



LBCA

Newsletter

March 2015

President's Letter

It's a new year and with it came those inevitable resolutions. One of my persistent ones is to set a regular workout schedule for myself at the gym. Well, I started. And as I write this, there are muscles all over my body that are telling me they hate me. A far more pleasant resolution, and one that I am confident all of you share, is to spend more time on and around our beautiful lake. This issue of the newsletter will give you an overview of some exciting new initiatives being undertaken by your association to enhance your time there.

An article by Bill Russell, chairman of our environmental committee, explains a new initiative being undertaken along with Georgia Power. Together, we hope to start stemming the sizable erosion along the south end of Billy Goat Island by the placement of rip rap at the shoreline. The erosion is pulling soil from the island and creating a shallow ridge out into the main lake. This project will benefit us all and the LBCA board has increased the association's environmental reserve in anticipation of expenses for this effort.

Also during the year, you can look forward to changes to be implemented in your lbca.net website. Kent Gustafson has spearheaded this re-design. In addition to a new look, the changes include a new Members Only area where you may change your personal information yourself, search the member directory online, and find other members with interests similar to yours. These and many more changes are being tested now.

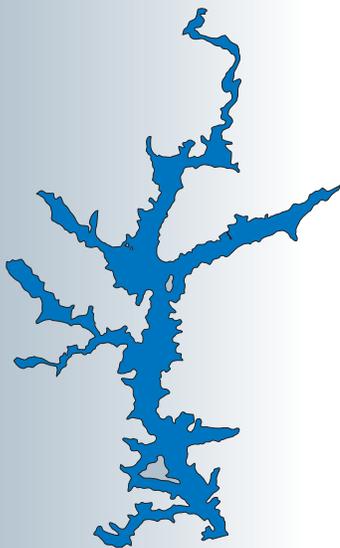
With Spring comes spring cleaning. As you dust off, air out, and clean up in

anticipation of those inevitable house guests, don't forget to care for the lake. In addition to removing floating debris that has washed up to your waterfront and preventing landscape trimmings from finding their way into the water, please consider joining your neighbors and Georgia Power on the morning of May 1 for Lake Burton Cleanup Day. Get more information and register by emailing x2djhopp@southernco.com. The Waterfall Club has graciously offered to serve lunch at their facility to volunteers.

Last, but not least, we all need to resolve to make our lake as safe as possible. As a life-long boater who has certainly made his share of mistakes, I can assure you that boating, in particular, requires your careful attention. As much fun as operating a boat is, it is (to borrow from a well known poster) very unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity, or neglect. Consider signing yourself and other family members up for the Boating Safety Class scheduled for May 30. It is conducted by the DNR and held at the Wildcat VFD. For information, call 770-535-5499.

There is even more in this newsletter. Read it all to get an update on the activities of our ever important volunteer fire departments and learn about the expanding culinary choices in our area. Above all, resolve to have a safe and fun year on wonderful Lake Burton.

George Pickett





Two Burton Firehouses to be Replaced

According to Fire Chief Daniel Johnson of Rabun County Fire Services, firehouses for Lakes Fire and Rescue Department (RCFS Station #10) and Tallulah Persimmon Volunteer Fire Department (RCFS Station #3) are next on the list to be replaced. Construction will be funded using proceeds from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) approved by Rabun County voters in 2013, of which \$1.5 million was allocated for fire services.

Land has already been acquired and grading completed for Station #10 on Seed Lake Road, one half mile east of the Georgia Power Land office. The county is currently in negotiations to purchase land for Station #3, on Persimmon Road, just north of the current station.

The county plans to build standardized 60 foot by 80 foot metal buildings on the sights, similar to the new Wildcat VFD (RCFS Station #11) which was rebuilt after the tornado. Chief Johnson stated that the county will build the insulated shell building with roll-up doors, and each station has agreed to fund and complete interior construction. Chief Matt Wood of Station #10 and Chief Chad Dixon of

Station #3 have indicated that special fund-raisers for the construction will begin as we get closer to starting construction. At this time, no specific dates to begin construction are available. Timing of construction will depend on how quickly SPLOST funds are collected. It is hoped that these projects will be completed in the next two years.

Annual fund-raisers for the Lake Burton fire departments are as follows:

Tallulah Persimmon – Station #3

Annual Barbecue & Auction
Saturday, March 28, 2015

Lakes – Station #10

Second Annual Fish Fry
Saturday, June 6, 2015

Wildcat – Station #11

Annual Chicken Fry
Saturday, July 11, 2015

Good News for Billie Goat Island

by Bill Russell,

LBCA Water Quality and Environmental Chair

If you have boated on the south end of the lake on a busy summer weekend you have likely noticed that a mud slick develops off the main body side of “fireworks point” on the south end of Billy Goat Island drifting several hundred yards toward the dam. With the increasing number of wake board boats and sheer recreational volume, the main body side of the island really takes a pounding . . . particularly the unprotected 250’ or so of the mentioned point.

The shoreline erosion that is taking place is causing deep caving of that shoreline that is causing shoreline loss as well as the ongoing sediment encroachment on the lake.

The **good news** is that this serious erosion will be addressed this spring as the lake reaches full pool. Throughout the fall and winter months the LBCA Water Quality and Environmental Committee has been working with Georgia Power Company (GPC) on a cooperative venture to protect this shoreline. After much research and discussion it was determined that the best plan of action was the use of a combination of Type 1 (large) and Type 3 (smaller) granite rip rap carefully placed in an interlocking manner. This is the most environmentally friendly and cost effective fix.

At the last LBCA board meeting, Mark Swiecichowski and I made a presentation about this problem, the potential fix, and suggested that the LBCA might want to consider funding all or part of the project from its environmental fund which was established several years ago. There was unanimous agreement that this would be an appropriate and productive use of this portion of our dues money.

Upon approaching GPC with the idea we not only received their blessings but also their willingness to provide a portion of the funding for the project. In finalizing the arrangements for the project, Jeff Jackson has made arrangements with John Welch (a barge operator on the lake) for GPC to cover the cost of the stone and transporting it from the quarry to the barge (\$7,375). LBCA will cover the cost of placement of the stone on the 250’ of shoreline (\$20,437).

The total cost of the project will be \$27,812. Mr. Welch expects to start the project upon the lake reaching full pool and complete the project within three weeks of commencement. Billy Goat Island is a prized nature habitat we can all take pride in caring for. Hopefully the next issue of the newsletter will have a follow up story with before, during, and after pictures.

Thank you for your support!

Shoreline Erosion: Protecting and Improving the Effectiveness of Existing Seawalls

by *Bill Russell,*

LBCA Water Quality and Environmental Chair

In the November newsletter Kent Gustafson wrote a broad spectrum article kicking off a series of articles in which we shared concerns and potential fixes for a variety of types of shoreline erosion. This article provides some perspective on how to best protect and improve the effectiveness of the existing sea-walls that so many of us have.

First, I would like to share a little history. In the early to mid-1970s the number and size of boats on Lake Burton began to increase dramatically. This, as well as the beginnings of the lake re-maining at full pool during the summer months (versus varying dramatically with power generation in earlier years) began a rapid increase in shoreline loss for many lot owners, particularly those in high traffic areas. The fix in those early years was any type of shoreline barrier from the waves, the most esthetic (and expensive) of which was rock (usually granite) seawalls. This was done with varying degrees of success and failure depending on the construction method used. Establishing a good footing, an appropriate grout mix, and a protective cap became the norm for a structurally sound wall. Since those early days we have learned much more and that is what I will share with you in the following paragraphs.

Many of these walls were built with minimal or no rip rap being placed at the base of the wall. In low traffic areas this might not present much of a problem but if your wall is in a high traffic area (particularly with the ever increasing size and frequency of wave action) it is much more subject to rapid degradation and even failure. The two included photos show specific applications of rip rap used to protect existing seawalls.

Without getting into too much high end physics, it is important that you understand some of the dynamics involved when a wave hits a vertical surface (your seawall). Most noticed is the rebound or reflective wave that the wall sends back out into the lake. Also noticed, but often underestimated, is the potentially damaging upward surge of the water which can erode the grout and cap and even jump the wall –

eventually causing pressure from the back side of the wall. Finally you have the virtually unnoticed, and potentially most damaging: the downward force of the wave. You don't see it because it is below the water surface, but it creates a strong hydraulic FORCE that (particularly depending on the slope and soil texture) can rapidly erode the soil at the base of your seawall, exposing the foundation and eventually leading to a partial collapse unless you protect against it.



Many experienced seawall builders were aware of this potential and did place some rip rap at the base of the walls upon construction, but in retrospect usually it was not nearly enough to compensate for the wave action we experience today. The following paragraphs are intended to provide suggestions on how to protect and improve the effectiveness of your seawall.



To start with, inspect the base of your seawall for exposed or undermined foundations. Any undermining should be filled (preferably with concrete). You should also inspect the grout between the stones. If it has eroded away filling these fissures with fresh grout (re-pointing) should be done to prevent further degradation. Hiring an

experienced contractor that is equipped to perform this task is money well spent.

By far the most important step is to add a large amount of rip rap to the base of your wall. This stone should be sharp edged and varying in size so that it interlocks and provides a variety of dispersion angles for the wave to hit. Ideally, this stone should be installed with a 45% or lesser slope and reach above the normal summer water level. I know that in some cases this might be near the top of some of your walls. This rip rap will not only protect the grout and footing of your wall it will also greatly reduce the rebound or reflective wave back into the lake.

Large to medium granite rip rap stone can be locally acquired and delivered. It can be dumped on your lot and hand placed while the water is down in the winter or delivered by barge and carefully placed by an experienced operator at full pool. Neither is cheap but it is cheaper than dealing with a wall failure in the future and also is an environmentally friendly move for the lake itself. This large stone also has the unexpected side benefit of providing habitat for small fish.

This rip rap does require some occasional attention depending on your exposure to high traffic. The downward wave hydraulic mentioned earlier can slowly pull some of this stone away from the wall requiring re-stacking every few years. Careful placement of the stone (with large stones at the base of the slope) can greatly reduce this movement thus reducing the periodic re-stacking.

There are many contractors and landscapers that service our area that are experienced in seawall construction, maintenance, and modification. It would be wise to get several opinions and proposals to best suit your budget and situation. As always, you should consult with Georgia Power Company (GPC) about your intentions to make sure your project falls within their guidelines and obtain any necessary permits.

All of us working together to minimize shoreline erosion will greatly contribute to the health and water quality of our beautiful lake.



Dining at the Lake

by Pat Leake

Our family has had a home on Lake Burton since 1988. In the early days we'd enjoy a hamburger at Cherokee Landing with the children but we didn't go out for dinner very often. In part, it was because there weren't many places to go.

That has all changed. On January 26th this year, the Georgia State House passed a resolution designating Rabun County, Georgia the "Farm to Table Capital of Georgia." In 2013 four Rabun County chefs were voted by their peers to the list of "Best Chefs in America." They are: Gayle and David Darugh from the *Beechwood Inn*; Jamie Allred from *Fortify*; Jenny Wilson from *Fromage and Other Fine Foods*. We have eaten many meals at these establishments and I can personally testify to the excellence of their food and service. There are other restaurants in Rabun County we love as well.

This fall, Charles Madrey opened the *Savanah Street Supper Club* at *Grapes and Beans*. We've always loved *Grapes and Beans* and include a visit for lunch whenever we are at the lake. Now we sometimes end up there twice in one day: *Grapes and Beans* for lunch and *Savanah Street Supper Club* in the evening. Chef Madrey's menu is limited, but excellent, and the value is outstanding.

Another favorite is *The Farmhouse at Persimmon Creek*. In the winter I love to be near the warmth of the fireplace but the Persimmon Valley is beautiful no matter what the season. Chef Vince Scafiti's menus feature the finest, freshest, local ingredients available.

If you have a favorite restaurant that I've missed, please email me at pleake@bellsouth.net. I'll be happy to pass the information along. I'll also be happy to give it a try the next time I'm at the lake.

LBCA 2015 Calendar of Events

March 28, 2015	Barbeque & Auction Fund-Raiser at Tallulah-Persimmon VFD
May 1, 2015	Lake Burton Cleanup Day
May 16, 2015	Spring Board of Directors Meeting
May 30, 2015	Boating Safety Class
June 6, 2015	Fish Fry Fund-Raiser at Lakes Fire & Rescue VFD
June 20, 2015	Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner
July 4, 2015	31st Annual Lake Burton Fun Run
July 4, 2015	Fourth of July Fireworks
July 11, 2015	Fried Chicken Fund-Raiser at Wildcat VFD
July 31, 2015	24th Annual LBCA Golf Tournament, Waterfall Club
October 17, 2015	Fall Board of Directors Meeting