



LBCA

April 2008

Newsletter

President's Comments

Spring is upon us at beautiful Lake Burton . . . and it can't come too soon for me. We have experienced a rather tough winter in north Georgia. The good news is that we have received a good amount of rain. The bad news is that, because of certain developers who do not adhere to proper construction guidelines and because of roads being left unpaved by the county, our lake is receiving more silt and more chemicals than ever before.

It is important for each of you, as members of the LBCA, to get involved. If we are to continue to enjoy the clean water and beautiful

scenery we have always enjoyed, it is important to become educated and to get involved. If you see a problem, please send an e-mail to the LBCA at lbca@lbca.net . . . or call me at 706-947-3167. Your association and its Board of Directors, Officers, and past Presidents have been very active in representing the needs of Lake Burton. Please thank them when you see them.

Jim Higdon

LBCA Signs Settlement

The Lake Burton Civic Association has been provided with a settlement on our Clean Water Act Legal Action! After nearly two and a half years of negotiation by the officers and directors of the LBCA – and our very capable law team of Andrews, Knowles and Princenthall plus Stack and Associates – we have avoided going forward in the Federal District Court of Georgia. The settlement addresses all the issues which brought us to the filing of the suit. The settlement is what we asked for initially and never wavered from throughout the entire process.

The officers, directors, and members involved with this massive project deserve all the members' thanks! This is not easy work, but work that had to be done to protect the lake, its water quality, and our values. So thank them when you see them!

On a similar note: work continues in the matter involving the Environmental Protection Agency pressing Wright Brothers Construction for piping trout streams. Our last correspondence indicates that the United States Justice Department is now taking the matter over.



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Lowered Insurance Rates?

Delays . . . Delays . . . Delays! The volunteer firemen have done their job. The LBCA, through donations, has done its job. To date, the ISO has been unable to schedule Rabun County for an inspection. We are now told that ISO will be in Rabun County no later than May 1, 2008. It will then take ISO up to seventy-five days to report their findings. We are hopeful that the rating

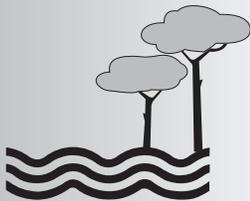
will drop from a 9 to a 5 or 6. If this occurs, we are told that our homeowner's insurance premiums could drop 25% or more. Remember that, to keep these new ratings, we will have to continuously invest capital in our fire stations. A few dollars invested every year will lead to continued lowered premiums.



The Lake & Siltation

For those of you who were at the lake during the week of March 6th, you were able to see erosion damage that was beyond belief. You saw our beautiful clean, clear waters turn a murky reddish brown. Many members asked "How did this happen?" and "What are you going to do about it?" The silt came from many different sources: unpaved roads, creeks flowing into the lake, and homeowners and developers doing construction without proper silt fencing and hay bales. Some developers doing construction did not even have a

building or a land disturbance permit. We are proud to report that Rabun County Marshal, Roy Lovell, and his deputies were out in the rain all day looking for violations – and they found plenty. The Marshall has issued citations and stop work orders where appropriate. It is imperative that all LBCA members note and report any problems they observe. We must be vigilant. We must be proactive. We must protect this treasure! Take a picture of potential violations, then call the Marshal at 706-782-2657.



The Orchard – Member For The Day

The Orchard Golf and Country Club invites all Lake Burton Civic Association members to experience The Orchard for a day. The country club will be opening the day after Memorial Day – Tuesday, May 27th – all day, for you and your family to come and be members for the day.

As part of this event, you are invited to play a round of golf for only \$20.00. Please call the golf shop at 800-754-8543 to make your reservations. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 27th.



Join West Rabun Property Owners

If you are not already a member of the West Rabun Property Owners, we would like to encourage you to join. The cost is only \$10.00 per year. You will receive Charlie Brundage's newsletter – which does a great job of keeping area residents up-to-date concerning: candidates who are running for political office, road conditions, and much more. Every year Charlie forms a committee that interviews each political candidate. They, then, pass along their recommendations to the members.



Boat Wakes & Other Nuisances

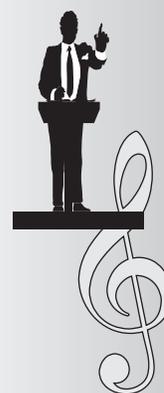
Please remember that you are legally responsible for any damage that is caused by your boat wake. Please observe the 100-foot rule. We still receive too many complaints concerning noise and light pollution. Noise travels over water and echoes in the mountains. Spotlights shining over the

water into a neighbor's bedroom are annoying and inconsiderate. Please think of how you would like to be treated. Remember the Golden Rule. Also, alert any guests using your home to the "rules of the lake". The homeowner is ultimately responsible for what happens on their property.



Burton Buzz

- ☑ The August annual meeting has been combined with the Bluegrass party on June 21, 2008. Many members told The Buzz that they felt one open meeting a year was adequate. Please plan to attend the meeting. We will be discussing updated events affecting the lake. Then, plan to stay for the Bluegrass party.
- ☑ The Antique Boat Society will hold its spring meeting April 18-19 at LaPrades. On Saturday at 10:00 A.M., there will be a two-hour regatta on the lake.
- ☑ The parking facilities at the Timpson swimming area are being expanded by Georgia Power Company. In the future, parking will not be permitted along Charlie Mountain Road. This change will provide a safer experience for pedestrians entering and exiting the area.
- ☑ Lake Burton's marinas are ready to serve. LaPrades is now open for business: marina phone – 706-947-0010, restaurant phone – 706-947-2600. Anchorage Boat Dock is open as well. Call The Anchorage at 706-782-5193.
- ☑ Joni's Fireside Restaurant is open Wednesday through Saturday from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Starting on Memorial Day, Joni's will be open Monday through Saturday from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
- ☑ Thanks to all of the LBCA members who e-mailed their legislators concerning better control of Interbasin Water Transfers. Our elected officials need to hear from us – often!
- ☑ The Burton Buzz wants to hear from you. Let us know what is on your mind. Contact The Buzz via our e-mail address: buzz@lbca.net.



Inspect Your Mailbox

We have a new mail carrier around the lake. She reports some difficulties in identifying whose mail goes where. This would be a very good time to check on the condition of your mailbox. If it

needs to be replaced, please do so. Also . . . please make sure your delivery address is properly displayed on your mailbox.



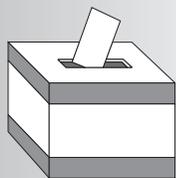
Register To Vote!

Keep in mind that you may vote in person – or absentee – in the Georgia primary elections. Tammy Whitmire, head of voter registration for Rabun County, will be glad to send anyone an absentee ballot. To receive

your ballot at home, e-mail your request to Tammy at: twhitmireboe@windstream.net. Be sure to include your mailing address. Voting made easy!

2008 Election Schedule

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| 5/01/08 | Last day for candidates to register to run for office. |
| 6/16/08 | Early voting begins in the state and local party primaries. (Locally, you will be voting for three Commissioners, Sheriff, Tax Commissioner, and Clerk of Court.) |
| 7/15/08 | Election Day – by party – for state and local candidates. |
| 10/16/08 | Early voting begins for president, state, and local candidates. |
| 11/04/08 | General Election Day |



Geese — Look, But Leave Alone

Of all the waterfowl, geese are particularly opportunistic and can easily become accustomed to people. If you or your neighbors start to feed geese, problems will develop as local flocks grow and the droppings become excessive. A goose produces a pound of droppings a day (ducks produce 1/3 this amount). If you have geese in your yard for a day you understand why this is a nuisance. One of our major concerns for the lake is pollution by waterfowl – and geese are the largest contributors.

What to do about it? The best time of year to put up fencing is in the early spring when geese are looking for nesting sites. You have likely seen some neighbors with string around the yard placed about a foot high. Another, more aggressive, fence consists of two pieces of monofilament fishing line strung 6 inches and 12 inches above ground level and secured by strong stakes. A fence will also work. It should be at least 30 inches high. Vegetation barriers such as shrub pachysandra, periwinkle, and euonymus are less attractive to geese than grass near the lake. Geese are also reluctant to linger

beneath an object hovering overhead, so balloons may discourage them – although this will not work if they have been feeding at the site previously. Another effective deterrent is Mylar tape. This tape reflects sunlight – producing a flashing, pulsating effect, and a loud humming noise when the wind blows. This product comes in either 1/2 inch or 6 inch width rolls. To discourage geese from walking onto lawns from the water, string this reflective tape along the water's edge. To ensure maximum reflection and noise production leave some slack in the tape and twist the material as you string it from stake to stake.

Geese usually return in spring to the area where they were hatched. Over time this results in an increasing number of geese in areas that once had just a few birds. Harassment early in the spring may prevent geese from nesting on a particular site. Initiate control measures as soon as you notice geese in your area – and be persistent. Once geese settle they will be difficult to disperse. No method works well with just a few attempts – a long-term strategy is what is needed!

