

Proposed Indian Creek Reservoir Near Carroll County, Georgia

By Steve Forehand

The Carroll County (Georgia) Water Authority has filed an application with the Army Corps of Engineers to construct a pump storage water supply reservoir on Indian Creek, a tributary of the Tallapoosa River. According to the application, “**The project as proposed consists of constructing a 1,600-foot long dam that would create a 643-acre reservoir. The normal pool elevation for Indian Creek is designed for 1190 feet mean sea level (msl). Carroll County Water Authority has projected that there will be an unmet, average water demand, in portions of Carroll County within the Tallapoosa Basin of 25 million gallons per day (mgd) in the year 2060. The applicant states that the Indian Creek Reservoir would be capable of providing Carroll County residents with an average annual safe yield of 18 mgd at the proposed design dimensions. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division provided a letter dated August 19, 2009, to the applicant concurring with the project’s proposed unmet need for the target year 2060.**” The application itself provides little, if any, discussion of the proposed impact on the downstream users of the Tallapoosa River. Some of the highlights of LMRA’s comments on this proposal will be discussed here. Research of this project yielded quite a bit of information. Carroll County Water Authority commissioned a consultant to identify proposed sites for construction of water storage reservoirs. The consultant’s report identified several sites but focused on four potential sites as the most viable. Each of those four sites has the same capacity of providing up to 18 mgd to the Carroll County Water Authority. In its comments filed with the Corps of Engineers, LMRA expressed its concern that if all four projects are pursued by Carroll County Water Authority, the ultimate capacity of all four reservoirs would greatly exceed the projected need in the year 2060. LMRA’s concern is that this reservoir system could be used as a water supply for Atlanta’s needs, resulting in a transfer of water out of the Tallapoosa basin. LMRA has urged the Corps of Engineers to conduct appropriate studies of the impact on downstream users prior to granting a permit for construction of this project. The application did not include any information on how the project would be operated during times of drought. Since the drought of 2007 is still a very fresh memory for Lake Martin residents, we know how vital continued flow in the Tallapoosa River can be. LMRA has requested that drought operations be addressed by the Carroll County Water Authority. The Carroll County Water Authority website indicates that the Carroll County Wastewater Treatment system has a current capacity of .45 mgd and that the treated wastewater is land applied. LMRA is concerned that withdrawals from the Indian Creek project will not make their way back into the Tallapoosa River unless the wastewater system is substantially upgraded to match the capacity of withdrawals. This could have a serious impact on the flow in the Tallapoosa River and, ultimately, Lake Martin. LMRA has urged the Corps of Engineers to conduct public hearings on this project. We will keep our members apprised of new developments concerning this proposed project. The full text of LMRA’s comments can be found on the website at www.lmra.info.



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LAKE LINES

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MAY 2010

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Beautiful Lake Martin! Yes, we have a beautiful lake, beautiful shoreline, clear pristine water, abundance of wild life and wild flowers, and all the things that many people dream of. But, how often do we really get on the lake to really enjoy the gift that God has given us. The winter of 2009/2010 was a hard one. We had 12 days of below freezing temperatures, burst pipes, rain, rain and more rain, too much government taking more of our liberties and we all had personal problems to encounter. For me, there was a month of illness and then surgery, the sudden loss of a very close life long friend and the remodeling of our home. I’m sure you can add your winter’s events to this list. But after Winter comes Spring. And, certainly after problems and heart aches, comes joy and happiness. The lake is filling, flowers are in bloom and the birds are singing. So, if we can, let’s put the winter behind us and all that it brought and rejoice that Spring is here. Let’s get out on our beautiful lake and enjoy it. For those of us who live on the lake, it’s easy to become complacent and take it for granted. But, it’s a beautiful asset that we have and we need to appreciate it. So, clean up your boat, fill it with gas and get out on the water and explore our beautiful Lake Martin.

See you on the Water!

Charles Borden

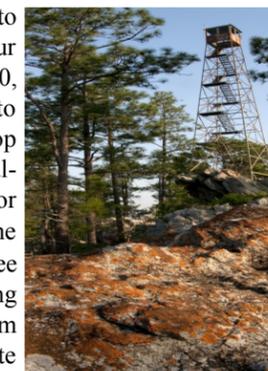
2010 LMRA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar: June 5th at 9:00 am at the Harbor House at Children’s Harbor for our 2010 Annual Meeting. Barry Mask, speaking from his perspective both as the State Representative from Elmore County and Executive Director of the Elmore County Economic Development Authority, will give us his thoughts on the value of Lake Martin to the area and state. Also hear up to date reports on other issues affecting our lake.

NEW ROLE FOR OLD TOWER

Since 1939, the Smith Mountain Fire tower has stood like a sentinel over Lake Martin and the woodlands that cover its shores. It has been a landmark for boaters and a destination for intrepid hikers, who are treated to sweeping views of the lake from the mountaintop, which looms 780 feet above the water. For four decades, the tower was vital in the fight against forest fires. Since its decommissioning in 1980, though, the tower and site have been left to the ravages of time. Now an effort is under way to restore the tower and make the historic site accessible to the public. For many, a trip to the top will evoke fond memories of days gone by. With hiking trails and picnic areas, as well as unparalleled views from the tower, the Smith Mountain Historic Site promised to be an attraction for residents and a destination for visitors to Tallapoosa County. Joining to sponsor restoration of the historic site are Alabama Power Co., the **Lake Martin Resource Association**, the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail Association, Tallapoosa Publishers and *Lake* magazine, Hodnett Engineering and the Men of Dadeville First United Methodist Church. Restoration has been a longtime dream for many. Now the opportunity is at hand, but restoring the historic tower and preparing the site will require money and volunteers. You can be a part of an historic effort. So reach for the sky and make your contribution today. Tax deductible donations can be made to:

CRATA—Smith Mountain Tower, c/o Jimmy Lanier, CRATA
P. O. Box 240503, Eclectic, AL 36024



Reach for the Sky!
Help restore the Smith
Mountain Fire Tower
on Lake Martin

Russell Forest Preservation Organization

By Steve Forehand

Imagine riding horseback through several thousand acres of beautiful Alabama forest. Imagine taking a nature hike with your children or grandchildren on a quiet morning and observing many species of plant and animal life in a natural setting. Imagine mountain biking over dirt trails on a crisp afternoon through miles of mature, fall-colored trees. Now imagine all this within minutes of your Lake Martin residence.

The initial step in the creation of the Russell Forest has been completed. The Russell Forest Preservation Organization, Inc. (RFPO) has been established as a non-profit corporation whose primary objectives and purposes shall be conservation, management, and restoration of the environment, including environmental remediation; acceptance or creation of conservation easements, land, or interests in land; the development of educational and research opportunities for environmental learning; managing access to areas of special ecological, aesthetic, cultural, and educational value; and demonstration of conservation and restoration projects focused on the practical integration of nature and culture in settled landscapes. In short, the RFPO will act as the stewardship organization for the Russell Forest.

The Russell Forest is the brainchild of Ben Russell, Chairman and CEO of Russell Lands. In considering his contribution to the legacy of land assembled by his grandfather, Mr. Russell wanted to preserve and protect a large part of the land as a forest. According to Mr. Russell, "Many people never get the chance to see and experience a large block of pristine forest land. I want to preserve the Russell Forest for that use."

Conservation easements will be imposed on land that becomes part of the Russell Forest to ensure that development of that property never occurs. The designation of land for the Russell Forest will be a systematic process that will take place over several years. According to Tom Lamberth, President and COO of Russell Lands, "We will consider our long term needs for development to determine areas most appropriate for the Russell Forest. The Russell Forest will set Russell Lands On Lake Martin apart from communities that don't have such a wonderful amenity."

The RFPO will actively manage the forest by utilizing responsible silvicultural practices. This may include removing undesirable species, controlled burning and re-establishment of native species. The native flora and fauna should flourish under this long-term management plan. Programming activities for the Russell Forest will be conducted from Russell Crossroads at The Stables and the Naturalist Cabin.

Lights on the Water

Two things you should know about lights when boating at night:

1. Strobe lights (white or amber) are OK on Lake Martin and provide an added measure of safety when boating at night. They can be purchased at local marinas for under \$50 and might just save your life.
2. Docking lights (those 2 head lights that are on many boats) are for use when approaching a dock. They are illegal for use when navigating across the water because they interfere with the night vision of oncoming boaters. Marine Police will issue a citation if they catch you with these lights on while on open water.. **PRACTICE BOATING SAFETY AT ALL TIMES!**

Martin Dam Relicensing—"Shoulder Month Proposal"

LMRA has proposed in the relicensing of Martin Dam, that Alabama Power begin the filling of Lake Martin so that the lake is full by April 1 each year and maintain the full pool elevation until October 15. We also support maintaining the winter pool level at an elevation above 480', either 483' or 485'. Alabama Power completed the modeling of these various proposals and presented the results to LMRA in a modeling workshop on March 31. The details of the various models were very technical and some of the results were encouraging but Alabama Power has not made a decision on which, if any, of the options they favor. Several meetings are scheduled in May and June where the options will be discussed and LMRA will have an opportunity to present a case for the most favorable option. Certainly, we would like to see the entire proposal accepted and the lake kept full for longer periods. Many other stakeholders are involved in this study and all do not share our view. Some compromise may have to be considered and we await the decision of Alabama Power. We are very hopeful of some decision that would make the lake more useable for longer periods of time for our membership. We will keep you informed as the decision nears.

WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU

E-MAIL ALERT



Here are the directors and officers who have been elected to move LMRA forward.

J. Charles Borden, President
cborden@LMRA.info
John E. Thompson, VP
Environmental Education
Will Denton, Secretary
Community Relations/Publicity
Tom Lamberth, Treasurer
Steve Forehand, Legal Officer
Jerry Bynum
Rendell Clark, Boating Safety
Bill Harper
Jim Koeppen
Ben Russell
C. Wayne Shell, Membership
Larry Tuggle, Reward Program
Steve Windom, Legislative

We use e-mail to inform you of events and issues that you need to know quickly. Each time we send a "blast" e-mail, we get some that are not deliverable. We try to keep our data base current but this depends on you. **PLEASE notify us** when you change your e-mail address or your mailing address. If you have not recently received an e-mail from LMRA, please notify us. That means that we have an incorrect addresses. E-mail us at LMRA@LMRA.info

Lakeside Address Sign

Many LMRA members have taken the opportunity to place their address on the lakeside of their property by purchasing a sign through LMRA. If you would like to purchase an address sign, you can find the order form at www.LMRA.info or call Karen at 256-212-1422.

123 LAKE ROAD

LMRA OFFERS SAFE BOATING COURSES

LMRA with Alabama Marine Police, Montgomery Power Squadron, and Russell Marine are proud to announce that safe boating courses will be offered at both Kowaliga Marina and The Ridge Marina.

June 25th and 26th at Kowaliga Marina

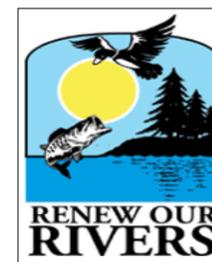
The course will be the Marine Police "Boat Alabama" Course. This is a six hour course teaching the minimum boating skills to obtain the "V" on your driver's license or an equivalent certification from the state for those without a driver's license. Course material is free and the exam is open book. A Marine Police officer will be there Saturday morning to explain who they are, what they look for and the most common violations and their cost. Course will be Friday night, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Saturday morning, 9:00 AM to noon.

July 31st and Aug.7th at The Ridge Marina

The course will be the United States Power Squadron's "Squadron Boating Course". This is an eight hour course teaching again the basics, but also begins to explore the use of marine radios, basic navigation, chart reading and course plotting, along with piloting and seamanship skills. The cost of the course material is \$20.00. The exam is closed book and the Power Squadron will award their certificate. This certificate can be used for obtaining the "V" or equivalent state certificate. Again a Marine Police Officer will be there for their part of the course. Course will be Saturday mornings, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Class size will be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 for both courses.

To register please call or see one of the following:

LMRA – Karen Posey at 256-212-1422
Kowaliga Marina – Peggy Rainwater at 334-857-2111
The Ridge Marina –Jennifer Jones at 256-397-1300



LMRA/"Renew our Rivers" Cleanup Planned

In conjunction with the Alabama Power Company's "Renew our Rivers" project, LMRA is planning a two day shoreline and roadside clean up in the fall of the year. The dates are Friday October 8 and Saturday October 9. Our plan will be to focus the shoreline clean up efforts on areas of the lake that have been reported to be littered with trash or possibly contain larger items such as Styrofoam, automobile tires and abandoned floating docks. Lake residents and the boating public are being asked to assist the effort by making a note of affected areas as they enjoy a shoreline cruise. The Marine Police will also be actively looking for large items that create concerns for boating safety. You can send your report to lmra@lmra.info or call 334-323-7880. Photographs and GPS coordinates would be greatly appreciated John Thompson