



LBCA

Newsletter

March 2014

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

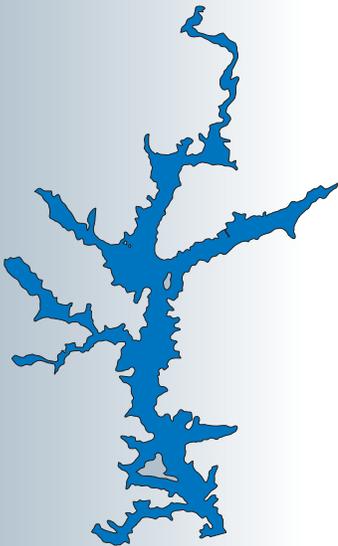
As we begin a new year I am so very thankful for all the support and consideration shown by all the members of the Board of the Lake Burton Civic Association. We are truly blessed to have such hard-working, caring people involved in our association. We are extremely fortunate to have the services of our web master Scot Roberge and executive secretary Rhonda Roberge. The Roberges keep us going and work diligently at making your officers and directors jobs easier. With the help of our treasurer Gaston Brawley and Scot Roberge we now have the ability to pay our dues and other fees online. This was one of my major goals for this year and a big thanks to Gaston and Scot for making this happen. We hope that each of you have remembered to pay your 2014 dues. The association will continue to upgrade and make our website more informative and user friendly. What we need from you is information and pictures that would be of interest to our members. Our goal is to serve our membership and to make your lake experiences even more special.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on June 21, 2014. This meeting is going to be outstanding. We have engaged a new band,

Airtight, that comes with rave reviews. They promise us an outstanding performance. As a perk to our membership, there will be no charge for the dinner for our members (two adults). Guests and children will still have to pay for their meal. We will again have fabulous door prizes and activities for children under 12. This is our only business meeting, the time when we elect your representatives on the board and present important information concerning our community. Please mark your calendars for June 21st at Fred's Shed and plan to join your friends and neighbors for a great time.

The boat ramp at Murray Cove has been rebuilt and is already being enjoyed by fishermen and contractors alike. The work at Lake Burton Park continues and we can look forward to the "grand opening" in the spring. Remember to purchase your bricks. This winter has granted us both very cold days and crystal clear days ideal for viewing wildlife and long walks in the woods. As the lake begins to refill we look forward to spring and another fabulous year in Rabun County.

Becky Callahan



Volunteer for the LBCA

The Lake Burton Civic Association is seeking lake residents who would be interested in serving on the Board and/or volunteering to serve on its various committees. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please call John Dearing at 404-213-3250 or email him at: dearingcompanies@gmail.com.



Volunteers at the Annual LBCA Golf Tournament



Lake Burton Park

Lake Burton Park is steadily moving toward completion with the official opening set for Memorial Day. Site work and infrastructure are finished. The overhead utility lines, which previously crossed the park, have been relocated and placed underground. A drip irrigation system has also been installed.

With the help of the Lake Burton Garden Club and other volunteers, the work weekend last October was most productive. Approximately 80% of the park has now been planted with trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers. Another work day will be scheduled for early spring to complete the plantings. If you missed the first one, you will have another opportunity to play in the dirt.

Donations to the park have been most generous. Forty six donors have contributed \$85,500 toward our goal of \$100,000. To each of you we say a heartfelt "thank you." Brick sales have reached 365 with a goal of 400. Bricks may still be ordered at:

www.thatsmybrick.com/lakeburtonpark

If you have not yet done so, please consider donating or purchasing bricks for family and friends.



LBCA Tour of Homes

Saturday, July 26, is the date for the LBCA 2014 Tour of Homes. We will have four, wonderful homes representing a variety of architectural and life styles. As always, you will park at the Murray Cove boat ramp and will be ferried by pontoon boat to the houses on the tour.

This year, for the first time, you will be able to save money by ordering your tickets early. The cost will be \$35 per person for tickets ordered by July 19. After that date they will be \$40 per person. Watch your email and postal mail for the ticket order form in May. Also, for the first time you will be able to order and pay for your tickets through the LBCA website.

The money raised by this event is used to help support the three volunteer fire departments (Lakes, Wildcat, and Persimmon) that protect our lake property. The county budget isn't adequate to provide for all their needs and we are proud to help them buy equipment and underwrite other needs.

The committee has had its first meeting and is lining up the homes to be included on the tour. The day of the tour we will need over 100 volunteers to make things run smoothly. There are morning and afternoon shifts for hosts and hostesses and for pontoon boats and drivers. If you would like to be a part of this important project please call Pat Leake at 404-231-1102. You may also send an email to: pleake@bellsouth.net.

LBCA 2014 Calendar of Events

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| March 29, 2014 | Barbeque Fund-Raiser at Tallulah-Persimmon Fire Station |
| May 16, 2014 | Lake Burton Cleanup Day |
| May 17, 2014 | Spring Board of Directors Meeting |
| June 7, 2014 | Boating Safety Course |
| June 21, 2014 | Annual Membership Meeting, Dinner, & Bluegrass Party |
| July 4, 2014 | 4th Annual Earl Patton Duck Tape Regatta |
| July 5, 2014 | Lake Burton Fun Run 2014 |
| July 5, 2014 | Fourth of July Fireworks |
| July 12, 2014 | Fried Chicken Fund-Raiser at Wildcat Fire Station |
| July 26, 2014 | LBCA Tour of Homes |
| August 1, 2014 | 23rd Annual LBCA Golf Tournament at Kingwood Country Club |
| October 18, 2014 | Fall Board of Directors Meeting |

Parrot Feather Plant: Invasion of an Alien!

by Bill Russell and Kent Gustafson

No, not from another planet, but we are being invaded by a non-native water plant from South America that could endanger important uses on our pristine lakes. Two plants of particular concern on Lake Burton are “parrot feather” and “bladderwort,” with the former currently being of greater immediate concern due to its invasive nature. Parrot feather, native to the Amazon River, is present in waterways throughout most of the United States. Unfortunately it has been re-discovered in Lake Rabun and Lake Seed following successful herbicide treatments by Georgia Power Company (GPC) in the late 1980’s. GPC also conducted herbicide treatments at a couple of Lake Burton locations from 2006 to 2008. Currently, GPC knows of a few other locations in Burton which are targeted for herbicide control in 2014, however, given its easy transport, rapid establishment and aggressive spread once present, we need to be ever alert to new arrivals in Lake Burton by taking immediate action. This article describes parrot feather’s characteristics, how it most commonly gets introduced to a body of water, how to identify it, what to do, and very importantly what NOT to do if you suspect its presence. In a future article, we will discuss details of other Burton invaders such as bladderwort and others that also are of concern.

Parrot Feather Characteristics

Parrot feather, a perennial plant, gets its name from the pattern of four to six colorful feather-like “leaves” that whorl around a fibrous

stalk that, when above the water, resembles a tiny fir tree. Underwater it usually appears light to dark green. Pinkish-white flowers will appear above water when it blooms in the spring. Color photos (including many of its variations) and related information about parrot feather may be accessed at the web links listed at the end of this article. Parrot feather ideally roots in shallow areas. It reproduces when fragments break off from an existing



Parrot Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

plant and then root themselves. The stalk can grow to over five feet. In slow moving or stagnant water, and uncontrolled, it may also form thick mats on the water surface that can shade out competing aquatic vegetation, diminish water quality, clog water intakes and pumps, and impede boating and swimming. As another undesirable feature, parrot feather mats can provide habitat for mosquito larvae.

Parrot Feather Management

Parrot feather is very hardy and can be difficult to control. Herbicides are the most common and effective means of control. A number of herbicide formulations can be used to control parrot feather – particularly when applied in warm

weather and early in the growing season. However, no herbicide has been shown to be totally effective in controlling parrot feather without repeated applications over time. A leaf-eating beetle, *Lysathia*, has the potential to control parrot feather, but scientific evaluation is still underway. Studies show that grass carp are not effective against parrot feather as it is unpalatable. Parrot feather is tolerant to cold temperatures even when exposed to air and it proliferates rapidly upon the return of warm weather. Physical removal of parrot feather is not recommended as it often does more harm than good. The process of cutting or pulling results in small amounts of the plant breaking off and floating to nearby locations where it will quickly reestablishes itself. So, the best response to this invasive alien is to prevent its introduction.

The two most likely sources of parrot feather introduction are people dumping aquarium contents into the water and watercraft carrying it from one body of water to another. Unfortunately, parrot feather is commonly used in home aquariums and backyard water gardens as a decorative plant and is readily available from a variety of commercial sources. While its sale is banned in several states, including our neighbor Alabama, this is not the case in Georgia. So, one of the important actions all of us can take is to not dump aquarium water into the lake and remind all our friends and neighbors to do likewise. Introduction by boats and other watercraft is another source over

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Parrot Feather Plant

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which we have only modest control. Environmentally conscious watercraft owners take precautions such as removing any obvious debris, and thoroughly washing the hulls, drive mechanisms, and trailers of their crafts before moving them from one lake to another (or even within the same lake).

Bladderwort

As mentioned in the introduction, more information will be coming about bladderwort. In the meantime, just know that it's another aquatic plant that's here on Lake Burton. Bladderwort plants occur worldwide ranging in size from a few inches to several feet. Tiny "bladders" attached to the leaves trap and digest very tiny aquatic animals as food for the plant. It can occur in densities and in places that create nuisance conditions for lake users but not as aggressively as parrot feather. GPC is aware of it and has been treating it on Burton as warranted for a long time as well. For pictures and additional information about bladderwort, follow the links listed at the end of this article.

Course of Action

Given that parrot feather poses

risk to our lake uses, what should owners do? Education is our best first line of defense. First, we all should do whatever we can to prevent its introduction through our personal actions and by alerting others. Second, if you suspect it is present, leave it alone. **Don't** try to remove it or spray it with herbicide nor otherwise disturb it. These actions will likely do more harm than good (and GPC highly regulates herbicide application activities on its lakes under the purview of the Georgia DNR). **Do** please contact the Georgia Power Land Management Office at 706-782-4014 with location and plant description details. This information will assist GPC in planning a course of action whether discovered to be parrot feather or another species. You may also want to contact an LBCA

officer or board member to express your concern. We do want to know!

GPC Response to Aquatic Plant Concerns

Georgia Power is very concerned and very aware of invasive water plants in all of its lakes following many years of active management to control aquatic invasive plants on most of its lakes statewide. Last year, GPC conducted a series of late season herbicide treatments in Lake Rabun to aid in controlling parrot feather. Following the Lake Rabun winter drawdown, which can substantially control parrot feather, the treatment program will be continued and intensified on Lake Rabun this year as early as needed to result in plant control. GPC has already stockpiled EPA-approved chemicals for those treatments.

Parrot feather information and photos:

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/parrot_feather
www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3054

Bladderwort information and photos:

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/utricularia

Photos of both plants are available by searching at:

www.bing.com/images & www.google.com/images

TAX APPEAL UPDATE

The Georgia Power Tax Appeal on Lessees Land Values

by Jeff Jackson

I want to update you on the tax appeal that Georgia Power filed regarding the 2012 lake lot tax values. The trial date is currently set for May in the Fulton County Superior Court. Georgia Power is having additional appraisal work done and we hope

to reach an agreement with the Georgia Department of Revenue on value prior to going to trial. We will notify you if the appeal is resolved before the trial date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 706-782-4014.