

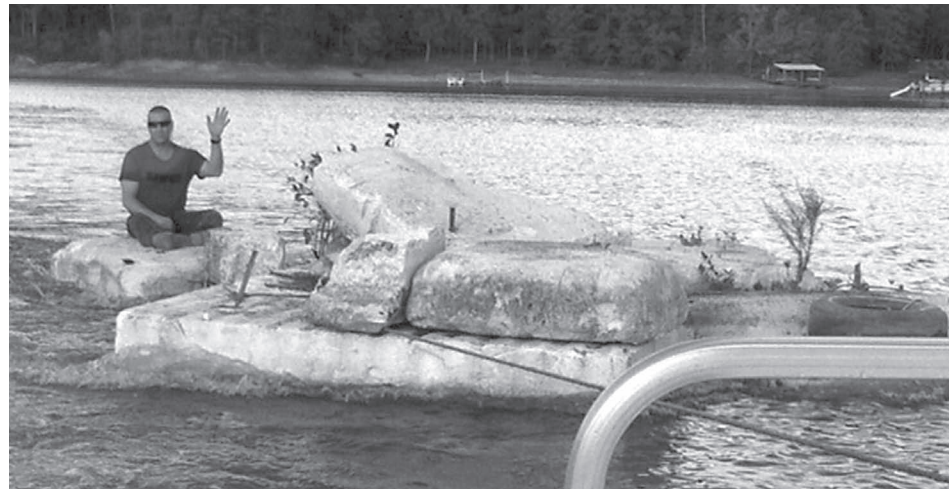


**Lake Lanier Association**  
615 F Oak Street, Suite 100  
Gainesville, GA 30501

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Committed to a clean and full  
Lake Lanier to enhance its  
economic value in Georgia.*

## Join us for Shore Sweep 2012



Would you like to get involved in a fun activity to make Lake Lanier a cleaner and safer lake to use? Join the estimated 1,000 volunteers last year that participated in Shore Sweep resulting in removing over 30 tons of trash.

This year, Shore Sweep will occur on September 29, 2012. For purposes of Shore Sweep, the lake is divided into 12 zones and 13 lake wide participating locations

plus 8 advance drop off locations. Each zone has at least one volunteer captain who manages the Shore Sweep activities in their zone. For 2012, additional emphasis will be placed on Shore Sweep safety. We appreciate all the volunteers what help with the event and are looking forward to your participation this year. We are looking for additional boats to go out either in advance and scout shore line areas for debris or haul in debris from areas not reachable

by car. If you are available to assist with either of these activities please call or email us at lakeinfo@lakelanier.org.

Similar to last year, in lieu of one volunteer appreciation party at a single location, each zone will have a few volunteer appreciation goodies.

### It is time to design!

Put on your artist's beret and start working on your design ideas for the 2012 Shore Sweep t-shirt design contest. \$100 prize goes to the winning entry in the contest.

The artwork must be original and must have the artist's name, address, and phone number listed on the back of the sheet. Submissions become the property of the Lake Lanier Association. The design must be submitted on no larger than 8.5x11 inch standard size copy paper.

Deadline to submit is Friday, August 31st, 2012. Mail submissions to Lake Lanier Association at 615F Oak Street, Suite 100, Gainesville, GA 30501

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### Upcoming Date to Remember

**Shore  
Sweep  
Saturday,  
September 29,  
2012**



Lake Lanier Association.  
615 F Oak Street, # 100  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
770-503-7757  
www.lakelanier.org  
lakeinfo@lakelanier.org

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jcloud@lakelanier.org

Committed to a Clean and Full *Lake Lanier*

# Lanier Outlook

Newsletter for the Lake Lanier Association  
August 2012

## Letter from the Board of Directors

As we enter the second half of the summer and the year, let us reflect on your associations activities for the past 12 months. Consistent with our objectives of "clean lake / full lake", we have:

1.) Continued the outstanding Shore Sweep program with enhanced focus on individual locations of particularly onerous trash, abandoned docks and sunken boats. Shore sweep collected more than 30 tons of trash last fall, and the program was augmented with superior planning, a new concept of recognition and increased cooperation with other lake stake holders. This September we plan to continue the success from last year with this program.

2.) Represented Lake Lanier in the Tri-State Water Wars litigation by supporting Georgia. Georgia has had a very good year on the legislative front. With the U.S. Supreme Court denying the Florida and Alabama's request to hear their appeal of the District Courts' decision, the authorization of Lanier to provide water supply for Georgia should no longer be an issue in the litigation. More work remains on Phase 2, but increased strength now resides with Georgia. We also expect the initiative "raising the full pool lake level to 1073 feet above sea level" to gain increased traction as we follow the negotiations with Florida and Alabama.

3.) Increased our outreach to the lake community by presenting at many lake stakeholders' events, from Rotary Clubs, lake clubs (sailing, kayaking, etc) to our

annual meeting featuring candidates for public office. Your board also has leadership positions in major water oriented structured organizations such as the ACF Stakeholders group, the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District and the Georgia Lakes Society. This focus on the community has resulted in increased presence and visibility for the Association and a 17% growth in membership.

4.) In the past few weeks added a new focus on water safety. The timing of this is good as we are tapering down on our legal obligations from Phase 1 of the Tri-State Water War and are looking forward to being in a position to allocate some resources to other initiatives. Your association will be coordinating a Lake Lanier Water Safety Alliance to focus on education, awareness, and general water safety among Lanier users and stake holders. Participants will be the Corps of Engineers, the DNR, marine trade suppliers, the Convention Visitors Bureau and others. You will hear more about this program as plans develop.

In summary, your association has had an outstanding year, and we look forward to continuing that progress into the remainder of 2012 and beyond.

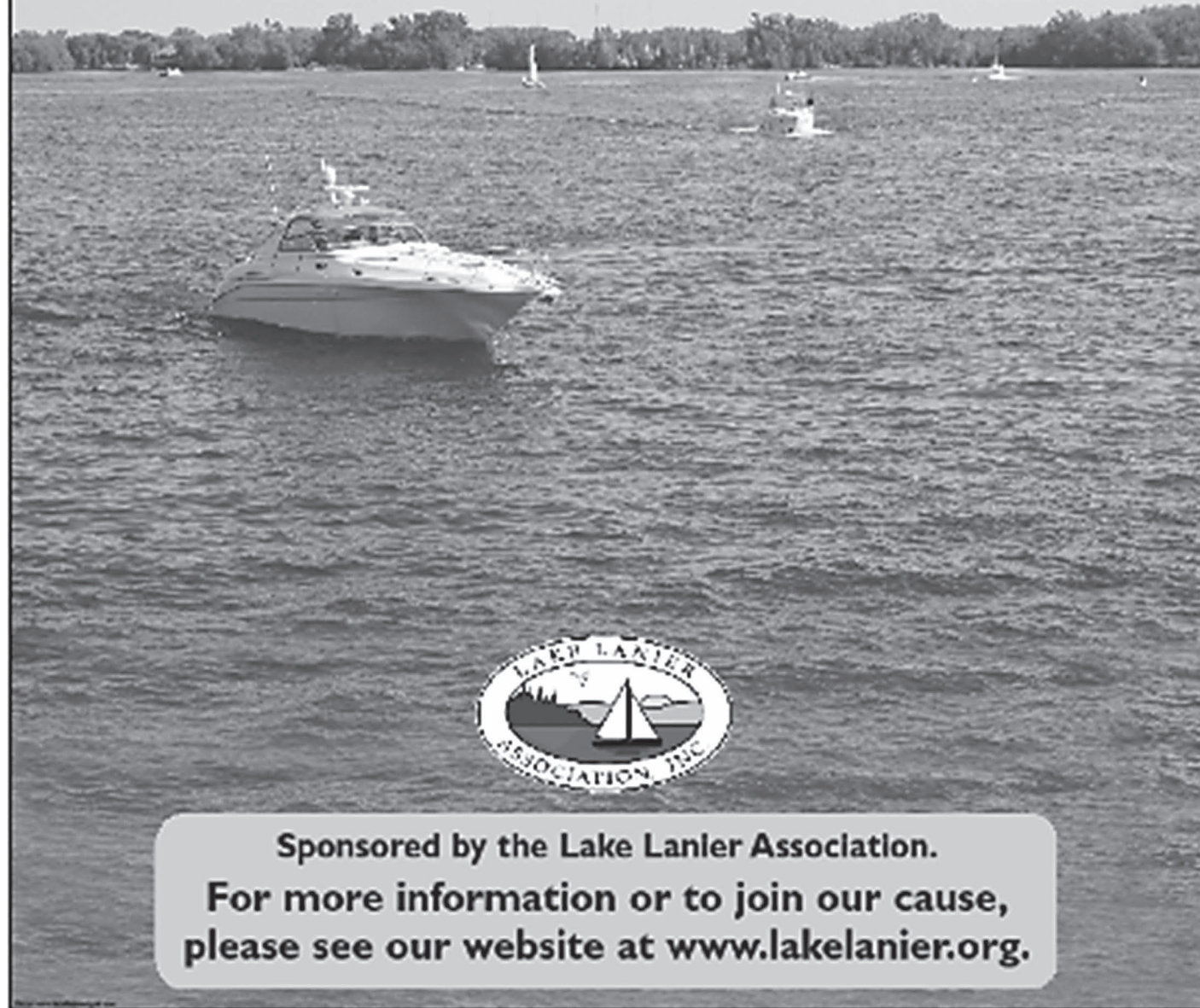




# PLEASE HELP KEEP LAKE LANIER SAFE FOR ALL OF US!

## \*\*Attention Boaters and Water Craft Users\*\*

**Remember to proceed at idle speed or less when within 100 feet of distance of stationary boats or water craft, docks, or persons in the water.**



**Sponsored by the Lake Lanier Association.  
For more information or to join our cause,  
please see our website at [www.lakelanier.org](http://www.lakelanier.org).**



## Interview with Robert Estrada, TowboatU.S.

**TowboatU.S. is an authorized affiliate**

The LLA recently spoke with Robert Estrada, the owner of Estrada Marine Services. Robert's company is based out of Lanier Harbor Marina and provides towing services for boats anywhere, anytime on Lake Lanier. Estrada Marina Services is the most decorated tow company in the BoatU.S. fleet. Robert was named national Tower Of The Year in 2010 and is the current President of the fresh water chapter of the Seaport Conference of Professional Towers national organization. While Robert spends most of his time on Lanier, he also provides service at other fresh water locations by special request.

### How long have you been in the towing business?

In 1993 I started working for Lanier Harbor Marine when it was as a dry store option. There were lots of first time owners with boating problems and towing became a business opportunity. Lanier Harbor Rescue In 1993 I bought Lanier Harbor Rescue and Tow then became an affiliate of

TowBoat US. In 2008 I bought towing from Lanier Harbor and started Estrada Marine Services.

### Approximately how many boats do you tow in a summer week?

I do about 150 tows a month during summer.

### What is the deal with membership in BoatU.S. versus non-membership?

It costs \$24/year to be a standard BoatU.S. member\* and that gets you \$50 off of towing expenses per year. The average charge for a freshwater tow is around \$275 so if you are a BoatU.S. member, that tow charge would be reduced to \$225. If you upgrade your BoatU.S. membership to the \$58 per year level, you get unlimited fresh water no charge towing.

*\*[Editor's Note: reminder that current Lake Lanier Association members are entitled to a 50% discount off their standard BoatU.S. annual membership which reduces that cost even more!]*

### What do people need to do if they need your assistance?

If it is life threatening call 911. Local



Robert Estrada

emergency services will dispatch Robert if that is deemed necessary. If it is a non emergency, call Robert at 404.405.2641.

### Do you have set hours or days operation?

On call 24/7-365!

### Best advice for Lake Lanier boaters?

Know where you are on the lake, buoy markers, GPS coordinates, landmarks, etc. Also, get boat insurance.

Lake Lanier more safe. If the same amount of media attention was brought to each tragic incident at Lake Lanier maybe it would keep people thinking and talking about how to be safe and thus, the Lake becomes more safe.

The discussion ranges from "drain the lake" to "the lake is perfectly safe". It includes "enacting more laws" to "the current laws are adequate". It includes speed limits, big lights for night time boating, licensing, education, wearing life jackets, and on and on. The legislature will do what they deem necessary to do. So what can you do? Believe it or not, you are doing it. By thinking and talking about how to be safe on the

water it remains in the forefront of your thoughts. If it is there then maybe you will be safe on the water. Keep doing it, talk about it all the time. Talk about it with your friends and family, make it dinner conversation. Talk about it at work. Talk about it wherever you go and with whomever you meet. Talk about it on the way to the lake (ask yourself if you will be going home today?). Talk about it while at the lake. Talk about it on the way home from the lake. But even more importantly, practice what you talk and stress the importance to those you are with to practice what you talk. Individual responsibility, choosing your actions, is the best way to enhance your safety and the safety of others.

## Corps Corner

By Tim Rainey,  
Operations Project Manager,  
Lake Sidney Lanier - Buford Dam

The recent tragic incidents on Lake Lanier has brought on significant media attention and has increased the conversation among the public and local and state authorities on "how to make Lake Lanier more safe". Notwithstanding these horrific events and not diminishing their significance I wonder where all of this media attention and conversation was last year when there were 16 water related fatalities as compared to 5 this year. Don't get me wrong, I welcome the attention because it does have people thinking and talking about how to make





## Water Safety Alliance

The Lake Lanier Association has decided to expand its core objectives from Clean Lake | Full Lake to include Safe Lake as a basic objective. The Lake Lanier Association proudly announces the formation of a water safety alliance.

The essential values of the alliance surround boating behavior as well as general water safety. The association has already spoken to a wide range of government and marine based organizations regarding participating

and has seen indications of interest from many local entities. All lake stakeholders are invited to participate. Goals of this alliance include awareness, education, and potential suggested changes for state legislation.

You may have seen in recent newspaper publications the full page ad placed by the LLA to remind boaters of the 100 foot law. The ad has been placed in the Dawson County News, Forsyth County News, Gainesville Times, and Lakeside News.

## Lake Lanier Association Announces Welcomes New Board Member Gary Smith

The Lake Lanier Association is proud to announce that Gary Smith has joined the association's Board of Directors. We are excited to have someone with Gary's expertise join our Board of Directors and help us continue to advance our objectives as the advocacy group for Lake Lanier. Mr. Smith is also currently serving as Director for the Lanier Technical College Foundation. He formerly held the positions of Chairman of the Forsyth County

Board of Elections and Chairman of the Forsyth County Republican Party among other community service based roles. Gary says he is very pleased to have been asked to join the Lake Lanier Association Board and will work hard to justify our confidence in him. Gary feels that Lake Lanier is a critical asset that all of us must join together to protect, whether we use it for recreational purposes or for drinking water.

## Member Survey

In an effort to be sure we are in synch with what our membership is looking to us to provide, we are conducting a member survey about the current role of the Lake Lanier Association and to solicit your suggestions for future projects and services.

We try to continuously adapt to our membership needs in terms of setting our priorities and allocating

our resources, and your feedback is a critical part of that process. We are conducting the survey electronically through an email link. We have also put the information about the survey on our website and Facebook page. Please check your email for information regarding this important feedback opportunity. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to participate!

## July 2012 Lake Lanier Index

Those 90 and 100 degree days have raised the average Lake temperature 7 degrees from June to 84, one degree below July 2011. The average Secchi reading decreased 0.3 feet to 6.5 probably due to increased boat traffic over the July 4th weekend and run off from recent rain. Section A averaged 4.2 feet 0.7 below June's reading with the lowest reading of 2 feet in shallow areas of the Upper Chattahoochee. B had an average of 8.4 feet and the highest reading at any station of 9.8 feet in the confluence of Balus and Flat Creek. C stations all reported readings of just over 8 feet. Chlorophyll a readings were low with only two readings above 1, one of 3 PPB and one of 2 PPB. We will leave the Lake Lanier Index at 6.5, but just barely as last month and last year had slightly better Secchi readings.

Adopt-A-Lake divides Lake Lanier into three sections "A" north of Brown's Bridge, "B" the center region south of the Bridge to a line from Six Mile Creek east to Aqualand Marina, and "C" south of this line to Buford Dam. We have 30 stations that volunteers test the first weekend every month. Secchi readings are taken by lowering a weighted disk into the water and measuring the distance it can be seen thus giving a gauge of clarity. Chlorophyll a is used to determine nutrients in the Lake.

The Lake Lanier Index is only a measure of nutrients and clarity and not of water safety.

Thanks to our wonderful Adopt-A-Lake volunteers, AMPRO Labs for our chlorophyll a analysis, and the support of all Lake Lanier Association members.



## Legal Update

### Supreme Court Upholds 11th Circuit Water Wars Ruling

By: Clyde Morris,  
Attorney for the  
Lake Lanier Association

"The petitions for writs of certiorari are denied." With those eight words, the United States Supreme Court put its stamp of finality on the issue of whether LakeLanier is authorized to be used for water supply. Thus ends the legal issue that has been at the heart of the Tri-States controversy for over two decades.

But lest we get ahead of ourselves, the appeal denial handed down this morning by the Supreme Court is not the end of the Water Wars. Soon the Corps of Engineers will be issuing its

own determination of how much storage it can allocate for water supply in Lanier. And while that is an issue that could spawn another round of legal battles, it clearly does not carry the magnitude of the more fundamental issue of whether storage may legally be allocated to water supply at all.

And there is still another phase in this bifurcated litigation that has not yet come before the Eleventh Circuit: the portion dealing with the Endangered Species Act and the volume of flows required to be sent to Florida for their protection. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service only a month ago issued its final Biological Opinion regarding some changes in the Corps' Revised Interim Operations

Plan – the operating rules the Corps will follow until it issues a new ACF Water Supply Manual in the next few years. Florida appealed Judge Magnuson's Phase 2 ruling – that the RIOP does not violate the ESA – to the 11th Circuit nearly two years ago, but the appeal has been held in abeyance pending issuance of FWS's new Biological Opinion. The new opinion essentially reinforces FWS's previous conclusion that the endangered and threatened species will not be harmed by the RIOP, even with the new changes.

So where does this leave us now? According to the RIOP, flows at the Florida state line must be a minimum of 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) unless drought contingency operations are triggered, in which case the minimum required flow is reduced to 4,500 cfs. The Corps is under orders from the 11th Circuit to issue its determination by June 28 on how much storage it is authorized to allocate to water supply. So by the end of this week, the LLA and the rest of the litigants will know the Corps' position and will be forming decisions about how best to move forward. But one thing we know already: the LLA will continue to represent its members in protecting LakeLanier's water level and water quality, as it has for over 45 years.

