

Lake Hartwell Association, Inc

Winter, 2010

Volume XXII, Number 1

Letter from the President

Submitted by Herb Burnham



What a difference a year of normal rainfall and good water management can make.... **24.17 feet to be exact!** On December 9, 2008, Hartwell Lake was at its lowest level ever, 637.53 ft. msl. Twelve months later, on December 8, 2009, it is at 661.70 ft. msl. The last time the lake measured over full pool (660 ft. msl) was in the spring of 2005. It has been a long and severe drought. Let us hope that with more normal rainfall in the years ahead, a drought this severe will never happen again.

Hope is good, but hope without action based on lessons learned will not cause us to be better prepared for the next drought. The front page of the November 30, 2009 *Greenville News* had 'before and after' pictures of the lake that we should all cut out and keep as a reminder of the drought's impact. Let's face the fact that Americans will always respond to crisis and will usually emerge stronger and wiser from the lessons learned. Unfortunately, we also have a tendency to move on to other more timely issues and fail to act on the lessons learned while they are still fresh in our minds. We must not allow this to happen. We must be proactive and utilize the knowledge and momentum that we gained from this most recent drought. **It is inevitable that we will experience more droughts, some of which may be even more severe.**

Your Lake Hartwell Association Board of Directors and committees have been and will continue to be earnestly involved in all the activities throughout the Savannah River Basin that have an impact on the Lake. This includes current issues such as: Atlanta's need for water, the 12-Mile River/PCB Mitigation Project, passage of a South Carolina statewide Water Planning Bill, actions of the new Georgia Regional Water Counsel, funding and execution of the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study and the Hartwell Lake Region Economic Impact Study.

And be assured that we will continue to advocate for the updating of the Savannah River Basin drought plan and will discourage its being "put back on the shelf." We will not forget the lessons we have recently learned.

Once again, I must emphasize the importance of volunteering and "giving something back." As a member of The Lake Hartwell Association (LHA), you obviously have an appreciation for this beautiful natural resource that is one of the best known and most visited lakes in the southeast. Over the past 20 years, the LHA has become the largest and most recognized advocate "for the sake of the lake."

Volunteer members have made that possible and have reaped the benefits... not a paycheck but the joy and satisfaction of knowing they have made a difference. If you want to make a positive difference in this new year, I encourage you to consider becoming a LHA committee volunteer. See the last page of this newsletter for details. You are also encouraged to suggest and submit articles and photos of interest to LHA members for inclusion in this newsletter. **Finally, on behalf of your LHA Board of Directors, I wish you all the happiest and most prosperous new year ever.**

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A special "thank you" goes to the LHA members of the 20-year club. See them at LakeHartwellAssociation.org

**FEBRUARY 25, 2010
REGIONAL MEETING
HARTWELL, GEORGIA**

February 25, at 7:00 p.m.

Col. Kertis of the Corps will be on hand for an update of Corps activities.

Be sure to check your email and local papers for meeting location.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR 2/25/10 AT 7:00 P.M.
FOR THE SAKE OF THE
LAKE!**

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*Program/
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Mike Massey,
Membership

LHA's Annual Meeting

The association's 2009 annual meeting was held October 29 at the Anderson County Civic Center. It was also a celebration of the association's 20th anniversary. An estimated 150 members attended to hear updates on key issues impacting the lake and to meet and

hear guest speaker Brigadier General Todd Semonite, the new Corps of Engineers Commander, South Atlantic Division. Retired pastor Joe Bowen, a member of LHA for 17 years, drove over from Alpharetta, Georgia to give the invocation...thanks again Joe.

General Semonite asked all members of the Corps present to join him at the podium and presented a plaque to the association in recognition of its 20 years of service "For the Sake of the Lake."

In his remarks the general committed to continuing the close and productive working relationship that the Corps and the association have had over the years. He also committed, within the boundaries of his authority



General Todd Semonite presents LHA President Herb Burnham with a plaque recognizing LHA's 20 years of service to Hartwell Lake.



LHA President Herb Burnham presented Portman Marina representative Adam Roach with the LHA 2009 Special Recognition award. Dave Freeman's Portman Marina, the only Business Member that has continuously supported LHA since its formation in 1989, was recognized for twenty years of commitment and contributions "for the sake of the lake."



Vern Saur is recognized by Herb Burnham for 17 years of service on LHA's board.

A surprising highlight of the meeting was when

to use adaptive management techniques to maintain optimum balanced lakes levels throughout the Savannah River Basin. Dr. Larry Dyck and Mike Massey presented updates on the PCB mitigation program and SC water management legislation, respectively. Vernon Sauer was recognized and presented a plaque for his 17 years of service on the board of directors. Dave Freeman, owner of Portman Marina, received a plaque in appreciation for his 20 years as a business member and strong supporter of the association. A list of those who have been members for 20 years appears on our website at www.LakeHartwellAssociation.org.

Update on Georgia's Statewide Water Planning Process

Submitted by Pat Goran

The Savannah - Upper Ogeechee Regional Water Planning Council held its fourth meeting in Thomson, Georgia November 10. As many of you know, the state has been divided into eleven regional water planning councils, including the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (metro Atlanta). While each of the regional councils first met earlier this year, Georgia's overall water planning process started several years ago. LHA has been actively involved since the beginning of this work.

The Savannah - Upper Ogeechee Council has begun looking at municipal and industrial water use projections. When those are finalized, they will be compared against the estimated availability of groundwater and surface water within the planning region to identify shortfalls between the available resources and estimated future needs. It will be the council's responsibility to recommend how best to deal with those likely "gaps" by selecting procedures to ensure there is adequate water to meet future needs in a sustainable manner. Our regional council is also in the process of finalizing our vision statement and long range goals for water in the area.

Perhaps the most important thing our regional council has done to date was to adopt a resolution during our most recent meeting stating "The Savannah - Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council desires that present law by the General Assembly prohibiting interbasin water transfers remain in force and are maintained for perpetuity."

The fifth meeting of the Savannah - Upper Ogeechee Council will be held March 25, 2010 at a location yet to be determined. You can go to the website addresses near the bottom of this article beginning in February to find the location of the meeting. The public is welcome at all council meetings, and time is set aside at each meeting for comments from individuals. Representatives of our council will also be meeting jointly with representatives of other planning regions in the last half of January; I will be attending a meeting with the Coastal Council that is responsible for the lower Savannah River Basin.

Remember that each water planning council will recommend a plan for its region to Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD). EPD can accept a council's recommendation, ask them to make revisions and re-submit or write its own plan. Each region's final plan must be adopted no later than June, 2011.

As always, you can visit www.georgiawaterplanning.org for further information on the overall statewide water planning process. For information on the Savannah - Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council, you can visit

www.savannahupperogeechee.org. LHA encourages you to submit comments to EPD which can be done by clicking on "contact us" at the bottom of the website page.

Editor's note: Pat Goran is currently serving as alternate member of the Savannah - Upper Ogeechee Water Planning Council.

Fourth Volunteer Program to Begin This Spring

Submitted by Janet Clayton

The "Volunteer Village," the newest of four Hartwell Lake volunteer programs, is scheduled to open this spring at the old Hart Group Camp. The village will be a 'volunteer only' camping area that targets long term volunteers. The program allows these volunteers to provide direct support to the Hartwell Project staff. Some of their duties will include staffing the visitor center, presenting water safety programs, conducting tours of the dam and staffing booths for the Corps of Engineers at boat shows and festivals. In return for their service, the volunteers will be given a full hook-up campsite at the village at no charge including use of a laundry facility.

The other three volunteer programs, approximately two years old, include Water Safety, Park Hosting and Adopt a Park. The duties of the volunteers for the Water Safety program include making contact with campground visitors and providing them with water safety related materials. They also direct the "Life Jacket Loaner" programs. These volunteers supplement the park ranger staff and, in return for their service, they are given a campsite in the park at no charge. Park Hosts, on the other hand, are responsible for "day use" areas or campgrounds that are not staffed with paid employees. They are expected to greet visitors, explain park rules, provide water safety information, monitor the park and report unusual circumstances to the rangers. They are provided with a free full hook-up campsite. Finally, the Adopt a Park program depends on an individual or group of volunteers to clean up and maintain a specific park. They are provided with the necessary materials and rely on the Corps for major maintenance issues. The ten day use parks would be closed without the Adopt a Park volunteers.

THANK YOU to the 611 volunteers that clocked in over 8100 hours of service during 2008. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you may contact Scott DeMore at 706-856-0341. Available positions are posted on the Volunteer Clearinghouse webpage at <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/volunteer/>. Most of the volunteer positions are listed in January and are usually filled by the end of March.

Hartwell Lake Level Alert

Submitted by Vern Saur

The following information is based on a telephone conversation with the Corps of Engineers on December 15, 2009, and is intended to clarify in the best possible way the

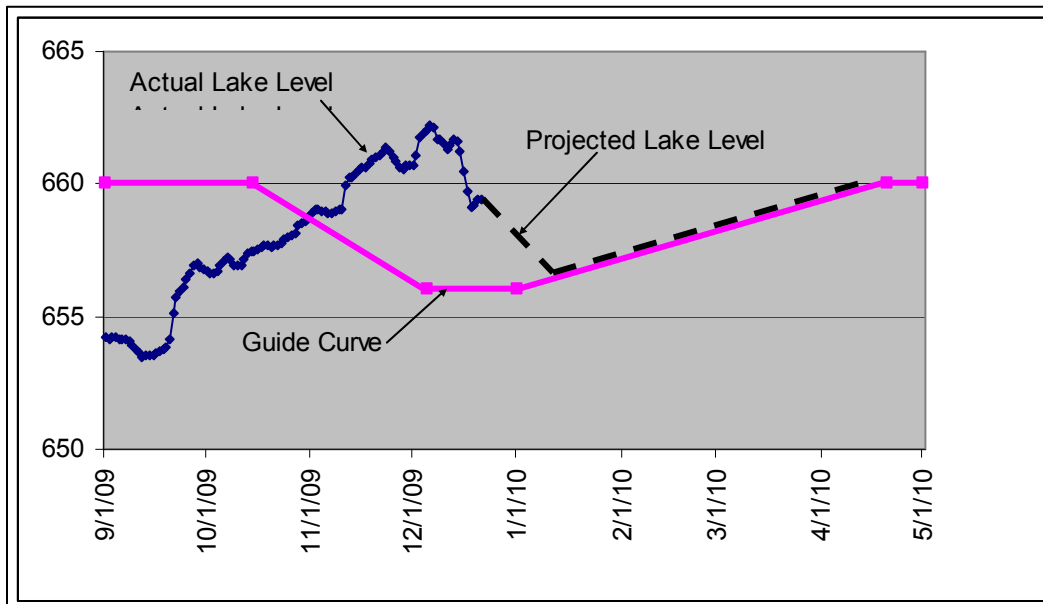
Corps' plan for lake levels over the next several months.

The Corps plans to lower Thurmond Reservoir to the guide curve** level of 326 ft and Russell Reservoir to 473 ft. to allow for repairs of the flood gates at these dams.

During the past few weeks they have been releasing 25,000 cfs daily from Hartwell and Thurmond reservoirs which is the maximum that can be released through the power generation turbines. This will continue until the lake levels are lowered to the guide curve level. Obviously, if more heavy rains occur, it may not be possible to lower the lake levels without releasing water through the flood gates. There is also concern at the current time about excessive flow in the Savannah River below Augusta, where currently there is 25,000 to 30,000 cfs of water flowing at various points along the river.

If the SRB lakes are lowered to winter guide curve levels, the Corps states that at that time Hartwell Lake would be allowed to rise according to the guide curve until it reached full lake level of 660 ft in the spring of 2010. Russell and

Thurmond Lakes will be kept below full pool, if possible, to allow for the flood gate repairs. It should be noted that the projected lake level as shown in the attached graph is subject to change depending on rainfall in the Savannah basin.



In summary, assuming normal rainfall, we can probably expect Hartwell Lake to stay at or above guide curve level (which is considered full pool) at least until early summer next year. We hope this information will help to clarify why lake levels

have been dropping since early December. In the event of heavy rains, dock owners should remain alert and be prepared to make adjustments accordingly.

**GUIDE CURVE - The "guide curve" for each reservoir is the late fall to early spring lake level that is considered the full lake level during that period of the year. For Hartwell Lake the guide curve normally starts at 660 ft on October 15, uniformly reduces to 656 ft on December 5, remains at 656 ft until January 1, and then uniformly increases to 660 ft on April 20. The purpose of lowering the lakes during this time of year is to provide additional storage during the months when large floods are most likely to occur. It is flood protection for Augusta and other points downstream which is one of the primary reasons the lakes were built.

Some Rain on Our Picnic

Submitted by Ruth Anne Maciag

The annual Hartwell Lake Clean-up campaign, sponsored by the Corps of Engineers and the Lake Hartwell Association, was once again a great success. 520 people spent time picking up tons of trash and generally making Lake Hartwell a better quality water resource.

The Volunteer Appreciation Picnic for those who helped took place on Public Lands Day, September 26, 2009. The rain

held off until after lunch!

Approximately 150 people braved the weather to come out and have 'dogs and burgers', listen to Mike, the DJ from Hartwell, and pick up Rivers Alive T-shirts. There were also great raffle prizes given out from tubes and life vests to restaurant certificates.

Next year we'll be cleaning up the lake once more – and the Appreciation Picnic will be Saturday, September 25, 2010, again National Public Lands Day. We'll be looking for your help once again, and we'll hope for sunshine for the picnic.

Federal Money Approved to Complete Basin Study

Submitted by Mike Massey

The Lake Hartwell Association received word from Janice McCord of the office of Congressman Gresham Barrett in early October that he, and GA Senator Saxby and SC Senator Graham have succeeded in obtaining federal funding for the Phase II portion of the Savannah River Basin (SRB) Comprehensive Water Study. McCord says that the monetary amount appropriated is \$493,000.

The funding has been approved by Congress for use in the Savannah study as part of a FY-10 Energy Bill. The government fiscal year 2010 began on October 1st so the funding is available now. South Carolina and Georgia had previously agreed to supply matching funds. The total amount available will be slightly less than a million dollars.

This study actually started in 2004, but only Phase I revising the drought plan for the SRB was completed. Funding to complete Phase II, the SRB Comprehensive Study, was never approved due to budget restrictions to the Corps. The Lake Hartwell Association was very involved in all aspects of Phase I which was completed in 2005. Once funding was eliminated for Phase II, LHA initiated a project to meet with and write to legislators every year in an attempt to reinstate the funding. We are delighted with the latest news.

Congressman Barrett has been helpful in past efforts supporting previous environmental assessment requests to improve water level management as well as requests for operating changes to the SRB. It is our understanding that he was the only congressman that requested this funding.

The saga continues, however, since the Phase 2 study cannot begin without promised support from the states of South Carolina and Georgia. Both states had agreed to provide approximately \$250,000. At this time, they do not have the funds to allocate to the project due to their budget cutbacks. Colonel Kertis, USACE District Commander-SRB, says he cannot proceed until all funding has been identified.

It is anticipated that, once all funding is available, funds will be used to run the SRB river basin computer model to determine the effects of various changes for both normal operation and drought contingencies. It will be a focused effort and the exact products will be determined by inputs from both states to the Corps.

This is more good news for the area since once the study starts, we will have a firm, well-documented study with clear, scientific findings for determining water allocation steps and water management processes for the basin. Efforts are now underway to obtain state funding.

PCB Settlement Update

Submitted by Larry Dyck

At the beginning of a new decade I would like to update our members on the PCB settlement for Lake Hartwell. Some progress has already been made, but much remains unresolved at this time.

At the present time Judge G. Ross Anderson and his delegates will be watching to see how decisions begin to unfold. The third dam project has obtained a consulting engineering firm and several potential projects have begun to surface. The third dam project sponsors will need to meet with SCDHEC to consider the degree of contamination in the sediments and whether the sediments can be spilled into the other dams or must be removed into a landfill.

In the near future the trustees will need to decide how to use what remains of the Natural Resources Restoration Fund. This is a \$9 million fund that comes about because of a settlement for damages PCBs inflicted upon the natural resources of Hartwell Lake and Twelve Mile River. Georgia as already received its share of the fund and is building two mega-ramps for fishing tournaments as well as a shoreline fishing trail and an improved access area to the tailrace below the Hartwell Dam.

It seems to me that SC should make the health of the lake its highest priority and address the PCB contamination in the lake. Although this seems to make sense there is a problem. The Natural Resource Trustees, who hold the money "in trust for the people," want to use the money to fund some of their own projects. Their projects are certainly worthy of consideration. Most of them are designed to improve fishing and fishing access within the lake or region. While these projects have merit, I think we should try to get rid of the PCBs in the fish before we focus too much energy on improved fishing.

In my view the highest priority is to use the PCB Restoration fund to work toward the clean-up of the lake. The money that remains after that may be used to fund fishing projects or other projects the trustees deem worthy. The only project that helps clean-up the lake is the removal of three small dams in Twelve Mile River. The dams are located just upstream of the most contaminated lake bottom, the Twelve Mile arm of Lake Hartwell. These dams have acted as sediment traps and prevented clean sediment from flowing into Lake Hartwell and covering the PCB on the lake bottom. When all three dams are removed, nature will transport clean sediment downstream and will enhance the burial of contaminated sediment. This will effectively prevent PCBs from entering the food chain and one day make Hartwell fish safe to eat again.

Improved Water Planning Needed for South Carolina

Submitted by Mike Massey

The Lake Hartwell Association (LHA) has been deeply involved for several years in the effort to advance South Carolina water planning. The objective is to improve water management for the benefit the Savannah River Basin and all basins in SC. Current state water planning is severely lacking in the necessary procedures, policies and administration to protect this important resource for the future.

The current SC water plan, completed in 2004, has many recommendations to improve how the resource is managed and maintained. Unfortunately, there has been little done to review and resolve these recommendations in a coordinated, integrated manner. Some are handled by our legislators on a case-by-case basis as they become problems but our legislators are not water experts and results may not be optimum. North Carolina recently transferred water from one basins to another without negotiating with South Carolina. A proper South Carolina water policy would have prevented this from happening and the case would not be headed to the U.S. Supreme Court. A recent Georgia announcement to study the possibility of taking water from Hartwell Lake is a similar situation and a shot across our bow.

Three years ago, members of LHA, based on experience obtained by involvement with Georgia as they developed their new water plan, worked closely with State Representative Don Bowen of Anderson and Senator Kevin Bryant of Anderson to develop and submit two bills to the SC legislature in January of 2008. Bowen submitted H3132, the South Carolina Comprehensive Statewide Water Planning Act. Bryant issued S358 at the same time.

Unfortunately both bills fell in line behind a bill to measure water withdrawals from major businesses within the state (S452). We agree water measurement is very important. We can't manage what we don't measure but it is not the only aspect of improved water planning. Water withdrawal measurements are also included within the details of H3132. However, S452 is the number one priority at the moment. All these bills must pass this year or they will need to start over. There is great fear that S452 will not move forward this year. If it doesn't we would like to offer H3132 as "plan B." H3132 and S358 provide for

1 – Establishing a coordinating committee to be known as the 'South Carolina Water Planning Committee.' This committee would require no new people, but would shift some of the current water employees to the new group and add some state water experts on a volunteer basis. This section places

water planning recommendations in the hands of water experts.

2 – Developing an SC Comprehensive Water Plan (for approval by the legislature and Governor). This will take at least two years and will include an integrated approach to reviewing all water issues simultaneously.

3 – Proposing a volunteer group called the South Carolina Basin Advisory Committee (BAC) for each basin in the state. Each BAC will function under the management of DNR initially then under the policies and rules to be established in the Comprehensive Water Plan when completed. Each BAC will produce planning rules appropriate and unique to their basin. Georgia has already established their BAC's and is well ahead of SC with planning proposals for the SRB.

4 – Implementing the Comprehensive Water Plan once approved by the legislature and the Governor.

LHA is now lobbying to make H3132 the fall-back position should S452 fail to gain approval. H3132 (Rep. Bowen) DOES provide a path forward – a bit slower but more thorough and matches what our neighboring states have or are all doing – especially GA. There is a legislative concern about the cost of H3132 but this is a false worry resulting from lack of understanding about how to manage H3132. It starts slow and grows over several years and does not require any new state people or organizations other than volunteers. This SHOULD allow managers to adequately plan for getting the development of a water plan competed.

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.

CoveKeeper Training Session a Great Success

Submitted by Larry Dyck

Below is a summary of a recent training session. If after reading about it, you are interested in becoming a Covekeeper please give us a call at (864) 224-LAKE or send an email to Hartwelllakekeeper@yahoo.com. We want you to join with other LHA members in keeping Lake Hartwell a high quality natural resource.

Our thanks go out to the newly trained Covekeeper volunteers. These are individuals participated in a training session on November 14, 2009. Participants included: Gretchen Fuller, Norm Summey, Catherine Gilliam, Earl Clowers, Mike Lowe, Mike Golasinski, EmThaiss, Mike Buckel, Gus Mathis, Noel Eckert, Dale Linvill, Paul Roosenberg, Jim Ramsey, Martin Stacey, Mark Dayhuff, Herman Spitzer, Vern Sauer, Glen McPheeters, Gerry Hamilton (I hope I didn't miss someone; we had two full pontoon boats operated by River Captains Juergen Buch and Jack Maciag).



CoveKeepers filled 2 pontoon boats in recent training session.

New CoveKeepers are instructed by Larry Dyck, chair of the Covekeeper Program.

Below are some of my observations from the training session.

Date: November 14, 2009

Survey Area: Three and Twenty Creek (from Lake Hartwell up to Hwy 71...Centerville Road)

Conditions: The water was slightly above full pond (660.25)...this is the highest water level since 2005. Much of the trash (litter) on the shoreline was pushed into the

backs of coves. I wonder how we might encourage property owners or other groups to remove this litter?

Weather: Very light wind, temperature in mid-70s...a lovely day to be out.

Summary of observations:

(1) The water was above full pond and was encroaching on shorelines that were full of young pine trees. If the water stays-up these trees will not survive, but much of the organic matter will ultimately move through the food-chain and become fish. Also the trees will provide cover for aquatic organisms.

(2) The buffers throughout most of the area were well maintained (The Corps' buffer was forested with a mix of hardwoods and pines). There were a few homes of "old timers with Grandfathered buffers," i.e., with grass planted down to the water's edge. A series of homes that may have been built in an old pasture or maybe were replacement homes had a limited number of new trees planted. Buffers containing trees, shrubs and herbs have roots at different depths which holds the soil and harvests nutrients so pollutants do not flow into the lake. Buffers also act to muffle noise and to make the lake appear and function in a natural fashion.

(3) Some homes have impervious walkways. Many of those are tilted or sloped into the buffer, but some are a direct shot down steep slopes into the water. Even though the Corps accepts impervious walkways in their Shoreline Management Plan, they are not a good practice. Impervious surfaces prevent water infiltration into the earth and anything swept up in the water (oils from driveways and heavy metals from brake linings) are directed into the lake. We don't want these materials in the lake. That's why it's a good idea to construct the walkway to drain into the buffer before it reaches the lake. An even better idea is to construct walkways of pervious materials.

(4) We saw a few docks that were abandoned. We need to identify the location of these docks. We can get permit numbers off of adjacent docks to locate the site for the Corps. Recently Dave Kroeger of Kroeger Marine offered to help the Covekeeper Program. He volunteered to use their barge and equipment to pick up docks, abandoned boats and other debris that we identified and could pile up. Thank You Dave Kroeger!

(5) We saw some docks that had gangways underwater. As a good neighbor, we want a Covekeeper to identify the dock by its permit number. Your River Captain can look up the who is the owner; then we should inform the owner of the situation.

(6) We saw a few areas where trash has built up: one area with a 55 gallon drum, a gas can and an array of other debris. How do you suppose we should handle areas like

(Continued on page 8)

The Ethanol Fuel Problem

Submitted by Dan Ray

We boaters are faced with a problem-ethanol fuel. Gasoline contained MBTE, an additive which controls fuel's octane. This additive is being phased out, and now much of the fuels supply is a blend of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline, commonly referred to as E-10 fuel.

Ethanol presents multiple issues to boaters. The immediate impact of the formulation is a loss of horsepower and economy. Early indications show drops of 3-5 % in both categories. The loss of range sounds small, but adds up on boats that are often stretched to the limit in terms of fuel needs. Additionally, ethanol is a very effective solvent, and has a tendency to dissolve old coatings of varnish and dirt in existing fuel systems, fuel lines, and carburetors. This will lead to plugged filters, and other mechanical problems. The added amounts of particles associated with ethanol fuel may warrant upgrading fuel lines and filter systems. Many engineers are now recommending that boats using ethanol fuel need to use 10 micron filters. Pre E-10 systems will likely be using 28 micron filters. Manufacturers such as Yamaha have been quick to respond to ethanol fuel use by introducing 10 micron filters.

The corrosive nature of ethanol can affect fuel lines and other components causing them to crack and fail. Many older boats will require replacement of all fuel hoses and possibly other system components. You may want to check with your manufacturer to see if your engines fuel pump's rubber diaphragm can handle the new fuel blend. Boats equipped with fiberglass tanks will have additional issues. Many older vessels must have the fiber glass tanks replaced prior to using E-10 fuels, or face certain engine failure.

Water in E-10 fuel is yet another issue that boaters must deal with. The introduction of water on E-10 fuel can be disastrous. E-10 can hold in suspension up to four teaspoons of water per gallon. Once this point is exceeded, the solution separates and floats on top while the ethanol and water mix on the bottom. This unhappy event is called phase separation. Ethanol fuel can absorb enough water to reach its phase separation point in just over three months in 70 % humidity.

While the phase separation slurry in itself can cause problems by clogging the fuel system, the more immediate problem is that the remaining gasoline has lost its original octane value which can cause poor running and in some cases, engine damage. When phase separation occurs, the fuel should be drained and replaced.

Fuel storage and winterization has to be handled differently

when using E-10 fuels. Manufacturers are warning that fuels need to be stabilized if unused for as little as two weeks. Not all stabilizers are known to be E-10 compatible. Non-alcohol based fuel stabilizer additives are a must for ethanol fuel.

So far, the only solution to the addition of E-10 in our fuel is a product called Sta-Bil. It is available in a marine grade extra strength designed to help with the negative effects of ethanol in our fuel. (Other manufacturers now offer stabilizers for use with E-10 fuel. See your boat dealer for availability. Also, ethanol-free gasoline is available at several local gasoline stations-at a slightly higher price.)

Source: "Scuttlebutt," a monthly publication of the Akron (Ohio) Power Squadron.

(Continued from page 7)

this? I welcome suggestions.

(7) The water did not show signs of unusual discoloration to indicate algal blooms. It is usually in the fall of the year when the most problematic algal blooms (blue-green algae) occur. We did not see any plumes of sediment which would be an indication of sediment runoff...sediment runoff is usually associate with new construction sites. These would be construction sites without installed or properly maintained silt fences. Such construction does not need to be located right on the lake, it but may be a street or two away, so a Covekeeper would need to do a little investigating.

(8) We did not observe any home construction, probably a sign of our economic times. At Interstate-85 there were silt curtains under the bridge in place to reduce siltation that might flow off the construction in the interstate's median.

(9) In the area of Hwy 71 (Centerville Road) we knew there were permitted effluents. The SCDHEC website showed us that NPDES permits were issued to organizations in the area. We did not see or smell anything unusual but because we know there are effluents, the local Covekeeper should stay alert to possibilities.

(10) The Portman Marina, where our training session started and ended, has many boats, some quite large. It would be important to learn how a marina cares for the needs of its patrons. Do they have pump-out facilities, a honey-berge, etc.? This is something a local Covekeeper would look into.

(11) All trainees received a CoveKeeper T-shirt and were assigned to a River-Captain's area of responsibility. Each Covekeeper will be responsible for about 10 miles of lake shoreline.

It was a very good day,

Larry Dyck, Chair Covekeeper Program
email me at Hartwelllakekeeper@yahoo.com

Atlanta Again Looking East for Water

Submitted by Joe Brenner

As you've probably read or heard, a federal judge's ruling has put Lake Lanier's waters off limits for Atlanta's drinking water supply starting in 2012. This decision is due to the congressional purposing of the lake not including drinking water supply. Clearly this has created a bit of panic at the statehouse. Governor Perdue outlined a 4-prong approach to resolve the issue. The one we are most concerned about is capturing more water supply. To this end, the governor has appointed a Water Contingency Planning Task Force, made up primarily of Atlanta business interests, to study the problem and propose solutions. Among the options proposed include transferring 50 million gallons per day from Lake Burton and 100 million gallons per day from Hartwell, both in the Savannah Basin.

LHA has consistently taken a position against interbasin water transfers. These are counter to the riparian water rights upon which Georgia water law is based. Water resources are for the reasonable use of the population residing within a given basin. Future growth and economic development will be greatly controlled by the availability of natural resources; and that opportunity can not be "taken" for the good of another geographic area. Current Georgia law prevents such interbasin transfers, as does the charter of the Metropolitan Water District. We must ensure that legislation is not enacted to negate existing protections.

There are a number of major concerns with the approach Governor Perdue has taken in creating the "Task Force." The Task Force effort completely bypasses the intent of the recently passed Statewide Comprehensive Water Plan, and the creation of Regional Planning Committees to address basin-specific water management. The Task Force membership purposely excludes the best scientific resources and Georgia EPD and is heavily loaded with Atlanta area interests. As has been pointed out by the Georgia Water Coalition, the Task Force has presented overly aggressive need projections and grossly underestimated the water savings available through conservation. The best solutions for the Atlanta issue (repurposing Lake Lanier, conservation, and working out an interstate compact with Alabama and Florida) are being diluted by pursuing unnecessary and costly alternatives.

Although the Task Force has designated potential draws from the Savannah of 150 MGD, it would be naive to think that with a cost of billions of dollars once pipelines are installed, the SRB would not be eyed to make up the entire 350 MGD shortfall. This does not seem like a huge amount relative to the normal basin flow, but must be put in perspective. This is 10% of required drought flows and over a

typical drought period, could add several feet to lake levels. That's the difference for many folks of whether their docks float or are high and dry. And all basin demands become additive. Couple this with the proposed Plant Vogtle expansion, flow requirements for the Savannah Harbor project, and future environmental and habitat demands, and the net effect becomes catastrophic.

Area political representatives including state Senator Jim Butterworth, Rep. Alan Powell, and Congressman Paul Broun have all taken strong positions against the transfers of any Savannah Basin water. We would also expect strong resistance from our representatives in South Carolina to this grab of our common resource. LHA has and will continue to fight any attempt to capture our water, and we will continue to work with our political representatives and organizations throughout the basin that share our position.



LHA member, Mike Massey, caught these bass in December at 25-30 ft deep off rocky points with spoons and large minnows. If you have lake photos to share with members send them to LHANews@hotmail.com

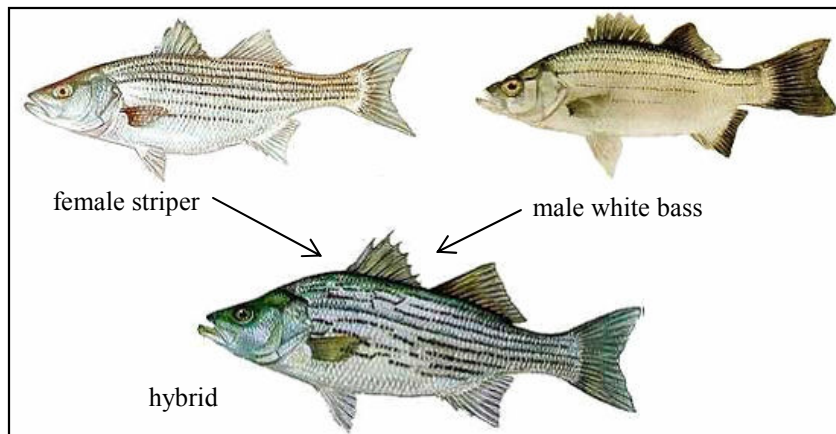
Striped Bass & Hybrid Bass in Hartwell Lake

Submitted by Fred Keller

The striped bass/hybrid bass fishery in Hartwell Lake is sustained entirely by the stocking programs of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR). Neither stripers nor hybrids are known to reproduce in the lake, and it is very unlikely that either of them do. Each spring SCDNR and GADNR combine to stock the lake with about six striper fingerlings and ten hybrid fingerlings per surface acre. This comes to about 336,000 stripers and 560,000 hybrids stocked per year. At the time of release, the fish are about one month old and about one inch long. Dan Rankin, SCDNR biologist, reports that the average growth of the stripers in Hartwell has been measured as follows: one year - 12 inches, two years - 17 inches, three years - 23 inches, four years - 26 inches. Females grow faster and become larger than males. Early in life, hybrids grow more rapidly than stripers, but they do not grow as large because they are not as long-lived. The largest striper caught out of the lake by a fisherman weighed more than 59 pounds.

Striped bass are ocean-going fish along the North American Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico coast. They swim up coastal rivers to spawn. To survive, the fertilized eggs must stay suspended in moving water for several days. This requires a sizable stream with significant flow for many miles. None of the streams entering Hartwell Lake have sufficient length and/or flow to provide the proper conditions for natural reproduction by Hartwell's land-locked stripers. Because they can live a long time, stripers can grow to a very large size. Fish over 125 pounds have been captured from the ocean.

Hybrid bass are produced in hatcheries with a striper as one parent and a white bass as the other. White bass, which are closely related to striped bass, originated in the Great Lakes system and the upper Mississippi River. White bass have a much shorter life span than stripers and, consequently, do not become nearly as large. They rarely exceed five pounds. At the SCDNR hatchery, the male parents of the hybrids are white bass. White bass/striped bass hybrids may be infertile, or they may be very inefficient at repro-



duction. There are some reports that hybrids have reproduced in the wild, but it seems unlikely that they can sustain a viable population. Hybrids live longer than their white bass parents, and they can become significantly larger, even larger than 25 pounds. In addition, hybrids can tolerate higher temperatures than either of their parents.

Although SCDNR stocks half of the stripers in Hartwell, all of these fingerlings are produced in a hatchery operated by GADNR. The reason is so that their ancestral origin will be from fish that used the Savannah River for spawning, the so-called Savannah-River strain. The SCDNR hatchery produces stripers from brood stock with the Santee-Cooper strain only. The hybrids stocked by SCDNR are produced at their own hatchery, and the female parent of these hybrids is a Santee-Cooper striper.

Now a plea from your author. Fishermen, please quickly and carefully release any striper that you catch so that it may be caught again. That fish is much more valuable in the lake than it is in a live well. As stated above, a striper can live a long time and has the potential to grow very large. In a couple of years, you and your fellow fishermen will have an opportunity to catch this fish when it is much larger. Also, this relieves you of the chore of cleaning fish when you return from a hard day at the lake. Every fisherman I have talked to about this subject has reported a significant reduction in the average size of Hartwell stripers over the past few years. The number of fishermen targeting Hartwell stripers increases year by year. This is a good thing, provided we are able to conserve a fishery with enough quality to make fishing enjoyable. Enjoy catching your fish; then enjoy watching it swim away. Let us not deserve Pogo's admonition: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

Another reason to release stripers, and hybrids as well, is that these fish in Hartwell Lake may be contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Health authorities have issued warnings about eating stripers and hybrids from Hartwell. Why take a chance with the health of your loved ones? Fish can be purchased at a grocery store for a tiny fraction of the cost of a fishing trip.

Thank You LHA Community & Business Members!

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

Anchor All Realty & Mortgage - Tammy Mobley
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NOTICE

Please visit our website to see a special tribute to the founding members who have been supporting LHA for 20 years.
www.LakeHartwellAssociation.org

Welcome Aboard & Thank You!

It’s been a tough year but it could have been worse without LHA member families and businesses that share a love for the wonderful water resource called Lake Hartwell. Please join us in welcoming the latest additions to the LHA team. We also wish to recognize the generous members who also made special contributions “for the sake of the lake.”

New Family Members

Lynn Archer, Sandy Austin, Jack Barlow, Roy & Betty Beck, Rebecca & Scott Bracewell, Joe F. Brandt, Mr. & Mrs. Alan C. Brandt, Jr., Paul G Brown, Cindy Burrell, Shannon & Melissa Clack, Kelly D. Clark, Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Cole, III, Murphy W. Cooke, Jr., John Crawford, Laura F. Darr, W. G. Davis, Sean & Lindsay Dohmen, Terry Edmonds, Francis & Dolly Fant, Russ & Kim Fletcher, Jerry Givens, Bob & Mary Gulbrandsen, John & Lawrie Haasis III, Tommy & Lisa Hardin, Jim Hathcote, Mike & Lisa Herold, Harold & Edith Hoke, Rick & Becky Holt, Richard & Shirel Klimaszewski, Jim & Donna Leitch, Becky White Loewy, James Long, Timothy J. & Cheryl H. Maloof, William & Janice Martin, Dean Mays, William S. McClay Jr., John & Dawn Nelson, Bill & Lynne Noethling, Mary Beth Parker, John & Ginny Payne, Shaun & Jean Rawls, Robert & Gayle Reynolds, Pete & Ann Signoretti, Herb & Bonnie Stevens, Ronnie & Clyde Ward, Michael Willard, Roger Wilson, Tom Wright, Craig & Shauna Yardley.

New Community & Business Memberships

C. Dan Joyner Company – C. Dan Joyner
 Collins Dock, Inc. – Tammy Collins Smith
 Save Our Lakes Now Association – Tommy Lee
 The Regatta At Lake Hartwell Homeowners Association, Inc. – Joe Argo
 Upstate Forever – Brad Wyche

Special Donations to LHA

John & Marilyn Bowman, Dale & Betty Cheek, Larry & Cecile Dyck, Terry Edmonds, Mark Howell, Denis & Geri Hynds, Keith Kozicki, James Hipkens & Rob Lamy, Dale & Nancy Linvill, Harold & Marilyn Martin, Randall Martinez, William S. McClay Jr., Donald & Edna Moore, James & Pamela Rogers, Royce & Joan Shafter, Ken & Layne Smith, Sharon & Adrian Steinmann, Mrs. Betty Marie Stewart, John Stitt.

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*Winter
2010*

Membership Information: Check all that apply

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