



Lake Hartwell Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 312 • Fairplay, SC 29643 • Phone: 1-888-200-4899

Volume XV, Number 2

Winter, 2003

President's Message

Well, it's nice to see that Hartwell Lake is coming up! It's been a long time since anyone has been able to say that, other than the occasional daily increase of an inch or two. Obviously, good old Mother Nature is the primary cause of the rise in lake level as we have been blessed with significant rainfall over the last several months. I understand that we may not be officially out of the drought, but certainly most people would agree we're in a lot better shape than we were.

When I wrote this, the lake level was about two feet below its guide curve (or rule curve as some people call it). Ideally, if you follow the Corps of Engineers "curve", the lake should be at 660 feet above mean sea level April 20th through October 15th and at 656 feet from December 5th through January 1st (during "normal" conditions the Corps intentionally draws down the lake beginning in October in anticipation of winter rains; obviously there was no need to do that this year). I'll admit I'm a little confused about the terminology (is "full pool" always 660 or is it 656 in December?) – perhaps as one Corps representative we should refer to their desired water surface elevations as "target" levels.

While the Lake Hartwell Association certainly can't take credit for the recent rains, I do believe that our efforts, and those of similar organizations, may be starting to bear some fruit. Two recent developments are worth mentioning.

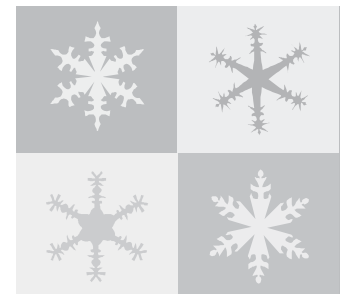
First, the Corps is proposing to further reduce winter discharges from Lake Thurmond during future droughts and has issued the required draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts of their proposed action. LHA has formally commented on the EA, and there will be public meetings to get further input before a decision is made. While the EA doesn't go into specifics about the impact on Hartwell's levels, any reduction in Thurmond releases should be viewed positively by us up-stream. We will have more on this in our next newsletter.

Second, indications are that South Carolina will begin working on an overall water plan for the state, similar to the process Georgia has been going through for the past year and a half. The Departments of Natural Resources and Health and Environmental Control certainly recognized that without the fall rains the state received, several of the state's river basins would have been in

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue

Welcome to Our New Members .	2
Newsletter Editor Needed	2
Time to Vote	3
Mark Your Calendar: April 26 ...	3
Member Spotlight	3
BoatUS Discount	3
Volunteers Needed	4
Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee	4
Boating Safety Courses Scheduled in March	5
Bulletin Boards in Place	5
Boat Ramp Closures	5
Hypothermia?	6
Fall Meeting a Big Success	7
New SC Septic Tank Rules	7
LHA to Survey Residents and Businesses	8
Lake Impact Survey Form	9
Map Available on Web	11
Lake Levels Graph	11
Still Looking for Your Email Address	11
Spread the Word	11
LHA Supports Georgia Water Coalition Report	12
Technical Committee Report	13



President's Message - *continued*

a nearly catastrophic situation by now (the Savannah basin was in better shape than some others). I am hopeful that both states will also work together with the Corps to develop an agreement to share the waters of the Savannah basin – one of the few bright spots of the drought is that it has drawn attention to how precious our water resources are.

On another note, both Georgia and South Carolina elected new governors in November – in Georgia's case, the first Republican leader of the state in 130 years. It is certainly too early to gauge either Sonny Perdue or Mark Sanford on water issues, but from what I've read I'm certainly optimistic that they won't forget about us in northeast Georgia and upstate South Carolina.

Have a good remainder of winter, and a great start to spring. As usual, feel free to contact me via "regular" mail (82 Northlake Drive, Hartwell, GA 30643), e-mail (goran@hartcom.net) or phone (706-376-4778).

Newsletter Editor Needed

The LHA Newsletter needs a volunteer editor to edit submissions and create the quarterly publication. This is an editor position at its finest because all of the LHA committee chairs submit the articles of interest, and you only need to edit and publish. You can work with a professional desktop publisher if you aren't skilled in that area. Plan for about 20 hours each quarter reviewing submissions, selecting and editing pieces, and interfacing with the printing company to ensure timely delivery to our members. This is a great opportunity for someone who may have never done this type of work before, but wants to get experience. We are hoping to transition to the new editor by Summer, 2003 following a transition/training period with the Spring edition. Consider the possibilities!

Contact Candice Harp at charp@harpsservices.com or 770-921-9421 for more information.

Welcome to Our New Members

We are pleased to have our new members listed below. This brings our count to 1,188 South Carolina residents and 1,040 Georgia residents in addition to residents in other states as well.

David S. Buxton
Lloyd Blackwell
Elaine & William Epstein
Kenny McMahon
J. F. Bliss
Michael J. Brugh
Mike Fassell
Edward J. Fechtel
Mr. & Mrs. John Garman
Michael J. Golasinski
Rufus Moss
Henry Payne
Victor and Lois Schrader
Sidney & Richard Armstrong
Lorna Campbell
Judy & Jerry Cannady
Harley E. Eskew
Dan & Margaret Gissendanned
Julie & Ken Keating
Jason & Diana Lum
Patrick W. Masters
R. M. Matthews
Wayne E. Robel
Frank Turner

We are pleased that our membership grows significantly each year, and we can only hope that you will continue to help us grow by spreading the word about our work for the lake.

Thanks to each of you for your support.



How to Reach Us Online

LHA's website address: <http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org>

LHA's email addresses:

general correspondence: mail@lakehartwellassociation.org

membership questions and information: membership@lakehartwellassociation.org

Time To Vote

The LHA bylaws require that we hold elections for our board of directors who serve three-year terms. The only board member whose term is not expiring is Pat Goran; his term expires January, 2004. We ask that you vote for or against the following board nominees, clip the ballot below, and mail it by February 28, 2003 to:

Lake Hartwell Association
PO Box 312
Fairplay, SC 29643

BALLOT

Incumbents Seeking Re-Election:

	For	Against
Bobby Foster	[]	[]
Louis Gaby	[]	[]
Wayne Gaskins	[]	[]
Dan Ray	[]	[]
Vern Sauer	[]	[]
Skip Walter	[]	[]

New Candidates:

	For	Against
Ace Forgay <i>Local resident since 1999, retired geophysicist in oil industry.</i>	[]	[]
Mike Massey <i>Local resident since 1998, retired telecommunications executive.</i>	[]	[]
Bert Menees <i>Anderson native, retired information systems consultant and college professor.</i>	[]	[]

Mark Your Calendar: April 26th

Surely you are already filling in dates on your new 2003 calendar, so be sure to mark April 26th. On that Saturday, LHA is hosting the Spring General Meeting at Big Oaks Park and Campground. The Spring edition of the newsletter will have all of the facts, including directions, but for now, mark those calendars as reserved!

Member Spotlight

The LHA Program & Publicity Committee is starting a new program called "Lake Hartwell Recreational Highlights."

This feature in each newsletter will spotlight one member's use and enjoyment of Hartwell Lake. We invite you to contact us and share with us your unique, interesting or simply very enjoyable use of the lake. We will contact you for an interview and arrange to come take some photographs of you and perhaps your family enjoying the lake. The topic is open to whatever you want to share with other LHA members: power-boating, sailing, water-skiing, jet-skiing, fishing (tips would be helpful), camping, bird-watching, etc.

Please contact Bert Menees at elmenees@aol.com or 864-261-9474 if you are willing to share your story.

Boat U.S. Discount

LHA members who join BoatUS can get a 50% discount on dues by mentioning LHA's co-op group number: GA83098B.

Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.) offers a range of services, information, and savings to recreational boaters including:

- An effective lobby against unfair taxes, fees, and government regulations
- Discounts on fuel and overnight slips at more than 600 marinas nationwide
- Low-cost, high-protection boat insurance
- On-the-water towing service agreements of varying levels

Volunteers Needed

The LHA Program & Publicity Committee is planning to start some new programs and activities that we think will be beneficial to our members. The committee currently has only two members and to accomplish our objectives, we need some help. If you have just a little time available and are willing to get involved on an “as-needed” basis, we would like to talk with you about our plans. Please contact Bert Menees by email (elmenees@aol.com) or telephone (864-261-9474).



Boating Safety Courses

As a service to our members, we publish the following list of sources for boating safety courses.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (706) 376-8187 or
(864) 224-0593

U.S. Power Squadrons
Seneca: Bill Holzhauer (864) 944-0780
Ron Osburn (864) 972-2434
Greenville: Ray Fedele (864) 235-8479

S.C. Department of
Natural Resources (803) 734-3995 or
(800) 277-4301

BoatUS Foundation (800) 336-2628

Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee

LHA actively participates

LHA is actively participating in the efforts of the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee (CoCWRC). Formed about a year ago, this committee’s mission is to safeguard our water supply (both in quantity and quality) to foster economic development and long-term needs.

Pat Goran, President of LHA, and Mike Massey, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, attended the regular monthly meetings of the CoCWRC. A few months ago, CoCWRC formed four sub-committees: Water Policy, Environmental, Sewer (and Groundwater), and Water Quantity.

Mike Massey agreed to become a member of the Water Policy sub-committee. Its initial efforts will be directed to providing status and recommendations on the following issues: interbasin transfers, South Carolina state water plan, coordination with the State of Georgia, the US Army Corps of Engineers Comprehensive Savannah River Basin Study, and the proposed water compact between Georgia and South Carolina for the Savannah River Basin.

Most recently, Allen Koleff, Co-Chairman of the LHA Technical Committee has agreed to be a member of the CoCWRC Environmental Committee. They will be studying the effects of: point source pollution, non-point source pollution, EPA/state regulations, the effect of land use on water quality, and storm water impacts.

We are sure the LHA participation in these committees will only serve to improve our ability to serve the members of the Lake Hartwell Association and all those people that may be impacted by activities related to the Savannah River Basin.

Boating Safety Courses Scheduled in March

(Greenville and Seneca)

The US Power Squadrons have been promoting safe boating for over 75 years, and we are fortunate to have two power squadrons serving the Hartwell Lake area. The Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron and the recently formed Golden Corner Lakes and Sail Power Squadron provide safe boating courses to the public in addition to the more advanced boating courses they provide to their members.

Do you know the laws concerning right-of-way on the water? The *Boat Smart*[™] course includes this information and much more. Does your first mate know how to start the boat and drive it to a safe docking if the skipper is suddenly incapacitated? Our *Skipper Saver* course covers several scenarios which we hope you will never need, but should know about.

The next public offering of *Boat Smart*[™] by the Golden Corner Lakes and Sail Power Squadron begins March 4, 2003 at 7:00 pm. and last for four sessions. Classes will be held at the Oconee Room (off cafeteria) of the Oconee Memorial Hospital in Seneca. Each of the three instruction sessions runs about 2 hours. The final exam, on the fourth night, takes about one hour. There is no fee for the instruction, and only a nominal fee (\$20) for materials. Schedule conflicts can generally be accommodated.

The next public offering of *Boat Smart*[™] by the Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron begins March 3, 2003 at 6:30 pm for the first session and 7:00 pm for the remaining three sessions. Classes will be held in the auditorium of the University Transfer Building of Greenville Tech in Greenville. Like the Golden Corner Lakes and Sail Power Squadron course, each of the three instruction sessions lasts about 2 hours, and the final exam, on the fourth session, takes about one hour. The power squadron charges a fee of \$25 to cover the cost of materials and room rental.

Those passing the final exam earn a course certificate that often provides a discount on boat insurance. Successful completion of this course also makes you eligible to join either of our area's two power squadrons.

For more information on the courses or power squadron memberships, call the representative for your area.

Seneca: Bill Holzhauer (864) 944-0780
Ron Osburn (864) 972-2434

Greenville: Ray Fedele (864) 235-8479

Bulletin Boards In Place

Seven Corps of Engineer recreation areas and all five marinas now have bulletin boards near the boat ramps - courtesy of the Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron and LHA members (construction and installation) and BoatU.S. (a grant of \$1900 for materials.) These bulletin boards will be used to post safety information, location of the nearest hospital, boating safety class dates and locations, and similar information.

Boat Ramp Closures

Great news! As of January 8, 2003, only three boat ramps remain closed:

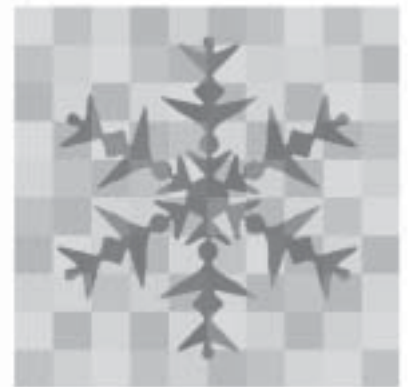
Apple Island (Anderson County, SC)
Durham (Anderson County, SC)
Walker Creek (Stephens County, GA)

To see the current list of boat ramp closings, go to the Corps website: <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/drought/drinfo>.

Hypothermia

With winter's temperatures and living near or enjoying the water, you can help save someone's life by knowing a few facts about hypothermia and how to treat it. You never know when the life you save may be your own or your loved ones. Here are a few facts:

- Water conducts heat 25 times faster than air.
- Heat loss is actually increased by movement in the water.
- Wind and moving water (currents) increase body heat loss.
- Alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine cause dehydration.
- Evaporation of water from the skin causes body heat loss.



Last year in upstate South Carolina and Northeast Georgia, several people perished due to hypothermia. Before boating activities during the cold weather, take a moment to review the following information.

Hypothermia is the decrease in body temperature to the level at which muscular functions are impaired. This decrease in body temperature can occur whenever the environmental temperature is below the normal body temperature of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

When in the water, your body has a thin layer of surface particles near the skin that help minimize body heat loss. Movement removes this protective layer of warmth. On the other hand, physical activity, shivering, or putting on layers of clothing can help generate body heat, or maintain body heat, in certain circumstances. Shivering will only be effective for a limited amount of time until the onset of fatigue.

The body must retain a definite level of warmth by generating, retaining, or discharging heat. The ambient temperature, water temperature, wind speed, clothing, and humidity level all have an effect on hypothermia.

Types of Hypothermia and Treatment

Mild: Shivering, goose bumps, and the inability to complete a task.

Treatment: Warm clothing, increased activity, and carbohydrate rich beverages.

Moderate: Violent shivering, difficulty speaking, confusion, irrational behavior.

Treatment: Include hot, sugared liquids, protein foods, and fats. Body-to-body contact or placing the person in a sleeping bag helps.

Severe: Shivering stops, a person is in a semiconscious or unconscious state. The heartbeat can be erratic and the pulse can be slow or stopped.

Treatment: Make sure the person is dry. Make attempts to increase the internal heat of the victim by applying heat at the neck, armpits, groin, and palm of the hands. Use warm towels, water bottles, and provide warm sugar water every 10 minutes. Do not give CPR if there is a pulse and the person is breathing. Use rescue breathing only if the victim is not breathing.

This article was adapted from a previous article written by Bob Cathey, Safety Chairman for the Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron.

Fall Meeting a Big Success

October 29, 2002

Everyone at LHA agrees that the Fall Meeting was a huge success. We had over 250 people attend the meeting, and there were many dignitaries and business leaders in attendance as well. Among them were S.C. Senator Robert Waldrep; Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce President John Garman; Henry Payne, Operations Manager of the Anderson Regional Joint Water System; -- to name a few. Many Georgia members were in attendance in addition to South Carolinians, as well as at least 8 USACE representatives.

Dr. Stephen Draper gave an impressive and thought-provoking talk about water as a public resource and interbasin water transfers with basin-of-origin protection. Dr. Draper is a trustee of the Georgia Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy and a member of the Clean Water Initiative Task Force, and members were thrilled at his knowledgeable presentation.

Dr. Bud Badr, Chief of the Hydrology Section, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, gave a brief presentation about his concern for funding for the USACE Savannah River Basin study. It seems Georgia is not current in its share of the funding and that is having an impact on the completion date of the study. Dr. Badr also indicated that in light of better data resulting from the current drought, South Carolina is proposing another look at the drought plan to revise it where appropriate. He raised several important areas of concern, and he indicated that the agreed upon flows during droughts may need to be reviewed to ensure they are still valid based on current information.

Mr. Leroy Crosby, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, presented the status of a \$4 million, five-year *Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Management Study (SRBCS)*. Mr. Crosby is currently Team Leader for Plan Formulation for the Corps of Engineers' Savannah District and heads up the study.

An interesting note is that during the panel discussion near the end of the program, many audience members asked about the current drought being described as an extraordinary occurrence in the lake life-cycle. If there is agreement that the drought is an extraordinary occurrence, why can't extraordinary measures be temporarily put in place? The suggested measures were to stop generating completely or reduce the flows through the dams. Many people thought these were great suggestions.



New South Carolina Septic Tank Rules Proposed

On October 25th, the state of South Carolina published proposed revisions to Regulation 61-56, that governs the design and installation of septic tank systems. LHA's Technical Committee reviewed the proposed revisions and concluded the proposed revisions would improve protection of the lake by requiring that septic systems be installed further from the nearest water body, increasing the minimum size of septic tanks, and setting improved standards for alternative leach field design and materials. LHA sent a letter to the state commending them for the suggested improvements.

LHA to Survey Residents and Businesses

We know that low lake levels affect those who own property on or near the lake and the businesses near the lake that rely on the lake's well being for their success. What we don't know is how large the impact is, or the extent to which the low lake levels affects our lives and our livelihoods. We are working with the Friends of the Savannah River Basin (FSRB) to study the impact of low lake levels. We intend to analyze the input and, if appropriate, develop a plan to discuss the results and any recommendations with appropriate agencies and legislators as a means to resolve any issues.

Two separate surveys are being conducted in February: one for business owners and managers and one for residents of the lake community. In fact, anyone concerned about the lake can take the survey.

We need you to participate, and we want you to invite others to participate in this simple 5-minute survey. Participants can take the survey several ways -- but only once please.

Residents Survey

This survey asks questions about residential (and noncommercial) use of the lake. You do not have to be a property owner to take this survey. Just skip the questions that don't apply to you.

LHA Members

As LHA members, you can choose how to take the survey. You can use the paper survey form included with this newsletter, then mail it to us. Or, you can help us save money and save you the cost of a stamp, by using the Internet to enter your responses. To take the web-based survey, go to the LHA web site, www.lakehartwellassociation.org, and choose "Lake Impact Survey." We are requesting members to use the web-based survey if at all possible, even if you need to borrow a friend or relative's computer. The web-based survey will only be available *February 1, 2003 through February 28, 2003*, so please be sure to fill in your web survey during that period. Paper surveys must be received no later than February 28, 2003.

Non-LHA Members

We are actively seeking non-LHA members to participate in the survey as well, and we are mailing invitations (along with membership information) to non-LHA members so they can visit our web site and take the web-based survey as well. Notice that non-LHA members can *only* use the web-based survey form. Feel free to tell your lake friends and acquaintances about the survey and ask them to go to www.lakehartwellassociation.org, and choose "Lake Impact Survey." Be sure to tell them they must complete the web survey between *February 1, 2003 through February 28, 2003*.

Business Survey

The survey for commercial organizations is different than the residential survey because it asks about the economic impact to businesses. Members of the LHA Legislative Committee will contact businesses and request they use a separate web survey designed especially for businesses. Additionally, committee members may contact businesses to gather more in-depth information by phone or personal interview. Any business wanting to take part in the survey should go to www.lakehartwellassociation.org or contact Ace Forgay at aforgay@hartemc.com or (706) 377-2451.

* * * * *

The survey is your opportunity to let us know how you have been affected by low water levels, and your input is important. We hope to gather enough significant data to represent your thoughts and concerns to the appropriate legislators, groups and agencies as we continue to champion your interests in Hartwell Lake and the Savannah River Basin.

**Lake Impact Survey
(Residents Version)**

Sponsored by The Lake Hartwell Association

Name: _____ Years owning Hartwell property: _____

Email address: _____

Before You Begin:

If you have access to the Internet, please complete this survey using our website rather than this paper form. Simply visit the LHA website at www.lakehartwellassociation.org, and select Lake Impact Survey.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please complete the form below and mail it to us. Whichever you choose, please complete only one survey.

The information you provide here will be kept confidential. Information will be shared with legislators and others only as aggregate survey results.

1. What type of property do you own?

- Permanent resident Vacation home Undeveloped lot

2. How has your property value been impacted by the low lake levels?

- No impact Reduced home value

3. How has your recreation use of the lake been impacted by the low lake levels? (Check all that apply.)

- No impact Reduced skiing / water boarding / tubing
 Reduced fishing Reduced swimming
 Reduced boating (power boat) Reduced sailing

4. Have you experienced any accidents or near accidents in the last two years as a result of low lake levels? (Check all that apply.)

- No Yes, related to boating
 Yes, related to swimming

5. Has the low lake level caused damage or loss of value to your personal property? (Check all that apply.)

- No Yes, damage to water sports equipment
 Yes, damage to boat / trailer Yes, other damage not listed
 Yes, damage to dock _____ Estimated value of loss

6. The lake level in 2002 was as low as 14 feet below full pool level. Considering this year's lake low level, at what level do you consider a minimum for

Safe boating and water sports

Adequate fishing

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion | <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 feet below full pool | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 feet below full pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-12 feet below full pool | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-12 feet below full pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 -10 feet below full pool | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 -10 feet below full pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than 8 feet below full pool | <input type="checkbox"/> less than 8 feet below full pool |

Lake Impact Survey

Page 2

7. If you "chased the water" to keep your dock afloat last year, how many times a month did you have to move your dock during 2002?
 0 - 2 Didn't need to "chase the water" at all
 3 or more Didn't chase; eventually dock was unusable
8. In 2002, how many trips a year did you take in your boat for
 _____ boating
 _____ fishing
9. In previous years (during normal lake levels), how many trips a year did you usually take in your boat for
 _____ boating
 _____ fishing

For the statements below, please score your agreement using the following scale.

1 = Strong disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I am very concerned about the low water level in Hartwell Lake and its affect on my property and my enjoyment of the lake. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I believe that the low lake level greatly affects my property value. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. The low water level presents a great danger to my family and to others who use the lake. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I believe the lake level could be better managed during an extended drought to minimize the water level change. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. I believe the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is following all policies and procedures to ensure we have adequate water level in Hartwell Lake at all times, especially during the recent drought. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. I will vote for and against legislators and representatives based on their support of protection for our lake and surrounding communities. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. The fish and wildlife that depend on Hartwell Lake have not been affected by the low water levels. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. I would like to see a stronger coalition among property owners and other members of the community to speak out about issues of concern to the lake. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. I adequately understand the factors that affect how the US Army Corps of Engineers manages the water level. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

Map Available on Web

Vern Sauer, the web master for LHA, has added a link to a U.S. Geographical Survey map of our area. This topographical map shows practically every building, road, cow trail, even contours of the ground below the water surface. The USGS presents the information in a seamless form that allows you to move around interactively on the screen, change scales, etc.

Give it a try. Go to www.lakehartwellassociation.org, and choose the link "About the Lake."

Because of the detail in these maps, it's rather slow to download, but I think you will find it worth the wait.

Still Looking for Your Email Address

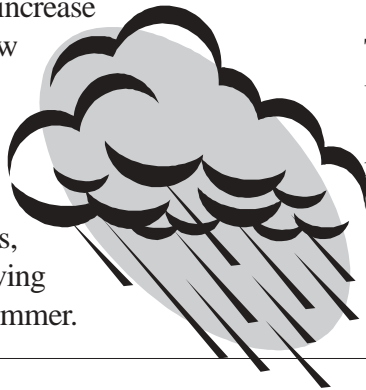
Can you please provide us your email address? We asked for it last issue, and then we made a mistake with our email address.

We need your email address to occasionally send urgent messages such as a request to call your government representative. When quick action is needed, email is the fastest, most economical way to contact our members. We promise not to give it to anyone else. Just send us an email at membership@lakehartwellassociation.org.

Lake Levels

Hartwell lake levels have continued to rise since the low point in mid-September, and as of January 15, the lake was about 6 feet below normal summer pool (2 ft. below normal winter pool). This is an increase of more than 8 feet since the low point in September.

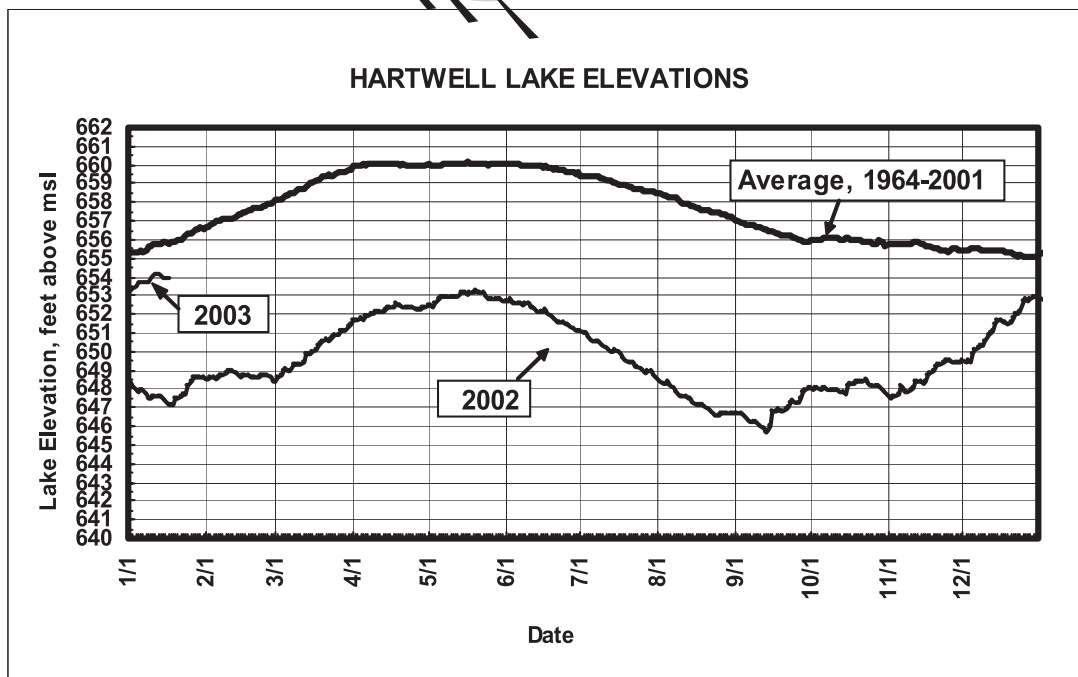
The lake is about 7 feet higher than at the same time last year. With above average spring rains, there is a good possibility of having a full lake by Spring or early Summer.



Spread the Word

Don't forget to invite your neighbors and friends to take the LHA survey during the month of February.

Tell them to visit our website, www.lakehartwellassociation.org, and choose Lake Impact Study. It's quick, and we will make sure their voices are heard by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, legislators, and of course, by LHA!



LHA Supports Georgia Water Coalition Report

In early 2001, the Georgia General Assembly created the Joint Comprehensive Water Plan Study Committee. The study's purpose was to propose a plan to balance the demands for water supply and water quality in an equitable manner for the complete state of Georgia, including concerns for water quality and safe recreational water, and water supportive to aquatic life. Because South Carolina shares water of the Savannah River Basin with Georgia, the study is important to residents of both states. After 18 months of very complex meetings, the committee presented its recommendations to Georgia Governor Roy Barnes and the Georgia Legislature on August 29, 2002.

LHA's Concern

During this time, the Lake Hartwell Association, through the Legislative Committee, attended many of the meetings and has carefully reviewed the water plan study results. While LHA is very supportive of the purpose of the study, and we agree completely with the need for a well-developed, clearly defined, properly managed water plan for the State of Georgia, we feel there are serious flaws in the final recommendations.

The most significant flaw in the study is the omission of a critical policy statement that water should be treated as a "public resource" to be managed by the state. Those watching the committee's actions were shocked at the Advisory Committee's last-minute surprise exclusion of this policy statement. Leaving this principle out of the committee's recommendations could allow select water users to sell water as a commercial product. If water is sold to the highest bidder, it benefits a choice few and burdens those who can't pay the highest price. In addition, new recommendations for interbasin water transfers are also being proposed. While the recommendations are an improvement over current Georgia law, the LHA Legislative Committee will continue to monitor the process to consider the interests of the lake and the members of LHA.

LHA Supports the Georgia Water Coalition

In December, the Georgia Water Coalition (GWC), an alliance of more than 40 environmental, government and citizen organizations (of which the Lake Hartwell Association is a member) took aim at the committee's recommendations, agreeing with some, disagreeing with others. The coalition called for a statewide water management plan that will provide a clear, thoughtful plan to better conserve, allocate and use state water.

The Georgia Water Coalition Report urges a guiding principle for any water plan: *water is a public resource commonly held by all the people*. The state's job is to protect and manage water, both surface and ground, in the public interest. Access to water is essential to the state's continued growth, but it must be managed to assure economic development and conservation, which are not and should not be contradictory goals.

Georgia Water Coalition Report

The report's four key principles are:

- Surface and ground waters of the state continue to be a public resource managed in the public interest and in a sustainable manner by the state to protect natural systems and meet human and economic needs.
- Water management must be guided by a comprehensive state water management plan, developed by a lead agency with a dedicated planning staff, in coordination with other agencies and with the participation of all interested citizens.
- Effective water management requires regional water planning, based on watersheds, river basins and aquifers, that is tied to implementation including an adaptive management process.
- Regulation of interbasin transfers must be strengthened to reflect scientific knowledge, respect natural systems, and protect the basins of origin and receipt.

You can read the complete Georgia Water Coalition Report at the Lake Hartwell Association website, www.lakehartwellassociation.org.

Next Steps

The next step in the Georgia water study process calls for the Georgia Legislature and the Governor to review the study recommendations, incorporate input from other organizations such as the Georgia Water Coalition, allocate funding, and create an organization with the responsibility to develop the Georgia Water Plan. The process is expected to take about three years.

LHA's Continued Involvement

The Lake Hartwell Association will continue to monitor the study activities and recommendations in an effort to do what is best for the members of the Lake Hartwell Association and the complete Savannah River Basin.

Technical Committee Report

Sedimentation Study

Georgia Institute of Technology is currently in the process of investigating sedimentation and bank erosion in Hartwell Lake through a research project under the direction of Dr. Paul Work. The LHA technical committee has studied the project description, and has invited Dr. Work to meet with the committee in February to describe the results. The technical committee is continuing follow up on reported sedimentation problems, and asks that anyone having knowledge of a severe sedimentation problem to please call a member of the committee.

Toccoa Waste Water Treatment Plant

Bob Sykes and Al Koleff visited the new Toccoa waste water treatment plant in November. The plant is state-of-the-art design and has been operating within its permit limits.

Lake Water Quality Test Program with Clemson

An ad hoc committee of Bob Sykes, Wayne Van Ness, Al Koleff and Larry Lawson was formed to look into developing a comprehensive lake water quality test program in conjunction with Clemson University. Details of the study plan and cost estimates are in the process of being developed. We are hoping to schedule a meeting with Clemson soon.

Environmental Assessment by US Army Corps of Engineers

The committee recently reviewed the Environmental Assessment prepared by the USACE in support of their recently announced proposal to reduce the drought action level three outflow from Thurmond Dam to 3000 CFS, from its present level of 3600 CFS. We submitted comments to the USACE in support of the proposal and recommended that the USACE consider other actions to further improve drought management.

Lake Levels on the Rise

Hartwell lake levels have continued to rise since the low point in mid-September, and as of January 15, the lake was about 6 feet below normal summer pool (2 ft below normal winter pool). This is an increase of more than 8 feet since the low point in September. The lake is about 5 feet higher than at the same time last year. With above average spring rains, there is a good possibility of having a full lake by early summer. See the Lake Levels graph on page 11.

LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____

NAME _____

MAILADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____

EMAIL _____

Check the following that apply:

Individual (\$15)

Renewal

Family (\$25)

New Member

Community & Development (\$100)

Change of Address

**Send your check, payable to: Lake Hartwell Association
P.O. Box 312; Fairplay, SC 29643**

Email address: membership@lakehartwellassociation.org

Web Site: <http://www.lakehartwellassociation.org>

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.

OFFICERS: - 2003
Pat Goran, President, 706-376-4778
Louis Gaby, Secretary, 864-972-1104
Robert Foster, Treasurer, 864-296-9798
AT-LARGE DIRECTORS
Wayne Gaskins, Dan Ray,
Vern Sauer, Skip Walter
COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Financial: Robert Foster, 864-296-9798
Legislative Affairs: Mike Massey, 864-222-1925;
Membership: Skip Walter, 864-287-2362
Newsletter: Candice Harp, 770-921-9421
Program/Publicity: Bert Menees, 864-261-9474
Safety: Dan Ray, 864-231-7007

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Lake Hartwell Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 312
Fairplay, SC 29643



PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #400
Anderson, SC