



Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Summer, 2007

Volume XIX, Number 3

Letter from the President

Submitted by Joe Brenner

Inside this issue



The long, hot and dry days of summer have arrived. Drought conditions continue to plague the entire southeast with most of Georgia in severe or extreme drought status and South Carolina somewhat better. Hartwell Lake will likely enter drought level 1 in early July. The good news compared to last year is that this will trigger a mandatory flow reduction under the revised Drought Contingency Plan which did not go into effect until the end of last summer. We surely could use a nice tropical depression!

LHA update: We had an enjoyable LHA spring picnic on May 12. The weather was great and the Programs Committee folks did another outstanding job putting the program together. See the related article inside as well as an early reminder for the fall member meeting.

We continue to focus on preserving our valuable water resources. Discussions are ongoing between Georgia and South Carolina on water allocations in the Savannah Basin. These could either lead to an effective interstate compact or protracted legal battles. (See Mike Massey's article regarding SC Water Wars.) We have also fought attempts to lessen criteria for interbasin transfers within the Georgia Statewide Water Plan development. There is continuous and building pressure to justify water movement from the Savannah to satisfy the ever-growing demand of the Atlanta region.

In response to significant member interest, we pursued boat noise legislation for South Carolina similar to Georgia regulations. Both Sen. Bryant and Rep. Don Bowen are supporting us by submitting bills in their respective houses. See Bill Elmore's article and let your representatives know how you feel on this issue.

The first planting event to establish shoreline vegetation and habitat was a great success. LHA is partnering with the state DNR's, B.A.S.S. federations and USACE to conduct this program through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. See Larry Dyck's article on this program as well as his great "Around the Lake" article covering the Clemson area.

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: We were very pleased to learn that the Corps received funding to start the Oxygen Injection project at Strom Thurmond. LHA lobbied our federal representatives to get this project funded. It will permit full use of the Lake Russell pumpback system in summer months and has the potential to significantly improve water levels in Hartwell during dry periods.

Hopefully you've noticed some improvement in the levels of old flotation abandoned on the lake after our clean up efforts last year. We are pleased to hear that Kroeger Marine has offered their barge to the Corps for another "iceberg" clean up event likely in the upper Tugaloo area in late June. We'll get final details out to our email list.

And please note on your calendars that the lake clean up campaign this year will run from August 17 until September 29. LHA will again sponsor the appreciation picnic at the end of the campaign.

Have a fun and safe summer season on the lake. As always we appreciate your questions and comments to mail@lakehartwellassociation.org or by calling 1-864-224-LAKE (5253).

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Boat Noise Legislation

Submitted by Bill Elmore

Over the past several years, many of our LHA members have expressed concern over a growing problem with noise created by boats on Hartwell Lake. With this in mind, the Spring 2006 LHA newsletter contained a survey which included a question regarding boat noise. Survey results indicated that 80% of the respondents were in favor of controlling boat noise. Since that time, the LHA board has been actively engaged in discussions with local state legislators on how to address these concerns.

Several years ago, Senator Bob Waldrep introduced a bill in the South Carolina state legislature intended to control boat noise. His bill applied to lakes statewide. This effort met with organized opposition from lobbyists for the Boat Manufacturers Association. As a result the bill never made it out of the Fish, Game and Forestry Committee.

Senator Kevin Bryant (District 3, Anderson County, SC) has agreed to sponsor legislation aimed at reducing noise from boats on the South Carolina side of the lake. Georgia currently has laws in place to reduce boat noise, but enforcement is difficult on Hartwell because the lake is the border between Georgia and South Carolina. Senator Bryant's bill (S 0087) was pre-filed in the Senate in late November and was assigned to the Fish, Game and Forestry Committee for consideration during the current legislative session.

The proposed legislation is simple in that it says that mufflers or an underwater exhaust discharge would be required on all boats operated on the lake. This bill is similar to and consistent with the requirements of the Georgia law. A copy of the bill can be found on Senator Bryant's website at www.kevinbryant.com and click on *Daily Blog*. As written, the law would only apply to Hartwell Lake, but state legislators from other areas could amend the wording to include additional lakes within the state. LHA has contacted representatives of other SC lake organizations to see if they would support a broader approach, but none have come forward in support.

Senator Larry Martin (District 2, Pickens) and Senator Tom Alexander (District 1, Oconee & Pickens) are also serving on the Fish, Game and Forestry Committee. LHA has talked with Senator Martin regarding this bill. He has indicated his support for this legislation.

Recently SC Rep. Don Bowen (Dist. No. 8, Anderson-Oconee) has expressed his support and willing-

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Let's Make a Safe Boating Season

Submitted by Dan Ray



National Safe Boating Week was May 19-25, but this year let's make every week a safe one. Annual boat registrations in the U.S. have increased from just over 10 million in 1988 to nearly 13 million in 2005. During this period boating-related fatalities have de-

creased, due in part to the increased use of life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFD's). The theme this year is "**Wear It.**" In 2005, 3451 persons were reported injured and 697 died in boating incidents. Among those who drowned, 87% were not wearing life jackets. It is estimated that 426 lives could have been saved if all boaters had worn life jackets.

Another important factor in boating safety is boating knowledge of the boat operator. Check out the LHA website for the availability of a boating safety course. During 2005, 70% of all boating fatalities occurred on boats where the boat operator had not attended a boating safety education course.

Pollution Permit Legislation

Submitted by Dan Ray

The Clean Water Act became law over 30 years ago. At first, the EPA (Environmental Protective Agency) covered industrial chemicals and sewage discharged into local waterways. Then they regulated ships and boats but excluded "discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel." Boaters could scrub their boats, use automatic bilge pumps and cool their engines with the water they were floating in. Last year, however, a Federal court held that the EPA exclusion was not legal because it had not been authorized by Congress. The Court ruled that as of September 30, 2008 all discharges incidental to the normal operation of ANY vessel must be covered by a permit! This could apply to large commercial ships but also to millions of recreational boats. Marine manufacturing organizations and BoatU.S. are appealing the Court's decision in an effort to prevent unnecessary paperwork and fees. BoatU.S. is requesting boaters to log onto membership@BoatU.S.com and give them their current e-mail address so they can quickly communicate on this important issue.

(Reprinted with permission from The Scuttlebutt, the newsletter of the Akron (Ohio) Sail and Power Squadron.)

LHA 2007 Spring Meeting— A Fun & Informative Event!

Submitted by Petra Massey

The Lake Hartwell Association (LHA) Annual Spring Meeting was held on Saturday, May 12th at the Big Oaks Park on Hartwell Lake. It was a beautiful day for enjoying great food, visiting with neighbors and friends and, for several lucky attendees, winning some terrific prizes.

Joe Brenner, LHA President, welcomed LHA members and guests, thanked LHA volunteers and introduced the LHA Board. He also provided some brief updates on LHA activities, including the Savannah River Basin Advisory Committee of which Joe is a member and the draft Georgia Water Plan.

Larry Dyck, LHA Vice President and Technical Committee Chairman, presented the latest status of the PCB settlement plan and an overview of LHA's upcoming Covekeeper program. Larry invited attendees to sign up for the Covekeeper training and other Technical Committee volunteer opportunities.

Pat Goran, LHA Legislative Committee Chairman, provided updates on water-related resolutions and bills passed by the GA Legislature and on legislative bills under review in SC.

Virgil Hobbs, USACE Hartwell Project Manager, gave the group updates on the current drought conditions in the area and the potential impacts on lake levels. He also answered questions regarding shoreline management and the removal of discarded floatation devices.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Frank Carl, Executive Director of the Savannah Riverkeeper (SRK). Dr. Carl discussed the SRK's role and approaches to protecting the water quality of the Savannah River and the integrity of its watershed. Dr. Carl offered suggestions regarding the further SRK cooperation and coordination with LHA.



LHA Pres., Joe Brenner welcomes LHA members & guests

Joe Brenner presented Wayne Gaskins with the LHA Emeritus Member Award in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding service to LHA. From 1994 to 2005, Wayne served on the Board of Directors including terms as president, vice-president, Safety Committee chair and Lake Clean-up Appreciation Committee chair. LHA Emeritus Member Award winners receive a commemorative plaque and lifetime membership to LHA.



Wayne Gaskins,
LHA member
Emeritus

Ed Garbe and Anne Hinson, members of the LHA Programs Committee, presented a number of door prizes to the following lucky winners:



Ashley Pradham, Alexis Kratzer & Kody Kratzer were winners

Children's Prizes/Winner:

Bubble Generator – Ashley Pradham, Anderson, SC
Radio Control Mastercraft Boat – Alexis Kratzer, Anderson SC
Motorized Wave Rider – Kody Kratzer, Anderson, SC

Adult Prizes:

\$50 Gift Card (donated by Wal-Mart, Hartwell, GA) – Lois Brooks, Anderson, SC
Spring Float Lounge Chair, Tomilyn Bowen, Anderson, SC
Rhino Pre-Spoiled Fishing Rod & Reel – Cindy Pradham, Anderson, SC
Rolling Cooler – Sheryl Cantwell, Hartwell, GA
Vinyl Coated Pool Float – Wayne Gaskins, Lavinia, GA
Shop Vacuum – Elizabeth Beatty, Townville, SC
Toaster Oven – Frank Woodward, Hartwell, GA
Thanks to everyone's enthusiastic participation; it was a delightful, informative and fun day!



Keynote speaker, Dr. Frank Carl, Executive Director, Savannah Riverkeeper

Have the South Carolina Water Wars Started?? - A Lake Hartwell Association Legislative Report - *Submitted by Mike Massey*

The purpose for this article is to present some updates, comments, thoughts and suggestions about several high-profile water-related issues that will impact Hartwell Lake and the Savannah River Basin (SRB). Please take a few minutes to learn of these important issues that you will be hearing more about as awareness of their impact is raised to a new level.

The Status of Water Planning in the States (SC, GA, NC, etc.)

There are a number of water issues in South Carolina that the Lake Hartwell Association has been involved with or has been monitoring and providing comments to for several years as part of the LHA mission. In fact, LHA realized some time ago that we must become more involved with water plans for both states of South Carolina and Georgia in order to protect our lake from what may become major problems. We frequently discussed those issues with legislators, municipal and civic leaders. In fact, in 2004 and 2005, LHA produced a series of position papers that described the major issues we are concerned about and documented our proposals for consideration. These papers have been widely distributed and discussed with appropriate leaders. The papers can be found in the LHA website www.lakehartwellassociation.org and are titled:

- *Interbasin Transfers*, November 16, 2004
- *Recommendation for a Savannah River Basin Water Agreement Between Georgia and South Carolina*, November 16, 2004
- *Recommendation for a Comprehensive South Carolina Water Plan*, November 14, 2005
- *Water Management Planning Considerations for Georgia and South Carolina*, November 16, 2004.

Unfortunately, many of these issues are not on the high priority list for a number of states, municipal and civic organizations since many of those organizations seem to think we have "plenty of water" and it is not a problem we need to deal with at this time. Likewise the leaders of some organizations feel they should only be concerned with local issues. Neither assumption is correct.

While LHA has spent the majority of its time dealing directly with the issues and concerns of Hartwell Lake, it has become increasingly apparent that without attention to water issues in the rest of the Savannah River Basin (SRB), and the two bordering states, we would be negligent of honest caring for the future needs and planning of Hartwell Lake. We realized that we must not operate under the assumption that we only need to manage issues associated with Hartwell Lake and the other problems will not affect us. It just will not happen. Likewise we must accept the fact that some activities associated with Hartwell Lake may also impact the rest of the basin. There are many issues in the basin and the states that must be addressed as a complete package. This report identifies three of the significant issues. The first two de-

scribe potential interbasin transfers (IBT's) that will affect the SRB and the third describes the need for a new, thorough and innovative Comprehensive Water Plan for South Carolina to meet the challenges of future water management in the state.

1 - Has the first "Water War" battle started? LHA Addresses the SC Senate.

We often hear rumors of Atlanta's intentions to initiate an interbasin transfer (IBT) of water from the Savannah River Basin into the Chattahoochee River Basin which serves the Atlanta water needs. One of the LHA concerns allowing this issue to exist is that there are no laws in South Carolina that adequately protect our river basins from just such a potential drain on SRB water resources. However, in March 2007 others began to worry about a 10 million gallon per day water transfer from the Catawba River Basin to the Pee Dee system to provide water to the North Carolina cities of Kannapolis and Concord.

The real problem of course is not really whether an IBT is good or bad but, more to the point, that there has been no real planning done to identify what the current and future needs are for the available water in each basin and how it should be managed and allocated. The proposal by North Carolina may be just the catalyst to have South Carolina legislators begin to get serious about water planning.

North Carolina officials say the water they need from the Catawba River will have little effect on South Carolina downstream. Legislators from South Carolina and lower North Carolina are issuing legislative appeals to the proposal. South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster says North Carolina environmental officials allowed the transfer without input from South Carolina and it is unconstitutional. McMaster vowed to fight the water transfer all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. North Carolina Representative Mitch Gillespie, who also opposes the transfer said, "We've got to address surface water in North Carolina or we'll constantly be seeing water wars pop up across the state." LHA feels the same issues must be addressed in South Carolina.

As a result of this proposed IBT, there has been an increase of legal efforts to prevent future interbasin transfer issues in the Carolinas. S.C. Sen. Wes Hayes, R-Rock Hill and S.C. Rep. Carl Gullick, R-River Hills, both representing Lake Wylie, have introduced SC Senate bill 428 "*Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act*" and House bill 3578, calling for statewide permitting of water withdrawals and water quality assessments. Current updates to these documents are located by selecting the following web site

<http://www.scstatehouse.net/index.html> then under the "Quick Search" section select "Bill Number" and type the bill number (428 or 3578) in the "search" section.

On March 14, 2007, I was asked to represent LHA and address the South Carolina Senate Sub-Committee in Columbia, South Carolina for S. 428 and provide the LHA comments concerning the bill. A copy of my presentation, "*S 428 Comments to Senate*," is available on the LHA website. LHA believes this bill, as well

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as H 3578, will be effective bills and are the beginning of what will hopefully be a complete effort to revise the water planning process in South Carolina. The bills are still in committee review in Columbia.

These legislative bills will be positive steps for the Savannah River Basin and we need the support of many organizations to get them passed. South Carolina Senator Kevin Bryant from Anderson is on the senate committee reviewing Senate Bill S 428 and Representative Don Bowen from Anderson has co-sponsored the House bill H 3578. We expect many changes to these bills and will continue to monitor their progress and provide input to them as they are finalized.

2 - Is the second “Water War” battle building?

Savannah, Georgia has been withdrawing water from their coastal aquifer since the city became established. However, Savannah has grown to the point that the aquifer has been depleted over 100 feet beneath the city due to growth and increased water usage. This decrease in aquifer storage water has resulted in salt water intrusion into the water wells used by Hilton Head just north of Savannah. Currently, 5 of Hilton Head’s 12 wells are unusable and the problem is expected to escalate if no action is taken to prevent further salt water intrusion.

A \$14 million study funded by the states of SC and GA to clarify the problem and propose a solution was recently completed. The results were deemed “inconclusive” by the Savannah River Basin Advisory Groups from both states. More study is required but the SC team has requested Savannah begin a program of conservation immediately and to begin looking at withdrawing surface water from the Savannah River to ease the aquifer problem.

Hilton Head has already reduced its dependency on the aquifer by about 50% through alternative water sources including using water from the Savannah River through an interbasin transfer. This alternative plan is about 4 times more expensive than pumping from the aquifer. Obviously, Hilton Head residents would prefer to find a more effective and efficient process.

The Georgia Advisory Group has not yet agreed to any alternative measures at this time preferring to wait for the results of the next study before attempting any major water source changes. A group of South Carolina citizens, however, have stated they want to initiate a law suit against Savannah/Georgia to make them begin to seek alternative sources and begin more conservation measures. So far no suits have been filed but the threat for it – and another water war - is looming.



Mike Massey of LHA addresses the South Carolina Senate Subcommittee reviewing Senate Bill S 428.

One of the problems that exists in withdrawing water from the SRB is that there have never been any studies to identify current and future needs or available water for future allocation. Dean Moss, general manager of the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority, which currently supports Hilton Head, said South Carolina has a better idea of future water needs in some river basins than it does in others but that needs to improve.

Moss said South Carolina, for instance, should develop better information on the lowest amount of water any major river can have and still provide for the people who depend on it. Some rivers need a certain flow to properly dilute pollution; others need enough water to keep up with residential and commercial de-

mand. LHA, through its position paper “*Recommendation for a Savannah River Basin Water Agreement Between Georgia and South Carolina*, November 16, 2004,” has proposed a study be completed to allow a full understanding of these needs.

Understanding more about current and future basin water requirements would help the state make intelligent decisions about whether to accept or

oppose water transfers. Moss said he’s encouraged that the SC Legislature is considering bills (S 428, H 3578 discussed above) to require major basin withdrawals to receive state permission before they are granted.

3 - South Carolina Statewide Water Planning – What is Needed?

It should be well known to LHA members and friends that LHA feels one of the most important tasks the state of South Carolina should be working towards is the development of a comprehensive water plan. Georgia has already tackled that problem with amazing tenacity and is leading towards a very positive result.

Bud Badr, chief hydrologist for the S.C. Natural Resources Department, recently stated in a meeting at Clemson that “We (in South Carolina) have to do much better in managing water.” LHA agrees completely and, in fact, made that suggestion in its position paper titled “*Recommendation for a Comprehensive South Carolina Water Plan November 14, 2004.*”

In early 2004, Georgia passed House Bill 237 “*Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Planning Act.*” A copy of this bill is on the LHA website. The bill basically charges the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to lead a complete review and revision, where necessary, of all water related activities in Georgia. The Georgia DNR has been actively developing this new

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water plan for over three years and is about to present it to the GA legislature this summer. This is a major effort resulting in a complete revision to GA water planning including changing the management process. It is true planning for the future. We are proud to mention that LHA has been involved in various phases of the GA water plan development.

South Carolina must be encouraged to also review and revise its water planning. While

we were listening to presentations from speakers at the South Carolina Senate Sub-Committee for S 428 in March, there were many comments made and questions asked from speakers representing a wide variety of organizations. The speakers also included representatives of the South Carolina Executive and Legislative branches. Many of these questions clearly indicated the lack of knowledge and/or understanding of the

water planning issues facing the state. This is not necessarily a negative thing. There must be a beginning to any process and asking a lot of questions is a positive approach. Many of the comments were water related and many were beyond the scope of the surface water planning bill we were there to discuss. The comments were so widespread and pervasive in the meeting that I could not help documenting some of them to discuss with the Senators as part of an LHA plea for better water planning legislation in the state.

As a result a few paragraphs about the significance and necessity of developing a Comprehensive Water Management Plan for South Carolina were included in my comments. The significant reason describing the need for a plan stated:

“Current South Carolina water use management is, in many respects, department oriented and compartmentalized by type of need such as quantity (DNR), quality (DHEC), type of need (agricultural, municipal), type of water body (lake, stream, aquifer), disaster planning (flood, drought, etc.), area of the state (upstate, shoreline, etc) and so forth. This fragmented management structure makes it very difficult for a singular organization to view and manage the “big picture.” Above all, while we recognize many technical issues regarding water administration, it may be wise and timely to take a hard look at the overall management process itself. While there are many recommendations regarding the technical water resource, few suggest how to manage it.”



Ben Turetzky, Friends of Lake Keowee President, Mike Massey of LHA, South Carolina Senator Kevin Bryant and former South Carolina Senator Bob Waldrep, (currently Chairman of the Anderson County Council) discuss water planning in Columbia.

Following my address to the Senate Sub-Committee, the Chairman of the group, Senator Hayes, thanked LHA for the comments about S 428 and asked if we could also send him a copy of our comments about developing a Comprehensive Water Plan. A copy of the complete LHA recommendation to the South Carolina Legislators titled *“Recommendation for a South Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Water Management Plan, March 20, 2007”* was sent to the SC legislature. The presentation is available on the LHA website.

How We Can Help.

This report would not be complete without anticipating the question “What can I do to help?” There are a number of ways we can become involved and support improved water planning. If you agree, we suggest you use the LHA position papers as reference information to support the following suggestions.

South Carolina and Georgia residents –

Contact your local state legislative representatives to ask them consider providing

funding for a Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Water Study. The purpose is to understand current and future water needs and identify a fair water allocation process for both states. The respective state representatives should determine if federal funding is required and take steps to request it.

South Carolina Residents –

Contact your local municipal (county and city) representatives, civic associations (Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, etc.) and water related sporting clubs (fishing, sailing, boating, etc.) and ask them to support:

1. The fair passage of S 428 and H 3578
2. The development of a new SC Statewide Water Management Plan.

Georgia Residents –

Contact your local municipal (county and city) representatives, civic associations (Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, etc.) and water related sporting clubs (fishing, sailing, boating, etc.) and ask them support the approval of the Georgia Statewide Comprehensive Water Plan.

LHA will continue to seek support of other municipal and civic groups who will hopefully develop their own positions and plans to work towards the fair and adequate management and allocation of water in the SRB and the states of GA and SC. We will also continue to campaign for a new South Carolina Statewide Water Management Plan. Please contact us if there is any way we can help you to support the recommendations in this report or answer any questions.

LHA Members Help Create Habitat

Submitted by Larry Dyck, chair Technical Committee

With visions of creating improved fishing opportunities, the Lake Hartwell Association and local bass clubs have joined with natural resource agencies to enhance the fish habitat in Lake Hartwell. A grant, obtained by the Corps of Engineers together with SC DNR and GA DNR, is paying for the introduction of thousands of native plants. The plants are maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) and water willow (*Justicia americana*). Both plants grow near the shoreline and can tolerate periods of high or low water. Water willow is a beautiful plant in late spring and early summer as it produces an abundance of small orchid like flowers that provide a blaze of purple color. Once plants have matured they will provide small fish with shade, hiding places from larger fish and a source of food from algae that grow on the submerged stems. All this has benefits for the naturalization of the lake and for fishermen who will have new fishing sites to explore.

More than 20 residents helped plant the first thousand plants on June 2nd. It was good fun and not too strenuous. The outing gave everyone a chance to meet neighbors and other users of the lake. Thanks to all who volunteered!



It will soon be time for the 2nd planting excursion. How about volunteering for this adventure scheduled for Wednesday, June 27? Volunteers will meet at the SC DNR's Clemson Office at 10AM. You are asked to bring a shovel for some easy digging in sandy soil and some personal items such as sunscreen, water, a lunch and a life jacket. You may bring your own boat or ride along with the Corps and DNR folks.

For logistical purposes please let Larry Dyck know if you are planning to help out (Feedback2LHA@charter.net). Indicate if you need directions in your email.

Legislative Committee Report

Submitted by Pat Goran, Legislative Committee Chairman

As expected, there hasn't been much water-related activity in the Georgia Legislature this year. The statewide water planning process is wrapping up this summer and fall and we expect significant legislation to be introduced in the 2008. We have participated in development of the Georgia Statewide Water Plan through membership on the Savannah Basin Advisory Committee. Activities of the committee ended this April with final recommendations submitted to the Water Council. We strenuously argued against ongoing attempts to "soften" language regarding interbasin transfers. There is a great deal of pressure elsewhere in the state, where water resources are under constant pressure, to secure supplies for other basins. This will be a major focus as the Water Plan develops into specific legislation.

LHA sent letters to our federal senators, congressmen, both governors and the Corps asking for support for funding the completion (phase 2) of the Comprehensive Basin Study. As we have explained before, we believe this study is necessary to determine appropriate water management policy and allocations within the basin. Completion of the study has been held up the past two years due to lack of funding.

A resolution was passed in the Georgia Legislature asking the Corps of Engineers to study the effects of raising the pool of Lake Lanier by 2 feet, recognizing its importance in supplying Atlanta's water needs. Later companion resolutions were passed asking the Corps to study the impacts of increasing capacities of all Corps lakes in the state. LHA is pleased to see that the legislature took the approach of requesting a formal impact study and assessment. We certainly support a well-balanced and scientific study of this issue, as is appropriate for any lake and basin management revisions, recognizing that there are potential serious consequences that must be adequately addressed. We would hope, however, that any study would go beyond the specific confines of capacity increase and address entire basin management as we have been supporting through the SRB Comprehensive Basin Study mentioned above.

House Bill 463, which provides for changes in Georgia's erosion and sediment control certification program, was passed and has been signed into law by the governor. The original bill as proposed would have significantly weakened a law passed in 2003 by reducing education and training requirements for contractors. LHA contacted our local legislators with our concerns about that. Amendments were introduced and passed late in the session that provide some tweaking of the existing program and simplification of the process, yet preserves the contractor education provisions.

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FROM THE CORPS....

Clean Up Campaign - Hartwell Lake Clean Up

Submitted by Tanya Grant, SAS



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the 27th annual Hartwell Lake Clean Up Campaign will begin on August 17 and conclude on September 29 National Public Lands Day.

The annual clean up campaign is a volunteer clean up of litter and other non-natural debris along the public lands and waters of Hartwell Lake including the shoreline, islands, recreation areas, coves, old road endings and bridge areas. The clean up provides a chance for people who care about Hartwell Lake to roll up their sleeves and give something back to the lake. 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 numerous families and individuals sign up to clean sections of the shoreline and islands around the lake. Trash bags are provided and all participants will be invited to a free "Volunteer Appreciation Day" picnic on September 29 where there will be entertainment, activities, food and door prizes.

All folks with a shoreline use permit from the Corps will receive information and a sign up form in the mail in early August. In addition, news releases will be sent to the media and information will be posted on the Corps' Hartwell Lake website (www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell in July).

If you have any questions, contact Park Ranger Tanya Grant at 1-888-893-0678, ext.323, or 706-856-0323.

ASK THE CORPS

Send your questions for the Corps to
ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.com

(Continued from page 2) **Boat Noise Legislation**

ness to sponsor companion legislation in the House. He plans to work with Sen. Bryant and pre-file a bill for the next legislative session. Don is also an LHA member.

We expect that passage of this legislation will be quite difficult due to past organized opposition and the lack of support from other areas of the state. All LHA members in South Carolina are encouraged to also contact their local senators and representatives and encourage them to pass laws that are consistent and enforceable on both sides of the lake. It is important to let them know where you stand on this issue.

LHA will continue to follow developments with this legislation and stay in contact with South Carolina legislators until this issue is decided.

Corps Receives Funding for Oxygen Injection Project

Submitted by Joe Brenner

LHA was pleased to learn that the Corps of Engineers received full funding for '07 and budgeted funding for '08 to design and implement the Oxygen Injection system at J Strom Thurmond Lake. As we have explained in the past, the Corps can not presently make full use of the pumpback turbines at Lake Russell in summer months due to the creation of an oxygen deficiency downstream. This project will directly inject oxygen downstream, allowing use of all four turbines. The effect is that SEPA can pump water back up into Russell at low cost non-peak hours and rates and use that stored water to generate during high priced day rates. The net effect is to reduce demand of water flows from upstream (Hartwell) to generate power. This is not a cure-all to low water levels, but will provide substantial relief particularly in the early stages of a drought.

The Corps' Savannah District has begun the design of the site work package, and TVA has begun the design work on the cryogenic equipment and diffuser system. They hope to have the site work contract awarded in the fall with the cryogenic system awarded in spring 2008. Work should be completed by the end of 2009.

LHA lobbied our federal representatives to garner support for funding this project which has been held up due to budget constraints. We see this as one of several key projects to better protect our waters.

LHA Fall Meeting Scheduled For November 15

Submitted by Mike Massey

Please take a few minutes and mark your calendars now so you can attend the LHA Fall Meeting at 7:00PM, Thursday November 15 at the Anderson Civic Center.

The agenda is still being finalized, but we have scheduled the keynote speaker for the evening and you will not want to miss him. Dr. Gene Eidson leads the environmental efforts of the Clemson University Restoration Institute and is founding director of the Center for Applied Ecology which is housed in the Restoration Institute. The mission of the Clemson University Restoration Institute is to advance knowledge in integrative approaches to the restoration of historic, ecological and urban infrastructure resources.

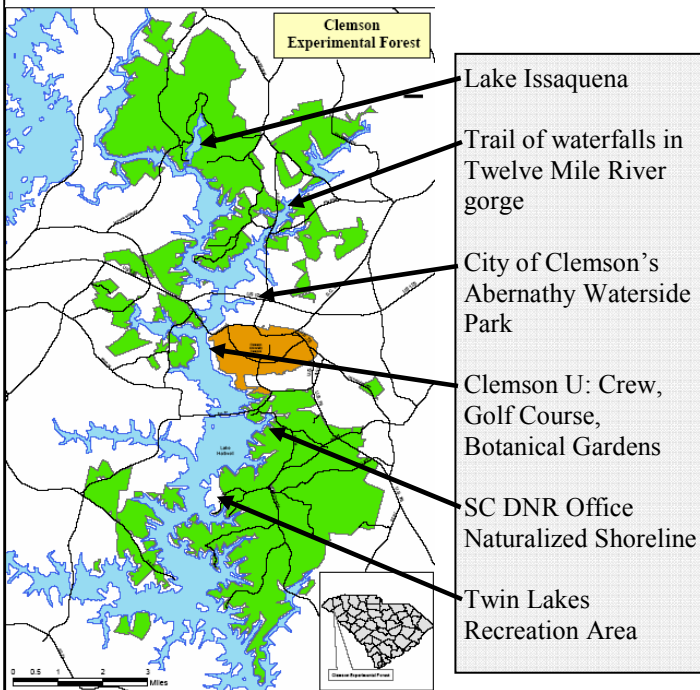
Dr. Eidson will discuss a number of new goals and objectives for the Institute that would benefit the future needs of the Savannah River Basin through a better planning process and understanding of water needs and water allocation for the basin. These are highly significant issues for the basin and we are sure you will be impressed with Dr. Eidson's approach to resolving them. Once again, please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

Around the Lake: Visit the Clemson Area

Submitted by Larry Dyck, chair Technical Committee

Looking for a destination on Lake Hartwell? Consider a cruise to the Clemson area, located on the upper Seneca River, Twelve Mile River and Keowee River arms of Lake Hartwell.

The upper Seneca River arm is bordered by vast areas of undeveloped land formed by the Clemson University Experimental Forest. In addition, there are many interesting areas on the Clemson University campus and a delightful shoreline park, the Abernathy Waterside Park. Let's take a virtual boat ride up the Seneca River and describe a few spots of interest. We might launch our trip at the Twin Lakes boat ramp, located off of US Hwy 76, just up the road from Tri-County Tech.



The Clemson University Experimental Forest begins about 4 miles below the Clemson campus on the east side of the lake. These lands are among the 30,000 acres deeded to the University in the 1950s under the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act. In the 1930s these lands had become mismanaged. Cotton farming had overused the land and the depression era brought economic havoc to small farmers. During the depression period a federal program purchased the lands and used them to introduce conservation and land restoration programs. CCC camps were established on some of lands and crews worked to reforest the land, manage erosion and develop park areas. Today the forest is a sustainable enterprise and the erosive scars of the past have healed. Forest lands are available to the public for recreation and many acres are maintained as wildlife management areas. Included in the forest is a 100 acre lake, Lake Issaquena, which is accessible to Lake Hartwell as it flows into the Keowee River. For naturalists, wildlife abounds: over 170 species of birds, 50 species of mammals, 79 species of amphibians & reptiles, 25

species of fish and numerous plant species including 54 species of trees including 3 SC state champion trees, 6 species of orchids and numerous wildflower species have been recorded. The forest is a refuge for rare and endangered species within all groups. To learn more about the Clemson Experimental Forest visit their website at www.Clemson.edu/cef. The website is full of interesting facts about the history and points of interest within the forest.

Continuing upstream consider a stop at the Clemson DNR office. The office is located just below the Cherry Crossing Bridge on the east side of the lake. Have a look at the vegetated shoreline at the DNR office. This shoreline was originally an eroded clay cliff, similar to those so commonly seen around the lake. Now the banks are covered with native switchgrass which provides habitat, erosion control and absorbs pollutants than might flow overland into the lake. Also take some time to go into the office and look at their displays of wildlife. Have a look at their native plants landscape. Inside the office you may be lucky enough to see Elvis, the pet alligator and his many reptilian friends.

As our cruise continues upstream we will pass the Walker Golf Course located along the lake near the Madren Conference Center. Unfortunately there is no dock at the Madren Center, but you can pull your boat up on one of several sandy coves and walk up to the Madren Center for lunch at their "Seasons by the Lake" restaurant, or perhaps the more casual Joe's Place located next door. Events at the Madren Center are posted at www.clemson.edu/madren/toc/. Most afternoons during the school year, you will see the Clemson crew practicing in this area.



Another half mile up the lake keep an eye out for a cove that runs parallel with US Hwy 123. At the back of this cove the city of Clemson has developed a 7 acre passive park, the Abernathy Waterfront Park. The park includes two courtesy boat docks, and an extensive boardwalk. The boardwalk is well used by local citizens as a place for either exercise or relaxation and meditation on one of several boardwalk mounted swings. To the boater, this is a great place to stop for a quick trip to Wendy's or to one of several restaurants on Hwy 123 or College Avenue. Make sure you notice how the shoreline in this park has been

(Continued on page 10)

Catch A Trout Near The Hartwell Dam

Article Courtesy of the Hartwell Sun

Get out and catch some trout. That's the message from Departments of Natural Resources in Georgia and South Carolina. An estimated 24,000 rainbow trout will be released into the Savannah River during the 2007 stocking season, which runs from early March to Labor Day. The fish, which are raised at the Lake Burton Hatchery in Northeast Georgia, are released on both sides of the river.

"We will split the number between the Georgia side and the South Carolina side," said Perry Thompson, stocking coordinator with the Lake Burton Trout Hatchery in northeast Georgia. "We'll typically stock about twice a month. The size of the fish will be around 9 to 10 inches. It's a joint effort by both Georgia and South Carolina to get people trout fishing again," said DNR game warden Josh Chambers.

Even though the trout are farm raised and used to a particular pellet-type fish food, Chambers is confident they will bite just about everything. "After a few hours in the water, they will get used to their new surroundings. They'll hit corn, those salmon eggs that come in a jar, spinners or rooster tails and even crickets," he said. Right now, any time of day should be good, but as the days get hotter through the summer, the best times will be in the early morning or late evening. When the Corps is not generating power and the water is low, "you can pretty much wade out to the middle of the river, going rock to rock," said Chambers.

Tanya Grant, park ranger with the Army Corps of Engineers, adds this word of caution for the trout anglers: "The rocks are slippery, so it's a good idea to wear a life jacket if you get out in the middle," she said. "The other danger is when they generate power, causing the water level to rise rapidly." "The Corps blows a horn to signal that the generators are going to start. The horn lasts for a minute and then folks have two minutes to get out of the water," she added. "The water can rise really quickly so people need to be careful."

There is a daily generating schedule that can be obtained by calling the main number of the project office at 706-856-0300. It changes daily so it's best to call early in the morning before you go out on the water. In 2005, the Corps of Engineers made significant improvements to the recreation areas located below the Dam.

According to Jamie Sykes, a district fisheries biologist with the Corps, the most notable of these improvements was changes made to one of the fishing piers to provide access for disabled anglers. Most of the trout streams of Georgia are in the mountains where the water is cool year 'round. Sykes says modifications to the turbine units or "turbine venting," releases cooler water, creating a cold water fishery below the dam even into the hot summer months. Trout streams in Georgia carry a special designation that requires a special license and offers a limited season. Hartwell Dam is designated as a year-round stream but a trout license is still needed if trout are caught.

"It's a little confusing because you don't need a trout license to fish below the dam if you are there to catch striper or bream," said Chambers. "But if you catch a trout and don't release it, you will need the special trout license. South Carolina license holders don't need a trout stamp." The DNR's from Georgia and South Carolina, along with the Corps, have created a unique fishery, according to Sykes. "When you think trout, you don't have to travel to the mountains."

Additional improvements are planned by Georgia DNR as part of the PCB Settlement. One of the proposed projects will install jetties below the Hartwell Dam for better trout fishing opportunities.

(Continued from page 9) **Around the Lake: Visit the Clemson Area**



naturalized. No eroded red banks here; instead the shoreline is vegetated with native plants.

A trip under the US Hwy 123 bridge and an adjoining rail road bridge puts you at the confluence of the Keowee River on the west and Twelve Mile River on the east. A trip up the Keowee River might involve a Lake Issaquena destination located on the east side of the lake. Should you choose to go up Twelve Mile River, the Corps' Twelve Mile Recreation Area is on the east. It contains a boat ramp, swim area and picnic areas. If you continue upstream to Madden Bridge, you enter a gorge region that includes a trail of waterfalls. Unfortunately navigation in this area is limited to high water periods. Viewing of the several waterfalls requires a short walk at one of 5 locations.

For more information on activities at Clemson University, visit



their website at www.Clemson.edu and you can learn of activities in the City of Clemson at www.cityofclemson.org.

**New LHA Members:
Welcome Aboard & Thank You!**

Please join us in welcoming the following new members who have joined LHA since our last newsletter:

New Family Memberships

Debra Cupp, Randall & Laurie Davis, Robert & Barbara Earle, William Eissler, John & Joan Flinko, Tom Gailard, Ken & Glenda Justus, Carr & Lara Kaufmann, Richard & Linda Klausung, Dave & Rose Kratzer, Steven & Rejena Lucas, William & Kathleen Maness, Douglas McGaughey, William & Alice Shinnick, Timothy Smith, Lottie Smith, Susan Steely.

New Community & Business Member

SCHomesandLakes.Com (Victoria McCormick)

Donations to LHA

We're also very grateful to the following LHA members who made additional donations to enable LHA volunteers continue working "for the sake of the lake."

Wayne & Sonja Gaskins, Dennis & Jackie Hix, Charles & Janet King, Robert & Mary Lord, Ernest & Roberta McFadden, Carlton Mell, Linda Mills, Anthony Nelson, Brian & Margi Philbin, Donald & Marilyn Pratt, Radomir Petr, Gerry & Cynthia Spejewski, Joseph Stohecker, C. W. Whitmore, Robert Williams

**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, SCHomesandLakes.Com – Victoria McCormick, Superior Dock Systems – Dick Lantier, Swaney's Point Association – Tom Williams, The Hartwell Sun, US Army Corps of Engineers, & View Point Lot Owners Association

Upcoming Events for LHA-Related Activities

Event	Date
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Lib	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 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Lib	11/12/07
LHA Fall Public Information Meeting, 7:00 PM at the Anderson Civic Center	11/15/07

(Continued from page 7) **Legislative Committee Report**

On the South Carolina side, Senator Kevin Bryant has introduced legislation to control boat noise on Hartwell Lake at LHA's request. The bill was pre-filed in November and has been assigned to the Fish, Game and Forestry Committee. Please see Bill Elmore's article on this topic for more details.

Senate Bill 428, "The South Carolina Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act," has been introduced. The bill provides for new regulations for surface water withdrawals. On behalf of LHA, Mike Massey spoke at a senate sub-committee hearing in Columbia in March in support of the bill, while voicing concerns with several specific areas. We hope it leads to a comprehensive statewide water management plan similar to what is being developed in Georgia now, and Mike urged the Committee to "look at the big picture" (see "Have the South Carolina Water Wars Started?" elsewhere in this newsletter for additional information).

A memo was sent by LHA to the Corps questioning the process and impacts of the spring "flow purges" that have been conducted (other than in drought years) to provide spawning opportunities downriver for certain species. LHA is concerned that the purges and resulting sudden lake level de-

creases, can negatively affect fish spawn in the lake. We requested information regarding whether an environmental impact study was conducted for this project and the reasoning if not. We received a reply from district commander Col. Held indicating that the Corps is "conducting this storage and release practice within previously established guidelines in our water control plan...and consider this practice to be covered by those previous environmental approvals." We will continue to monitor the impacts of this program.

2008 is likely to be very active in the Georgia legislature due to the completion of the statewide water planning process. It could also become very active in South Carolina, depending on what happens with Senate Bill 428 and the ongoing discussions between South Carolina and Georgia about water issues. Inasmuch as South Carolina recently filed a lawsuit in the United States Supreme Court against North Carolina over water withdrawals from the Catawba River, we expect, unfortunately, that the talks between Georgia and South Carolina will become increasingly contentious.

If you can spare some time to help LHA stay on top of these issues, please let us know!

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

Summer
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 _____

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Spouse's Name _____
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Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

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Give something back to the lake.
Select a committee on which you
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