



# Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Summer, 2008

Volume XX, Number 3

## Letter from the President

Submitted by Joe Brenner



Welcome to another summer season on our beautiful lake. We are now in our third year of the current drought. The bad news is that we can expect lake levels to continue to drop this summer. The good news is that historical droughts have ended after three years and an active tropical storm season is forecasted this year.

We continue our discussions with the Corps and state officials to more adaptively manage river flows during drought conditions. Technical folks from the various agencies have been meeting to identify critical flow needs downstream and develop options to reduce flows while managing risks. We had a very productive meeting with Colonel Shepard, the Deputy Commander for the Savannah District the day of the LHA spring picnic.

I'd like to thank the LHA Board and the Programs Committee for their contributions to a very nice and informative spring picnic. Unfortunately our member turnout for this event has been less than we'd like, particularly relative to the large turnout we typically get for the fall member meeting. We need to identify ways to make this event more valuable for our members or we will have to consider dropping it, as the current attendance does not justify the work it takes to put it on. Please send us your thoughts.

Butch McKie has resigned from the LHA treasurer position. I'm happy to report that the Board elected Jim Bushey, Director At-Large, to be our new treasurer. We are also nominating Ruth Anne Marciag as a new director and chair of the Programs Committee. Ruth Anne has been doing a great job as a member of that committee and recently as acting chair. Please vote in favor of Ruth Anne's election to the Board.

Please read the announcement for the Lake Clean Up Campaign and Picnic. As in the past, LHA will co-sponsor the clean up with the Corps and handle the recognition picnic for the volunteers.

### 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.

This is your chance to contribute some sweat equity for the sake of the lake. Also, please mark your calendars for the LHA fall meeting on October 23. We have a great program planned with General Joe Schroedel, Commander-South Atlantic Div. of the Corps and Jeff Larson, Savannah River Watershed Manager for Georgia EPD as speakers.

As always, send your questions and comments to [mail@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:mail@lakehartwellassociation.org) or call 1-864-LAKE (5253).

## Inside this issue

LHA Board Meets with District Deputy Commander	2
Members Attend Water Conference	3
LHA Spring Meeting	4
SC Water Legislation	5
Brigadier General Joseph Schroedel to Speak at Fall Meeting	5
Hartwell Lake Clean-Up Campaign	6
Hartwell Ranger Earns Top Safety Award	6
LHA Goals for 2008	7
New LHA Members	7
Corps Extends Season at 4 Campgrounds	8
USGS Real-time Gages Now Operational on Hartwell	8
Watsadler Campground Among Top in the Nation	8
Water Issues Require Continued Conversation	9
Boating and Waterskiing Safety Tips	10
Vote for New Director	10
LHA Community & Business Members!	11
New LHA Members	11

## Upcoming LHA Events

Event	Date
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Library	7/14/08
Hartwell Lake Clean-up Campaign begins	8/15/08
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Hartwell GA	9/8/08
Hartwell Lake Clean-up Campaign ends with picnic for volunteers	9/27/08
LHA Fall Meeting for all members	10/23/08

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Association, Inc.

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## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### Officers

Joe Brenner,  
*President*

vacant,  
*Vice President*

Herb Burnham,  
*2nd VP,*

Mike Massey,  
*Past-President*

Jim Bushey,  
*Treasurer*

Pam Huntley,  
*Secretary*

### Directors & Committee Chairs

Pat Goran,  
*Legislative*

Dr. Larry Dyck,  
*Technical*

Jim Gardner,  
*Publications*

Ruth Anne  
Marciag,  
*Acting  
Program/  
Publicity*

Dan Ray, *Safety*

Vern Sauer,  
*Webmaster*

Mike Massey,  
*Membership*

## LHA Board Meets with Savannah District Deputy Commander

*Submitted by Joe Brenner*

Several LHA board members had the opportunity to meet with the Corps' Deputy Commander for the Savannah District Colonel Thatch Shepard immediately preceding the LHA spring picnic. We discussed a number of issues and concerns and found the Colonel to be quite open and receptive to our input.

Naturally our primary area of discussion was the drought and its impact on lake levels. We stressed our concern that the Drought Plan does not adequately provide a transition in the event of hitting level 4 and more importantly the need to slow basin flows to preserve our water resources as long as possible. Colonel Shepard filled us in on technical discussions that have taken place to identify limiting factors to the current minimum 3600CFS basin flow. The primary obstacle appears to be the diversion of a major portion of the stream by the city of Augusta into the Augusta Canal to drive the city's water pumps. We understand that new diesel pumps are being procured which could substantially affect this flow demand. We also discussed LHA's position that by monitoring actual river flows and quality through new technology flows could often be reduced vs. basing operations on Thurmond outflows alone.

LHA stated our position that the Corps should be equally restrictive in use of public lands leased to private entities or the states as they are with private permit holders. With the current discussions of development on the lake islands, LHA wants to preserve both the natural appearance of the lake and water quality. New or renewed permits must address proper buffer areas and runoff protection.

We had a good general discussion regarding long term forecasting and potential operational impacts in response to apparent long term shifts in regional climate and rainfall. This would include SEPA



making more realistic power availability forecasts and contract commitments.

Again we put in a plug to get funding and work going again on the Comprehensive Basin Study. The Colonel explained that the Corps shares the need and priority to get the study completed with this issue being high on the District's project list and is supported by the commanding general.

LHA explained a number of issues that members have with lake level management. Historical data clearly indicates that levels are drawn down over the summer months reaching "winter pool" levels long before the rule curve requirements. We believe this occurs primarily to generate power during high profit summer months. The current economic impact study being pursued by the Hartwell Coalition should help make the case for a greater economic benefit to local communities versus power profits. Ultimately, we must have the completion of the Basin Comp Study to get a change in operational priorities.

We again asked to have the rule curve formally modified to increase winter pool from 656MSL to 658MSL. Both LHA and the Corps agree that this is reasonable and should be done. It appears that this will require ongoing prodding to get through the red tape and to make it happen.

We also restated our position that the Lake Russell pump-back system should be used more effectively to generate additional power and allow more water to stay upstream in Hartwell. This will require the Corps to rethink their strategy of keeping the pools of Thurmond and Hartwell essentially even but could save more water in reserve for the needs of the Basin.

Lastly, we discussed the confusion surrounding withdrawals for shoreline irrigation by individuals. LHA has supported efforts to conserve water wherever possible, but recent action by Georgia has allowed limited watering. The fact that South Carolina has refused to take any mandatory action has created an inconsistent and unfair situation for lake residents since others drawing from the same water supply have no restrictions. The Colonel indicated that a new Corps policy is forthcoming.

This was a very beneficial meeting. We are currently trying to set up a similar meeting with Colonel Kertis, the District Commander, this summer.

## LHA Members Attend Water Conference - Water Wars a Major Concern -

*Submitted by Herb Burnham and Mike Massey*

“Whiskey’s for drinking, water’s for fighting” was a Mark Twain quote Ken Wagner used to open his presentation at the recent North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) Southeastern Regional Conference hosted by the Florida Lakes Management Society. Mr. Wagner, the past president of NALMS, presented a compelling and somewhat frightening forecast of what we in the southeastern region are likely to be experiencing relative to shortages of water. Analogies were drawn to what has been happening in the western states for decades regarding water rights and whether water is a “commodity” or a “right” and “does humanity or habitat come first”.



*Herb Burnham (left), LHA Vice-President and Mike Massey (right), LHA Director, hold an informal discussion with Barbara Wiggins, North Carolina NALMS representative.*

Mr. Wagner compared reservoirs of water to banks in that each holds vital resources for later use and that neither has enough to meet everyone’s needs all the time. Therefore, both resources must be carefully managed and budgeted. Absolute management of water is not always possible making the use of good science and modeling technologies a necessity. Doing so will allow more accurate long range rain cycle forecasts, better definitions of the natural state of streams and reservoirs and will provide good data for use in recovery strategies. Wagner reminded attendees that “water conflicts are usually money conflicts” and that “water will flow uphill towards money.” He recommended a book entitled *When the Rivers Run Dry* by Fred Pearce as a must read for any one interested in scientifically based predictions of future water shortages around the world.

LHA sent three members of the Board of Directors to the conference. Vice-President Herb Burnham, Past-President Mike Massey and Executive Administrator Petra Massey attended.



*Herb Burnham of LHA, lower right, discusses water planning goals with other southeast water planners during an informal, after-hours meeting.*

One of the more important benefits of these seminars, however, is the opportunity to meet and discuss specific water issues and resolutions with other water organizations experiencing similar concerns. This networking frequently results in improved management considerations for Hartwell Lake.

The Lake Hartwell Association is an active member of NALMS, a national organization dedicated to the management of surface water throughout North America. It recognizes that good water management requires a broader approach to ensure more wide-spread cooperation, support and attention. In most cases local organizations can be effective in solving water quality issues while water quantity issues require a much broader view. NALMS’ aim is to bring water management organizations together so that regional and interstate cooperation becomes the rule as well as a valuable reference source and directory of experienced water management contacts on a national basis.

In another presentation of interest to this region, Douglas Otto, Jr. of the Mobile District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, summarized the decades old debate between upstream and downstream water users in the Chattahoochee River basin and the impact of the current drought conditions. He noted that Lake Lanier will likely not recover in 2008 and will experience its most depleted condition in its history. Metro-Atlanta’s near total reliance on surface water and its lack of underground water sources has severely strained Lake Lanier, its primary water source, and there is no relief in sight for this summer.

In summary, the NALMS conference reinforced concerns of severe water shortages in the southeast and increased demands for inter-basin transfers to high use areas such as Metro-Atlanta. It reinforced the need for all water management organizations to work in concert toward better management of one of our most valuable and critical resources. This approach will also give concerned persons a much greater voice in the political arena where laws are made and funding is controlled.

## LHA 2008 Spring Meeting - Good Food, Fun & All the Latest News!

The Lake Hartwell Association held its Annual Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 17th at the Big Oaks Recreation Park. Perfect weather prevailed and everyone enjoyed good food, while visiting with friends and hearing all the latest lake news.

Joe Brenner, president, welcomed everyone, thanked the volunteers and introduced the LHA Board. He gave LHA updates and highlights on a pre-picnic meeting with USACE Savannah District Deputy Commander, Colonel George T. Shepard, Jr.

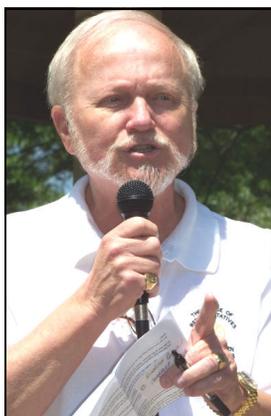


*Dr. Larry Dyck*

Larry Dyck, LHA Technical Committee chairman, told us about the fish habitat enhancement grant project and LHA's Covekeeper program and invited everyone to get involved in future fish habitat planting excursions and to sign up for the Covekeeper program.

Mike Massey, LHA Legislative Committee member and chair of

the committee that wrote South Carolina House Bill 4393, The South Carolina Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Act of 2008, described the status of the proposed legislation. For a current update he introduced SC Rep. Don Bowen, (right) District 8, Anderson, LHA member, co-author and sponsor of the bill.



*Rep. Don Bowen*

Pat Goran, LHA Legislative Committee chairman, gave updates on water-related legislation and other activity in the Georgia Legislature.



*Operation Manager  
Virgil Hobbs*

Virgil Hobbs, USACE Hartwell Project Manager, introduced members of his team and updated attendees on current drought conditions and lake levels. He responded to questions about shoreline management rules and the impact of SEPA power generation on lake levels.

Our guest speaker, Colonel Shepard, (top right) provided feedback on his meeting with LHA and answered questions from the audience. Previously scheduled speaker, Colonel Edward J. Kertis, was unable to attend, since he and

his wife were visiting with their son who was departing earlier than expected for duty in Iraq.

Ed Garbe, Anne Hinson and other members of the Programs committee conducted the door prize drawings. Congratulations to all the lucky winners!

Children's Prizes:

Motorized Bumper Boat – Jerry Hanneken, Lilburn, GA  
Water Lounger – Cathy Hanneken, Lilburn, GA

Adults Prizes:

12 x 9 Dome Screen House – Don Hohman, Hartwell, GA  
Oster 18-Speed Blender – Bill Menees, Anderson, SC  
Rolling Cooler – Paul Sadej, Westminster, SC

Dirt Devil Cordless Vacuum – Libby Menees, Anderson, SC  
Bass Fishing Rod & Tackle Kit – Marv Tabor, Toccoa, GA  
Rolling Soft-Side Cooler – Bert Menees, Anderson, SC  
Solar Power Utility Lantern – O. P. Gilbert, Westminster, SC



*Colonel Thatch Shepard*



*Two young LHA members assist Ed Garbe by drawing winning tickets for the door prizes.*

Thanks to everyone who participated in making the picnic a success and to all LHA members who kindly support our ongoing work efforts "For The Sake Of The Lake."



*Jerry Hanneken of Lilburn GA is presented his prize by LHA member Mike Massey*

## South Carolina Water Legislation

*Submitted by Mike Massey*

**Senate Bill 428**, the 'South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act.' was introduced in early 2007. This bill, a result of the North Carolina attempt to withdraw water from the Catawba River without an agreement with South Carolina, is designed to protect rivers from overuse at a time of drought and increasing demand for water. It will require new industries, power plants and other major water users to get state permits before making large withdrawals from rivers. It also will show other states that South Carolina is serious about protecting rivers as they run through the state. Mike Massey of the Lake Hartwell Association has addressed the Senate subcommittee reviewing this bill in Columbia and has expressed strong support for its passage.

Currently this bill is stalled by opposition from a number of large corporations. Negotiations have been complicated, especially for the legislators who are not water experts. The business interests claim the original bill was too conservative in the amount of water it would allow industries to withdraw. It is clear, however, that some form of regulation is needed and while businesses are entitled to a reasonable share of the state's water supply, river ecosystems belong to everyone. It does not appear that S 428 will be approved by the Senate in this session.

**House Bill 4393**, the 'Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Act of 2008', was introduced in January 2008 by South Carolina Representative Don Bowen of Anderson. This bill was written by a committee chaired by LHA Board of Directors member Mike Massey and supported by a number of legislators including Representative Bowen and Senator Kevin Bryant. This bill basically proposes the formation of a process to study state water issues, recommend a comprehensive plan to provide for and protect all water needs in the future and propose a management plan to implement it.

The bill provides for a more broad process to study water than currently exists. It calls for a State of South Carolina organization called a Water Board to be primarily responsible for water processes and needs within the state. It also recommends the formation of a number of water advisory committees consisting of scientific water experts, state and local representatives, legislators and other stakeholders.

These advisory committees would make water planning recommendations according to their area of expertise or knowledge of area needs. This process would relieve legislators from the primary responsibility of learning and understanding water needs and technology each time a water bill is introduced. It places that responsibility with those people and organizations most responsible for state water requirements and most knowledgeable of its technical and scientific requirements.

The individual advisory committees would send their recommendations to the Water Board who would form or revise the water plan and send it to the South Carolina General Assembly. The

legislators would then have the responsibility of taking recommendations from the Water Board and passing appropriate legislation for implementation.

This bill, although receiving substantial support by legislators, has been hindered by the complex and difficult negotiations of Senate Bill 428. The bill will be re-introduced in the next legislative session and there is some discussion of joining these two bills into one.

### Brigadier General Joseph Schroedel to Speak at Fall Meeting of LHA

#### Jeff Larson, Georgia EPD, To Discuss Georgia's Plans



October 23, 2008, 7:00 P.M.  
Mark Your Calendars Now!

This year at the Lake Hartwell Association Fall Information Meeting, in addition to providing the important lake and watershed information, we're honored to present two important speakers:

Brigadier General Joseph Schroedel, Commander - South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will speak about the Corps' management strategies for federal reservoirs during times of severe drought and other topics.

Mr. Jeff Larsen, Savannah River Watershed Manager for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, will discuss the Georgia plans for water in the basin and the Georgia-South Carolina relationship.

The Lake Hartwell Association has scheduled this meeting to present to you, LHA members, as well as other lake-interested people, the activities, accomplishments and exciting new programs of the last year. Attendees will meet the Board of Directors, committee members and will have a chance to get involved in our many activities. Members and the public are encouraged to bring along a friend or neighbor.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23, 7:00PM at the Anderson Civic Center. Light refreshments will be served and door prize tickets will be distributed at the door. A number of special door prizes will be awarded to lucky attendees.

**Visit the LHA Website**

at [www.lakehartwellassociation.org](http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org).

## 2008 Hartwell Lake Clean-Up Campaign

*Submitted By Ruth Anne Maciag*

Let's Clean Up - For The Sake Of The Lake

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hartwell Lake Office has announced that the 28th annual Hartwell Lake Clean-Up Campaign will kick off on Friday, August 15, and will conclude six weeks later on September 27, National Public Lands Day (NPLD). NPLD began with the idea that the millions of Americans who use public lands each year – federal, state and local – could spend a day giving back to help preserve these wonderful areas and ensure that they will be available to future generations.

In our area locally, Lake Hartwell is the resource to be cared for. This campaign provides a way for those of us who care about Hartwell Lake to pick up litter and trash from the shores and public lands around the lake.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Lake Office and the Lake Hartwell Association are the sponsors and coordinators of this campaign.

**Who does it?** Volunteers such as scout groups, church groups, civic clubs, homeowner associations, businesses, families, individuals, who are interested and can carry a trash bag are invited to spend some time in the sun with friends and feel good about your efforts at the end of the day!

**How do you sign up?** To sign up or ask questions, contact Park Ranger Tanya Grant at 1-888-893-0678, ext. 323, or 706-856-0323. Also information and sign-up forms will be posted on the Corps website at [www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell](http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell) in July.

**Where do we clean?** You sign up to clean a specific shoreline area, park or island around the lake. Trash bags are provided by the Corps.

**And then what?** All participants will be treated to a free "Volunteer Appreciation Day" picnic on Saturday, September 27 at the Big Oaks Recreation Center next to the Corps offices, about a mile west of the dam on Route 29.

The picnic is sponsored by the Lake Hartwell Association, and there will be entertainment, activities, food and prizes.

Businesses and individuals who would like to donate prizes or other items for the Appreciation Picnic are asked to contact Ruth Anne Maciag, LHA Programs chairperson, at 864-287-1507.

**We need you!!!**

**Let's get together, let's make a plan, and let's clean up our beautiful Lake Hartwell.**

## Hartwell Ranger Earns Top Safety Award

*Submitted by USACE*

Hartwell Park Ranger Tanya Grant was awarded the 2008 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Best Individual Safety Award at a ceremony held in Savannah recently. Ranger Grant has been the water safety coordinator for Lake Hartwell, one of the most-highly visited Corps lakes in the nation, for more than 16 years. She is credited with creating innovative approaches that have helped influence lake visitors to make water and boating safety a number one priority. Many of those initiatives have been adopted by Lake Russell and Lake J. Strom Thurmond on the Savannah River, as well as other Corps lakes in Georgia, North and South Carolina and Alabama in the southeast.



A portion of the nomination for the safety award praised Ranger Grant for her collaborative efforts to reach the public with water safety messages that seek to change behaviors and save lives. One of the safety initiatives developed by Ranger Grant included water safety slogans painted on bridges where no wake zones give people ample time to read the message. Ranger Grant was instrumental in developing a partnership with the football coaches at Clemson University and the University of Georgia aimed at reducing drowning among males 18-45 age group. The coaches endorsed the use of water safety messages on football schedules, bumper stickers and billboards in the region. Another initiative created by Ranger Grant, used during the winter months, was a slogan, "The one jacket you can wear year round," later adopted by the Portland, Oregon District ended up on busses throughout the city.

Ranger Grant's leadership on significant water safety issues earned her a 2007 National Water Safety Congress Letter of Commendation, in an awards recognition open to all federal and state agencies and private sector companies and organizations involved with promoting water safety. Currently, Ranger Grant's duties include water safety coordination, special events and program coordinator, public information printed material, safety outreach coordinator and internet web page master for the Corps' Hartwell, Russell and J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake Projects.

She graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Parks and Recreation Administration. Previously, she worked with the Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service in Massachusetts.

Ranger Grant, her husband Jim and sons Jimmy and Logan, reside in Hartwell, Ga.

## LHA Goals for 2008

*Submitted by the LHA Board*

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

### President and Board

- Fill all open director positions with highly qualified candidates and develop a candidate pool within the committees.
- Identify candidates and develop a succession plan for officer positions.
- Recruit an LHA business member representative for a director position to help interface with business members and bring their ideas/concerns to the board.
- Fully implement the processes for recruitment and committee functions to increase organizational effectiveness.
- Develop a plan to increase LHA visibility in the community, focused on building membership and increasing credibility and influence.
- Develop an LHA strategy and position regarding commercial and large-scale development around the lake and engage in any development activity to ensure minimal impact on the natural and aesthetic value of the lake with no adverse water quality impact.

### Technical

- Work with the Riverkeeper organization, implement a Covekeeper program to enhance monitoring of water quality and enhance members' water knowledge and engagement.
- Interface with the Corps of Engineers to address effective water level management and develop long-term optimum strategies through completion of Phase 2 of the Basin Comprehensive Study.
- Advocate for best uses of PCB settlement funds to provide maximum benefit to the natural resources of Lake Hartwell.
- Advocate for more proactive approaches by the Corps in assessing drought strategies which better protect the basin and preserve water supplies.

### Webmaster

- Continue to optimize the LHA website to make it more effective for users and provide a favorable image for the organization.
- Make the website an effective tool for LHA operations by providing information access for board and committee members including director book data.

### Membership

- Conduct an evergreen member recruiting process to ensure sustained growth of LHA and achieve budgeted membership

income and increase membership by 5%.

- Enhance benefits for LHA business members to encourage membership by business partners who can provide value to the organization.
- Continue business membership drive to increase business memberships by 25%.

### Programs

- Identify and implement new programs and activities to improve the image of LHA and Lake Hartwell.
- Conduct a series of water forums at various locations around the lake.
- Develop materials to better inform members and potential new residents of key provisions in the Shoreline Management plan, coordinated with the Corps
- Manage and support all LHA member meetings and activities to provide good value and informative presentations.

### Publications

- Investigate and evaluate the potential for business member advertising in the newsletter and on the website in order to defray operating costs.
- Increase member use of email services for newsletter and notices to reduce LHA costs and improve timeliness of information.

### Safety

- Maintain the boat ramp bulletin boards and reactivate the child life-jacket loaner program.
- Keep members informed of upcoming boating safety courses in the area through the LHA website and arrange for a Skipper Saver course through the local Power Squadrons.

### Treasurer

- Formally document LHA financial processes including budget development, auditing and tax filing and develop on-demand, user-friendly financial statements.

### Legislative

- Ensure that outcomes from the Georgia water planning process safeguard our water resources particularly through stringent controls on interbasin transfers, and seek LHA representation on the Regional Water Planning Committee.
- Lobby federal and state representatives to provide funding for Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Basin Study to better protect water levels in Lake Hartwell.
- Provide leadership and support to achieve legislative approval of the South Carolina Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Act, HB 4393 and SB 925.
- Provide input and support to the Hartwell Chamber and Municipal Coalition's project to conduct an economic impact analysis for Hartwell Lake.

### Corps Extends Season at 4 Campgrounds

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Hartwell Lake is extending camping seasons at four campgrounds: Twin Lakes in Pickens County, S.C., Springfield in Anderson County, S.C. and Watsadler and Paynes Creek both in Hart County, Ga. Twin Lakes and Watsadler will now remain open until Nov. 30, Springfield will remain open until Oct. 31 and Paynes Creek will be open until Sept. 9, 2008.

Paynes Creek was originally scheduled to close July 9 and Twin Lakes, Springfield and Watsadler Campgrounds were originally scheduled to close on Sept. 9.

Many Corps lakes throughout the southeast are operating under significant budget restrictions this year. As part of an overall cost savings plan at Hartwell Lake, the Corps identified several parks and campgrounds for possible closures or shorter operating seasons to meet reduced funding levels.

“Our intent has been to serve as many of our customers as possible by focusing our efforts on the parks and campgrounds that receive the highest visitation and only opening these areas during the busiest portion of the recreation season, which historically is Memorial Day through Labor Day” said Scott Kelley, a natural resources specialist for the Hartwell project. “Twin Lakes, Springfield, Watsadler and Paynes Creek were included for season reductions. However, due to the ability to save money in various areas of operation during the beginning of the 2008 budget year, the Hartwell Project is pleased to announce the extension of these camping seasons.”

Reservations for campsites are made through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) by calling (toll-free) 877-444-6777 or on the web at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). For more information about Hartwell Lake, please contact the Hartwell Lake Operations Manager’s Office at 706-856-0300 or toll-free at 888-893-0678.

### Hartwell’s Watsadler Campground Ranked Among Top in the Nation

The US Army Corps of Engineer's Watsadler campground at Lake Hartwell was ranked one of the 100 best campgrounds in the nation by ReserveAmerica.

Watsadler Campground in Georgia was among the honored for the second straight year in ReserveAmerica’s annual “America’s Top 100 Family Campgrounds” list. Watsadler, which has 51 camp sites, was awarded based on criteria requested by family campers, including amenities, scenery, educational facilities that are located within 100 miles of metro locations.

Watsadler is a year-round campground located near the Hartwell Dam overlooking the "Big Water" section of Lake Hartwell. Each of the campground’s 51 sites has electric (50-amp) and water hook ups, and 49 have waterfront views. This campground features single and double sites. Other amenities at this campground include shower and restroom facilities, dump station, pay phone, playgrounds, park attendant and a boat ramp with courtesy dock and security lighting.

Watsadler was the only campground in Georgia to make the 2008 list which included National Park Service locations for the first time.

ReserveAmerica takes reservations for 150,000 state and federal campgrounds throughout the nation. Reservations can be made by calling 1-877-444-6777, on line at [ReserveAmerica.com](http://ReserveAmerica.com), or at each campground gatehouse. For questions concerning Hartwell Lake parks, call the Hartwell Dam and Lake Office at 1-888-893-0678 or (706) 856-0300.

### USGS Real-time Gages Now Operational on Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond Lakes.

*Submitted by Vern Sauer*

The U. S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, operates three new gages, one each on Hartwell Lake, Russell Lake, and Thurmond Lake. Real time data are available from each gage at the following internet sites:

Hartwell Lake near Anderson, SC (This gage is located in the vicinity of the Western Carolina Sailing Club)  
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?02187010>

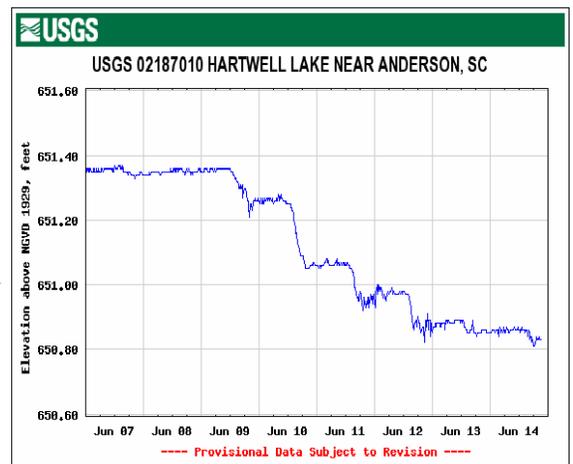
Russell Lake above Calhoun Falls, SC  
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?02188100>

Thurmond Lake near Plum Branch, SC  
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?02193900>

Each of these gages collects and displays real-time data for lake elevation, relative humidity, air temperature, rainfall, wind speed and wind direction. In addition, the Hartwell Lake gage displays

solar radiation data. If you want to see only lake elevation, just select that parameter and de-select all of the others. Complete data can be displayed as tabular or graphical for a time interval of your choosing up to 31 days. For instance, to see the lake stage for the past

14 days you simply enter 14 days in the heading table, and click on GO. You can also get a summary of all available data for the period of record. Have fun.



## Water Issues Require Continued Conversation

By Juan Brown

*The following article appeared in the April 1, 2008 edition of the Anderson Independent Mail and is re-printed with approval of the author. Juan Brown is a retired physician and past chairman of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce Water Resource Committee and is a member of the chamber's Executive Committee. He is also past chairman of the Anderson Art Council and the Anderson County Economic Development Advisory Board.*

I met recently with strong, dedicated professional leaders concerning Hartwell Lake levels and the Savannah River Basin. The meeting was arranged by Congressman Gresham Barrett and included Mike Gray of the Hartwell Lake Coalition, Mike Massey, past president of the Lake Hartwell Association (LHA) and Joe Brenner president of LHA.

Congressman Barrett asked us to speak with the Commander of the Savannah River Corp of Engineers, Colonel Edward J. Kertis and five of his staff and Virgil Hobbs, director of this region.



Juan Brown

First of all we were assured that power production was not the reason that 2.3 billion gallons (3600cfs) of water is released daily. This is an amount that is required to keep the Savannah River Basin healthy. In fact SEPA now buys electricity from other power companies to fulfill their contracts. Colonel Kertis recognized that this flow level is based on out of date studies and announced that the Corp has arranged a meeting with scientific stakeholders to discuss what measures are necessary to reach a safe and adequate flow. In other words can it be decreased to 3000cfs or even lower in order to protect the water in the lakes. We also came to understand that the lower part of the basin has no understanding of our concerns about lake levels since he quoted, "They don't care whether our docks are floating or not." Our viewpoint is that the longer we can protect the water level the longer water will be available downstream. We also discussed the problems that would occur if we ever reached level four (4) emphasizing that the only flow at that time would equal Lake Hartwell inflow.

As an aside the National Weather Bureau is not predicting any significant rainfall until late winter so it is a mute point about our floating docks.

We also discussed Parks and Recreation closings including ramps around the lake. Colonel Kertis emphasized that the Corp is the only Federal organization that is not allowed to keep their collected park fees. Congressman Barrett is going to work to change this so that these fees can be spent in the district where they are generated.

It seems that since the 1950's scientific and engineering groups

have been warning of the impending water shortage in America. South Carolina is not responding since our present governor has not put any emphasis on the shortage except forming a Water Committee several years ago. Meanwhile Georgia and North Carolina are far ahead of our state in plans and commitments for water shortages. Mike Massey emphasized this and discussed some of the legislative bills that are now being considered in the State House.

Mike Gray discussed the cooperation that we are experiencing with the Lake Hartwell Alliance and the Corp of Engineers that has not been available in the past suggesting that we need to include the lower part of the basin in these conversations.

Joe Brenner emphasized that we don't have 2-5 years for studies to be accomplished but we need leadership and decisions now. Colonel Kertis is trying to do his part but he is hampered by a bureaucracy level that most Americans couldn't believe existed. So what did we get out of this meeting?

I think Colonel Kertis is genuinely concerned about our problems and will work with us to solve this bureaucratic dilemma as well as satisfy the fears of the lower part of the Savannah River Basin. We can accomplish this by keeping open all communication with the stakeholders in the basin and improve our knowledge of their concerns. Communication with SEPA has to be improved since we don't understand why they start selling power at full pool even with poor weather predictions. We probably need to go to lower releases (3600cfs) sooner.

We need to discuss with the Corp of Engineers ways to prevent the automatic lowering of the lake in the spring by four feet. We need to have increased interest and cooperation from State elected officials in the development of a good Water Plan especially since the new Georgia water plan has approved inter-basin transfer. We need to work with the Lake Hartwell Coalition in their study of the lake and how the lake levels affect the economics of our area.

While conservation groups in the lower part of the basin have a vast amount of input into the management of the basin, we have no one to advise us in this area. It was an excellent meeting that answered many of our questions and raised many more. Throughout the meeting it was obvious that Colonel Kertis is interested in working with the upstate. Congressman Barrett used his influence and time to facilitate this meeting and we sincerely thank them both. This is a very complex and complicated problem that needs to be addressed for the benefit of our country and our children.

**Enjoy the color, save LHA some postage and save a tree.**

Sign up to receive this LHA newsletter via email instead of a paper copy. Photos will be in color. Printing and postage costs to LHA will be reduced. If enough people sign up we may even save a tree.

**ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.com**

## Boating and Waterskiing Safety Tips

Submitted by Dan Ray

A recent e-mail to LHA from a member asks that persons boating around water-skiers look out for downed skiers, particularly children. He notes that boaters, especially jet ski boaters, who follow closely behind water-skiers or who seek to jump the towing boat's wake really put the skier at risk. Please make sure that this does not describe your boating practices this upcoming boating season.

### Waterskiing Safety Tips

Many water-skiers and boaters don't realize the potential hazards of waterskiing until it is too late. Familiarize yourself with these waterskiing safety tips.

- **Learn how to "talk" to one another.** Both the skier and boat operator should learn and use proper communication hand signals.
- **Keep an eye on the skier.** South Carolina law requires a watercraft with someone in tow to have either an additional person observing the skier or a wide angle mirror so that the boat operator can observe the skier. Georgia law is the same except that an observer is required on PWCs. A mirror does not satisfy the requirement for PWCs
- **Allow extra maneuvering room when towing a skier.** Avoid potential hazards and don't ski in front of another boat or in small coves where the ability to maneuver is restricted.
- **Ski in deep water and away from buoy markers.** Avoid the shoreline, shallow areas and areas where there are several boats or people swimming.
- **Stop the motor when near a skier in the water.**
- **After falling, hold up one ski so boaters can see you.** A towboat should always stay close to a fallen skier.
- **Wear a properly fitted, Coast Guard-approved life jacket.**
- **Display an orange flag on you boat.** An orange flag warns other boaters that a water skier is somewhere in the water nearby. Many boating supply retailers stock orange flags or can order them.
- **Don't ski in the dark.** Skiing is prohibited from a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise.



### PWC (Jet Ski) Safety Tips

- Learn to swim.
- Know the local laws and regulations, including registration, minimum age and equipment required.
- Operate your PWC with courtesy and common sense. Follow the traffic pattern of the waterway. Obey no-wake and speed zones.
- Use extreme caution around swimmers and surfers--and water-skiers. Run your PWC at slow speed until the craft is away from shore, swimming areas, and docks. *Avoid passing close to other boats and jumping wakes. This behavior is dangerous and often illegal.* (Italics and comment about water-skiers added by the author.)
- Ride with a buddy. PWCs should always travel in groups of two or three. You never know when an emergency might occur.
- Alcohol and operating a PWC don't mix. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination. For the same reasons it is dangerous to operate an automobile, people should not operate a PWC while drinking alcohol.

(courtesy of the The American Red Cross)

Please check out the boating safety classes that are available in the area as shown on the LHA website.

## Please Vote

Ruth Anne Marciag has been nominated to the LHA board of directors. If elected she will fill the position of Director of Programs and Publicity. Please vote by mail or email as below.



Lake Hartwell Association  
 Director Election  
 P.O. Box 312  
 Fair Play, SC 29643

Or email your vote to  
[mail@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:mail@lakehartwellassociation.org)

Ruth Anne graduated from the University of Kansas with a BA from the William Allen White School of Journalism and completed graduate work in Radio, TV and Film. She performed PR functions for the presidents of AccuRay Corp, in Columbus, Ohio, and Presbyterian Medical Center in San Francisco, CA. Ruth Anne began her court reporting career in San Francisco, continued a freelance reporting business in Chicago for 22 years, and is reporting part time here in the Upstate. Ruth Anne and husband Jack moved from the Chicago area to Fair Play in June of 1998 and have enjoyed lake living ever since. Jack is 2007-08 president of the Rotary Club of Fair Play; Ruth Anne is past president of Seminole Point Property Owners Association.

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## Thank You LHA Community & Business Members!

Please support the businesses and organizations that support LHA “for the sake of the lake!” Their business contact information, including website links, can be found on the “Community & Business Partners” webpage at [www.lakehartwellassociation.org](http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org).

### Accounting Services

*Robert Foster & Rudolph Rudy O’Neal III, Public Accountants*

### Associations

*Foxwood Hills Property Owners Association - Bill Lewis, Lake Hartwell Sail & Power Squadron - Mary Orem, Leeward Landing Association of Boat Dock Owners – Bobby Medlock, Paradise Point Inc. - William Roberts, Swaney’s Point Association – Danny Shook, View Point Lot Owners Association*

### Boat Sales, Service & Supplies

*Captain Dave’s Boating World - David Strickland, Hartwell Marina & Boat Sales – Brant Tew, Lee’s Marine LLC - Randy Lee, Mike Sanders Storage - Michael W. Sanders*

### Commercial & Residential Construction

*Closet Tailors of Anderson - Robert Colcolough, Currahee Club - Chris W. Whitley, DALCO Custom Homes - Flay Dalrymple, GREENSpace Surfaces, LLC – Bill England, Indian Creek Contracting - Lori Duke Jones, T N Construction Company, Inc. - Thad Strickland*

### Furnishings

*GoodBy-GoodBuy Fine Furniture Consignment*

### Dental & Medical Services

*Dr. Andrew Adams, DDS*

### Docks and Marine Construction & Supplies

*Custom Steel & Wood, Inc. - Don Haynie, Dock Depot & Marine Supply Co. - Richard & Georgeanne Henshaw, Docks South LLC - Bill Griggs, Harding Waterfront Construction - Pete Harding, Kroeger Marine Construction, Inc. - Dave Kroeger, Superior Dock Systems, Inc. - Horace McGee, T & M Custom Docks - Donnie Thacker*

### General

*Robert & Connie Banks, Paul & Susan Meng*

### Government

*USACE Hartwell Project – Virgil Hobbs*

### Insurance

*State Farm Insurance - Terence Roberts*

### Marinas

*Big Water Marina - Jane W. Davis, Harbor Light Marina - Larry Rich, Portman Marina - Dave Freeman*

### News Media

*The Hartwell Sun - Robert Rider*

### Real Estate

*Coldwell Banker Fort Realty - Fort Oglesby, Hartwell Lake Properties - Mike Gray, Ingrid Lee Realtors, LLC – Ingrid Lee, SC Homes and Lake Realty by Victoria McCormick, Watermark Realty – Pat Rowland, United Country-Talking Rock Realty - Jerilyn Wiech*

### Utilities

*Anderson Regional Joint Water System - Scott Willett*

## Encourage Others to Support LHA

Do you know of any other Community/Business entities that share LHA’s commitment to maintaining the water quality, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities of Lake Hartwell? Why not invite them to join LHA today? Membership application forms can be found on each newsletter, inside the LHA brochure, and at our website: [lakehartwellassociation.org](http://lakehartwellassociation.org). You may also email the prospective member’s name to [membership@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:membership@lakehartwellassociation.org), or call us at 1-864-224-5253. We will be happy to follow-up on your leads!

## New LHA Members Welcome Aboard and Thank You!

LHA continues to grow! Please welcome the following LHA members who have joined since our last newsletter:

### New Family Memberships

Gary & Susan Bang, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Barbour, Wes Barker, Robert & Barbara Brohm, Randy & Penny Holst, John Mauldin, Fletcher & Carole Partridge, Peter E. Stevenson, Bill & Cindy Thompson

### New Business Memberships

GoodBye-GoodBuy Fine Furniture Consignment – Susan Savage, Robert T. Foster & Rudolph M. Rudy O’Neal III, Public Accountants, United Country-Talking Rock Realty - Jerilyn Wiech

### Donations to LHA

Please join us in thanking the following LHA members for the additional contributions they have kindly made to support the LHA mission:

Dr Andrew & Catherine Adams, Cary & Deborah Bertling, James T. Bost, John Brausch, Robert J. Clark, David Dashiell, Dr. James E. Dempsey, Vincent & Laura Dillon, Ms. Jean O’Neill, Brian & Margaret Philbin, Lee Powell, Cory & Tanya Schilling, Charles Smith, Dennis Thompson, Chase & Cindy Ward.

Thank you all for supporting LHA’s ongoing efforts “For The Sake Of The Lake!”

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

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Email address: [membership@lakehartwellassociation.org](mailto:membership@lakehartwellassociation.org)  
Web Site: <http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org>

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

Summer  
2008

Membership Information: Check  all that apply

New     Renewal     Address change    Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Family Membership Application Only)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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