA during the complete period of the recent drought and all the impacts and effort associated with that
- Led LHA through an application process from Habersham County, Georgia, for an interbasin transfer to withdraw water from the Savannah River that, we are fairly certain, would have eventually found its way to Atlanta (the application was withdrawn)
- Increased the LHA membership substantially to well over 2,000 members
- Formed the Legislative Committee to monitor and inform our members of the many new legislative and civic activities impacting Hartwell Lake. The Lake Impact Survey was conducted by this committee
- Organized and chaired the regular LHA Board of Directors meetings, the two annual members meetings (Spring and Fall) and attended hundreds of other meetings relating to water activities in the Savannah River Basin

I speak for the LHA Board of Directors and all the members of LHA when I say, "Great job, Pat. The community and area thank you." Pat will remain on the LHA Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee as past president.

At the Board of Directors meeting held on May 12th, I was elected to succeed Pat as LHA President. Some of my first thoughts were: Where do we go from here? What is the plan? How do we continue to get it done? Let me begin to answer those questions in this, my initial President's Message.

My name is Mike Massey. My wife Petra and I live in Anderson. We love the lake and the area and joined LHA about 18 months ago. For the last year I have been Chairman of the LHA Legislative Committee which was great way to "dive in" (pardon the pun) to the many issues facing our lake and our area. It was also the right place to be to meet the people in many different civic, federal, state and local positions and gain a good understanding of the issues and concerns affecting the lake and the area. As I was thinking about LHA, what it should mean to you and what it should provide to you, our members, it occurred to me that the LHA Mission Statement says it all. Since many of you may not have read our mission statement, perhaps the simplest and most meaningful way to convey the values and beliefs that I will strive to meet is to direct your attention to the back page of this newsletter. There you will find our mission statement.

The officers and committee members of LHA have worked hard to meet those values. I pledge to you that I will continue that effort. In the next few weeks I will be meeting with each of the Directors and Committee Chairpersons to review our goals as well as our plans to meet them as we move forward. I am excited about the opportunities.

Let's keep the lake "clean and deep." To contact me, send an email to mail@lakehartwellassociation.org.

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Spring Meeting Successful Despite Low Turnout

Submitted by Bert Menees

The LHA Annual Spring Picnic meeting on April 26 was a big success in all respects except one. Attendance was a disappointment to those who planned the meeting. If you were unable to make it you missed a great day. The Big Oaks Recreation Center was an ideal site for the outdoor cookout. The weather was perfect, the food was good, and the program provided LHA members an overview of the recent activities and accomplishments of the association. Included were the results of the recent Lake Impact Survey conducted by LHA. These results are also included in this newsletter but those attending the picnic had an opportunity to discuss them with members of the LHA Legislative Committee who conducted the survey. The study will be very helpful to the LHA Board of Directors in promoting the economic and safety benefits of maintaining "best-possible" lake levels during future drought conditions.

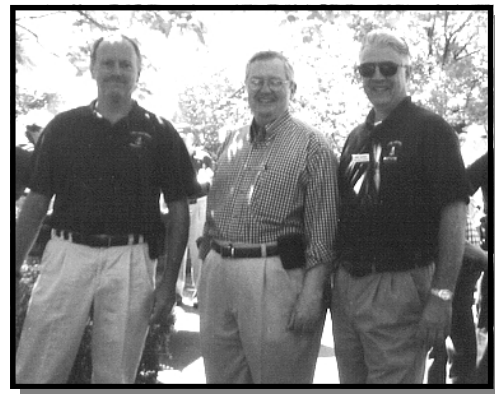
There were also two featured speakers at the spring meeting: Congressman Charles Norwood of the Georgia ninth congressional district and Stan Simpson, Chief Hydrologist of the Hartwell Project for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Congressman Norwood arrived early and delighted in sitting with LHA members to have a burger and discuss issues and field questions on a very personal basis. During his prepared remarks he indicated that he represents Lakes Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond. This, he said, was good because "the three lakes operate as one system."

Stan Simpson said he was "delighted to speak at this particular time with the lake at full pool for the first time in years." Simpson discussed a number of issues currently impacting the lake including water level management for the Savannah River Basin which is one of his main responsibilities. He also took a number of questions from the attendees. Approximately 75 people attended the event. Although the overall program was

much appreciated by those attending, the low turnout was a bit disappointing to the LHA Board. An important goal of the Board is to keep members well informed through the medium of the newsletter and the two regularly scheduled annual meetings. One member, however, made it a very nice day for the LHA board by expressing her appreciation for the work being done by all the LHA volunteers. She said she "had been on the lake for 30 years" and thought that her interest had been well represented during all the years the LHA board has been in operation.

Look for the board to search for ways to stimulate better attendance at future meetings. Any member who has a suggestion along those lines can contact Program Committee Chair Bert Menees by telephone (864-261-9474) or email (elmenees@aol.com).



From the left, past LHA President Pat Goran, Georgia Congressman Charlie Norwood (R-Evans), and current LHA President Mike Massey discuss lake issues at the April LHA picnic.

Borrow a Life Jacket! Keep Your Child Safe on the Water!

Submitted by Dan Ray

We realize many of you will have children visiting you this summer to take a boat ride or swim and you may not have life jackets that fit them. Life jackets sized correctly for children are available on short-term loan at four of the five Lake Hartwell marinas. This is important since children typically drown in less than three minutes and wearing life jackets significantly increases their chance of survival. Over the last few years Lake Hartwell Association has arranged to take advantage of the BoatU.S Foundation

Life Jacket Loaner Program that provides Lake Hartwell, Big Water, Portman, and Harbor Light Marinas each with packages of 12 variously sized children's life jackets. Individuals may borrow life jackets from the marinas at no cost for up to a weekend by merely providing identification such as a driver's license. Incidentally an application will be made to BoatU.S in the fall to provide Seneca Marina with jackets to complete coverage of all area marinas.



News from the Corps

Hartwell Lake Clean Up

Submitted by Wayne Gaskins

Source: US Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Lake

Between August 15 and September 20, Hartwell Lake will be spruced up, thanks to an annual effort to pick up litter around the lake.

The annual clean up campaign provides a chance for people who care about Hartwell Lake to roll up their sleeves and give something back to the community. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hartwell Lake Office and the Lake Hartwell Association coordinate the clean up.

The way the clean up campaign works is simple. Volunteers from scout groups, church groups, civic clubs, subdivision residents, businesses, as well as families and individuals sign up to clean the shoreline and islands around the lake. Trash bags are provided and all participants will be treated to a free "Volunteer Appreciation Day" picnic on September 20 where there will be

lots of entertainment, food, and prizes.

The Hartwell Lake Clean Up Campaign began 23 years ago and is now included in the nationwide program – National Public Lands Day (NPLD). Coordinated by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF), NPLD began with the idea that millions of Americans who use public lands each year – federal, state, and local – could spend a day giving back to the land and their country.

Our forests, parks, beaches, and recreation areas are national treasures and keeping them clean means keeping them safe and attractive. So start making plans now to participate by talking to your neighbors (hey, what a great way to get to know them), at your next club meeting, at work...you get the picture!

To sign up or if you have questions, contact Park Ranger Tanya Grant at 1-888-893-0678, ext. 323, or 706-856-0323.

Businesses and individuals, who would like to donate prizes or other items for the Appreciation Picnic, please contact Wayne Gaskins, LHA chairperson, at 706-356-1945.

Shoreline Management

Submitted by US Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Lake

Dock Shuffle

After nearly four years of "chasing the water," docks should now be relocated to their authorized positions. While we understand the inconvenience of shuffling docks during lake level fluctuations, we do want to remind you to please remove all temporary dock anchor pins that were installed below elevation 660 mean sea level. Leaving temporary anchor pins in place has the potential to cause serious personal injury and property damage. We thank you for taking the responsibility to help keep Hartwell Lake a safe recreational resource.

Shoreline Management Team Area Ranger Update

If you have specific questions concerning shoreline use permits, including docks, tree/vegetation removal, walkways, utility right-of-ways, erosion control, etc., please contact the respective Area Ranger. While other rangers may be able to assist you with general information, specific questions and/or authorizations will usually require the knowledge of the Area Ranger. The Corps will always do their best to provide you with the quality customer service you deserve.

Hartwell Lake Office Phone Numbers:

Toll Free 1-888-893-0678 or 706-856-0300

Direct Lines (706) 856-0XXX (extensions shown below)

Area I – Park Ranger Dale Bowen – Area extends from Hart State Park toward the dam, then North to train trestle near Honea Path Rec. Area on Twenty Six Mile Creek. (Ext. 348)

Area II – Park Ranger Larry Orr – Area extends from train trestle near Honea Path Recreation Area, around Twenty Six Mile

Creek, then North over top of Seneca River and back down to Martins' Creek Boat Ramp. (Ext. 327)

Area III – Park Ranger Scott Lusk – Area extends from Martins Creek Boat Ramp to Fair Play Recreation Area and includes Coneross Creek, Little Beaver Dam and Beaver Dam Creeks. (Ext. 305)

Area IV – Park Ranger Jason Corder – Area extends from Fair Play Recreation area, up the South Carolina side of the Tugaloo River to Yonah Dam. (Ext. 332)

Area V – Park Ranger Glenn Kowalski – Area extends from Yonah Dam down the Georgia side of the Tugaloo River, to Interstate 85. Area includes all Stephens and Franklin Counties. (387)

Area VI – Park Ranger Angela Phelps – Area extends from South of I-85 on the Georgia side to Hart State Park. (Ext. 351)

Other helpful phone numbers:

If you have general questions regarding these program areas, please contact the appropriate Team Leader:

Recreation and Natural Resources Team Leader Kenneth Benenbaugh is responsible for the management of campgrounds, day-use areas and natural resource management. (Ext. 337)

Lands Management Team Leader Sandy Campbell is responsible for lease area and easement management, boundary line management, and public information. (Ext. 315)

Shoreline Management Team Leader Mark Dotson is responsible for the shoreline management permitting program. (Ext. 357)

Past President's Message

Submitted by Pat Goran

Well, my term as President has finally come to an end. I've been serving since May, 1999, which I believe makes me the longest-serving President in LHA's history. That isn't necessarily a good thing! I will continue to serve the remainder of my term on the Board (through the end of this year) and perhaps beyond.

Mike Massey has been elected President so I know I'm leaving the position in good hands. Mike is an extremely dedicated person with a tremendous amount of energy. Based on my dealings with him over the past year and a half, he is certainly willing to put the time in to make this an even better organization than it is now. Best of luck, Mike!

We also have an excellent Board of Directors and some outstanding committees and committee chairpersons. We've had some turnover on the Board and I think we now have a good mix of people that has served for several years and some very

recent additions. We are always interested in recruiting new people to assist in the many committees and programs we have. I also think we could use some younger people to give us a different perspective; I'm the youngest director and I'll hit the big five-O in a little over a year!

Our membership has increased significantly over the past few years and I hope it continues to grow. Unfortunately, however, it wouldn't surprise me to see our numbers drop a little bit over the next few months – they usually do when the lake level rises. Oh well, I guess you can't have everything...

I've seen the lake go way down and come way back up in the past four years. The lake was around 659' above sea level when I started as President, dipped as low as 645.69' last September 13th, and got as high as 663.47' on May 26th (No, I didn't remember those dates and lake levels – I looked them up on the Corps of Engineers' web site, www.sas.usace.army.mil, which is a great place to visit if you're into facts and figures). Much like my tenure as President, it's been an interesting ride! I hope I can say the Association is in at least as good shape as when I began.

Please Send Us Your E-Mail Address

Submitted by Skip Walter

On all our renewal forms and for several newsletters, we have been requesting our members send us their e-mail addresses. We have requested these addresses so we may better serve your interests in the future.

We have a long-range goal of sending out the quarterly newsletters electronically (e-mail) to those members who would like to receive it in that form. When we make that option available, we plan to continue distribution in printed form through the U.S. Postal Service for those members who wish to continue receiving the newsletters in hard copy.

Our initial use of electronic distribution (e-mail) is to keep you better informed in a more timely fashion. As you have seen in the last 12 to 18 months, lake issues have surfaced quickly. We would like to be able to keep you aware of these issues without having to wait for the next newsletter to go to the presses. An

example of that situation is the survey we have been asked to send you by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers that we have included in this issue of the newsletter (see "IMPORTANT: LHA Assistance Requested by the Corps" on page 6). Electronic distribution will enable us to act and react to the changing situations more rapidly.

We will keep you posted as to the progress we make towards these goals. In the meantime please send us your e-mail address if you have not already done so. If you send an e-mail message to

membership@lakehartwellassociation.org

we will log your address into the membership database. These addresses will be used for the association's purposes ONLY! We will not make our database available to anyone else.

Our e-mail address listed above can also be used to notify us if your mailing and/or e-mail address change. Thanks for your cooperation.

New Hartwell Project Manager for Hartwell Lake

Submitted US Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Lake

The Corps Hartwell Lake Office announces the recent selection of the new Hartwell Lake and Powerplant Operations Manager – Mr. Virgil Hobbs. Mr. Hobbs replaces previous manager Richard S. Austin who retired in December 2002. Mr. Hobbs has been the acting manager since January 2003 and officially began his permanent duties on June 2. He has held both technical and managerial positions within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. His most recent position was Chief of the Savannah District's Hydropower Section.

We wish you a
Happy
and
Safe
Independence
Day



Vern Sauer Gets Presidential Appointment

Submitted by Mike Massey

We are proud to announce that Vern Sauer, a member of the Lake Hartwell Association Board of Directors and Co-Chairman of Technical Committee, recently received a letter from President George W. Bush appointing him as "Federal Representative of the United States on the Sabine River Compact Administration." President Bush continues the letter by stating that Vern will serve as ex-officio "Chairman of the Administration."

The Sabine River Compact Commission was established in the 1950's for the purpose of administering the distribution of water in the Sabine River and Toledo Bend Reservoir (an area three times the size of Hartwell Lake) between the states of

Texas and Louisiana. The Commission is composed of a working membership from Texas and Louisiana and is chaired by a Federal Representative appointed by the President – now LHA's own Vern Sauer.

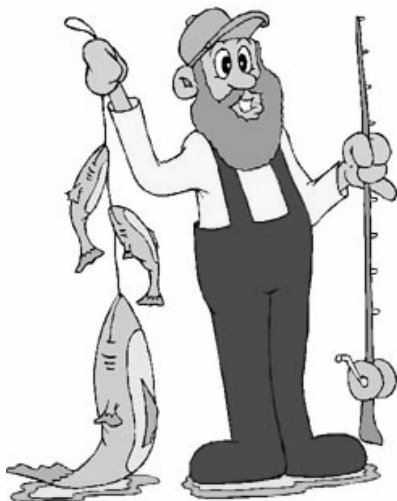
We are very proud of Vern and we are also fortunate that he receives this position just as LHA has become deeply involved in proposed compact legislation between South Carolina and Georgia. Both states are attempting to establish a compact for the management of the Savannah River Basin. Vern's experience will be valuable to LHA as deliberations continue. Congratulations, Vern – well done.

Vern has temporarily stepped down as co-chair of the Technical Committee as he digs into this new assignment. Al Koleff, currently Technical Committee Co-Chair, will assume full Chairmanship responsibility for the time being.

Recent Rains Should Make Local Fishermen Optimistic

Submitted by US Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Lake

The 2003 fish spawning has come to a close and all indications point to a successful season. The heavy localized rain that pulled our region out of drought status also drove Hartwell Lake over its full pool elevation this spring, bringing a smile to all that use Hartwell Lake. While people tend to talk about the negative impacts of the drought, lake levels experienced this spring combined with a particular affect of the drought may have created a recipe for a healthy and abundant fish population in the near future, so get your fishing poles ready!

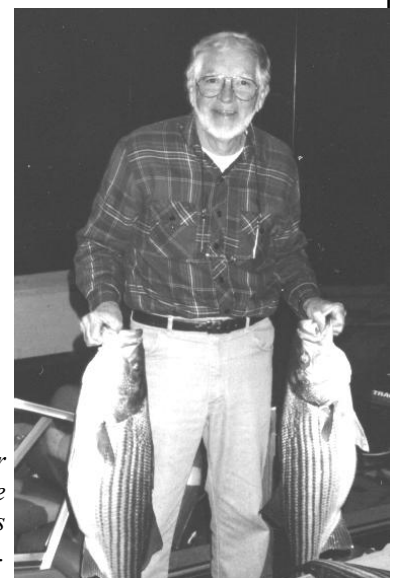


There are several reasons why this year is predicted to be a good year for fish spawning. First, each spring the Hartwell Lake staff follows the Corps' "Fisheries Management Plan for Hartwell, Richard B. Russell, and J. Strom Thurmond Lakes." The plan calls for water temperature monitoring to begin in early spring when the water warms to 60°-65° F. Monitoring continues daily for a period of three weeks after

the water temperature reaches 70° F, the temperature at which game fish prefer to spawn in Hartwell Lake. Efforts are taken to maintain lake levels during this period to ensure that there is not a drop of more than six inches. Failure to do so results in the stranding of eggs and nests, which significantly lowers the spawning success rate.

The second reason behind this successful spawning season is due to the significant amount of vegetation that we all saw become established on the exposed shoreline and lake bottom during the drought. While it might not have looked too pretty to us – it was a beautiful site to the spawning fish this spring! With water levels at full pool or above during spawning, this vegetation was submerged for the first time in several years and provided the spawning fish and their eggs the protection from predators that they needed to survive. Now the eggs have hatched and the vegetation is currently providing an excellent protective barrier for the young fish.

What else do young fish need to survive? Food! The submerged vegetation also increases available nutrients. As vegetation decays, it puts nutrients and other food sources into the water. This process also attracts insects which in turn become a vital food source for young fish, accelerating their growth rate and increasing their survival rate. The only downside to this year's fish spawning season is that all of you fishermen out there will have to be patient – it will take two to three years to actually see the success rate. For questions regarding fisheries management at Hartwell Lake, contact Park Ranger Scott Kelley at 1-888-893-0678, ext. 386 or 706-856-0386.



LHA member Fred Keller holds 2 nice stripers that he caught this spring. One was 16 lbs the other was 14 lbs.

IMPORTANT: LHA Assistance Requested by the Corps

Submitted by Mike Massey

The officers and committee members of the Lake Hartwell Association (LHA) have been working very hard to support you, our members, regarding the management of Hartwell Lake and the Savannah River Basin (SRB). In fact, the results from the recently completed LHA survey (see "Hartwell Lake Impact Survey – The Results" in this newsletter) have been positively received throughout the area. Well, our voices have been heard by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - but now we need your help in return. This is your opportunity to support us and the lake and to help yourselves. We consider your input to the following request very significant for the future water-use plans and management in the basin.

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of water-use needs and to evaluate the current operating policies and procedures within the Savannah River Basin regarding those needs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is requesting the assistance of the members of the Lake Hartwell Association (LHA). As part of the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study currently underway, the USACE - Savannah District, the states of Georgia and South Carolina, and ZAPATAENGINEERING are conducting a data-gathering effort to determine water-use within the basin. The purpose is to determine if the current USACE operating practices need refinement. There are five stakeholder categories identified: Hydropower, Industrial/Municipal, Agricultural, Ecological and Homeowner/Recreation. LHA is a stakeholder in the Homeowner/Recreation category.

Please take a few minutes to complete the voluntary questionnaire/data request we have attached to this newsletter. LHA is encouraging all area residents to complete it. If additional copies are needed for your friends and family, please log on to the LHA website at www.lakehartwellassociation.org and look for the **USACE Survey** and print out additional copies.

DO NOT SEND YOUR REPLY BACK TO LHA. Please mail or fax your response **by July 18th** to:

ZAPATAENGINEERING
1100 Kenilworth Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28204
 Telephone 704-358-8240
 Fax 704-358-8342

Information contained in your responses will be used by the sponsoring agencies for the purposes of this study as explained above, and it will not be shared or viewable by any other entity. For additional information regarding this study, please visit the USACE project web site at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/projects/srbcomp.htm>. For technical assistance with your submissions, you may call toll free 1-877-330-3588. We also encourage you to e-mail your questions or concerns to savannahriver@zapeng.com.

Please do not underestimate the importance of your participation in this effort. LHA did not develop this survey, nor are we responsible for its results. We do, however, strongly support it and consider it important to the future of our lake. If we do not participate, we stand the chance of having the results skewed towards the other four stakeholder groups. The Savannah River serves the needs of a large and varied community, and your input will help assure that recreational users are appropriately considered in order for this study to be as accurate and beneficial as possible.

Lake Area Residents Recreation Survey OMB 0710-0001
Hartwell Lake Expires: November 30, 2005
 Submitted by ZapataEngineering

The public report burden for this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this data collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503, Attn.: Desk Officer for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Please **DO NOT RETURN** your completed form to either of these addresses.

Use the chart below to answer some of the questions on the next page.

Hartwell Lake Full Pool Elevations		Actual Data*	
Month	Elevation	2002	1997
	(feet above sea level)	(feet above sea level)	(feet above sea level)
January	656	648.50	656.93
February	657.14	648.53	658.74
March	658.17	648.30	662.14
April	659.3	651.74	661.06
May	660	652.42	662.37
June	660	652.71	661.99
July	660	651.17	660.47
August	660	648.54	659.57
September	660	648.70	657.57
October	660	648.04	656.08
November	658.67	647.60	657.84
December	656	649.51	657.70

*as reported on the first day of each month

Source: US Army Corps of Engineer Website <http://water.sas.usace.army.mil/home/index.htm>

See page 7 for survey →

Household Profile

1. Which of the following best describes your ownership or residency at Hartwell Lake? Please check ALL that apply.

- Homeowner
Seasonal Resident
Permanent Resident
Owner of a Vacant or Undeveloped Lot
Rent or Lease

2. If you are a permanent resident, how many people including yourself live in this home? _____ People.

3. If you are a permanent resident, or year-round renter, do you permit others (including family) to use this lake residence when you are not present?

- YES NO Not Applicable

4. Is the address at which you received this document your permanent address?

- YES NO

Is this property/residence Lakefront?

- YES NO

(If you answered NO for Question 4) What are the city, state, and zip code of your permanent residence?

City State Zip Code

5. If you are a full time resident, why do you choose to live in the Hartwell Lake area: (Check all that apply.)

- Work / Career Recreation
Retirement Cost of Living
Family Other
I am a native (did not move from any other place)

6. How many years have you used Hartwell Lake as a recreational lake? _____ Years

7. With consideration of lake levels during 2002, which statement best describes your opinion of lake levels? (Circle letter)

- a) Lake levels were adequate for my recreational uses most or all of the calendar year (9 to 12 months).
b) Lake Levels were adequate for my recreational uses for part of the year (3 to 8 months).
c) Lake levels were inadequate for my recreational uses most or all of the calendar year (9 to 12 months)
d) I have no opinion / I didn't use the lake for recreational purposes.

Note: You may find the table on page 6 helpful in answering the next four questions

8. In your opinion, what lake level (feet above sea level) is necessary for your recreational use?

Type of Activity? _____

9. In your opinion, what level of lake waters (feet above sea level) would likely eliminate your recreational use?

10. Please look at the table on page 6. The vertical columns in the table indicate (1) Full Pool Conditions, (2) Actual conditions in 1997 (wet year), and (3) Actual conditions in 2002 (dry year). Which of these conditions (or years) MOST accurately represents those generally desired by you? (Circle letter)

- a) Full Pool Conditions
b) 1997 Conditions
c) 2002 Conditions

If you circled choice "b" or "c" for the above question, then please skip Question 11.

11. Which of the following is the most important reason to you for having "full pool" conditions? Please number your choices in order of importance, with Number "1" indicating that of most importance to you. Again, to help answer this question, see the attached table indicating various seasonal "full pool" elevations.

- Aesthetics of my property/surrounding areas
Boating, fishing, dock or ramp use, and/or other water sports
Accessibility
Safety
Other recreation
Other reasons (Please Explain)

12. Please complete the following section if you own, borrow, or rent a boat for use on Hartwell Lake. Please circle one.

- a. Do you own or rent a boat? OWN RENT
b. Do you own or rent a personal watercraft? YES NO
c. Do you own or rent a dock? YES NO

IF yes above, please provide the street address of dock (optional) _____
d. Do you use public ramps? If so, which do you frequently use? _____

- e. Are you or others in the household members of any boating clubs on Hartwell Lake? YES NO

13. Please estimate the number of days, during each of the following months, that you and other members of your household used the lake during 2002.

Table with 3 columns: Month (January-December) and blank space for number of days.

14. Consider the hypothetical situation that the lake was at or near full pool all months of 2002. Please estimate the number of days during each month that you and other members of your household would have used the lake during 2002.

Table with 3 columns: Month (January-December) and blank space for number of days.

Georgia Water Legislation Defeated

Submitted by Mike Massey

In early 2001, the Georgia General Assembly created the Joint Comprehensive Water Plan Study Committee. The study's purpose was to propose a plan to balance the demands for water supply and water quality in an equitable manner for the complete state of Georgia, including concerns for water quality and safe recreational water, and water supportive to aquatic life. The Lake Hartwell Association, through the Legislative Committee, has attended many of the meetings and has carefully reviewed the water plan study results and the resulting GA House Bill 237.

LHA is very supportive of the purpose of the study and we agree completely with the need for a well-developed, clearly defined, properly managed water plan for the State of Georgia. We were, however, not satisfied with two aspects of Georgia HB 237 – namely the limits for interbasin transfers - which we felt were too liberal and not easily

managed - and the regulations allowing water permit holders to sell or trade their permits. Many permits were granted for farm use many years ago and are valid for the withdrawal of thousands of gallons a day or more. In some cases the agricultural requirements have changed and the withdrawal may no longer be required. Specifically, LHA believes water is a public resource and belongs to the people. Water will become too important and too valuable a resource in the future to be sold as a commodity today.

After much political wrangling and against the recommendation of the HB 237 Conference Committee Report, HB 237 was defeated on April 25th. This is a win for conservationists wanting to preserve water rights for the people. Further legislation relating to the water plan will be postponed until the next legislative session. LHA will continue to monitor this activity and will keep you informed of the status.

Lake Hartwell Association Welcomes New Members

Submitted by Skip Walter

David S. Davis, Lavonia, GA
Judith & Edgar Neiss, Atlanta, GA
Michael Frowlow, Lavonia, GA
Virginia Cawthorn, Hartwell, GA
Charles & JoAnn Freeman, Greenville, SC
Eugene Rishel III, Greenville, SC
Richard Ricketts, Atlanta, GA
Frank F. Allison, Anderson, SC
Luther C. Boliek, Greenville, SC
James Castilano, Hartwell, GA
Tony Graham, Anderson, SC
Philip & Janet Jenkins, Hartwell, GA
Ken Lowery, Anderson, SC
Keith C. Perkins, Fair Play, SC
Jay & Susan Savage, Townville, SC
Myron Baynes, Suwanee, GA
Charles Bridges, Lilburn, GA
Ron Dudeck, Bradenton, FL

Lee & Diana Griswold, Hartwell, GA
Jan Wiegman, Asheville, NC
Ted Carmody, Anderson, SC
Marge & Jack Fitzsimmons, Westminster
Graham & Lynn Felton, Stone Mtn., GA
Paul Gillcrist, Toccoa, GA
Nial Tuvell, Dunwoody, GA
Peter & Wendy Bailey, Atlanta, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brenner, Hartwell, GA
Jack & Pam Elkins, Anderson, SC
Henry H. Ham, Fair Play, SC
Gerald & Colleen Lewis, Alpharetta, GA
Michael Miller, Kennesaw, GA
Randell Pugh, Jefferson, GA
Richard M. Staley, Snellville, GA
Mark & Pam Bellamy, Hartwell, GA
Bill & Ann Dreyer, Fair Play, SC
Jerry R. Gilmore, Greenville, SC

Ronnie Stepp, Seneca, SC
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Hartwell Lake Impact Survey – The Results

Submitted by Mike Massey

The Lake Hartwell Association wants to thank the many members and other lake area residents and business people that took the time to complete the "Lake Impact Survey." Low lake levels will always have an impact on those who live on the lake, own property here or have businesses that depend on the lake for their livelihood. The extent to which that impact affects them has never been measured to any great degree. The survey results are in and they have been compiled and analyzed. Thanks to your

help, we now have data that indicates the extent of that impact. In fact, using the information collected, we estimated the Hartwell Lake area lost approximately \$123 million during the drought. There has been great interest in the results from area newspapers, legislators and local businesses.

The survey was separated into a section for Residents and another for Businesses. Following is a brief description of the findings. Please log on to the LHA website, www.lakehartwellassociation.org for additional results.

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Residents Survey

1,244 residents completed the Residents Survey. 48% own permanent homes at the lake, about 45% own vacation homes, and 7% own undeveloped lots.

- **Docks.** 57% reported “chasing the water” and moving their docks many times in 2002, often between 3 and 10 times to stay afloat. 40% reported giving up and choosing not to “chase the water” with their docks. Their docks eventually sat on dry ground and were unusable. This means they couldn’t use their boats. Only 2.5% reported not needing to move their docks.
- **Safety and Damage.** Regarding safety concerns, 95% feel the lake is unsafe to use once it reaches a level of 8’ below full pool. In fact, 53% of the survey participants report boat or dock damage caused by low water levels. The average cost of each respondent reporting the cost to repair all damage was approximately \$2,000.
- **Recreational Use.** The number of boat trips for boating and fishing per year was significantly lower during the low water conditions of 2002. Those responding to this question reported figures indicate an average decrease of 10-15 trips per person at a low water level than at or near full pool. Hartwell Lake is one of the most visited lakes in the nation with well over 10 million visitors a year. Couple that with the approximately 10,000 dock permits managed by the USACE and we feel 20,000 less boat trips is conservative.
- **Economic Impact From Reduced Recreational Use:** There is an economic impact from not being able to use your boat or your dock. It is reasonable to project that a person on a family boating trip for a day (fishing or recreation) would spend an estimated \$50 (we feel this is conservative) for food, beverages, sporting equipment, gasoline for the boat, and a number of other expenses. This alone would result in a \$1,000,000 decrease to the area economy. There are many associated expenditures such as boats, docks, meals, sporting goods, etc. We have attempted to include these in the total economic impact below.

Business Survey

The canvassing for the Business Survey was directed at specific businesses whose sales would be most impacted by Hartwell Lake activities and water levels. Examples are boat dealers, dock builders, real estate brokers, restaurants and convenience/service stations. The actual number of businesses contacted was about 225. Sixty two completed the survey. This is a 27% return which is very good. The average years the companies were in business was 15. Eighty three % of the surveys were completed by owners. The rest by managers.

- **Sales Decline.** About 30% of businesses begin to notice a decline in sales by the time the lake level drops 5’ below full pool. By the time the lake is 10’ below full pool 95% have noticed a drop-off in business and 77% have taken steps to reduce expenses through inventory reductions and layoffs. Another 20% hold off a bit longer but eventually do the same.
- **Estimated Losses for Businesses Completing the Survey.** We used the gross business figures provided by the businesses that completed the survey and averaged them out

to arrive at the following statistics which we estimate to be very conservative.

1. **Full Pool Income:** Based on income figures provided by the 58 businesses that responded, we were able to estimate a most probable case gross sales income during full pool years of approximately \$43 million.
 2. **Sales Decrease in 2000:** Using the decrease in sales figures provided for the year 2000, when the lake was down an average of 6.3 feet, we projected the businesses around Hartwell Lake would have lost approximately \$8.9 million.
 3. **Sales Decrease in 2002:** Likewise, in 2002 when the lake was down an average of 10.4 feet, there would have been a business loss of \$10.5 million or 24.5% for these same businesses.
 4. **Total Sales Decrease 2000-2002:** The projected total revenue loss between the years of 2000 and 2002 for those businesses completing the survey is \$28.2 million.
- **Total Projected Income Loss for All Lake Related Businesses is Over \$123 Million.** Using the above data from those businesses completing the survey, we estimated the projected revenue loss due to low water for all businesses with lake related income around Hartwell Lake. These are businesses that did not complete the survey but are in the same categories as those providing data. We recognize these estimates are somewhat subjective but at the same time we feel we are quite conservative in our estimates.
 1. The projected total revenue loss for all companies around Hartwell Lake in 2002 alone is \$46 million.
 2. The projected estimated total revenue loss for all companies around Hartwell Lake for the years 2000 through 2002 is \$123.2 million. This is obviously a significant number.

LHA Path Forward - Our next step is to continue to analyze the survey data, determine the areas of significance and concern, and develop recommendations and an action plan to present them. LHA plans to share all results (keeping confidential the specific individual or business information) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), legislators, business leaders and others who manage and make decisions about our lake. We have already met with US Congressman Norwood of Georgia and have a request in to Congressman Barrett’s office for a consultation with him. Presentations have been made to the Water Resources Committee of the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce and the Friends Of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS).

The Lake Hartwell Association, reinforced by the results of this survey, strongly feels that a large part of the economy and growth of the Hartwell Lake area – and the Savannah River Basin – is dependent upon using the lakes for recreation purposes. While we recognize that recreation is only one of several designated purposes for Hartwell Lake, as the area continues to grow and the importance of Hartwell Lake becomes increasingly significant, we will work to assure that the impact recreation is considered in the management of the lake.

END: *Hartwell Lake Impact Survey – The Results*

LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____
NAME _____
MAIL ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____
E-MAIL _____

Check all of the following that apply:
 Individual (\$15) Renewal
 Family (\$25) New Member
 Community & Development (\$100) Address Change

Send your check, payable to: Lake Hartwell Association
P.O. Box 312; Fairplay, SC 29643

Email address: membership@lakehartwellassociation.org

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

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.

Committee Chairs
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Program/Publicity, Bert Menees
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Technical, Al Koleff
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Membership, Skip Walter
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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION, Inc.
P. O. Box 312
Fair Play, SC 29643