



Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Spring, 2006

Volume XVIII, Number 2

Letter from the President

Submitted by Joe Brenner

Inside this issue



It's a pleasure for me to be writing my first president's message. My first order of business is to thank Mike Massey on behalf of all LHA members for the great job he's done the last few years as our president. LHA has truly grown both in prestige and size under his leadership. Mike will, of course, continue to serve LHA on the board as past president and chairman of the Membership Committee. I'd also like to express our appreciation to Bert Menees who recently completed his board term. Bert always did an excellent job putting together our spring and fall member programs, and our last fall meeting was by far the best that I have attended.

I want to welcome Jerry Morrison who was recently elected as a director and treasurer. We have a tremendous group of folks who volunteer their time to serve as directors and committee members. Of course, we are always looking for more help. There are no special requirements except a willingness to work and a passion for the lake, so if you are interested give us a call.

The past year was very busy for LHA as many new challenges arose and initiatives were begun. Take a look at the article on page 4 listing 2005 accomplishments to see what your representatives have been doing. Take the opportunity to thank these folks when you meet them at LHA events. It is amazing what this group gets done. There is always more to do as you can see in the "goals" article on page 6.

This year has already started with many activities important to LHA. I was named to the Savannah-Ogeechee Basin Advisory Committee as part of the Georgia Comprehensive Water Planning process. You can read more about this in the legislative update on page 2. The Corps held a Community Leaders Conference in March attended by Mike Massey, Dr. Larry Dyck and me. I had a chance to present LHA's positions on a number of lake issues. Also, Mike, Larry and I attended the Southeast Lake Management Conference in Columbus in late March. This was a great opportunity to network with regulators and other lake organizations, as well as attend many informative presentations. Mike and Larry both conducted workshops, and you can learn more about this inside the newsletter.

Several things important to our members are also happening. The trustees for the PCB Remediation have recently issued a Consent Decree which is not significantly different from the proposed settlement presented last year. Over 260 letters were sent to the trustees by concerned citizens and political representatives with the vast majority supporting LHA's objections to the proposal. We have just sent a letter to the courts objecting to the Consent Decree as written on the grounds that the public comments were not properly addressed. Please see Larry Dyck's article regarding this important issue.

The Corps is also planning to issue its draft of the modified Shoreline Management Plan later this spring. LHA members should take advantage of public comment meetings to give their feedback. The Corps has been following up on the change eliminating non-encapsulated dock flotation. They have audited about half the lake with approximately 600 non-complying permit holders being sent letters. They have also been surveying for discarded flotation along the shoreline. We will try to develop a plan with the Corps to assist in cleaning up the "icebergs."

We will be working on an e-mail distribution process for our members in the next couple of months. We will ensure that this is secure and protects members e-mail addresses. It is becoming more important for us to quickly share information with our members. This became very apparent when we needed to ask for support on the PCB issue. We simply cannot address issues in a timely fashion through the newsletter. If you have an e-mail address, please let us know (ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.com) so you can receive important LHA communications.

Finally, please join us for our annual Spring Picnic on May 13 at Big Oaks. It will be fun, informative and a chance to meet new friends and neighbors.

Have a great year on the lake. To contact me send an email to mail@lakehartwellassociation.org or call 1-706-377-4943.

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Membership

Legislative Activities

Submitted by Pat Goran and Joe Brenner

The Georgia legislature is in session at the time of this writing. Below is a summary of pending legislation pertaining to water issues. You can stay current on the status of this legislation by searching www.georgia.gov.

Proposed Georgia Legislation

Senate Bill 464, *River Basin Protection Act* – This bill among other things provides restrictions to the transfer of water from one water basin to the other. While LHA obviously supports restricting interbasin transfers, we would like to see stronger restrictions than those contained in this bill. In light of Georgia's ongoing statewide water planning process, it is unlikely that this bill will be passed into law this year.

Senate Bill 510 – Reduces the width of buffers or undeveloped land adjacent to streams and rivers. Natural buffers are important in that they help to filter out sediment and contaminants that may drain off roofs, paved surfaces, etc. before they enter surface waters. Thanks to the efforts of the Georgia Water Coalition, of which LHA is a member, and similar groups concerned with water quality, amendments have been made to the bill as originally introduced. The bill has been passed by the Georgia Senate and is currently under consideration by the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 575 – Requires the counties within the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, which essentially encompasses metro Atlanta, to implement a program to replace inefficient plumbing fixtures (toilets, faucets, shower heads, etc.) installed prior to 1993 with more efficient, low-flow fixtures. This bill has passed the Senate Natural Resources & Environment Committee and should be viewed favorably by us since any reduction in water usage, or at least a slowing down in the increase of water consumption, will reduce the desire of metro Atlanta to look outside its area to other river basins (such as the Savannah) for water supply.

Georgia Water Planning

In 2004 Georgia passed the Statewide Comprehensive Water Plan Act which requires completion by the start of 2008. The effort is coordinated by a Water Council appointed by the governor and supported by a statewide advisory panel and a technical advisory committee. Each water basin, in our case a combined Savannah-Ogeechee basin, has input through a Basin Advisory Committee or BAC. There are about 28 folks on our BAC and LHA President Joe Brenner is a member. This is an opportunity for folks representing the environment, agriculture, industry and other public interests to have input into the planning process. The

plan is divided into four sections. Minimizing Withdrawals which primarily covers conservation; Maximizing Returns covering Interbasin Transfers, Septic Systems and Land Application; Meeting Instream and Offstream Needs covering storage and supply; and Water Quality covering protection and assimilative capacity. The first BAC meeting was held February 1 and the second is scheduled for March 21 in Augusta. We plan to actively participate in these meetings and support LHA's positions. The material is quite lengthy, but all LHA members are encouraged to become familiar with the Water Plan as it develops through the Water Planning link on Georgia DNR's website. There will be public comment meetings held once the draft proposal is complete.

Please Send Us Your Correct Email Address?

At this time we only have email addresses for about 61% of our members. The LHA Board of Directors cannot possibly express just how important it is for us to be able to contact members on short notice. We will only send you important information that we feel that you should know, such as PCB settlement issues, pending legislation, water level forums, etc. (In sending us your email address you are not signing up for the quarterly eNews. See the note on page 9 if you wish to receive the electronic version of the newsletter.) We will never sell/give away your email address. We only want it "For the Sake of the Lake." Send it to

ForTheSakeOfTheLake@gmail.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.

Make Your Children Wear Their Life Jackets

*Submitted by Dan Ray
Source: US Coast Guard*

The U S Coast Guard reminds parents that their children should always wear life jackets while boating.

“National SAFE KIDS Week is a perfect time to remember the importance of life jackets,” said the Coast Guard’s Director of Operations Policy, Rear Commander J. W. Underwood. “It is the parents responsibility to keep their children safe when on the water and insisting on wearing life jackets is one of the best ways to do that. Just like you make your kids wear bike helmets, make them wear life jackets.”

Many adults believe themselves capable of diving into the water to rescue a child who falls overboard. This is a misconception. Adults may not notice a child falling overboard right away. Children who fall in may not surface immediately. It can be difficult to locate a child in the water--especially when the vessel is in motion.

Life jackets could prevent approximately two-thirds of all boating-related drowning of children ages 14 and under. In fact, in most states, children under 13 must wear life jackets. It’s the law - under 12 in SC and under 10 in Ga.



Internet Photo

According to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, drowning remains second only to motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 14. Furthermore, children are much more likely to practice safe habits when they experience similar behavior by parents and caregivers. “We have done research that indicates children whose parents wear life jackets around the water are more likely to wear one themselves.,” says Jen Medeans Costello, program manager at the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. “Therefore we recommend that parents not only actively supervise their children around the water, but also demonstrate safe behavior--including wearing life jackets.” The Coast Guard and National SAFE KIDS Campaign strongly recommend adults always wear life jackets as

well--not only to keep themselves safe, but to demonstrate safe behavior for their children.

The U S Coast Guard is asking all boat owners and operators to help reduce fatalities, injuries, property damage and healthcare costs related to recreational boating accidents by taking personal responsibility for their own safety and the safety of their passengers. Essential steps include always wearing a life jacket and requiring passengers to do the same, never boating under the influence, by completing a boating safety course and getting a free vessel safety check annually from local United States Power Squadrons or U S Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel examiners. The U S Coast Guard reminds all boaters, “You’re in Command. Boat Responsibly.”

The LHA Membership Continues to Grow!

The LHA team continues to grow. We are pleased to announce that the people and families below are our latest new members and want to wish them a grateful “welcome aboard!” The growth of LHA due to these new members is greatly appreciated and will allow us to continue our work for you. We also wish to recognize those fine people who have sent us generous donations.

New Corporate/Business Members.

Pintail Point Property Owners

New Family Members.

Scott & Sara Andrews, Warren Davis & Elizabeth Belden, Paul & Eloise Bertschin, Don & Carole Berry, Kevin & Ann Bryant, Edmund B Burke, Richard & Geraldine Chalk, Tommy Cook, Merrill Fraser, Myron & Lynn Friedman, Dianne & John Haage, Joseph & Joanie Haley, Lynne Henderson, Joseph Herold, Bruce A & Elicia Hinkel, Ken & Jean Jordan, Tim &

Gay Little, Scott & Jessica McCraw, Mrs. Gail Mahoffey, Mack & Sandy Martin, Russell & Lizabeth Martin, Wayne & Kathy Mattox, John & Kathie Morgan, John Noval, Lenny Ogburn, Glenn W. Parsons, James E Pudvin, Dianna Salsgiver, Annette & Robert Savage, Judy Stech, Eric Techo, Dean Thacker, Gerald Turner

Donations to LHA

Some members and friends of LHA choose to donate additional funds to help LHA “for the sake of the lake.” Our gracious thank you to each of them:

John & Carol Alcorn, Kenneth Dansbury, Charles A Greenfield, Ken & Jean Jordan, Jerome & Jean Larson, Nancy Markley, Larry Mills, Danny Nash, Jack & Cindy Plating, Richard Quinn, Lee Powell, Dr John Sanders, Riley & Becky Stephens, Branch Banking And Trust Company

Thank you all for your support “for the sake of the lake.”

LHA 2005 Accomplishments and Activities

Submitted by the Joe Brenner

Following are the past year's accomplishments of your LHA all-volunteer team of directors and committee members. The effort that goes into protecting our great resource is sizeable and the challenges are always increasing. If you would like to lend a hand and participate as a director or committee member or provide comments or suggestions, please contact us at www.lakehartwellassociation.org or by mail.

Officers and Board of Directors

- Continued to participate in meetings of the Savannah River Basin Coalition (SRBC). The SRBC is an association of business, municipal and civic organizations formed to protect all aspects of the SRB from Savannah to the headwaters. LHA is a member of the Board of Directors.
- Continued to meet with other southeastern volunteer water associations to discuss issues and identify best practices to assist each other with our policies, practices and goals.
- Maintained memberships in, and coordinated with, other Georgia and South Carolina state and public water organizations to share ideas and knowledge of water initiatives and activities.
- Attended meetings and provided input to the Greater Anderson Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee. LHA is a member.
- Actively participated in the Hartwell Lake Chamber of Commerce Coalition and provided LHA needs and concerns as required.
- Concentrated the effort to work more closely with the Corps on issues of common concern.
- Documented internal LHA processes to improve efficiency on a number of activities including record keeping, committee processes, Financial and Membership.
- Attended a number of local, state and national water conferences to improve our knowledge and skills regarding water issues.
- Improved the internal LHA budgeting and expense tracking process.
- Provided presentations about LHA, Hartwell Lake or other water related topics when requested by LHA members or other civic organizations.

Safety Committee

- Safety articles provided for each LHA newsletter.
- Maintained boat ramp bulletin boards, requested and received letter from ACE confirming desirability of bulletin board program to encourage new Squadron group to continue updating postings.
- Attended Catawba Riverkeepers Annual meeting, Ft Mill, SC, to further publicize LHA activities.
- Met with Lake Norman Commission to compare notes on activities of our groups. This meeting precipitated development

of a navigational and water safety brochure.

Legislative

- Actively participated with the Georgia Water Coalition to develop consensus guiding principles for the Georgia State Water Plan.
- Developed a contact strategy and talking points to meet with all area state legislators to provide information on LHA positions and secure support, met with all GA representatives and initiated talks with SC reps.
- Actively engaged with other lake organizations, participated in SE Lake Management conference in Asheville, met with Lake Norman representatives to share experiences and brought back many useful ideas, participated with Georgia Lake Society and on Steering Committee for the 2006 SE Lake Management Conference in Columbus, GA. LHA will present two workshops.
- Issued a position paper regarding the need for state water planning in SC. This will be included in discussions with SC Legislators.
- Established a Boat Noise subcommittee and began investigating options to control excessive noise, had discussions with DNR enforcement in GA and SC, researched control regulations in other states and developed talking points to gain support from SC Legislators to sponsor necessary regulatory changes and increase enforcement, discovered that a similar project is ongoing at Lake Norman.
- Participated with numerous Savannah River and Basin groups including the Savannah River Basin Coalition and the Hartwell Chambers of Commerce Coalition, supported activities to develop a working relationship across state lines to better address water needs. The GA and SC Governors jointly announced committees to explore issues of common interest along the Savannah River Basin.

Membership

- Conducted a membership drive which resulted in approximately 600 new members and achieved record LHA membership of 2,215.
- Revised the member database to allow for more accurate, efficient and timely updates.
- Continued to revise the membership process to improve efficiency and results.
- Continued to distribute the LHA brochure to appropriate locations as necessary.

Technical Committee

- Informed the membership and the public of a pending settlement for PCB-damage to the natural resources of Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile River.
- Researched both the assessment of PCB related damages and

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

the associated compensation for accuracy with the body of evidence in the public record.

- Provided the Lake Hartwell Association with a position paper on the PCB settlement and wrote articles to local newspapers explaining the nature of the proposed settlement plan for PCB damages to the natural resources.
- Held an Open Forum on Water Levels in Lake Hartwell with speakers from USACE Savannah District personnel who regulate and model water level fluctuations.
- Attended all workshops provided by the Corps to hear public comments on the current Lake Hartwell Shoreline Management Plan and coordinated LHA input to the Corps, provided a set of guiding principles to assist in the revision of the Shoreline Management Plan.
- Undertook comparative research to determine how the Lake Hartwell Shoreline Management Plan compares with shoreline management plans at neighboring lake projects, summarized these findings in an article published in the LHA newsletter.

Programs

- Co-sponsored the annual Hartwell Lake Clean-up Campaign “Volunteer Appreciation Picnic” with the Corps of Engineers. Approximately 36 tons of debris was removed in 2005.
- Managed and supported the LHA Spring Picnic and Fall Information Meetings by providing members with opportunities

for fun and informative networking.

- Provided newspaper publicity for appropriate LHA activities.
- Wrote articles for the LHA newsletter regarding LHA activities and to introduce members of the LHA Board of Directors to our members through the “Meet the Directors” series of articles.

Publications

- Generated high quality quarterly newsletters.
- Provided avenue for member involvement with surveys, essays, etc.
- Generated brochure for distribution to public in conjunction with membership drive.
- Established LHA eNews – an alternative to standard newsletter.
- Revised membership list format to improve distribution process.

Treasurer

- Moved all accounting data to a new mechanized system.
- Developed a 2006 budget based on good tracking and accounting of 2005 data and input from each committee chair and Board member.
- Kept 2005 costs under budget and income exceeded budget through good expense tracking and cost control, as well as substantially increased memberships,

**Upcoming Events for LHA Related Activities
March 2006 update**

Event	Date
LHA Spring Meeting, 11:00 AM, Big Oaks Park, Hartwell	5/13/06
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00PM LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St., Room 108, Hartwell	5/8/06
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library	7/10/06
Hartwell Lake Clean-up Campaign	Aug10 -Sept 30
Clean-up Campaign Appreciation Picnic. Big Oaks Park	Sept. 30
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00PM LHA Office, 184 W. Franklin St., Room 108, Hartwell	9/11/06
LHA Fall Public Information Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Civic Center	TBD
LHA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Anderson Public Library	11/13/06

LHA Selects First Executive Administrator



The LHA Board is pleased to announce that Petra Massey has been selected to fill our Executive Administrator position. The Executive Committee evaluated over 50 candidates for this job. Petra clearly has the best qualifications and experience to fill this new position. Petra has a B.S. in Communications, *magna cum laude*, from the University of California San Diego and brings over twenty years of management and global operations experience in the telecommunications industry. She has devoted countless volunteer hours to LHA projects and committee support and developed many of the membership processes we currently follow. Petra’s enthusiasm and concern for water issues will be greatly valued in this role. Her initial responsibilities will focus on managing the membership process and supporting the Membership and Programs Committees.

LHA 2006 Goals

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

- Recruit, hire and train a new Executive Administrator and have the candidate fully competent by year-end.
- Fill all open Director positions with highly qualified candidates and increase pool of committee and director candidates.
- Working with USACE to develop and execute a plan to clean up Hartwell Lake of flotation debris.
- Form a grants committee to pursue ongoing grant funding for LHA activities.
- Form a Recognition committee to provide recognition of contributions to LHA through active volunteer work and projects.

Technical

- Continue efforts to generate an appropriate settlement for PCB-damages to the natural resources of Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile River.
- Continue efforts through USACE to achieve an effective and balanced Shoreline Management Plan.
- Stay involved in the continuing discussion of water levels, drought management and basin modeling.
- Initiate discussion of Cove-keeper program to provide eyes on the lake within geographic regions.
- Consider options for implementation of a water quality monitoring program.

Web Master

- Rebuild the LHA web page to make it more dynamic, attractive and interesting to visitors.

Membership

- Review and recommend additional membership categories to the LHA Board.
- Coordinate with Executive Administrator to identify and improve membership process.
- Identify process and benefits that would be positive attractions for business/organization members.
- Conduct a membership drive to improve business/organization memberships by 100%.

Programs

- Improve committee working process through greater involvement of committee members in a number of new as well as existing programs and activities.
- Improve image of LHA and Hartwell Lake through committee efforts, publicity and programs.

- Substantially increase member value in LHA through new member forums and programs.

Publications

- Investigate funding of newsletter through ads and/or notices.
- Generate a navigational brochure for boaters.
- Assist in developing a procedure for mass mailing and emailing for our membership.

Safety

- Propose folder on navigation aids on Lake Hartwell patterned after the folder issued by the Lake Norman Commission and apply for grant to fund project.
- Arrange for one or two session Boating Course for members (and others) through Power Squadron.
- Work with the Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron to keep material posted on bulletin boards current and work with marina personnel to assist them with the Life Jacket Loaner program.

Treasurer

- Implement by March 06 an investment strategy to enhance our ability to earn interest on current levels of cash on-hand.

Legislative

- Complete contacts with all SC area legislators to inform them of LHA positions and concerns.
- Initiate South Carolina boat noise legislation by recruiting legislative sponsorship.
- Participate in the Georgia water planning process through active participation in the Savannah/Ogeechee Basin Advisory Committee.

Volunteers Needed for Recognition Committee

Do you know an LHA member who has made a positive impact on Hartwell Lake and the people who live here? Perhaps some member has served faithfully on a committee or volunteered long hours recruiting new members. Do you know someone who worked to beautify some area around the lake or worked with the shoreline management plan? If so, we need your help recognizing these folks. LHA would like to form a new committee to find such worthy people and recognize them with an appropriate award. Would you volunteer to serve on such a committee or recommend people that you know for special recognition? If so, please contact us.

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Corps Holds Hartwell Lake Leadership Conference

Submitted by Mike Massey

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Lake Project, held an area leadership conference on March 7 for the purpose of providing and sharing information related to the Hartwell Lake and the Savannah River Basin at the Corps offices on Rte 29 in Hartwell. This year's theme was "Water for All."

The conference was well attended by about 50 people who all had some form of interest in the basin. Included were members of the various Chambers of Commerce, Community and Civic leaders, Georgia and South Carolina members of water task forces and of course representatives of the Lake Hartwell Association. LHA President Joe Brenner presented an update of the recent LHA activities, goals and accomplishments.

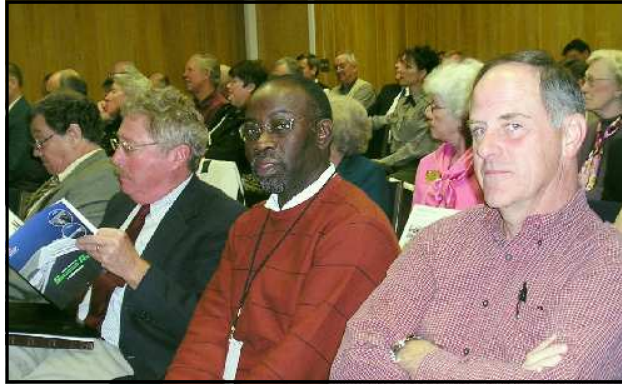
Below are a few highlights which I believe will be of interest to LHA members.

Georgia Water Planning. Mr. Nap Caldwell, Senior Planning and Policy Advisor of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, gave an update of the GA planning efforts. Georgia spent almost two years in 2003 and 2004 deciding how to reorganize their current water administration in the state and deciding what should be included in a comprehensive water plan. The result was a report presented to and approved by Governor Purdie in 2004 for the formation of a Georgia water planning committee. The recommendation was funded by the GA legislature and the committee was charged with carrying out the recommendations. Mr. Caldwell provided the status of the committee and the Water Basin Advisory Councils (BAC's) which were also formed as a result of the recommendations. The effort is well underway and is expected to take another year or two before the actual plan is complete and approved. LHA is especially interested in the status of the SRB BAC and is tracking the efforts.

South Carolina Savannah River Basin Advisory Council (SRBAC). South Carolina Governor Sanford formed the SRBAC in October of 2005 and charged the SRBAC to understand, determine and resolve issues related to the future water needs of the SRB. A primary activity is to coordinate with the Georgia SRBAC and agree on a water planning process and determine water allocation needs in the basin. Mr. Dean Moss, a member of the SC SRBAC and General Manager of the Beaufort/Jasper Water and Sewer Authority, gave an excellent presentation on the ongoing efforts of the SC BAC. While the efforts are relatively new, Mr. Moss reported there is one area of particular concern which may be a major roadblock until it is resolved. It is called the Savannah "Cone of Depression" and is causing salt water to seep into the wells in SC.

The Savannah metropolitan area uses very little surface water for

its water needs and primarily pumps from the aquifer directly below the area for water. Due to increased growth and water usage, the aquifer water level has dropped somewhere in the area of 110 to 140 feet in the last decade or so and is in the form of a "cone of depression" with the deepest part of the cone directly beneath the Savannah area. According to Mr. Moss, this cone of depression is causing salt water intrusion into the wells in South Carolina as far north as Hilton Head and even Myrtle Beach. The



From left to right: Bill Lynch, Corps Project Management; Dean Moss, SC Basin Advisory Council; Nap Caldwell, GA EPD; and Joe Brenner, LHA President all prepare to speak at the Corps Leadership Meeting.

SC DNR has requested that GA start using surface water (from rivers/streams/etc.) for some of the water. However, GA has stated that the cost difference is \$.40/1,000 gallons for aquifer water as opposed to \$1.40/1,000 gallons for surface water. These are approximate numbers but the relationship is about right. These costs are for operations and maintenance. As we can see, the incentive to stick with the aquifer until it's gone is quite high. Some work to be done here!

Coalition of Municipalities on Hartwell Lake. Mr. Joey Preston, Anderson County Administrator,

announced that he has sent letters to all municipalities around Hartwell Lake asking them to send representatives to the first meeting of the Coalition of Municipalities on Hartwell Lake. As this article is being written, the meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2006, at the Anderson County Library. The purpose of the meeting is to ask municipalities to work together to support lake needs and activities positive for the area. Joe Brenner and Dr. Larry Dyck of LHA will be speakers at the meeting and will present the needs of the lake from the LHA perspective. The meeting will have been held by the time you read this and we will inform you of the results in the next newsletter.

CORPS Report. Several Rangers and representatives from the Corps presented the status of a number of activities. Among them were the following:

- Bill Lynch, Project Management for the SRB Comprehensive Study, informed the group that the first phase of the study, the revised South Carolina Drought Management Plan, is about complete and will result in a final review in the May time-frame. Unfortunately, the additional phases of the study which would result in a water allocation plan, have been suspended due to budget cuts from the federal government.
- The Corps revision to the Hartwell Lake Shoreline Management Plan is expected to be complete and ready for final public comments in the April/May time-frame. There will be a public announcement when the comments will be accepted. The Corps is currently conducting a lake survey for docks that may not be in compliance for the removal of the white Styrofoam floats. Any docks found that are not in compliance will be noted and the owners will be issued a letter requesting them to contact the Corps to identify when they will be in compliance.

Hydropower and Trout— A Winning Combination

Submitted by Mr. Jamie Sykes,
Savannah District Fisheries Biologist,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Hartwell Lake water quality has been monitored periodically by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 1962 and, in general, the condition of Hartwell Lake is considered good. However, Hartwell Lake is typical of many southeastern lakes – the lake forms three distinct layers of water in the spring that differ in temperature and water chemistry.* The “hypolimnion”, the cool bottom layer of water in a lake, typically has low dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations by late summer. Because water released through Hartwell Dam for hydropower comes from this layer, the low dissolved oxygen concentrations can have a negative effect on the aquatic environment in the Hartwell tailwater area (the area below the dam) and the headwaters of Richard B. Russell Lake.

The Hartwell tailwater has always been of particular concern because of its status as a “put and take” rainbow trout fishery. Recognizing an opportunity existed to improve fisheries habitat in the Hartwell tailwater through improving the quality of water released during hydropower generation, the Corps contacted the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1997 to assist in identifying possible water quality improvement techniques at the Hartwell Dam and Powerplant. After an on-site engineering study, the Corps followed TVA’s recommendations to install turbine hub baffles and 10-inch air supply pipes to generating units 1 – 4. These modifications, referred to as “turbine venting,” allow air to be pulled into the water as it flows past the turbines during generation. The result is a much needed increase in dissolved oxygen levels in the tailwater.

Water quality information collected in summer of 2005 indicates that DO concentrations are being improved by at least 2 mg/l (Figure 1) during the period when oxygen concentrations are low. As a result of these improvements, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) have expanded their stocking season and increased the number of trout stocked in the Hartwell

tailwater. According to Dan Rankin, SCDNR Regional Fisheries Coordinator, “Stocking later than June was not an option in the past, but with the improvements from turbine venting, we are now able to stock trout as late as August and we have plans to stock right through the fall months in 2007.” In fact, Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Natural Resources now stock approximately 24,000, 9” to 12” rainbow trout annually and provide a viable and unique cold water fishery downstream from the Hartwell Dam.

The location of the Hartwell tailrace fishery makes it particularly unique. Most trout waters are located in the mountains, where water temperatures remain cool throughout the summer. It’s the

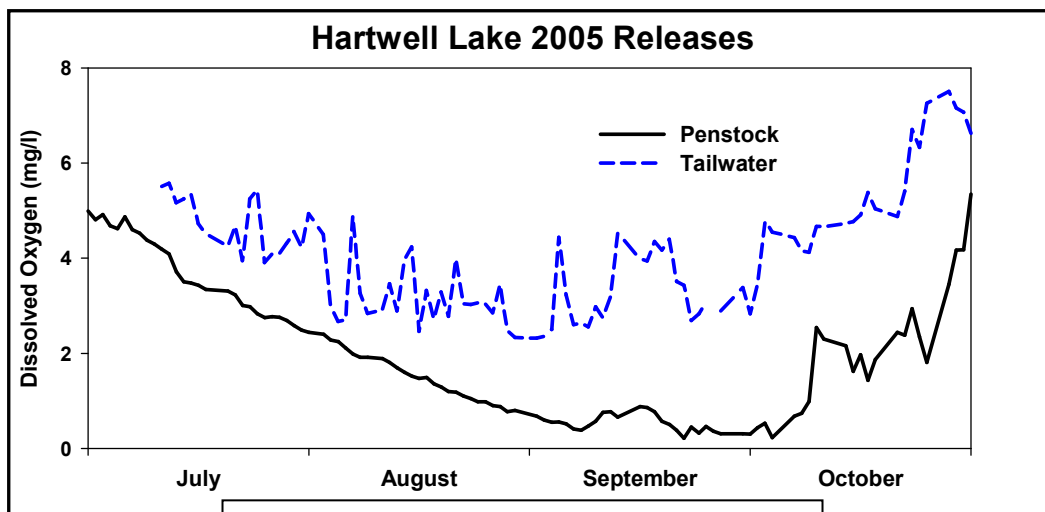


Figure 1 – Penstock dissolved oxygen (before venting) and tailwater dissolved oxygen (after venting)

A survey conducted by SCDNR in 1991 found that anglers participated in

approximately 173,000 angler-hours of effort in the Hartwell tailwater and caught an estimated 172,995 fish, with the vast majority of these fish being rainbow trout. This study also valued the Hartwell tailwater fishery at approximately \$800,000, based on angler’s expenditures.

To maintain the popularity of this fishery, the Corps of Engineers made significant improvements to the recreation areas located below the Hartwell Dam in 2005. Most notable among these improvements were modifications made to one of the five existing fishing piers to provide disabled anglers access to this trout fishery. Five new stocking locations were also constructed and 13 angler access points were improved on the Georgia and South Carolina shorelines of the Hartwell tailwater. These improvements allow anglers better access to the water and should improve angling success.

Through cooperation to improve habitat and innovative management, SCDNR, GADNR, and the Corps have improved a unique fishery. When you think trout, you don’t have to travel to the mountains; you can catch them here in our backyard.

*For more information on the yearly physical changes of a lake, go to <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell/fishing.htm> and select “Fact Sheet” under “Fishing Related Links.”

cool hypolimnetic water released during power generation that makes a trout fishery possible in the Piedmont. The same water that used to be extremely low in DO and a limiting factor for trout stocking is now viable habitat with the addition of turbine venting.

LHA Officers Attend Southeast NALMS Conference

Submitted by Mike Massey

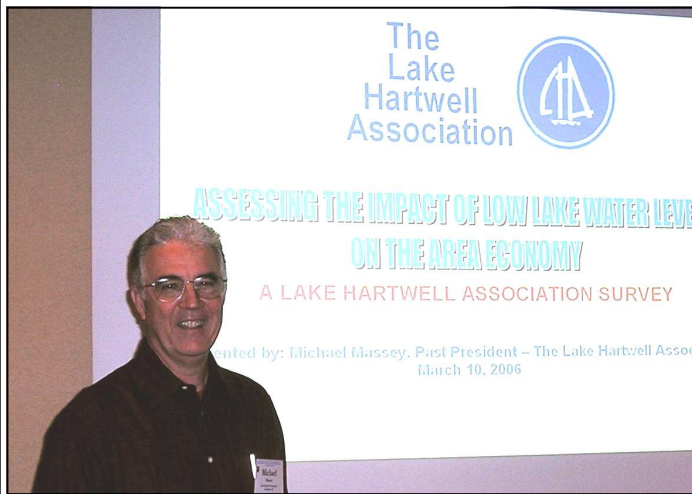
The Southeastern Region of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) held its 15th regional conference in Columbus Georgia on March 8 – 10. The conference was attended by LHA President Joe Brenner, Vice-President and Technical Committee Chairman Dr. Larry Dyck, and Past-President and Membership Committee Chairman Mike Massey.

NALMS purpose is to forge partnerships among citizens, scientists and professionals to foster the management and protection of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow. This conference provided a series of presentations over three days in four primary areas: Water Quality, Watershed Management, Technical Issues and Volunteer/Community Outreach. There were approximately 70 presentations given in addition to a number of special workshops. The LHA members in attendance split up to attend as many presentations as possible in addition to presenting two themselves.

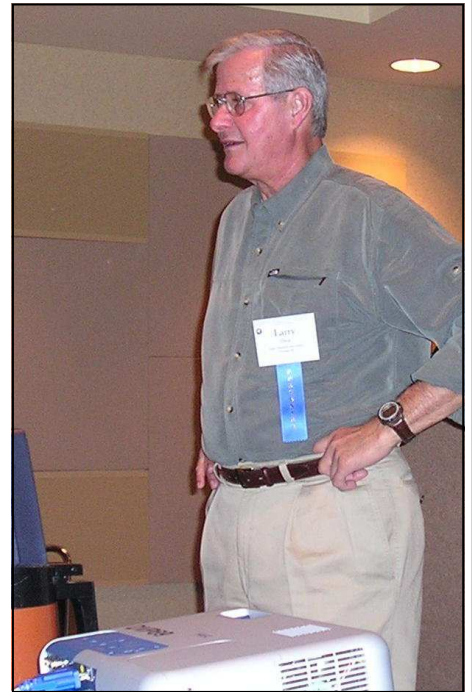
These conferences are important for attendees. They provide the latest concepts and best management practices by those who are experts in their fields to those who may not have consistent access to the specific information presented. Another important effect of the conferences is that they allow attendees to network with other presenters and attendees to develop contacts and friendships with those groups or people who may have similar goals or concerns. The LHA attendees take full advantage of these opportunities “for the sake of the lake.”



Joe Brenner (right), LHA President and Mike Massey (left), LHA Past-President discuss issues with Dr. Stan Meiburg, Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 4.



Mike Massey prepares to make a presentation to SE NALMS Conference attendees



Dr. Larry Dyck, LHA Vice President, answers a question during his presentation on natural shoreline stabilization.

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

Newsletter Available by E-mail

LHA members may choose to receive these quarterly newsletters via e-mail in addition to or in replacement of the hardcopy that we will post. We will gladly send you a PDF attachment of each edition of the newsletter. To receive *LHA e-News* send your email address to LHANews@hotmail.com. We will not distribute these email addresses to any person, company or organization for any reason.

2006 LHA ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

Hotdogs and Hamburgers Provided by LHA

Submitted by Mike Massey

It is time for you to reserve May 13, 2006, for the annual LHA Spring Picnic and Information Meeting. The food and fun are free!

- Are you interested in the latest activities of the Lake Hartwell Association?
- Do you want to know the status of the revision to the Shoreline Management Plan currently being completed by the Corps of Engineers?
- Do you have any questions or thoughts about other lake issues such as the:
 - ⇒ Styrofoam blocks we can all see beached or floating in the lake after they were replaced by encapsulated floats on docks,
 - ⇒ Status of the Georgia and South Carolina Governors' Savannah River Basin Study Committee,
 - ⇒ PCB settlement status?

Want to hear some interesting speakers, have a picnic lunch and possibly win a door prize?

The LHA annual Spring Picnic Meeting is the time to find out about these and other issues and meet many of the people at LHA, the Corps and other organizations.

This is our annual outdoor cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings. It will take place this year on Saturday, May 13, at the Big Oaks Recreation Center, adjacent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Hartwell Project Manager's Office on Hwy 29 in Georgia near the Hartwell Dam. Admission is free and open to the public, and members and prospective members are urged to bring along their family and friends. Mark your calendar now so you will not miss this important event.

The food will be served from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, followed by a short business meeting and some brief but interesting informational discussions. All activities should end by 2:00 PM.

The LHA President and several members of the LHA Board of Directors will make brief presentations of current topics of interest to the membership. Ranger George Bramlette will discuss the Shoreline Management Plan and Virgil Hobbs, Hartwell Project Operations Manager, will be present to answer questions and show support for LHA. We will also have a drawing for a number of very nice door prizes.

This is always a fun and interesting day for members, family and friends. Please come join us. We look forward to hearing from our membership on a personal basis. Mark your calendar now!

RESERVE THIS DATE – MAY 13, 2006!



Hartwell Project Manager Virgil Hobbs discussed lake issues with LHA members who attended last year's spring meeting.

Election of New Director

Bill Elmore has been nominated to fill an LHA Director position. Bill has been serving on the LHA Legislative Committee and has participated on the Boat Noise Committee.

Bill received a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Clemson University. He worked with U.S. Pipe Chemical Research in Birmingham, Alabama, after graduation. He then returned to Greenville with J.E. Sitrine Co. and began working in the environmental area. Bill served as Process Engineering Manager for Sitrine Environmental Consultants and Rust Environment & Infrastructure. He also worked for Jacobs Engineering as a Staff Environmental Consultant. Bill's now semi-retired but occasionally assists area engineering consultants with environmentally related issues.

Bill has lived on the lake with wife, Susan, since 1992. They have three grown children and five grandchildren.

The LHA Board is very pleased to have someone with Bill's qualifications and experience to fill this position, and strongly recommends that you vote YES. As LHA members please vote on the ballot below and mail to:

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

Or email your vote to mail@lakehartwellassociation.org

****Official Ballot****

Director Name (Position)	YES	NO
Bill Elmore (Director)	_____	_____

LHA Opposes PCB Settlement Process

Submitted by Larry Dyck, VP & Technical Committee Chair

The Lake Hartwell Association is opposed to the current Consent Decree for PCB-damages to the natural resources of Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek. LHA's objection was lodged with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. District Court. The Consent Decree (accessible at www.usdoj.gov/enrd/open.html) is an agreement between the Natural Resource Trustees (Federal and State Natural Resource Agencies; the Plaintiffs) and the Schlumberger Technology Corporation (the Defendant).

Between 1955 and 1977 approximately 400,000 lbs of toxic PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) were released from the Sangamo-Weston capacitor plant, located near Pickens SC, into the Lake Hartwell basin. In 1977 PCBs were banned from use in industrial production because they were recognized to accumulate in the environment and to negatively influence the immunology, development and reproduction of wildlife (fish, birds and mammals) as well as the health of humans. Even after a 30-year ban on PCB-use, local residents are aware of their effects on wildlife through fish advisories. Fish Consumption Advisories in Lake Hartwell warn fishermen to avoid the consumption of some or all fish species, depending upon where in the lake fish were caught.

At the heart of the Lake Hartwell Association's objection is the failure of the Natural Resource Trustees to include, or to even acknowledge, the hundreds of public comments they received on their "Plan" for the Restoration and Compensation of Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek for PCB damages. In a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice, Joe Brenner, President of the Lake Hartwell Association, points out:

"Our members are concerned with the long-standing PCB contamination of Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek. We submitted comments related to the trustees' draft Restoration and Compensation Plan (draft RCD-Plan) in March 2005 but have not received any response or communication in return. We now see that a Consent Decree has been filed with the U.S. District Court.

The vast majority of public comments urged the Trustees to: (1) remove all three dams in Twelve Mile Creek as part of the preferred ecological restoration project, and (2) use monetary compensation to improve the resources within Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek...

It is our understanding that if the Court approves this Consent Decree, which closely matches details described in the draft RCD-Plan, then all issues of substance in the RCD-Plan will become codified in a Record of Decision." Joe Brenner

goes on to say, "We are of the opinion that the sequence of events is incorrect and the process is flawed. The trustees have not responded to the many issues addressed through our members' comments -- yet they have proceeded with a settlement, now formulated as a Consent Decree. We view this process as fundamentally flawed."

As an aid to the U.S. Department of Justice and to the U.S. Federal Court, the Lake Hartwell Association sent copies of all public comment letters as an attachment to their objection-letter.

Public comment letters were obtained by LHA through a Freedom of Information request. Comments came from hundreds of individuals living around the lake as well as from recreational, environmental and professional organizations. One letter containing the signatures of almost 700 citizens advocated a vision for the improvement of the natural resources in the most impacted regions of Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile River. Several letters from Clemson University professors emphasized the absence of a current science-based assessment of natural resource damages. The absence of such an assessment has led to arbitrary and capricious components in the Restoration and Compensation Plan. The vast majority of public comments (85% of all letters) urged the trustees to (1) remove all three dams in Twelve Mile Creek as part of the preferred ecological restoration project, and (2) use monetary compensation to improve the resources within Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek, and not to use the money to build new fishing structures outside these areas.

The Trustees have not responded to the many issues addressed through our members' comments -- yet they have proceeded with a settlement, now formulated as a Consent Decree. We view this process as fundamentally flawed.

*Joe Brenner, President
Lake Hartwell Association*

In its objection to the Consent Decree, the Lake Hartwell Association suggested the Plaintiffs &/or the Court follow one of two paths forward. In the first path, the trustees would voluntarily withdraw the Consent Decree filed with the Court until after they responded to public comments. In responses trustees would notify individual comment authors as well as the public-at-large of the rationale for accepting or rejecting positions proposed. The second path would be prompted by the absence of voluntary action by the trustees. In the latter case the U.S. District Court is asked to deny the Consent Decree on grounds that the process is flawed and comments from the public were not acknowledged, answered or incorporated into either a revised RCD-Plan or into the Consent Decree.

As of this writing the Lake Hartwell Association awaits responses from the Plaintiffs and the U.S. District Court.

What is LHA's plan if the Consent Decree is approved in its current form?

In the event that the Consent Decree is approved without changes, we will seek the help of you, our members. We will ask that you write to your elected representatives and to ask them to "encourage" the trustee agencies to use monetary compensation in a way that improves the natural resources within Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek. If and when the time comes, the LHA Board will contact you by email and through the LHA website. Because we will need to operate on a fast-response basis, we need your email address now. If you have not provided us with your current email address please do so today. Remember it's all for the "sake of the lake."

Questions or comments regarding PCB issues may be sent to Larry Dyck (dyckl@clemlon.edu).

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

Spring
2006

Membership Information: Check all that apply

New Renewal Address change Amount Paid _____ Date _____

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

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