



Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Summer, 2009

Volume XXI, Number 3

Letter from the President

Submitted by Herb Burnham



On December 9, 2008, Hartwell Lake was 22.47 feet below full pool (660 msl), the lowest it had been since it was first filled in 1961. As of June 8, 2009, it had risen to 2.3 feet below full pool, **an increase of 20.17 feet in six short months**. This happened with near normal rainfall of about 33 inches in the Hartwell Lake basin. Those of us who have seen some very "low tides" in the past knew the lake would recover...but who would have ever thought it could happen so quickly short of a tropical storm or similar weather event? I didn't.

So what happened? Well, rainfall was at or above normal throughout the Savannah River Basin. But most significantly was the fact that the Corps of Engineers kept their commitment to begin practicing "adaptive management." What this means is that rather than simply following the standard flow rate rules, rainfall that was satisfying downstream needs allowed the Corps to close the dams and hold water in the lakes. In the case of Hartwell Lake, for example, **during the months of March and April, a 61 day period, Hartwell dam was completely closed for 51 days**. As a result we have our beautiful lake back, lake related business is thriving, lake front homes are selling, the fish are biting and families are having fun on the water again.

We, the members of the Lake Hartwell Association, deserve a lot of the credit, because our letters, calls and emails to the Corps and our elected representatives helped make it possible. But now is not the time to relax. There are a number important issues that need our attention if we are to ensure the sustainability of water levels, water quality, recreational facilities and other very important issues, some of which are addressed in this newsletter. We must continue to use the strength of our combined voices, the exceptional abilities of our legislative and technical staffs, the commitment of all our volunteers and the power of our members at the ballot box "for the sake of the lake."

I would like to urge those members from the Clemson area to attend our next regional meeting on August 24, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Clemson. One of the hot topics these days is the PCB issue and the removal of sediment and dams on the 12-Mile River: We will have the latest information for you including LHA's involvement in the effort. The CoveKeeper Project is gaining speed. You will hear from CoveKeepers who have had on-the-water training and are now surveying their area. I hope many of you will be inspired to join the CoveKeeper ranks. Once again Col. Kertis, USACE District Commander, Savannah, will join us and will be available to take your questions and comments.

So, as I did in my last letter to the membership, **I am urging every member to become a recruiter for the association**. Our voice becomes even stronger and our influence even greater with each new member that is added to our roster. We now have nearly 2000 families and close to 100 business and community members, in addition to a very successful "track record" for getting things done over the past 20 years. By the way, 2010 will be the association's 20th birthday! Let's

begin now to make it the most successful year yet in terms of membership growth and the number of active volunteers. Please remember that everyone who would like to volunteer "for the sake of the lake" is welcomed "with open arms." The last page of this newsletter should provide all the information needed to recruit and/or volunteer including an email address should you have questions. The Board of Directors and I thank you all for your continued support and wish you the best summer ever on our beautiful Hartwell Lake.

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NOTICE:

**LHA regional meeting
August 24, 2009 7:00 p.m.
Ramada Inn in Clemson**

Lake Hartwell
Association, Inc.

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(864) 224-LAKE

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DIRECTORS**

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**First LHA Regional Meeting
a Success**

As you may recall from reading our last LHA Newsletter, we're trying a new approach in the effort to keep our members well informed. Instead of the usual LHA spring picnic, we're arranging smaller, regional meetings which will be in a relaxed format with brief presentations by people in the know and a lot of attendee interaction.

Our first regional meeting was held on May 14, 7:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express in Lavonia, Georgia, to a full house! It was a warm evening, and the air conditioning ceased to operate halfway through the meeting, but all 130 members and guests in attendance stayed until all questions were answered.

After a welcome and introductions by Herb Burnham, LHA president, the meeting kicked off with an overview of the new CoveKeeper program by LHA Director Larry Dyck. He explained how the program works and how the CoveKeeper committee had conducted the very first survey of 20 miles of Hartwell shoreline, 3.5 river miles. He also asked for people to sign up if they were interested in being a CoveKeeper, and 22 volunteers promised their time to be trained and do a twice-yearly survey.

Mike Massey, LHA SC legislative chair, reviewed the efforts to develop a South Carolina Comprehensive Water Plan for the state. A major part of that plan will be to create a Savannah River Basin Water Management Council of people who live along the Savannah River. This council would have the authority to impact management decisions for Hartwell Lake and along the complete basin and to coordinate with the Georgia Basin Council with regard to the same. A

council would be established for each water basin in South Carolina.

Joe Brenner, LHA GA legislative chair, discussed the LHA three-phase plan that was sent to the Corps and a number of legislators in March of 2009. In short, the plan recommends a number of ways immediate action could be taken by the Corps which would result in increased lake levels with little or no impact to the water needs in the lower basin.

Mr. Jeff Larson of the Georgia EPD outlined the structure and function of the newly created Georgia Regional Water Planning Councils, and Pat Goran, LHA director and member of the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Council, related his experience with the first meeting of that council.



LHA Pres Herb Burnham welcomes members

Of course everyone present wanted to hear from Col. Edward J. Kertis, USACE District Commander, Savannah District. Col. Kertis gave a good bit of credit to Mother Nature for filling the lake with some "adaptive management" by the Corps of Engineers thrown into the mix. Col. Kertis took many questions from the audience. He explained that we, as well as stakeholders and residents down the Savannah River Basin, need to look at the SRB as

a whole and not just Lake Hartwell as a separate entity.

Our next regional meeting will be held July 23rd or 30th in the Walhalla-Seneca area. We'll let you know about time, place and agenda as they become final.



Jeff Larson speaks at regional meeting

Hope to see you at the next meeting -
for the sake of the lake.

LHA Petitions the Federal Court to Enforce the PCB Settlement

Submitted by Larry Dyck

The Lake Hartwell Association has joined with other regional environmental groups in asking the Federal Court to enforce the agreements made in a 2006 Settlement. Judge G. Ross Anderson of the Federal Court signed a Consent Decree between Schlumberger Technology Ltd and the Natural Resource Trustees for damages to the natural resources of Twelve Mile River and Lake Hartwell. Damages were caused between 1955 and 1977 by the release of an estimated 400,000 lbs of PCBs from the Sangamo-Weston capacitor plant, located in Pickens, SC. PCBs are recognized to have health and developmental impacts on both people and wildlife populations; much of the human concern centers on damages that occur during fetal and early childhood development although carcinogenic risks are known to increase with exposure. The industrial use of PCBs was banned in 1977 but the legacy continues today, more than 30 years latter. Fish Consumption Advisories in Lake Hartwell warn fishermen to avoid the consumption of some or all fish species, depending upon where in the lake they are caught.

The Natural Resource Settlement of 2006 is separate and distinct from the Superfund remedy for PCBs. The Superfund is administered by EPA and involves overseeing a "natural recovery" process in which clean sediments gradually cover and encapsulate the lower lying PCB contaminated sediments. By comparison the Natural Resource Trustees, a group of federal and state resource agencies, administer the Natural Resource Settlement. The trustees include the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, Georgia DNR, SC DNR, SC DHEC and the SC governor.

In the 2006 Consent Decree settlement, Schlumberger agreed to a two-part compensation for damages to the natural resources. First they agreed to pay the trustees approximately \$12 million for damages to fish as quantified through lost recreational fishing opportunities. These funds were allocated 1/3 to the state of Georgia and 2/3s to the State of South Carolina. For the funds to be used in either state, projects must be unanimously approved by all trustee agencies. To date only projects proposed by Georgia have been approved and are underway. The use of South Carolina's funds is complicated by a statement in the Consent Decree that trustees were to consider using some of the money toward removal of a third dam on the river owned by the Easley-Central Water District (see right).

The second part of the compensation was an agreement by Schlumberger to perform a project that would result in the "Ecological Restoration" of a por-

tion of Twelve Mile River. The project involved removal of two 1900-vintage milldams and the restoration of the river to its natural flow and habitat conditions. The challenge in this project is the disposal of hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sediment held behind the dams. To simply release that sediment would have two highly negative impacts. First, it would degrade the river downstream, smother the biota and form islands and extensive sandbars within the river. The second issue was the undesired release and mobilization of PCBs buried deep within the sediments behind the dams. To avoid these problems the Consent Decree spelled out the principles that were to be followed in the restoration. Included was the need to remove and properly store the vast majority of sediments before the dams were dismantled. Sediment removal was to occur by dredging and sediments were to be placed in a safe location where remobilization of PCBs into the river would not occur.

Unfortunately Schlumberger has not initiated this project that has been delayed for over three years. In that time sediment behind the dams continued to accumulate. Schlumberger's current estimate of sediment behind the dams is 600,000 cubic yards up about 250,000 cubic yards from the estimate in the Consent Decree. As a result Schlumberger and its contractor have proposed to undertake a modified project that maximizes rather than minimizes spillage of sediment. They have proposed to remove about 4-6 feet off of the height of the lower dam and allow the sediment to spill over the dam for multiple years. Next, the upper dam would be dismantled following a minimal dredging to insure worker safety, and the vast majority of sediment would be spilled. Removal of the upper dam would also mobilize PCBs, much of which would spill over the lower dam and likely migrate into Lake Hartwell. In an admission to the press, Schlumberger's project manager estimates 100,000 cubic yards of sediment could "leak" in the modified plan. In all likelihood this volume is conservative with perhaps twice this value being spilled if the plan were to be implemented. Keep in mind that a tandem dump truck holds somewhat less than 20 cubic yards, so that 100,000 cubic yards would be equivalent to more than 5,000 dump trucks emptying into the river. To put this number in perspective,

consider the following: if we lined up dump trucks down the 4-mile open stretch of the river between the lower dam and Lake Hartwell, the line of trucks dumping into the river would be 6 wide! That means that every length of the 4-mile river run would receive 6 dump truck loads of sediment! To be sure this would clog and degrade the river which is not in the



(Continued on page 6)

The Economy of Hartwell Lake

Submitted by Mike Massey

The results of a study released in 2008 reveal the economic impact of Hartwell Lake on the surrounding area. An exhaustive study of annual spending by private dock owners on Hartwell Lake based on trips taken on the lake - per dock - was completed in 1999 by the Corps of Engineers and Michigan State University. The study was updated with 2004 figures and released in March 2008. We were unable to get an answer regarding why it was not released sooner.

The study provides some interesting and significant facts about annual expenditures by dock owners on the lake. It also provides associated data for job related impacts and other items. As you are all aware, jobs are of critical importance to the area in these times of a ten percent and higher unemployment rate.

Hartwell Lake hosted over 10.1 million recreation visits in 1999, 96 percent of which were by day users. Non-boaters accounted for 6.5 million day use visits, and boaters another 3.2 million. In 1999, there were roughly 3.95 million party-days of recreation use.

The annual income generated by private dock visits using 2004 figures was \$174,700,000 in direct sales and secondary spending. This is an amazing figure. Secondary spending results from those receiving income from direct spending purchasing more goods with that money. The following table provides a number of the more prominent figures.

Income and Jobs Generated by Private Dock Visits on Hartwell Lake (Dollars are 2004 in millions)

Please note that any NEW docks since 1999 have not been included in this study although a method is included on page 33 and 34 of the study to allow us to figure out the added value. There are many other variables that could be included to provide an even more total picture of economic

Category	Direct Sales	Direct Sales and Secondary Spending
Local Sales	\$69.5	\$88.0
Personal Income	\$20.0	\$38.7
Value Added Sales	\$27.9	\$48.0
Total Income	\$117.4	\$174.7
Jobs Created	819	1,177

impact.

Also note - this study is for dock owner trips taken in good economic, high water times on the lake. When we have low water, a different situation exists and different study parameters would be necessary. It stands to reason that the positive economic impacts would be considerably less with lower water resulting in a loss of income and jobs for the area.

Anyone wishing to view details of this study can go to <http://el.ercdc.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/trel08-11.pdf>

Did You Know You Have a Water Footprint?

The minimum water that each person requires, on average, for drinking, hygiene and growing food is about 1,000 cubic meters per year. That's about 2/5 of an Olympic size swimming pool. Because the distribution of global water resources varies widely, some people get much more than this and some people get less.

Researchers have recently developed the concept of a "water footprint." As indicated on the water footprint web page (<http://www.waterfootprint.org>), "The water footprint of an individual, business or nation is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services consumed by the individual, business or nation."

You can figure out your own water footprint using the calculator (quick and more extensive versions) on this site as well learn the total water required to produce various products. Some interesting facts about our water use from the water footprint web site:

*The production of one kilogram of beef requires 16,000 liters of water.

*Making one cup of coffee we need 140 liters of water.

*The water footprint of China is about 700 cubic meter per year per capita. Only about 7% of the Chinese water footprint falls outside China.

*Japan with a footprint of 1150 cubic meter per year per capita, has about 65% of its total water footprint outside the borders of the country.

*The USA water footprint is 2500 cubic meter per year per capita.

In addition to the water footprint web site, check out the August 2008 issue of *Scientific American* to learn more about the global variability of fresh water.

CORPS/LHA 2009 HARTWELL LAKE CLEAN-UP

The annual Hartwell Lake Clean Up Campaign begins August 14th, 2009, and concludes Saturday, September 26, 2009, with the Clean Up Picnic and Volunteer Appreciation Day at Big Oaks Recreation Area. The Clean Up campaign is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Lake Hartwell Association.

The 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. Last year more than 500 volunteers participated. Clean-up can be done by an individual, a family, a neighborhood or an organized group such as the Boy Scouts.

Everyone who participated in last year's clean-up efforts will receive a letter and sign-up form from the Corps during the first part of August. Just send the sign-up back to the Corps and an informational packet will be delivered in return. The packet will be mailed if trash bags are not requested; if trash bags are requested, they will be delivered or may be picked up at the Corps office. Volunteers can sign-up over the phone, by fax or by scanning the form on the website and emailing it in.

The sign-up form has an entry for the area that the volunteer(s) wishes to clean up. Many participants clean the area where they live; some groups have preferred areas they have taken care of for many years; if someone has no particular area in mind, the Corps can help find a place that is conveniently located.

Contact information:
**Park Ranger Tanya Grant: 706-856-0323 or
 888-893-0678 ext. 323**
www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell

We are all ambassadors for this wonderful resource of Lake Hartwell. Members of the Lake Hartwell Association are especially aware that we need to do whatever we can to maintain the quality and vitality of the lake.

Sign up to clean up and spend a few hours in the sun – *for the sake of the lake.*

LHA Website

Have you been to the Lake Hartwell Association website yet? There is a lot of good information on it. You can find contact information for government officials. Click on "Contacts" drop-down menu. There's also a fairly new page for "Community and Business Partners." You can find all of this and much more at www.lakehartwellassociation.org.

LHA Supports Savannah River Basin Water Allocation Study

Submitted by Mike Massey

The Lake Hartwell Association (LHA) and the Friends of the Savannah River Basin (FSRB) from Lake Thurmond have been intensely involved for years with the efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers and other organizations to understand and manage the basin water resources. The goal was - and is - to maintain water levels in the lakes. Recently, these two groups have been joined by a newly organized partner called Save Our Lakes Now. SOLN is an organization of stakeholders from the lakes formed to add additional voices to the Savannah River Basin water management process.

The goal of these organizations is to support the attempt to seek and identify a process identifying water discharge rates from the dams to make lake water levels and flow rates in the lower river equitable to all users in the basin. Managing water releases from the dams in the basin is now a proven process to maintain and even increase water levels in the lakes. This was validated over the last year when, even during a drought, the Corps agreed to reduce flows from Thurmond and Hartwell in large part due to ongoing negotiations with organizations like LHA. The lake levels increased and the downstream needs were still met without major consequence.

LHA has had years of involvement to try to understand basin water needs and management with the Corps, federal and local legislators, academic institution representatives from Clemson, UGA, USC and others, state water departments from GA and SC, as well as water experts from all over the country. Our participation has resulted in the conclusion that in order to keep the water in Hartwell Lake, we must work with all basin water users to manage and balance needs. Most other water organizations have arrived at that conclusion as well.

What is truly needed and what LHA has been advocating for over 8 years is a full-blown, basin water needs study resulting in an understanding of water allocation requirements along the basin. This has not been done due to a number of reasons – mostly through lack of federal and state funding. Until we have this study completed, we can only guess at who needs how much water at any one time. The Corps, in their defense, can only react to needs (perceived or actual) and try to satisfy all users.

LHA will continue to lobby for a completion of just such a Savannah River Basin Water Allocation Study. You can help by calling or writing your state and federal representatives with a request for funding allowing this study to be done. Your voices have helped raise the water levels this last year. Let's continue the challenge.

What is “Adaptive Management”?

Submitted by Mike Massey

Many of you have heard the term “Adaptive Management” in many LHA articles and discussions regarding water management. This article is intended to help you understand what that means.

When there is rain and high water in the lower basin and the upper basin is in a drought – don’t release water from the dams. That’s Adaptive Management.

When there is a need for water downriver due to a short term need – such as oxygen depletion or an environmental crisis – release enough water to reduce the crisis then resume less flows from the dams. That’s Adaptive Management.

When the whole river system needs water – release enough water to relieve the problem –no more. That’s Adaptive Management.

Constantly releasing more water from the dams than is flowing into the lake will eventually result in reduced water levels, resulting in economic distress. That is NOT Adaptive Management.

Releasing water from the dams according to a pre-determined schedule and amount with minimal regard to a myriad of conflicting needs is NOT Adaptive Management.

The Corps is constantly required to balance multiple, conflicting, unequal objectives in an environment characterized by high levels of uncertainty, varying data quality and availability, and competing models and approaches. This is not easy. The reliability of natural resources management policy and decisions depends on the ability of accurate measurements and correct subjective decisions related to response times, process and policy in an ever changing environment. It also requires a cautious, probing, adaptive approach founded on fundamental economic principles, the success of which depends upon improved understanding, predictive accuracy and iterative performance assessment. That’s Adaptive Management.

For years the Lake Hartwell Association has been an advocate for improving the process used by the Corps for true adaptive management processes in the Savannah River Basin. There have been improvements but many of the variables require significant improvement for adaptive management to be truly useful in the SRB. Items such as “accurate measurements,” “fundamental economic principles” and “predictive accuracy”, all require serious, scientific study resulting in major changes to their use.

LHA will continue to push for innovative and more highly effective processes to managing the basin. Adaptive Management is a major tool in that process. Anyone wishing to learn more about Adaptive Management from a river basin location where it is being used successfully should access the following website - http://www.pnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-13875.pdf

PCB Settlement

(Continued from page 3)

spirit of an “Ecological Restoration” called for in the Consent Decree. The latter seeks to minimize leakage of sediment and get the river back to a natural flow.

The good news is that the Trustee Council has refused to accept Schlumberger’s proposal. However, as of this writing their action has not caused Schlumberger to withdraw the proposal or change the fundamental philosophy. We are counting on Judge Anderson to set everyone on the correct course.

There is one final comment about the Ecological Restoration of the river. The Consent Decree requires Schlumberger to remove two dams and to restore that reach of the river influenced by these dams. The required project will open up about two miles of river for fish migration and ecological restoration between the lake and river. However, if a third small dam were removed it would be possible to open up the full 25 miles of the river to fish migration. The Lake Hartwell Association and hundreds of concerned citizens wrote letters to the trustees that they wanted all three dams to be removed, not just two. Unfortunately this view did not prevail with the court, but a caveat was added to the Consent Decree that requires the trustees to consider removal of the third dam using some of the “lost recreational fishing money.” Hopefully Judge Anderson will encourage the trustees to give this “Third Dam” project another look.

Post note: On July 7, 2009 Judge G. Ross Anderson of the U.S. Federal Court took assumed oversight control of the dam removal project. He ordered the responsible party to follow a strict timetable to complete the dredging of sediment (no spilling sediment) from behind the dams and their subsequent removal. He also scheduled a second status hearing for October 13, 2009 at which he will consider removal of the third dam. It was a banner day for the environment of Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile River. Thank you Judge Anderson.

Upcoming LHA Events

Event	Date
Covekeeper Pilot Meeting, 6:30, Anderson County Library	7/21/09
LHA Regional Meeting, 7:00, Ramada Inn in Clemson	7/24/09
LHA Technical Committee, 7:00, Anderson Library	8/3/09
Covekeeper Pilot Meeting, 6:30, Anderson County Library	8/18/09
Covekeeper Pilot Meeting, 6:30, Anderson County Library	9/15/09

LHA Comments on Augusta Canal License

Submitted by Joe Brenner

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is in the process of re-licensing the operation of the Augusta Canal. LHA recently made comments to FERC covering our concerns with this license and its impact on the entire Savannah River Basin (SRB) water management.

Lake Hartwell Association strongly supports “adaptive management” to control the Savannah River Basin. By adaptive management we mean using inline, real-time monitoring of basin conditions to regulate stream flows and optimize water resources for all users. We believe such an approach would not only have a significant mitigating effect during the current regional drought, but it is the only viable option to adequately allocate resources in the future.

When we have discussed this concept with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel, we typically get a favorable response to the concept, but the first roadblock thrown up is the demands of the city of Augusta due to its proximity to the Thurmond Dam. As an example, when there was considerable rainfall this past year in the lower basin to satisfy both supply and water quality needs, the demands of Augusta and its shoals were used to justify the need for continued high releases from the lakes.

In taking a closer look at what's happening at Augusta, it appears that the real problem is the operation of the Augusta Canal. The flows are diverted from the environmentally prized shoals to supply water to what appear to be unnecessary or little justified purposes. The largest demand of canal flow is for driving the city water pumps in a very inefficient and antiquated system. Granted it would cost a bit more to use diesel or electric pumps as every other major city does, but we are dealing with a critically short resource here. There are also three very small hydropower plants (only one actually serving its original purpose) that are fed from the canal. LHA believes there is plenty of water available to supply the critical needs of the shoals, users downstream and the lakes in time of drought if the operation of the canal system were optimized.

We now have grown to better understand the effects of climate change and the needs of future economic growth and their respective impact on our scarce water supplies. We are also just at the start of developing a Georgia Statewide Water Plan, which will include a regional/basin component. We also expect South Carolina to follow suit with a similar approach. It makes sense to take a clean slate approach to how the entire basin is managed and allow basin users the opportunity to share in decision-making over how their resources are shared.

LHA has strongly recommended that before entering into any new licensing agreement for the Augusta Canal system, the Regional Water Planning Councils should be given an opportunity to weigh in on how effectively these resources are being utilized. The Corps should be given the tools and flexibil-

ity to optimize water management throughout the basin without being locked into fixed flow targets under a license agreement for an antiquated and inefficient operation.

LHA Donates PFDs to Camp Providence

An *Anderson Independent Mail* article described the activities of Camp Providence in providing kids from urban Anderson summertime fun on Lake Hartwell shores. This prompted the donation of PFDs by LHA to this summertime operation. Children can play volleyball, sing, swim, work on crafts and go canoeing. The article also gave a want list for the camp which operates on a volunteer basis. Among the items needed were life jackets for the adults who take the kids out on the lake in canoes. Four adult size jackets were provided from the LHA stock for the Life Jacket Loaner program.

Camp Providence, located on the Providence United Methodist Church grounds, has been operating for 34 years. It runs Monday through Friday from June 8 through July 31. Children are picked up at their homes, brought to the camp, provided with a lunch along with all of the other activities and returned home at no cost to the children.

Many individuals and organizations have donated grants, equipment, or labor to maintain and upgrade the facilities over the years.



Aaron Crawford, life guard at Camp Providence, and camper, Barnett Clark, received life jackets from Dan Ray, LHA Safety Chairman

LHA is Getting a New Mailing Address!

Please make a note of our new mailing address, effective September 1, 2009:

Lake Hartwell Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 2122
Anderson, SC 29621

All other contact information will remain the same:

Phone: 1-864-224-5253 (224-LAKE)

Email: mail@lakehartwellassociation.org

Website: www.lakehartwellassociation.org

LHA Drought Proposals

Submitted by Joe Brenner

Early this year, LHA and the Friends of the SRB developed a strategy to deal effectively with the current and future droughts. We subsequently sent the Corps three proposals covering our short and long term recommendations and have since received a reply from Col Kertis, the USACE District Commander.

LHA's first recommendation is to maintain current flow rate deviations (3600 cfs summer; 3100 cfs winter) until the lakes have returned to full pool. Though the Corps has kept flow rates significantly below Drought Plan requirements since the fall of 2007, we believe the ability to maintain and sustain full pool levels must be demonstrated before flow rates are increased and jeopardize drought recovery. Col Kertis responded that the Corps will consider this proposal, but the current flow reduction deviation was only approved for drought level 3 conditions, and the proposed deviation may require an environmental assessment (EA) as well as concurrence from other resource agencies.

LHA's second recommendation is to expedite the EA for operation at reduced flows (3100 cfs) for the winter of 2009/2010; and to extend the flow reduction period to up to 6 months starting in September of 2009.

Col Kertis has responded that the Corps is already proceeding with the required EA and has requested minimum biological flow requirements from the natural resource agencies in order to assess maximum flow reduction duration.

LHA's third proposal is to revise the Drought Contingency Plan based on the learnings of the current drought of record. Our recommendations are specifically as follows:

1. Reduce flows at the first drought level to the current minimums (3600/3100).
2. Flow rates will be maintained at minimum levels until the lakes have maintained operation at or above guide curve full pool.
3. The plan includes adaptive management techniques to ensure critical downstream needs through instream monitoring and further flow reductions when possible.
4. A transition process is included that defines further aggressive steps to avoid consumption of the conservation pools during severe droughts.

We reiterated our previous recommendations that a study be made to determine actual minimum flow requirements by critical users downstream, with identification of potential mitigation methods and costs to allow lower flows. And we recommend increasing the winter guide curve target to 658 MSL based on prior Corps study data and experience.

Col Kertis has indicated that the Corps is committed to revising the Drought Contingency Plan once the current drought is over. He also stated that any change in the guide curve requires

a reallocation of storage and possibly congressional approval; and this should be done as part of the Phase II Comprehensive Basin Study.

The full text of our recommendations as well as the response letter from Col Kertis can be found on the LHA website.

Veteran Hartwell Tow Boat Operator Retires

Bill Clamp's familiar red and white rescue boat has been a welcome sight for many persons experiencing problems. He is a licensed captain, has been a Lake Hartwell enthusiast for many years, is a Lake Hartwell Association member and lives on the Seneca arm of the lake.



Bill Clamp has retired after having helped out hundreds of boaters on Lake Hartwell since 1999.

Reflecting on his towing experiences on Lake Hartwell over the past 10 years, Bill said that one of the most common reasons for a boater's emergency call was running out of gas. Most fuel gauges on boats are not very dependable. There aren't many places to buy gas on the lake, and the few that exist aren't open all hours of every day. A wise approach is for boaters to figure one third tank to get where you are going, one third to get back, and one third for emergencies like getting lost.

Bill has found that many boaters cannot interpret a chart even if they have one aboard. They don't understand the buoy system either. When they need to call for a rescue, boaters need to be able to tell the rescuer where the boat is located. "By that big island" is not a very helpful description. Some boaters don't know which ramp they used putting their boat in and are surprised to learn that there are more than 50.

Bill's recommendations:

1. Don't leave the dock without checking lights, PFDs, gas, chart and proper towing line.
2. Take a boating course—Power Squadron, Coast Guard Auxiliary, DNR, or on line course.
3. Learn the buoy marking system on the lake.
4. **Always wear an approved personal flotation device.**

The CoveKeeper Program

Submitted by Larry Dyck

Welcome to the Lake Hartwell Association's CoveKeeper Program. The following is a brief introduction to the program and the responsibilities of a volunteer.

CoveKeeper Program Mission Statement:

The purpose of the CoveKeeper Program is to maintain and enhance Hartwell Lake as a high quality water body and natural resource. The program's stakeholders are all the users of the lake including, but not limited to, homeowners, businesses and water recreation participants. The CoveKeeper Program empowers a cadre of knowledgeable user-volunteers to undertake periodic surveys of the lake's status and to use that and other information to help educate lake users about best management practices. As a program within the Lake Hartwell Association, the CoveKeeper effort adheres to its motto: "For the Sake of the Lake."

What's expected of a CoveKeeper Volunteer?

1. To have an interest in maintaining Lake Hartwell as a high quality natural resource and to be willing to share knowledge about best management practices with neighbors and lake users
2. To be willing to undertake no less than 2 surveys of the lake each year along approximately 10 miles of shoreline. Survey regions are assigned but are generally near your home or area of interest
3. To receive instruction on carrying out a lake survey
4. To report results of any survey to an assigned river Captain and to consider the need for user-education and follow-up reviews
5. To participate in approximately 6 bimonthly seminars over the year. Seminars are on useful topics such as the dynamics of the lake, water pollution and best management practices.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need a boat?

Yes, but if you don't have one you can team with a volunteer who does.

How much time is involved?

It depends, but each survey should take about ½ a day; follow-up will depend on what is found. You will also need to allocate 6 evenings a year for educational sessions.

What other items will I need?

We will supply you with evaluation sheets and will help you generate maps to guide your survey. We will supply you with a CoveKeeper T-shirt, identification cards and

educational brochures that can be shared with neighbors. We will supply you with the names and phone numbers of CoveKeeper members who can assist you with questions and will also help you research potential water pollution activities that are occurring in your survey area. You will need to supply personal items (sunscreen, water, PFD, lunch); boat and fuel, data collection aids and supplies such as a clipboard, notepaper and pencils, digital camera and binoculars.



Some CoveKeepers meet at a local restaurant to plan surveys.

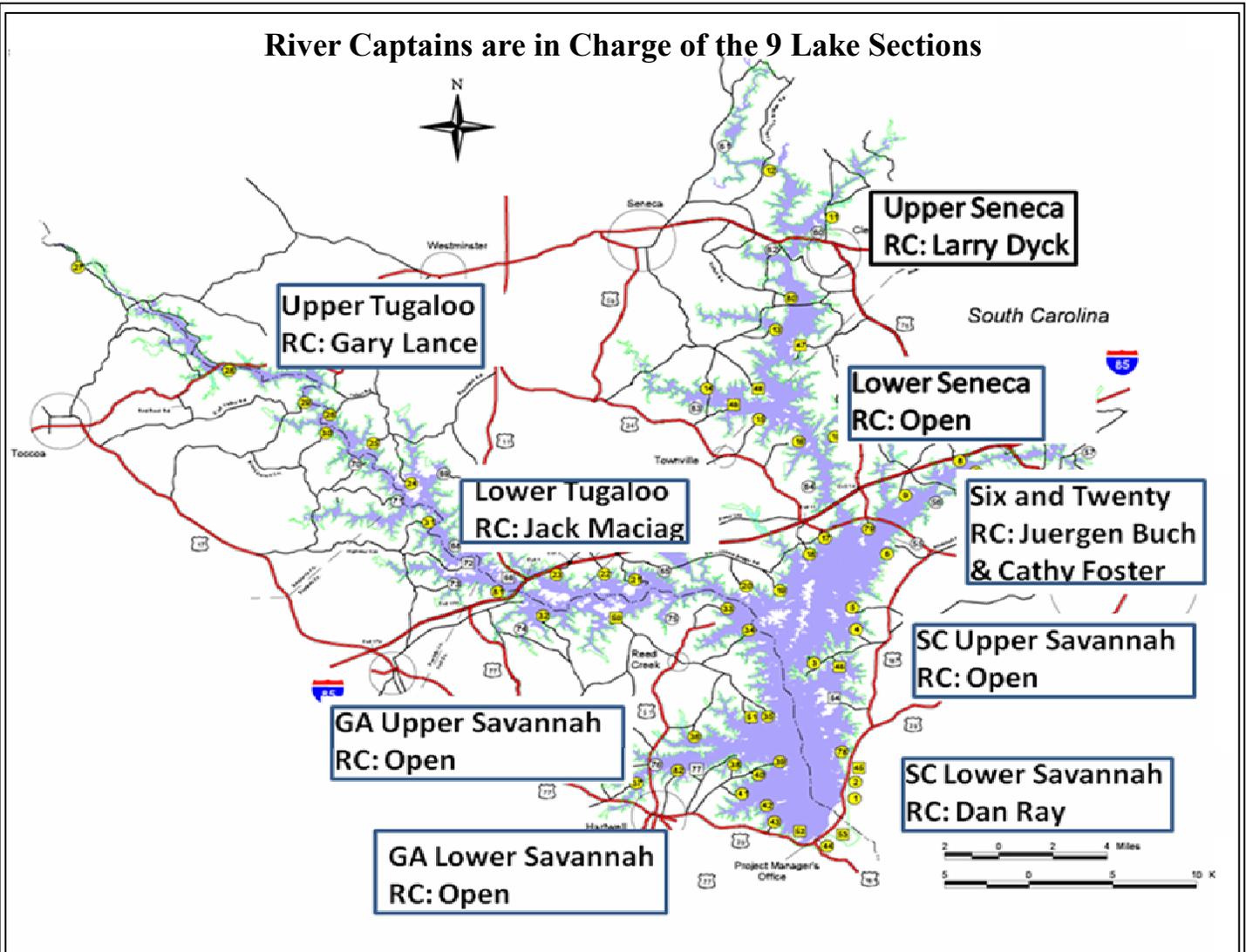
How is the CoveKeeper Program Organized?

All volunteers are CoveKeepers and will be responsible for surveying a portion of the lake. The lake is divided into 9 geographic or river sections with a river captain in charge of each. River captains are responsible for organizing, training and assisting their CoveKeepers. In turn river captains and all CoveKeepers can get help from the lake keeper...that's me, Larry Dyck. So if you volunteer I look forward to getting to know you.

Many volunteers have asked if CoveKeepers are the "lake police." The answer is NO! We're a group of volunteers who look to see if there is pollution or other problems around our lake neighborhood; if we find problems we work with the River Captain and the Lake Keeper to inform the appropriate agencies. We are involved in education. We write articles on good lake and lakeshore practices and use our knowledge to help our neighbors act as good stewards of the lake environment.

The best part of being a CoveKeeper is it's fun. You get to meet your neighbors and other CoveKeepers and you learn interesting stuff about the lake. You also get the satisfac-

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tion of helping to maintain and even improve the quality of the lake environment for today and the future.

Are you ready to volunteer or learn more about the CoveKeepers program?

Leave us a message at 1-864-224-(LAKE) 5253 or either

lakehartwell@charter.net

or

hartwelllakekeeper@yahoo.com

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.

Thank You LHA Community & Business Members!

Please support the businesses that support LHA “for the sake of the lake!” Their contact information can be found on the “Community & Business Partners” webpage at www.lakehartwellassociation.org.

Anchor All Realty & Mortgage - Tammy Mobley
 Anderson Regional Joint Water System - Scott Willett
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 The Bait Shop - Tim Marchbanks, Townville, SC
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 The Hartwell Sun - Robert Rider
 USACE Hartwell Project - Tanya Grant
 View Point Lot Owners Association
 Ward S. Stone, Jr., Greenville, SC
 William M. Callahan, DDS

LHA Membership: Welcome Aboard & Thank You!

Thanks to all our members for your continued generosity and support of LHA’s efforts to protect Lake Hartwell’s water resources, especially during this historic drought.

Please welcome the following members who have joined LHA since our last newsletter.

New Family Memberships

Burma Burch, Roy Beck, Howard D. Booth, Sr., Scott & Heather Buck, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Cartledge III, Steven Chambers, Skip & Linda Clark, Dr. & Mrs. Scott Counts, John A. Crawford, Joe Creighton, Susan & Lance Culver, Don & Lori Davis, Whit Diggs, Larry G. Dudley, Kent & Chris Dykes, Jeff & Roz Eckardt, Bill Eleazer, Scott & Ann Famy, Tony & Gloria Faulkner, Hunter Fleming, Trea & Amy Floyd, Bobby Freeman, Laurie & Chan Gailey, Walter J. & Marie J. Gale, Ron & Rose Gardner, Fred Guillium, Wayne & Ingrid Hall, David Harshbarger, Martin Harkey, Susin & Mark Hartman, Roberta Serena Hawkins, Richard & Betty Henshaw, Mark Hanington, Dr. James & Mrs. Carolyn Honl, Lewis Hudson, Robert & Sandra Hultslander, Bill Huskamp, Karl & Susan Keefer, Patricia H. Kell, Chris Kellar, John M. Kunik, Mr. & Mrs. Dale LaPorte, Larry & Paula Leach, Steve Lusk, Sheryl Lee Martens, Thomas & Judy Mirolli, Millard & Patricia Monnen Jr., Richard W. Moore, Rick & Blake Morgan, James Murphy, J. H. Nelems, Bob & Sharon Officer, Kevin & Molly Parkhill, Myron & Madeline Ramsdell, Allen Ramsey, Mike & Debbie Richardson, Lynn Riegler, Larry Sloan, Rick Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith, Paul Spencer, Mark & Candy Steele, Jerald Stegall, Felton Stephens, Eric & Dee Swann, Lee H. Swann, Jr., Richard & Nellie Thomas, David & Nancy Walker, Don Waguespack, Tommy, Pam & Hunter West, Jeffrey & Susan White, Ken Wilbur, Lilia Georgina Williams, Barry & Kay Wilson, Steven A. Wright

New Community & Business Members

Billy Howell Ford Lincoln Mercury – Billy Howell, Cumming, GA
 Brysan Utility Contractors, Inc. – Christopher Barber, Snellville, GA
 Eric Nilsson, Lawrenceville, GA
 Keller-Williams Lanier Partners - Jerilyn Wiech
 Marine Specialties, Inc. – Richardson Garrett, Anderson, SC
 The Bait Shop - Tim Marchbanks, Townville, SC
 Ward S. Stone, Jr., Greenville, SC

Member Donations to LHA

We are truly grateful for member donations to support LHA’s ongoing work during these particularly difficult economic times. Please join us in thanking the following LHA members for their generosity.

Jerry & Linda Boerner, Burma Burch, Dale & Pam Carlson, David Dashiell, Dorothy L. Dobbs, Merrill Fraser, Carl & Sandra Griswell, Vivian Hunter, Nancy Markley, Sheryl Lee Martins, Lois B. & Gene Masini, David & Peggy Matthews, Carlton Mell, Brian Philbin, Lee Powell, Richard Quinn, Corey P. Schilling, Dennis L. Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Whitney

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P.O. Box 312; Fairplay, SC 29643

Summer
2009

Membership Information: Check all that apply

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Family \$25 Community, Association or Business \$100
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Name _____

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(If retired, check here and give former occupations above)

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(*or Gift Recipient's address) _____

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

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- 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. ⇐⇐⇐