

Lake≈Link

P. O. Box 495, Ballentine, SC 29002 (803) 749-3888



Newsletter of The Lake Murray Association, Inc.

www.lakemurrayassociation.org March 2007

A Message from the President

Now that the worst of winter is behind us we look forward to spring and all that it brings. Some of the signs I enjoy most are shades of brown turning to green as the buds burst into life on the trees and lawns, the beautiful display of colors that Mother Nature bestows upon us as a seemingly endless variety of flowers, trees and shrubs start to bloom. And of course for all lake lovers, the lake slowly rising to full pool is a thing of beauty.

This past winter the lake has been maintained at its highest level in recent years and maybe even ever. Understanding the weather and the terrain, the watershed area, seasonal trends and soil types helps us understand how certain lake levels are determined and maintained.

The Lake Murray Association is fortunate to have a professional hydrologist, John Quebbeman, give a presentation at this year's public meeting in Lexington on April 24. John is an engineer with a degree in hydrology. He resides in Pittsfield, Maine and works for Kleinschmidt and Associates. Kleinschmidt does consulting work for SCE&G on the Saluda Hydro relicensing project.

I encourage you to attend this meeting and bring a neighbor too. You will definitely enjoy it and maybe just learn something as well. See you there.

Dave Landis

LMA PONTOON TOUR OF HOMES - MAY 19TH

By Ginny Landis

Mark your calendars for May 19, 2007 when LMA presents our 9th Annual Pontoon Tour of Homes. The 2007 Tour is different from past year's tours in that all of the homes featured are located in the Hollywood and Ballentine area in very close in proximity to each other on a peaceful and pristine

area of the lake. The homes featured this year vary widely in style from Mediterranean to New England and Traditional styles.

This is a tremendous opportunity to share in the Lake Murray lifestyle with our homeowners and the LMA volunteers who so eagerly participate every year. We welcome new volunteers annually. For volunteer information, please email Ginny Landis at gal@sc.rr.com or call 315-6661. We appreciate your support.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of these homeowners in offering their residences and supporting LMA so graciously. Let's support them by purchasing tickets and breaking LMA's previous ticket sales record. A ticket to the Tour is a wonderful Mother's Day or Birthday gift, too.

Your purchase supports the work LMA undertakes each year with a focus on water quality, environmental protection and the quality of lake life enjoyed by boaters, fishing enthusiasts and those of us so fortunate as to live our daily lives on Lake Murray as homeowners.

Tickets cost \$30.00 each and include a snack. Sales information will be available on our web site at www.lakemurrayassociation.org in the coming weeks and through publicity in local newspapers and the Lake Murray/Columbia Magazine.

We appreciate the support you have shown LMA in past years in this endeavor and look forward to seeing you May 19th.

Attention Pontoon Owners!

Your LMA needs your help. If you have a pontoon capable of transporting 8-10 adults and you would like to enjoy a day on the lake come help on Saturday, May 19th with our Pontoon Tour of Homes. You will meet some very nice people and we will buy your gasoline. We need 25 pontoons. Please contact Rich Kidder at 803-892-6539 or e-mail him at rkidder@pbtcomm.net.

LMA 1st Annual Golf Tournament

The Lake Murray Association will hold its first annual golf tournament on Sept. 17, 2007 at Timberlake Country Club. The format will be Captain's Choice/ Four Person Team with a variety of prizes. The entry fee per player is \$50.00 and includes green fees, cart rental, Bloody Mary party and awards party.

Golfers, mark this date on your calendars! This is an opportunity to enjoy a challenging day of golf on the shores of beautiful Lake Murray and at the same time benefit an organization that for 13 years has worked to protect and preserve our beautiful lake... This is a "win-win" for everyone so plan to come on September 17th!



OSPREY NESTING PLATFORM UPDATE

By Ken Fox

The Lake Murray Association has been funding and installing wooden osprey nesting platforms on Lake Murray for many years. During this past year, a new all metal osprey nesting platform was adopted and four were installed on Lake Murray. To our amazement, three out of the four have already been occupied and nests are being built. In addition, many ospreys have been spotted sitting on old nest sites and observed diving for fish.

Lake Murray appears to have a good population of ospreys; however, we do not know how many ospreys actually inhabit the area of the lake. The Lake Murray Association plans to conduct a survey this spring to determine (1) the number of adult

ospreys, (2) the number of fledglings and (3) the location of the osprey nests (e.g., nesting platforms, power poles, or trees). The results of this survey will be published in a later issue of the Lake Link.

Relicensing Update

By Joy Downs

The relicensing process for Saluda Hydro is still on track for the application to go to FERC August 2008. Many groups are working in Resource Conservation Groups (RCGs) to make sure all stakeholders have input during this very important process. If you have not read the SCE&G relicensing web site, perhaps you would be interested in the general conditions for relicensing:

Most non-Federal hydroelectric projects in the United States are operated under licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). (The Saluda Hydro Plant is a non federal project.) The Federal Power Act gives FERC the authority to issue licenses to construct, operate and maintain certain non-Federal hydropower projects. The relicensing process addresses not only the generation of electricity, but also the natural resources that are present which may be affected by a project's operation. FERC is required by federal law to consider both power and non-power issues in relicensing hydroelectric facilities. Non-power issues are typically recreation, public access, wildlife protection, safety and many others.

The relicensing process involves consulting with resource agencies and the public regarding studies and study results. This is what is currently happening in the process. The RCGs are currently requesting studies. In a short time they will begin to discuss and consult on the study results. There is much more to be done and it will be several years before a license is issued.

Gretchen Parker Prints at Pontoon Tour of Homes-

Local artist Gretchen Evans Parker will be selling her Lake Murray prints this year at the LMA Pontoon Tour of Homes. She will have several sizes including museum quality giclee prints as well as smaller less expensive laser prints.

Originally from Michigan, Gretchen is an award winning self taught artist who has lived on the lake for a total of 17 years. Gretchen's favorite medium is colored pencil. She works in as many as 30 layers of color which creates deep rich tones that rival oil paints.

See her work at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~gretchenparker/paintings>, <http://stores.ebay.com/paintings-by-gretchen-evans-parker> or by web search at www.Google.com or www.Webcrawler.com (key words "Gretchen Evans Parker paintings").

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company Quarterly Meeting at Saluda Shoals

By Joy Downs

SCE&G held its quarterly relicensing meeting January 11, and the primary discussion was the Shoreline Management Plan for Lake Murray.

Items to be considered in the plan are: water quality; aquatic resources; terrestrial resources; threatened and endangered species; land use and aesthetics; cultural resources and recreational facilities on Lake Murray and the lower Saluda River.

The shoreline guidelines for project lands include residential, commercial and public use areas. The classifications of these are currently Forest and Game Management, Future Development and Recreation.

Some of the items being discussed in the Resource Conservation Meetings have been buffer areas, woody debris and stump management, erosion and sediment control, permitting of docks and marinas as well as multi-slip marinas attached to private development.

Public education is a major topic in these meetings. Future proposed plans include the tree give away program and the safety programs to be established on Lake Murray and the lower Saluda.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 19th at Saluda Shoals Park off Bush River Road. The meetings are at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM and the public is invited. LMA encourages you to attend these meetings and learn how you can become a part of the relicensing process. This is your lake and your help is needed.

MEMBERSHIP

By Pat Wendling

Membership in the Lake Murray Association is a **wise decision**. As Roy Disney said, "It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are." The Lake Murray Association values the 650 miles of shoreline that comprises Lake Murray.

LMA is engaged in a water-testing program to make sure the water quality is up to standard. LMA works to protect the environment and wildlife. LMA is concerned with land management. We have had an impact on SCE&G's decision to keep the lake at

a 354' msl **minimum** level year round. Safety is one of our concerns for all who use the lake. The primary goal is that the lake will remain the Jewel of the Midlands for generations to come. To that end, at least one member of the Board of Directors sits on each of the relicensing committees to ensure lake user interests are protected. We work for you.

Display the Lake Murray Association decal you receive with your membership by putting it on your boat. Show your commitment to responsible use of our lake and to preserving the "jewel of the midlands" for future generations.

Individual members are encouraged to invite a friend, neighbor or lake lover to join the Lake Murray Association and to help with the Tour of Homes as "tour guides", "boat drivers" and "check-in" volunteers.

Members are also encouraged to help with our first golf tournament scheduled for September 17th. The tournament needs sponsors, players and volunteers. As Vince Lombardi said, "the achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."

- Single Membership is \$15.00/ year
- Family Membership is \$25.00/ year
- Corporate Membership is \$50.00/year
- Tax Donations - priceless.

If you are concerned with the health of Lake Murray, joining the Lake Murray Association is a **wise decision** for you and your family or business. Do it today!

Want to finally understand the lake level? Be sure to bring a friend or neighbor to the...

LMA Public Meeting
Lexington High School
April 24, 2007 at 7:00 PM

And find out....

-Why is the lake level dropped in the winter?

Jon Quebbeman, PE, Kleinschmidt

-How am I polluting the lake?

Rebecca Haines, Watershed Outreach Coordinator,
SCDNR

SCE&G Officials will be available for questions after the presentations. New Directors and Officers of LMA will be introduced.

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION DISTRIBUTES WOOD DUCK NESTING BOXES

By Roy Parker



Last year The Lake Murray Association applied to The Governor's Wood Duck Project for ten boxes to be erected around the lake. Our application was granted and Ken Fox and Chuck Wimberly picked up the boxes from the Department Of Natural Resources on Thursday, March 1st.

Erecting these boxes around the lake is an effort by our organization to increase the population of wood ducks on Lake Murray. Wood ducks are amazingly beautiful, but are shy birds and are rarely seen on the eastern half of the lake. Normally they nest in natural cavities of trees. As an alternative, they will readily nest in boxes erected on or near the water.



We were unsure if this shy bird would nest in the eastern, densely populated part of the lake. Last year I erected a box just off Beechcreek Road in a fully developed cove having normal boat traffic and residential activity. Wood ducks were first seen entering the box on March 10th last year. Eleven eggs were hatched, but the mother was very protective and I was fortunate to see the chicks only two or three times during the early summer.

The female has already entered the box several times this March, so I am looking forward to a new hatching this year.

Home owners around Lake Murray can apply to the Governor's Wood Duck Project to receive boxes to be erected around the lake. SCE&G's only restriction is that those box placements not interfere with navigation on the lake. Application request can be made to: The Governor's Wood Duck Project, SCDNR, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

Because natural nesting sites are so rare in developed areas, I feel the placement of wood duck boxes around the lake will greatly improve our chances of seeing this beautiful bird more frequently on Lake Murray. (Photos by Roy Parker)

Water Quality a Primary Concern of LMA Survey Respondents

By Chuck Wimberly

Water quality is a primary concern of long time residents who live on or near Lake Murray as well as those who have recently moved to the midlands. When queried about water quality in Lake Murray over recent years, 38% of the respondents to the Lake Murray Association (LMA) survey conducted in 2005 felt water quality had deteriorated during that time.

The initial LMA survey conducted in 1996 revealed that water quality was also of significant concern among users of the lake at that time as well. Since that time, the LMA has worked to preserve water quality through lending support to the following activities: releasing carp to rid the lake of Hydrilla overgrowth in place of spraying herbicides; pushing for the Clean Vessel Act and subsequent designation of Lake Murray as a "No Discharge Zone"; hosting quarterly public meetings with invited expert speakers to address water quality and water resource management issues, thereby educating Lake Murray users; actively participating in the Saluda Hydro Relicensing project; and by conducting our water quality monitoring program (WQMP) in selected coves of Lake Murray that will be continued in 2007.

In 2006 the WQMP revealed increased levels of phosphorus in selected coves of Lake Murray following significant rainfall events. Increased phosphorus was most likely the result of non-point source runoff into the lake that is a significant source of water pollution. Information on how you can help protect Lake Murray (continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) by decreasing runoff pollution can be found at: www.scdhec.gov/eqc/water/html/npspage.html.

Pollution by aging septic systems was also recognized by recent survey respondents when queried about lake development. Greater than 40% of the residents in South Carolina use a septic system, an estimated 10-30% of the systems fail annually and at least 10% of the systems are greater than 30 years of age. This issue can be addressed by installation of public sewage lines in older neighborhoods around the lake. Fortunately the freshwater standard for fecal coliform was exceeded in only one cove at one sampling time in 2006 as determined by the WQMP.



There are two monuments at each end of the dam, each with a bronze plate with data about the lake. At the South (Lexington) end of the dam, the monument closest to the lake had to be moved for traffic to reach the new four lane bridge. At the other (Irmo) end the monument away from the lake had to be moved to make room for the road between the dams. (Photo by Rich Kidder of the monument at the north end of the dam super imposed with a close-up of the bronze plate attached to the monument.)

TIP FOR TAX PLANNING

by bill east

As we approach the April 15th tax deadline keep in mind that we should also be planning ahead for the 2007 tax year. Charitable gifts are a great way to reduce your tax liability while supporting worthwhile causes. Contributions to your Lake Murray Association qualify as tax-deductible for both federal and state tax returns. Remember that LMA is working to protect and preserve our beautiful Lake Murray for all to enjoy. We need your support to help fund our projects such as water quality testing and boating safety education. So make your donations to LMA early this year and help us as well as yourself. Also remember LMA when planning charitable giving for corporate budgets.

LMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To be on the Meeting Agenda- Call Joy Downs at 781-8411

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| April 9 | Directors Meeting- Farm Bureau Bldg. Lexington |
| April 24 | Public Meeting Lexington High School, 7:00 PM |
| May 7 | Directors Meeting – Farm Bureau Bldg. Lexington |
| May 19 | Annual Pontoon Tour of Homes |
| June 4-8 | 4-H20 camp for children 10 – 12, Park on South Side of Dam
Call Rich Kidder at 803-892-6540 |
| June 11 | Directors Meeting- Farm Bureau Bldg. Lexington |
| June 14 | Ladies Day on the Lake (Ladies Boating Class)
(Call Ken Fox at 803-604-1409) |
| July | No LMA Directors Meeting |
| August 13 | Directors Meeting – Farm Bureau Bldg. Lexington |
| September 10 | Directors Meeting – Farm Bureau Bldg. Lexington |
| September 17 | LMA First Annual Golf Tournament |
| September (Late) | LMA Richland County Public Meeting |

Two Pieces of History are Saved

By Rich Kidder

When the Department of Transportation first proposed widening of Hwy 6 across the dam, it became apparent that the gateway monuments at the ends of the dam were in the way of the wider roadway. The original plans of destruction were strongly opposed by the Lake Murray Historical Society and many others. A plan was then proposed that new monuments were to be constructed of a similar stone. Fortunately this plan was short lived! Finally the decision was made to move the monuments intact and, if that failed, to reassemble the stones in exactly the same position. Thanks to a lot of care and diligence, the monuments were successfully moved without damage.

Safety Committee -Saluda Hydro Relicensing

- Consideration of safety issues is moving to a sub-committee to develop a specific plan addressing such matters on Lake Murray and on the Lower Saluda River in a single plan. FERC primarily addresses safety issues of the dam, the spillway and ramps; the work of this sub-committee is very important as it addresses a much wider range of issues that affect the entire lake including signage, boat operation, enforcement of regulations, and pre-planning for accidents, injuries and illness of boaters. The members of this sub-committee have been appointed, but the first meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Meeting and Activities:

LMA Newberry Public Meeting - By Joy Downs

Approximately 60 people attended the LMA Public Meeting in Newberry last November 21st. It was a lively group with lots of questions directed to SCE&G Vice President Jim Landreth regarding water level. At that time the level was approaching 354.



Jon Quebbeman (at left) a hydrologist with Kleinschmidt and Associates from Maine gave a very enlightening talk on the hydrology of Lake Murray.



Boat Show Winners-

By Dave Landis

Mr. and Mrs.

Gary Needham were the winners of a new marine radio given by LMA. The

Needham's name

was drawn from a list of families and individuals who joined or rejoined the Lake Murray Association at the 2007 Boat Show. Gary, his wife Tina and their son Drew moved to the Chapin area recently from upstate New York. They are enjoying the milder winters and a more tranquil life style. Even though they are busy with work and raising their son Drew they wanted to participate in the community so they decided to join the Association.

LMA Saluda Public Meeting- By Chuck Wimberly

The Saluda-area meeting hosted by the Lake Murray Association (LMA) on



February 7, 2007, was attended by 37 individuals who heard presentations on the dynamics of water flow through the Lake Murray watershed and to a practical summation of the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) with particular attention to how it assists in the protection of Lake Murray.

Getting to Know our Sponsors- By Joy Downs

For several years, we have been getting to know our corporate sponsors through this Lake≈Link Column; this month we have a first for us.

The Lexington Chamber of Commerce- We are proud to announce our first Chamber of Commerce member. We are very pleased to have the Lexington Chamber as a corporate sponsor and look forward to working with them to enhance both of our respective groups.

Randy Halfacre is President and CEO of the Lexington Chamber, and can be reached at 803-359-6113, ext. 225. Robert Ferrell, from Wilbur Smith Associates is the Board Chairman. He can be reached at 803-251-2173. The Lexington Chamber of Commerce meets the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month for breakfast and networking with other members. We encourage you to help shape the direction of the Chamber and increase your company's visibility by participating in this group. The Chamber's annual golf tournament is May 7th and is a great way to network with other businesses. Contact Mr. Halfacre or Mr. Ferrell to join this worthwhile organization or go to www.lexingtonsc.org to find out more about the monthly meetings.

Bio Gator- is another new corporate sponsor joining us this month. Wallace Hubbard has been in the septic tank business over 40 years and has been an owner of Bio Gator 4 ½ years. Wallace says that Bio Gator is best described as a rejuvenating and purification system for septic systems. Bio Gator is in many ways a miniaturized or home model of the waste water purification systems used by many municipalities. Bio Gator is a product of Natural Clear Solutions based in Ohio. It has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an acceptable modifier of existing septic systems. Bio Gator is an "Aerobic Bacteria Generating System" (ABGS) that is inserted into an existing septic system converting it to an advanced treatment unit. It works by releasing an all natural, living bacteria into the septic system to break down the organic matter that can clog drain fields and prevent water passage into the soil. According to Wallace Hubbard, a septic system that has become inefficient over the years because of environmental changes needs to be rejuvenated. For a septic system to work efficiently it needs a specific type of live bacteria injected into the system and aeration to insure the "good" bacteria thrives. Call Mr. Hubbard at 803-606-4184 for literature or a free demonstration

Corporate Sponsors

The following businesses are affiliate members. Affiliate members are identified as sponsors of LMA since they directly support us with larger membership dues.

We extend special thanks to our affiliate members and let us all support them in return.

Agnew Lake Service, Norman Agnew	803-781-0399
Atlantic Coast Canvas, Tim Van Newhouse	803-808-2522
Ben Arnold Beverage Co., Bill Tovell	803-337-5391
Bio Gator, Wallace Hubbard	803-749-1140
Captain's Choice Marine	803-532-1223
Century 21/Bob Capes, Jim Derrick	803-799-4503
Danco Construction, Inc. Dee Nummy	803-808-1997
Dick Dyer Toyota, Bruce Dyer	803-786-4111
DP Marine, LLC, David Pou	803-345-0155
Express Mortgage Corp., Daryle O'Cain	803-939-4888
First Citizens Bank, Ballentine, Rick Pascall	803-781-3414
Garvin Design Group, Julie Profflet	803-212-1032
Hallmark Shores Club, Edward Schnepel	803-359-2880
Harbour Watch on Lake Murray, Phil Savage	803-808-5677
Harvey, Casterline & Vallini, LLC, Rex C.	803-212-1010
Jacks Docks, Jack Wessinger	803-345-5857
Jakes Landing, Archie Trawick, Jr.	803-359-9268
Kaminer, Inc.	803-772-9140
Lake Murray Marina, Tammy Wright	803-781-1585
Lake Murray Southside Comm Assoc, EddieR	803-749-6411
Lake Tours, Inc. "Southern Patriot", Jay D	803-749-8594
Lexington Chamber of Com, Tiffany McCullar	803-359-6113
Lighthouse Developments, Inc., Al Dunbar	803-932-0664
Lighthouse Marina, Jason Lusk	803-749-1554
Mallard Shores Homeowners Assoc.	
Mel Coker, Realtor, Mel Coker	803-932-2144
Morgan And Associates, Sandy Morgan	803-996-2910
Night Harbor Home Owners Association	803-345-6537
Palmetto EZ Dock, Glenn Dannelly	803-730-7497
Pontoon Rentals & Tours, Ken Hardee	803-413-1693
Rotary Club of Chapin, George McC.	803-345-2890
Saluda Standard-Sentinel, Ralph Shealy	864-445-2527
SC Web Solutions, George Kiparisus	803-996-5285
Simpson, Bob & Carol, Health Ins.	803-781-6530
Southern Steel Products, Inc.	803-951-7314
The In Sight Group, LLC, Scott Bolo	803-551-0006
Timberlake Estates HOA, George Duke	803-345-6785
Tow Boat US Lake Murray, Mark Hanners	803-622-8560
Water's Edge Realty, Brad & Valerie Wik	803-345-5598
Wexford on the Lake HOA, Jack Dearhart	803-407-0005



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



Lake Level	800-830-5253
Hydrilla Reporting	803-217-9243
Dock Permits	803-217-9243
DNR Information	803-734-3881
Marine Office	803-951-2564
Richland County Sheriff's Office	803-749-9286
Lexington Co. Sheriff's Office	803-359-8230
Lake Murray Association	803-749-3888
SC Legislative Info.	800-922-1539
Muskrat Trapping	803-734-3888

The Lake Murray Association, Inc.

OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

David Landis, President	803-732-4310
Ken Fox, 1 st Vice President	803-604-1409
Michael Murrell, 2 nd Vice President	803-407-4007
Joy Downs, Executive Director	803-781-8411
Pat Wendling, Recording Secretary	803-781-6787
Tom Ruple, Treasurer	803-732-1342
Lee Barber, Past President	803-749-1841

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Environmental

Roy Parker, Chairman	803-808-7188
Rich Kidder, Vice Chairman	803-892-6539
Robert Lavisky	803-957-6296
Harry Wimberly	803-760-2939

Lake Level

Executive Committee	803-749-3888
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LAKE~LINK

Bob Keener, Chairman	803-892-3379
Bill East, Vice Chairman	803-781-7711
Kay Keener, Editor	803-892-3379

LMA Funded Projects – Osprey Nests & Wind Socks

Ken Fox, Chairman	803-604-1409
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Joy Downs, Chairman	803-781-8411
Curtis Hipp Vice Chairman	803-794-9012
Sandy Fox, Advisor	803-604-1409
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Harry Wimberly	803-760-2939

Safety

Jay Schabacker, Chairman	803-808-7339
Lucy Wingard	803-318-6267

Nominating Committee

Bill East, Chairman	803-781-7711
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Special Events, Boat Show, Dock Signs Tour of Homes and

Ladies Day on the Lake

Michael Murrell, Chairman	803-407-4007
Ed Thomas	803-781-3259
Don Tyler	803-932-4891
Louise Love	803-781-6536

Web Site Manager

Tom Ruple, Chairman	803-732-1342
Wayne Kirby	803-354-4592

