



LAKE MARTIN

www.LMRA.info

JAN. 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LMRA Member,

In the January 2014 President's letter, I indicated that we were optimistic that we would receive an approval from FERC for the extended summer pool and the 3 foot higher winter lake levels. At our annual meeting in June Jim Crew recapped the additional information that FERC requested and was provided. According to Jim, the additional information only further confirmed the fact that the proposed changes would not increase the chances of flooding below Martin Dam. Jim expressed that he was cautiously optimistic the proposal would be approved

Here we are 12 months later in exactly the same situation; no news is, well, no news. We don't have a clue as to when FERC will render a decision. In the meantime, we will continue to enjoy the clean, clear waters of Lake Martin.

I am particularly excited about 2015 for several reasons. We have three new board members who will strengthen an already strong team of LMRA Directors who work hard for the betterment of Lake Martin.

Additionally, we once again have two buoy boats that are fully equipped to take care of the buoy installation and maintenance needs that are required. Rendell Clark and his hard working crew have done a great job of preparing the boats and enjoying "fun outings" while performing the arduous task of maintaining the more than 400 buoys scattered over Lake Martin.

These boats are also used heavily in the lake cleanups. Both of them were loaded down several times during the recent cleanup in November 2014. We intend to use them as needed when we receive reports of littered shorelines.

Please take the time to read each of the articles in this issue, particularly the "Water Wars update" and let us know if you have additional questions. We welcome your comments; you can email jthompson@lmra.info or give me a call at 334-323-7880.

We appreciate all of our members and we strive to continue to earn the trust you place in LMRA. Please remember to renew your membership and encourage your friends to join.

Sincerely,

John

E-MAIL ALERT

Your correct e-mail address is vital to our communication process. We often send out information that we believe our members need to know between the publication of our newsletters. Routinely, we get about 20% back as non-deliverable. Help us correct this problem by **calling Karen at 256-212-1422** with your correct e-mail address. Or, you can send it to LMRA@LMRA.info. We don't send out junk and we don't disclose your e-mail address to anyone else.



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. New price \$25.00.

123 LAKE ROAD

FYI--Middle Tallapoosa River Basin Clean Water Partnership (MTRBCWP)

Long name but an important organization with a mission similar to LMRA and LMRA serves on the Executive Board of this organization. Like LMRA, its mission is to protect the water that flows through the middle Tallapoosa River basin in which Lake Martin is located. The CWP consists of numerous organizations with a similar objective and is funded by an annual grant from Alexander City. The work of CWP is accomplished by public education and outreach. Some of the programs of CWP include Electronics Recycling Events, Erosion Control Workshops and Septic Tank Workshops. The major event each year is the Water Festival where approximately 450 fourth grade students from local and county schools come together at Wind Creek Park in the spring to learn all about the importance of water, the creatures in the water and how to preserve it and keep it clean. This year LMRA contributed 14 volunteers to help with the workshops for this event. CWP is currently supporting the development of the Tallapoosa River Canoe Trail. CWP also awards grants each year to individuals and organizations that show a need to conduct research or perform a project that has as its objective the improvement of water quality in the Tallapoosa River basin. Through education, projects and grants, CWP has a significant impact on the water quality in the Middle Tallapoosa River Basin and consequently on the water quality of Lake Martin. We just thought our membership would like to know that not only are we concerned for the safety of water activities through our buoy program, for the protection of member's property through our reward program and for the elevation of the lake level through our participation in the Martin Dam relicensing effort, we are also very concerned with the water quality before it flows into our beautiful lake. Now you know! **FYI** **JCB**

Water Wars Revisited

Over the past eight or so years, LMRA has been an active participant and stakeholder in the Alabama Power Company relicensing effort for Lake Martin. That process is nearing an end with the license expected to be issued, hopefully, this year. During the time the Lake Martin relicensing process has moved forward, a different proceeding has been underway that could have adverse impacts on Lake Martin.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers undertook a revision of its Water Control Manual for the Alabama Coosa Tallapoosa basin. Last year a draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued for public comment. Unlike the Alabama Power Company relicensing process, stakeholder input was not solicited by the COE on the Water Control Manual update. LMRA filed comments on the Draft EIS and focused on the anticipated adverse impacts on Lake Martin. The final EIS was issued by the COE on November 7, 2014. The comment period has been extended to February 5, 2015. LMRA plans to file comments on the final EIS, again focusing on the adverse impacts on Lake Martin.

As an example of adverse impacts, the final EIS recommends changes in operations at Lake Alatoona in Georgia, ostensibly for recreation. It is apparent that the proposed operational changes at Alatoona are designed to preserve the water for Atlanta, to the detriment of Alabama. If the COE attempts to justify these changes in the name of recreation, we believe the downstream recreation is equally important and deserving of the traditional water flow around which these recreational activities have grown. You may wonder why operational changes on a Georgia lake on the Coosa River are important to Lake Martin. Alabama Power is required to release enough water from its projects to support a flow of 4,640 cfs at the Montgomery Water Works gauge. If the flow is decreased in the Coosa River, that flow requirement will mean that proportionately more water will have to come from the Tallapoosa River, potentially resulting in lower levels in Lake Martin. In addition, many of the assumptions upon which the COE modeling was based appear to be flawed, calling into question the legitimacy of the results of the modeling upon which the operational changes are based.

The COE revision of the Water Control Manual has not received nearly as much media attention as the Alabama Power Company relicensing proceeding. We want to assure the LMRA members that our Board is closely monitoring the Water Control Manual revision process and is making comments at every opportunity. We fully expect this revision to result in future litigation as the State of Alabama seeks to protect its interests in the water in the ACT basin. Stay tuned!

• LMRA INFO and EVENTS •

“Renew our Rivers”

The 2014 LMRA “Renew our Rivers” Lake Martin cleanup is now completed and once again a large amount of trash has been removed from the shoreline of Lake Martin as well as some roadsides adjacent to or near the lake. It has been determined that some amount of trash enters the lake as part of storm water runoffs and natural watersheds. We continue to find however that most of the trash we pick up comes from those using and abusing the pristine quality and beauty by leaving aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, Styrofoam cups and other picnic items on the shoreline. We find old burned out grills, broken plastic chairs, automobile tires and other items that are difficult to understand how or why they came to be deposited on the shore of our “Treasured Alabama Lake”. The area most commonly known as “land between the lakes” continues to be a favorite spot for some abusers. Thanks to Bill Thompson and Robert Iler who picked up well over fifteen hundred aluminum cans and numerous bags of other trash, this area is once again restored to its natural beauty. This year the cleanup was also focused on shorelines in Wind Creek Park, Elkahatchee Creek, Coley Creek and coves located north of the Highway 280 Bridge. Additionally Jimmy Lanier and members of Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail Association (CRATA) tackled the tough job of cleaning the shoreline where hiking trails dipped down to the water’s edge. The area across from Chimney Rock has many spots where cans and bottles accumulate. This was the first time in the 15 years that Renew our Rivers has been in existence that an organized cleanup has targeted the northern area of the lake, even though this is the home of beautiful Camp ASCCA and many full time Lake Martin residents. This area is the first target of heavy spring rains, flooded creeks and a swollen Tallapoosa River. The sloughs fill up with debris and trash from high water created by spring rains and much of it is deposited when the water recedes. Even though volunteers, including a team of Alabama Power Company employees and Jackson Dozier of Towboat Lake Martin, removed enough trash to fill a large dumpster, the trash has accumulated over the years and will take at least one more cleanup effort. We will consider targeting this area again next year. Elkahatchee Creek was another target area. From the historic bridge on Highway 63 to the Piney Woods boat ramp, volunteers, consisting of Junior Ambassadors from Benjamin Russell, a youth group from Great Bethel Baptist Church, Boy Scouts, and Campfire Girls, boarded pontoon boats furnished by Wind Creek Park and cleaned areas on both sides of one of the most scenic shorelines on Lake Martin. One of the most beautiful views of Elkahatchee is from the bridge on Highway 63. This area also is a popular fishing spot from the shoreline and had become heavily littered. After several hours of hard work by John Coley, Steve Robinson, Earl Keel and three newcomers to Lake Martin, you can now enjoy the view without being distracted by the litter. After removing many bags of trash from Elkahatchee, this hardworking group moved down Highway 63 to what is known as “double bridge” where they discovered an illegal dump adjacent to the bridge. This dump contained more than 30 automobile and truck tires, wooden flats and other various trash. The group moved the trash to the roadside where employees of Tallapoosa County will haul it to the landfill. As part of an effort to expand the scope of this year’s cleanup into more of a community effort, the city of Alexander City was included in this year’s two day event. Lt. James Orr, of the ACPD, and Ms. Amanda Thomas organized an effort that resulted in 40 volunteers hitting the streets within the city limits that had been targeted for cleanup. Mayor Charles Shaw and City Council members Tony Goss and Sherry Simpson were among the group that included representatives of Main Street and several businesses. In addition to these area, there were teams of volunteers in the Smith Mountain vicinity as well as the Real Island community that combined both roadside and shoreline in their cleaning effort. This year’s expanded cleanup was very productive and we are grateful to our sponsors and the more than 235 volunteers who picked up nearly 6 tons of trash throughout the Lake Martin Community. We owe a special thanks to Laurie Carter and Marshall Griffin for hosting a hot dog cookout for the youth organizations and adult volunteers who worked in Wind Creek Park on Saturday. This group at Wind Creek also heard a presentation on the value of recycling offered by Sabrina Wood, Middle Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership Coordinator. Additionally, we want to recognize and express gratitude to Russell Lands, Cloud Nine, Wind Creek Park, LMRA, Towboat Lake Martin and Judge Leon Archer for donating prizes.

After many years of being a part of organizing and participating in cleanups, a few things have become very apparent: (1) Litter on Lake Martin will continue to be a problem and cleanups will always be necessary, (2) Expanded environmental education is critical for our youth, (3) Recycling needs to become a top priority for our City and County officials, (4) Roadside litter maintenance on both county and state highways in the Lake Martin Community needs to become more important to all concerned.

A Clean Lake Martin Community offers benefits to all.

John Thompson, President, Lake Martin Resource Association

New Board Members

Lake Martin Resource Association (LMRA) announces the election of three new members to its' Board of Directors to serve a three year term beginning in January 2015. The new board members are: Lacey Howell, Jackson Lilly and Jackson Dozier. All three are natives of the Alexander City area with a vested interest in the Lake Martin community.

Lacey holds the position of Marketing Director for Wickles Pickles, she and her husband John, who is employed by Robinson Iron, live on Lake Martin.

Jackson Dozier, who along with his wife Nicki, are licensed boat Captains live on Lake Martin where they own and operate TowBoat US Lake Martin.

Jackson Lilly and his wife, Ali, reside at Children's Harbor where Jackson was recently named Plant Manager for Children's Harbor.

"We are very pleased and excited to add these talented, energetic, young Lake Martin lovers to our Board. They were raised on this lake and they recognize the importance of LMRA and the value we bring to the Lake Martin Community", says John Thompson, President of LMRA who was also elected to serve for another term.

Additionally, the following, currently serving Board members were elected for another three year term; Tommy Abernathy, Tom Lamberth, Wayne Shell, Larry Tuggle and John Thompson

Directors and Officers of LMRA

John Thompson, President
jthompson@LMRA.info
Rendell Clark, Vice President
Will Denton, Secretary
Tom Lamberth, Treasurer
Steve Forehand, Legal Officer
Tommy Abernathy
B. J. Barnett
Charles Borden, Past President
Jerry Bynum
Jackson Dozier
Philip Gidiere
Bill Harper
Lacey Howell
Tammy Jackson, Publicity
Jim Koeppen
Jackson Lilly
Richard Lubben
C. Wayne Shell, Membership
Reuben Thornton
Larry Tuggle, Reward Program
Norman White
Ben Russell, Founding Board Member
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