



Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Winter, 2007

Volume XIX, Number 1

Letter from the President

Submitted by Joe Brenner

Inside this issue

We begin the winter season with water on most folks' minds. Virtually no one living on or using the lake has gone unaffected by the current drought and low water levels. Forecasts currently are that levels have bottomed out, and with normal rainfall expected this winter, we should see improvement in lake levels this spring. We certainly hope the forecasts are right!



LHA update: We had a very successful member meeting October 19 with over 200 in attendance. Our keynote speaker, Dean Moss, did a great job explaining the mission of the joint governors' Savannah River Committee and identifying future threats to our water resources and current basin issues between Georgia and South Carolina. We also had the opportunity to present our first LHA Member Recognition Award to George Rogers and our first LHA Emeritus Member Award to Wayne Gaskins. Mike Massey was also honored for his service as LHA president. Please see the enclosed articles.

Your LHA Board held a planning session on November 1. Our purpose was to explore how we can be more effective as an organization and to define future goals and priorities. The LHA member survey provided invaluable input. As one might expect, we have far more goals than resources. Our biggest issue is not money but people resources. We simply don't have the board and committee members needed to accomplish many of our priorities. As always, if you have the energy and time to commit to LHA, please contact any board member or check a committee box when you return your membership form.

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.

With the current drought and water level situation, we have received a number of questions from members related to water management. We have attempted in this newsletter to address a number of the relevant issues in a single article. This is not meant to be comprehensive but should give members an overview of current issues and projects on which LHA is working.

Corps/lake update: The Corps held two public information meetings in December. Col. Mark Held presented information regarding the revised Drought Contingency Plan, and answered the many questions from the audience. There was really no significant new information forthcoming, but it was apparent from the questions that many folks don't have enough basic information about lake management and Corps procedures.

Coincidentally, LHA is starting a new series in this newsletter called "Ask the Corps." Members can email questions to ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.com. We will then ask someone from the Corps to prepare a response to be published in the next newsletter. As a result the same information can be shared with everyone.

Hopefully by the time of our next issue, we'll be seeing our lake returning toward normal levels. In the meantime, please keep your boating safe and watch out for underwater obstructions. If you have questions or comments, contact us by email at mail@lakehartwellassociation.org or call 1-864-224-LAKE (5253).

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Mike Massey,
Membership

**Corps Meeting in Anderson Addresses
Drought Management and Lake Levels**

Submitted by Mike Massey

The Corps of Engineers met on December 13 at the Anderson YMCA to discuss drought management and lake levels in Lakes Hartwell, Russell, and Thurmond. Col. Mark S. Held, Savannah District Commander, presented an overview of the Savannah River Basin (SRB) Drought Management Plan for the three lakes and dams which

high as possible. However at this point, the SRB Drought Management Plan directives will be followed.

There were also questions concerning dredging permits for Lake Hartwell. After some discussion, Col. Held deferred his response until the environmental impacts of the proposed dredging were better understood. He acknowledged that he owed the audience an answer and would follow-up with additional information on this topic.



Col. Held fielded questions from the back of the room filled with interested and concerned citizens at the recent Corps meeting.

are interdependent and managed as a whole basin. He noted that the operating guidelines take into consideration the competing demands of several users. However he stressed that water management decisions are ultimately based on



science including water level data from gauges that he has personally inspected several times over the past years.

During the question and answer sessions, several Lake Hartwell residents expressed concerns about boat dock damage and the potential property value impacts of the current lake levels. The Colonel replied that the basic problem relates to a rain deficit of 19 inches for the year. He added that everything is being done to keep the lakes as



LHA Member Tom Duckwall poses a question to Colonel Mark S. Held.



LHA President Joe Brenner, Senator Bob Waldrep and USACE Planning Manager Leroy Crosby discuss water issues at the Corps meeting in Anderson.

2006 Hartwell Lake Cleanup Campaign: A Huge Success

Submitted by Mike Massey

The success of this year's Hartwell Lake Clean-up Campaign was because of the involvement of over 600 volunteers and over 100 organizations participating during the five-week clean-up period that began on August 19 and ended on September 30. Tons of debris were removed from the lake. This was the 26th year of the cleanup that is managed and coordinated by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers – Hartwell Project. Ranger Tanya Grant was primarily responsible for the effort and did an outstanding job.



A special thanks to the staff of the Hartwell Project Office Corps of Engineers and the Optimist Club of Hartwell as well as many of the Lake Hartwell members who helped coordinate the day. A list of the dozens of other businesses and organizations that contributed to the Appreciation Day is attached. We ask that you support these businesses when you have a choice.

Approximately 200 people attended the fun event and hundreds of dollars of door prizes were given away.

The Volunteer Appreciation Day Picnic for the participants is co-sponsored by the Lake Hartwell Association and is our way of saying "Thank You" to all those who helped. This year's picnic was held at Big Oaks Recreation Area on Sat-



LHA Directors Larry Dyck (front left) and Pat Goran (front right) assisted by members of the Optimist Club prepare to serve a delicious barbeque dinner to attendees.



Ed Garbe, LHA Chairman of the Clean-up Appreciation Picnic distributes gifts to attending children.



The Guthrie Band provided the entertainment this year.

See page 10 for the list of donors who provided door prizes as their way of saying "thanks" to those involved in the annual clean up campaign.

LHA 2006 Fall Meeting Provided Important Information

Submitted by Mike Massey

Over 250 members and guests attended the LHA annual meeting on October 19. In one of the best attended meetings in years, attendees heard a number of informative presentations on a variety of important subjects.



Those attending the fall meeting of LHA listen intently to program speakers as water issues are presented.

LHA President Joe Brenner started the meeting by presenting the first ever LHA Recognition Awards. George Rogers, Special Member Award winner, was recognized for his exceptional contribution to the 2006 lake clean-up effort. Wayne Gaskins received the LHA Emeritus Member Award for his 14 years of distinguished service to LHA. Mike Massey received the LHA Service Award for his visionary leadership of LHA. (See related article: LHA Recognition Awards.)

President Brenner and various members of the LHA Board of Directors gave brief presentations about LHA activities recently completed or currently ongoing. Of significance were the efforts regarding the ongoing PCB reduction efforts discussed by Larry Dyck, Chairman of the Technical Committee, Joe Brenner's review of LHA involvement in the GA Basin Advisory Council for the Savannah River watershed and the Legislative Committee's efforts to monitor and respond to water related legislation in both GA and SC.

The new LHA navigation brochure was also announced and copies were available to all attendees. This brochure has already received very positive acceptance by the Hartwell Lake boating community for its ability to assist boaters in navigating the lake as well as providing other important information and emergency phone numbers for those in need. Thanks to LHA Director Dan Ray for this document.

Virgil Hobbs, Corps Operation Manager for Hartwell Lake, discussed highlights and primary revisions of the new Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the lake area as well as major revisions to the Savannah River Basin (SRB) Drought Plan. Both

new plans are found on the LHA and/or the Corps websites. Members are urged to review both. There are many revisions that will affect Hartwell Lake permit holders – particularly with the SMP. Virgil also indicated that at the current amount of rainfall the lake level will continue to drop. Members can check the water projections on the Corps website.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Mr. Dean Moss, member of Governor Sanford's South Carolina Savannah River Basin Advisory Council and General Manager of the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority. The Savannah River council was formed last year at the same time as a similar Georgia council formed by Georgia's Governor Purdue. The purpose is for the two state agencies to study the issues and concerns as well as current and future needs of the Savannah River Basin water and work to develop a mutual agreement for future water allocation. Mr. Moss indicated that the main goal of both councils is to reach an agreement on future Savannah River water allocation for the two states.



Fall Meeting speakers Virgil Hobbs and Dean Moss answer audience questions during the Q&A period.

Mr. Moss explained that the initial challenge for both councils is that both states first

need to resolve issues of salt water intrusion in the Savannah, GA, and Hilton Head, SC, areas as well as agreeing on how to decide on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations as well. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of specific types of pollutants that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. Mr. Moss explained each of the issues being negotiated and indicated there is still significant work to do in these areas before a fair allocation of water can be reached but that he believed good progress is being made.

The meeting ended with a question and answer period followed by awarding a number of great door prizes.

Door prize winners were:

12-Piece Set Nautical Dishes -
Marine Tool Kit -
First Aid Kit -
Rain Suit -
Steamer Tote Bag -
50" Tube Blaster -
Gift bag donated by West Marine -
GE Blender -
Oster Blender -

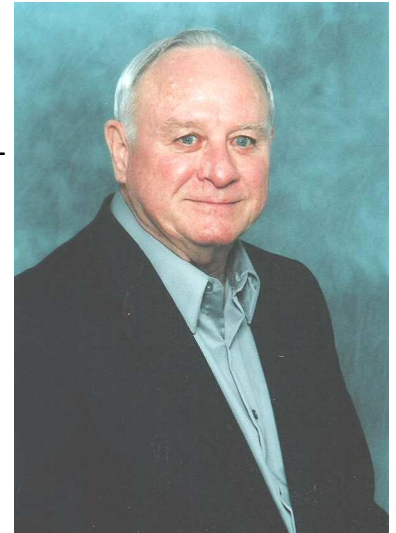
Richard Chalk
Noel Eckert
Sandy Calvert
Dave Gibson
Joan Murillo
Don Hohman
John Janssen
Ken Donahue
Joyce Currier

LHA Announces 2006 Recognition Award Recipients

Submitted by Petra Massey

The Lake Hartwell Association is pleased to announce the winners of the first annual LHA Recognition Awards. The LHA Board established the Awards program earlier this year to acknowledge individuals who make outstanding contributions to LHA's efforts "for the sake of the lake."

Wayne Gaskin, Emeritus Member Award: Wayne was awarded the LHA "Emeritus Member" award in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding service to LHA by serving on the Board of Directors from 1994 to 2005, including terms as President, Vice-President, Safety Committee Chairman, and as Lake Clean-up Appreciation Committee Chairman. "Emeritus Member Award" winners receive a commemorative plaque and lifetime membership to LHA.



Wayne Gaskins, Emeritus Member Award recipient



George Rogers, Special Member Contribution Award:

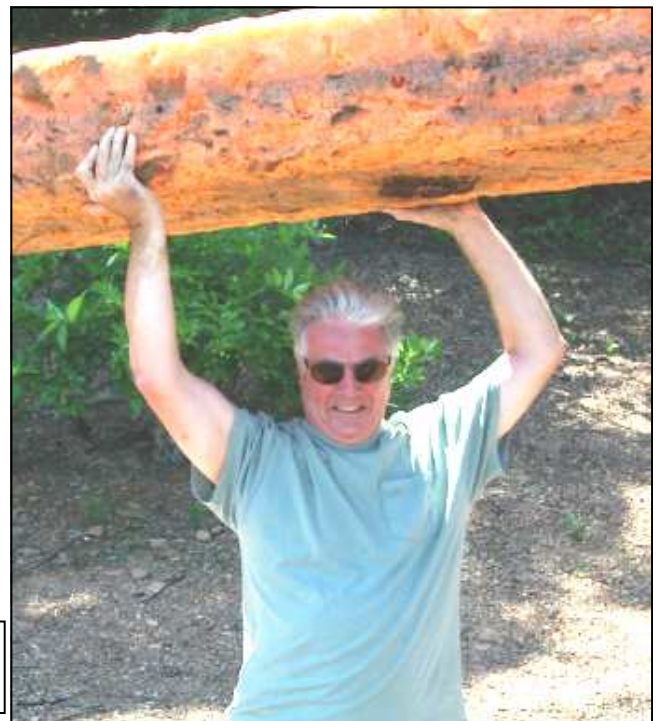
LHA Member George Rogers was recognized for taking the initiative to single-handedly remove tons of discarded white bead floatation blocks from the shores of Lake Hartwell. His clean-up efforts resulted in the largest individual contribution to the 2006 Hartwell Lake Clean-Up. George received a gift certificate for dinner at The Galley restaurant, an LHA Business Member establishment, and an LHA shirt.

LHA President Joe Brenner presents the first LHA Recognition Award to LHA Member George Rogers for his personal efforts to remove hundreds of discarded white bead floatation blocks from the lake.

Mike Massey, LHA Service Award: Mike received the LHA Service Award for his visionary leadership and dedicated service as President of LHA from May 2003 to December 2005 and previously as LHA Legislative Committee Chairman from January 2002 to May 2003. Mike continues to serve on the Board as Immediate Past President and as Membership Committee Chairman. Mike received a commemorative plaque recognizing his exceptional contribution.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking these winners for their dedication, leadership, and extraordinary service.

Not only was he a leader but a worker as well. Mike Massey "got down and dirty" gathering up ice bergs.



ASK THE CORPS....



When water levels drop and boat docks become high and dry, we receive lots of questions from LHA members. The Corps has held public meetings and issued press releases to keep LHA members informed of changes in lake conditions that might necessitate "chasing the water" or trailering a boat. In an effort to make full use of these open lines of communication, we would like to give our members the opportunity to ask questions of the Corps. In each issue of our newsletter we will select several questions and send them along to USACE for a response. Here are some recent questions. Thanks to district hydrologist Stan Simpson for his quick reply to the questions below.

1. Since Thurmond's drainage basin is significantly larger than Hartwell's and NOAA's forecast is for above average for Thurmond and below average for Hartwell, why is it necessary to keep the levels of the 2 lakes "in balance"?

We balance the lakes primarily to distribute impacts to the users on the lakes equally. While it may make sense from a water management perspective to keep more water in the upper reservoir of a system during drought periods, it only intensifies the impact to users on the lower reservoir.

2. Since Thurmond and Hartwell are both the same measurement (in ft) below their guide curves, why is it necessary to continue draining Hartwell to fill Thurmond?

Keep an eye on Thurmond's releases. Remember, Thurmond has a downstream flow requirement. Under the Drought Plan, the flow reductions at Thurmond are maintained to support water quality and water supply on the Savannah River below Thurmond. So if it is not raining and Thurmond is still releasing to meet its minimum flow requirement, then some of the local inflow must be released from both Hartwell and Thurmond basins to keep the pools in balance. Hartwell has to contribute proportionately to meet the downstream requirements.

3. Why were there such huge discharges on Mon & Tues (Nov 20 & 21)?

The Corps of Engineers declares how much water is to be released each week from the three projects. We set the basic day to day releases and provide for some daily variation to meet varying power demands. This water declaration is passed on to SEPA who sets the hourly generation schedule for each project. SEPA adjusts their hourly and daily schedules as the power demands change. Monday and Tuesday had heavy power demands whereas Thursday and Friday were light. Changes in temperature often affect the day to day loading. SEPA still has to meet the Corps weekly water declaration.

4. When can we expect lake levels to start rising?

The National Weather Service has indicated that rainfall conditions will approach normal with increases towards the end of December as the El Nino intensifies. The drought flow reductions will remain in effect until the pools recover per the revised Drought Plan. The Corps of Engineers is adhering to the revised Drought Plan using all available measures within its authorities to keep the pools as full as possible.

5. What is the current status of the Shoreline Management Plan?

The Draft/Interim Hartwell Project Shoreline Management Plan was forwarded from our district commander to our Division Office on October 23, 2006. Approval has taken a little longer than anticipated. The plan is now in the final stages of the approval process and we anticipate full implementation by January 2007. Once approved, updated plans will be sent to all permit holders based on addresses we have on file.

If you have questions that you would like to ask, you may submit them by email or by phone. ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.com or 1-864-224-LAKE

LHA Membership: Welcome aboard & Thank You!

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

New Family Memberships

Paul & Debbie Ashford, Bob & Tia Athens, Larry & Janice Barnes, Kelly & Debby Bollinger, Ricky & Dianne Bruce, Mark Dziuba, Bill & Joyce Foley, Tom & Jean Grenier, Pauline Hicks, Jimmy & Winnie Klein, Jody Leber, Fred & Eileen Mendyka, Richard Monge, Steven & Jane Peck, David & Melissa Plaistad, Tom & Jan Tomtshak, Robert & Cindy Weigle, Jerrilyn Wiech.

New Community & Business Members

Century 21 WaterMark Realty, Coldwell Banker Fort Realty, DALCO Custom Homes.

Donations to LHA

We also wish to thank the following LHA members who generously made special donations to support the ongoing work of LHA volunteers.

Larry & Cecile Dyck, W. R. Berry, Richard & Althea Bishop, Wayne & Beth Bond, Jimmy & Cynthia Brown, Mark Dziuba, Robert Holmes, Mark Howell, James Hipkens & Rob Lamy, Paul & Vaneta Kirsch, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Martin, Randall J. Martinez, Mrs. Frankie H. Pettit, Buddy & Becky Snow, Curran & Martha Stone, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor, George & Nelle Walker Jr., Joseph & Deborah Wells Sr., Chester Williams.

Welcome aboard & thank you for your ongoing support "For The Sake Of The Lake!"

Water Issues Update

Submitted by Joe Brenner

The LHA Board receives frequent questions regarding various water issues. With the current drought situation, this topic has of course taken the forefront. This article provides an overview of several water issues that may be of interest.

Water Level Management

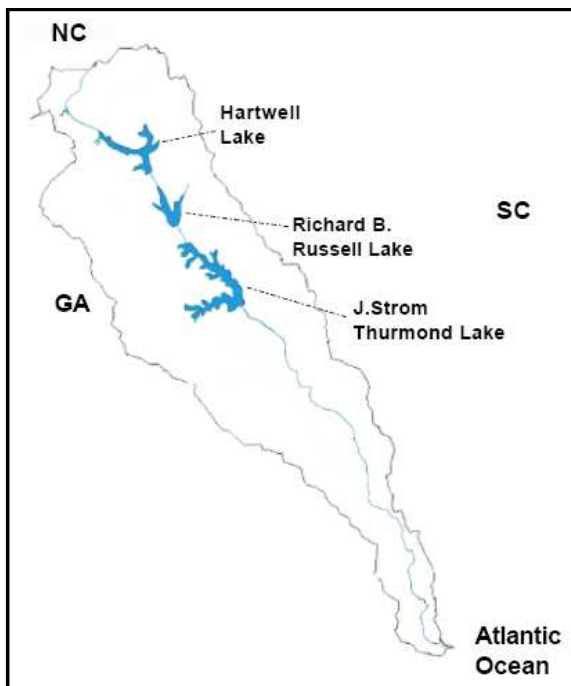
There are many factors that influence water levels. LHA has consistently taken the position that lake levels should be maintained as close to full pool as practical at all times. The lake is managed by the Corps to what is called a rule curve. This calls for levels to be held at full pool (660 MSL) through spring and summer, and gradually lowered to “winter pool” (officially 656MSL) in the fall and through the winter. As a result of many meetings with LHA and other organizations, the Corps agreed to deviate from the rule curve for the past three seasons. It should be noted that lowering lakes in winter months is typical water management practice for mountain and pied-mont lakes. This is done to avoid flooding during heavy spring runoff and rains and is normal practice for TVA, Duke Power and the Corps. The Corps at Hartwell was willing to try modifying their approach and did leave the lake “full” for two years. Some damage due to erosion was noted when levels subsequently exceeded full pool, and the lake was lowered two feet to 658MSL this past winter. The Corps has indicated they intend to continue this practice in the future once the lake returns to normal levels.

Much has been published lately regarding the need to always keep the lake “full” in winter. LHA believes that such decisions should be based on sound science to fully assess the potential downsides. One of the primary purposes of the lake is flood control. We agree there are benefits to starting each year with more water in the lake to stave off potential drought conditions, and that is why we have pushed the Corps to try this. However the benefits of this practice are often overstated. In a drought, lake levels can be pulled down very quickly with similar results regardless of the starting point. Looking at the 2005 data, the lake was indeed at full pool as recently as February.

Drought Plan

The 2006 drought has been extremely hard on lake residents and users. We have rarely seen lake levels impacted so quickly. The area has sustained a double-punch of no tropical rain events and almost a 50% reduction in normal rainfall. In previous newsletter issues, LHA has covered the changes to the Corps’ Drought Con-

tingency Plan. LHA participated with other stakeholders to input to these revisions which involved a two-year process. The biggest single change is that flow rates will be reduced at a higher lake level, 656MSL vs. 654MSL. Unfortunately the revised plan was not signed until after the lake was at drought level 2 this year so no real benefits were realized. The changes would have resulted in about 2FT higher lake levels had the plan been in place.



There seem to be many misconceptions on how the Corps handles lake levels in a drought. The reality is that in drought conditions, lake levels are managed more consistently than at any other time. The drought plan, once triggered, dictates maximum flows that can move down the Savannah from the Corps’ lakes. It should be noted that the plan sets maximum daily average flows out of Thurmond with expected balancing of the Hartwell and Thurmond pools. Thus we can see higher and lower daily flows from Hartwell but the average must be met.

The drought plan had input from and was signed off by numerous federal and state agencies. These groups are concerned about the Savannah Basin as a whole and seek to ensure reasonable water availability to all users throughout the basin. Minimum flows are set to

protect the many municipal, agricultural, industrial, environmental and navigational needs downstream. In a drought these are the flows that must be released by the Corps. There are no conspiracies, and the Southeast Power Authority (SEPA) cannot draw the lake down to make power...they can only generate with the water that must be released per the Drought Plan. If inflows to the lake do not exceed the required outflows, levels continue to drop.

How Do We Get Higher Lake Levels?

There are a number of means to achieve consistently higher lake levels that LHA is pursuing. It should be apparent from the discussion of the Drought Contingency Plan that once the lake level hits drought triggers, there is very little that can be done. Due to the many competing interests up and down the Savannah Basin, it is highly unlikely that any substantial changes will be forthcoming in the drought plan or its approach. Once drought flow triggers are hit, flows are fixed and levels tend to stabilize. As an example, Hartwell dropped about 5 ft from the beginning of July until mid-August when the first drought trigger was hit, then it dropped only 2 ft over the next four months.

Therefore, our focus must be to maximize water levels and mitigate drought conditions prior to activating the drought plan. There are two projects identified which LHA supports to accomplish this.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

1. Lake Thurmond Oxygen Injection. The power plant at Lake Russell has a unique capability provided by “pump back” turbines. These four units can be used to pump water back from below the dam into the lake during evenings when power costs are low to be used for generation again during higher priced peak periods. This allows SEPA to make additional power and essentially “backs up” water into Hartwell. Due to oxygen depletion created by this process, the plant can currently only run two of the four turbines during summer months when they are most needed. An approximately \$5 million project will provide oxygen injection into downstream Lake Thurmond to mitigate this problem. This project has not received federal funding due to budgetary constraints on the Corps. LHA along with the Hartwell Area Chamber and Municipal Coalition are lobbying our federal representatives to support full funding for this project.

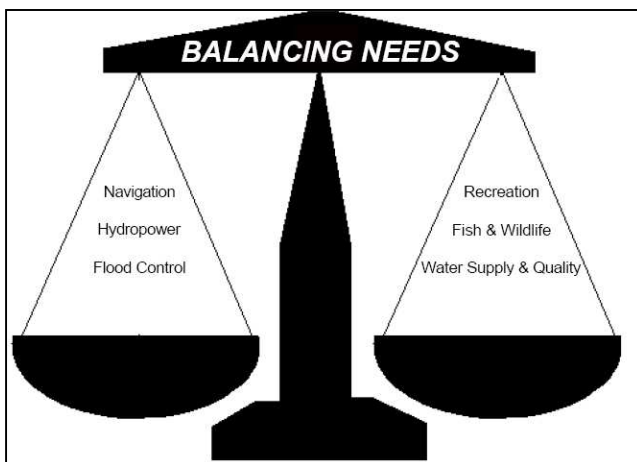
2. Savannah Basin Comprehensive Study. In the late 1990’s the Corps initiated a project to complete a study of the Savannah Basin by developing a comprehensive model. The first phase of this study was completed in 2005, and the model that was developed was used for revisions to the Drought Contingency Plan. Phase Two of the study would combine the water modeling with a complete economic analysis. To understand the importance of this, one needs to see where SEPA fits in the picture. SEPA is a federal agency that markets the power from the Corps dams. The proceeds from power sales go directly to the federal coffers, in theory to defer the cost of constructing the lakes, cover some operational and maintenance expenses, etc. It is often stated by the Corps that they have a number of “equal” priorities in managing the lakes; among them are power, flood control, environmental, recreational, etc. The reality is that water aside from drought or flood conditions is used to make power. The only way to change the priorities under which the Corps operates is by an act of Congress. LHA believes that the Comprehensive Basin Study would demonstrate that the economic and recreational impact of the Savannah lakes far exceeds the benefits provided by power generation. We also believe that only through the data provided by such a study will we get congressional action.

A second significant benefit of conducting this study is the critical input it can provide to developing an interstate water-sharing compact between Georgia and South Carolina. Both states’ governors have formed a joint Savannah River

Committee. They understand the need to develop common ground and avoid the constant litigation that is disrupting management of other basins in our region. LHA has developed a position paper supporting such an interstate compact. As with the oxygen injection project, the Corps has been unable to get funding to complete this important study. It will take \$1.5million from the Corps with matching funds from the two states. LHA is soliciting both our federal representatives, and members of the Savannah River Committee to get this project restarted.

The Big Picture

While droughts and water levels command most folks’ attention because of their immediate impact, LHA believes there is a much greater threat to our waters. As water supply becomes more scarce in some areas due to over development, there will be increased pressure to move water to population and economic growth centers. We frequently hear comments from people in government and regulatory agencies regarding the future potential to move water from the Savannah Basin to Atlanta through an interbasin transfer. An unfortunate precedent has been set by the interbasin transfer to Greenville in SC. This debate has already started within the governors’ Savannah Basin Committee. LHA believes we must remain ever vigilant and do everything we can to protect the Savannah waters. We have prepared a position



paper recommending very stringent controls over interbasin transfers. We joined the Georgia Water Coalition several years ago to fight legislation that would have allowed water sales and trading in Georgia. We are currently participating in the development of the Georgia Statewide Water Plan. Our focus has been to ensure very strong provisions guarding basin waters and regulating interbasin transfers.

LHA recently commented to the Georgia EPD and respective municipalities regarding the sale of water from Toccoa to Habersham County. While this is a case of a relatively small demand, it does represent an

interbasin transfer with potential for growth. We want to make our position clear in such cases.

LHA tries to maintain its credibility in addressing water issues by supporting our positions with facts and sound science. We are fortunate to have some very talented and highly regarded experts within the organization. We try to stay engaged in any programs, activities or organizations that can support our goals and mission. What can you do? Try to stay knowledgeable on water issues. Contact the LHA board or committee members if you have questions or comments. If you meet or write to elected or regulatory officials, try to reinforce LHA positions. We will also periodically ask members to support letter or email campaigns on certain issues. The size of our membership and your active support can go a long way toward getting the attention and support of our representatives.

10 Easy Steps for Safety

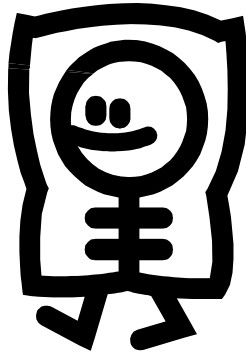
Submitted by Dan Ray

Use the winter to improve your margin of safety next year.

Note: Some of these items are applicable only to boats on open waters but should be of interest to Lake Hartwell boaters as well.

CO Detector: Newly manufactured boats with enclosed cabin spaces (and gasoline engines) should come with a CO detector but many older cruisers lack this life saving device. This should also be on your must list if you have a generator. You can buy them for as little as \$75 for a wired, 12v version. (If you have a battery powered unit, replace the battery each year)

Upgrade your life jackets: Everyone has those cheaper, horse collar life jackets stowed somewhere. But it's a sin to think that they are an adequate investment in your safety or that of your friends or family. Consider replacing those cheapies with a jacket that you think you will wear more often, is more comfortable, and fits the kind of boating you do (\$20-80). Equipping a life jacket with signal mirrors, whistles and signals lights are also very low cost upgrades (about \$33/vest).



More fire extinguishers: If you have a fire in your home you can easily run out of the house, not so with a boat. Adding extra fire extinguishers and mounting them in different areas, especially near egress locations, could help you get out safely and give you a better chance to put out a fire. While they cost a little more, "tri-class" (A-B-C rated) fire extinguishers will handle all classes of fires: solid liquid, or electrical (\$20-25 each). Also adding labels on cabinets or storage lockers that contain fire extinguishers can help everyone aboard find them quickly.

VHF Radio: The closest rescuers are often other boaters, and the only way they'll know you're in trouble is they hear your mayday call over a VHF radio-not your cell phone. If you have a small handheld VHF (\$100-120) will save you installation headaches, and if you already have a fixed mount VHF, think about upgrading it to DSC capability (\$120-160) as the Coast Guard's new DSC-capable, "Rescue-21" system is now up and running in two areas of the country with more regions being added in 2007. Remember pushing the "mayday" button on a DSC VHF that is connected to your GPS will allow fellow boaters to pinpoint your location. Another great feature is that any one aboard can press the built-in distress button to summon emergency help.

Add handholds, non-skid: Nearly every boat could use more hand holds (\$15-75) and a little more non-slid (\$3-11) to help keep everybody safely aboard.

Add a fire port: Another inexpensive safety upgrade is to install a small round window to allow you to inspect an engine compartment without inadvertently adding oxygen to a fire. You can also insert a fire extinguisher nozzle into the port to put out the blaze.

Inventory all safety gear: The "Boaters Toolbox" (boatus.com/foundation/toolbox) also has "Required Equipment" section to keep you on top of the minimum safety requirements as well as additional recommended equipment. Make sure your gear is serviceable and check the dates on your flares.

Install a bilge alarm: While wet ankles may be a good indicator that you're taking on water in a small boat, it's not always easy to determine in a large boat. An audio alarm wired to a float switch positioned three to four inches above your normal bilge water levels can buy you some more time.

Wood bungs: Attaching the right sized wooden bung (tapered wooden plug) with a lanyard to each of your thru-hulls can stop a leak quickly and you won't waste precious time looking for them (\$11).

Continuing "Ed": If you have never taken a basic boating course from the U.S. Power Squadrons or the U.S. Coast Guard, there is no better time than the winter. You can find classes near you by going to the BoatU.S. Foundation's course line at boatus.com/courseline. More classes are offered in the winter so now is the time sign up.

If you'd rather stay inside by the fire with a cup of hot chocolate, you can take the BoatU.S. Foundation's free online safety course (boatus.org/onlinecourse). Don't worry if your time is limited. You can start, stop and pickup where you left off at any time.

The foundation's free online "Toolbox" (boatus.com/foundation/toolbox) also has a great interactive "Rules of the Road" section.

Reprinted with permission from the "BoatU.S. Magazine, November 2006 issue.

Lake Hartwell Association is a participating group with BoatU.S. and LHA members can receive a discounted membership (\$12.50). Show Participating group number GA8309B on your application. For a limited time BoatU.S. members receive a discount on selected safety related items at West Marine stores. (Go to West-Marine.com/wintersafety)

Thank You

LHA Community/Business Members

Please join us in thanking and supporting our LHA Community/Business Members:

Anderson Regional Joint Water System – Scott Willet
 Robert & Connie Banks
 Century 21 Watermark Realty – Pat Rowland
 Coldwell Banker Fort Realty – Fort Oglesby
 Currahee Partners – Chris Whitley
 DALCO Custom Homes – Flay Dalrymple
 Foxwood Hills Property Owners Association –
 Bill Lewis, Mgr.
 Hartwell Lake Properties – Mike Gray
 Lake Home Renovations – Paul A. Erickson
 Leeward Landing Association
 Paul & Susan Meng
 Paradise Point Inc – Jerry Lehner
 Pintail Point Property Owners – Sheree Moate
 Portman Marina – David Freeman
 Remax Properties – Charlene & Anthony Lee
 Terence Roberts State Farm Insurance
 Thad Strickland
 Superior Dock Systems – Dick Lantier
 Swaney's Point Association – Tom Williams
 The Hartwell Sun – Edith Gaines
 US Army Corps Of Engineers
 View Point Lot Owners Association

Donors Support Lake Cleanup Campaign

The following businesses contributed door prizes as their way of saying, "Thank you for cleaning up our lake." LHA wishes to express our appreciation for their support. We hope our members will patronize these businesses and express your appreciation as well.

Anderson Boat Canvas	Harbor Light Marina
Anderson County Safe Kids Coalition	Hartwell Marina & Boat Sales
Anderson Federal Credit Union	L & J Hardware and Variety
Appleby's Grill & Bar	Lake Hartwell Fishing & Marine
Athens First Bank and Trust	Lee's Marine
Athens First Bank and Trust	Longhorn Steakhouse
Bank of America	Nami Asian Bistro
BB&T	Olive Garden Restaurant
Belk of Hartwell	Outback Steakhouse
Big Water Marina	Outdoor RV & Marine World
Bojangles' Restaurant	Pinnacle Bank
Buffalo Southwest Café	Pure Fishing
Captain Dave's Marine	Red Lobster Restaurant
Carolina Beer Company	Siblings Restaurant
Catechee Golf Club	Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q
Corbett McGee's Irish Pub	Strickland Marine Center
Dairy Queen of Hartwell	Texas Roadhouse
Foothills Outfitters	The Anderson Coach House
Fuddrucker's Restaurant	The Gray House
Gip's Manufacturing	Tugaloo Fishing Hole
Gordon's Marine	Wal-Mart
Grady's Great Outdoors	West Marine
Harbor Inn Restaurant	Zaxby's Real Chicken

I'm A Safe Boater. Are YOU? National Safe Boating Council Launches Story & Art Contest

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) has launched its annual Boating Safety Sidekicks contest. This year's theme is, "I'm a Safe Boater. Are You?" The NSBC has partnered with West Marine and other NSBC member organizations to expand the contest to include not only stories but also posters and videos, to creatively publicize and promote safe boating.



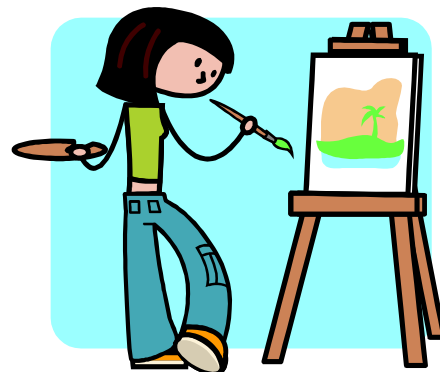
Who? Age groups are 4 to 7 years, 8 to 11 years, and 12 to 15 years of age.

What? Boating Safety Stories, Posters, and Videos that communicate, "I'm a Safe Boater, Are You?"

When? Deadline is 1 March 2007 (postmarked.)

Prizes will be awarded in each of the three age groups. First place awards will give a \$100 savings bond, a life jacket, one NSBC member donated prize, Sidekicks cap and DVD and recognition on the Sidekicks web site.

For all contest details visit www.BoatingSidekicks.com or contact Erika Clemons at (703) 361-4294 or via Email: campaign@safeboatingcouncil.org



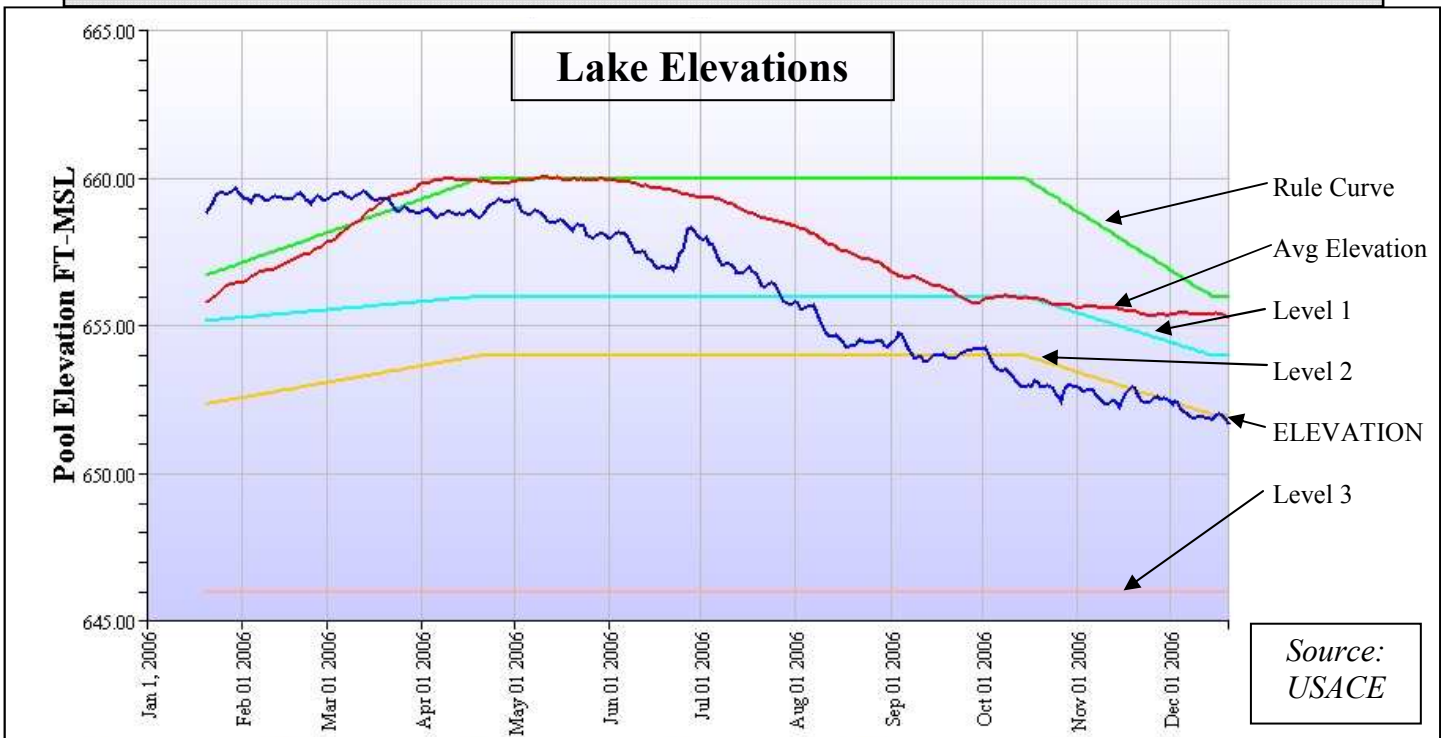
Upcoming Events for LHA-Related Activities

Event	Date
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St, Room 108, Hartwell, GA	1/8/07
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library, 300 N. McDuffie St, Anderson, SC	3/12/07
LHA Spring Meeting	5/5/07 (Tentative)
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St, Room 108, Hartwell, GA	5/14/07
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library, 300 N. McDuffie St, Anderson, SC	7/9/07
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St, Room 108, Hartwell, GA	9/10/07
Hartwell Lake Clean-Up Campaign Appreciation Picnic at Big Oaks Rec- reation Park Hartwell, GA	9/29/07
LHA Fall Public Information Meeting	11/1/07 (Tentative)
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library, 300 N. McDuffie St, Anderson, SC	11/12/07



Opie and De Reed took this photo from their dock on Six and Twenty Creek of Lake Hartwell. The photo was taken last year during Freedom Weekend in Anderson, SC. The balloon came down almost to the lake. The pilot & passenger chatted with some people in the boat shown.

Share Your Photos: If you have digital photos that you would like to share with other LHA members submit them to the email address below. Include the names of recognizable people and information that can be used in a caption.
LHANewsletter@yahoo.com



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

Winter
2007

Membership Information: Check all that apply

New Renewal Address change Amount Paid _____ Date _____

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

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____
(Family Membership Application Only)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-Mail _____

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

Lake Address & County _____
(*or Gift Recipient's Address) _____

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

- Legislative
- Program
- 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. ⇐⇐⇐

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

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Greenville, SC
Permit # 1371



Email address: membership@lakehartwellassociation.org
Web Site: <http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org>