



# LEESVILLE LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August 2008

## From the President Mike Lobue

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The Association continues to make progress on a number of fronts:

- We had our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Beautification Day on June 7<sup>th</sup> with good volunteer participation. Over 120 cubic yards of debris were removed from the lake.
- We had our Annual Meeting and picnic on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker was a Conservation Police Officer from the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries. He spoke on boating safety and the new education requirements.
- We continue to conduct voluntary vessel checks and are working to schedule more boating safety education classes.
- We prepared a request for proposals in preparation for hiring one or more contractors to remove debris later in the year. We are in the process of evaluating three proposals.
- We began this year's volunteer water quality monitoring program in late April.
- We are planning a lake tour and barbecue for Supervisors and Administrators from the three surrounding counties. We plan to show the Supervisors and Administrators how the lake is developing and discuss a number of issues with them.
- We continue to work with Appalachian Power Company and the Tri-County Relicensing Committee on relicensing issues.
- We updated the Association web. Please check it out [www.leesvillelake.org](http://www.leesvillelake.org)

With your help, we can continue to make Leesville Lake a better place for recreation and to live. Your suggestions on how we can work to improve the lake and/or the operations of the Association are always welcome and appreciated. Please feel free to contact me by email ([malobue@gmail.com](mailto:malobue@gmail.com)) or phone (434-369-8044).

## Membership Committee By: Julie Moore

At the end of June we had 332 members, which includes 30 new members thus far this fiscal year.

We would like to welcome our new members and thank you for your support. Our growing membership, organization and activity have been a real impetus for the counties to pay more attention to us. Please make our newest members welcome:

Rick & Sherrie Beard  
Jeffrey A. Hamlett  
Kim & Lydia Percell

Gordon T. & Rosanne J. Bratz  
Jim & Kathy LaBarre  
Ben Powers

**Treasurer's Report**  
**By: Gerry Caprario**



At the Annual Meeting the Treasurer presented a proposed deficit budget (-\$875.00) for next year. It was passed unanimously. An audit of this year's financial activity will be conducted after the beginning of our Fiscal Year, September 1, 2008.

The Safety Committee is trying to schedule a State Safe Boating Course (a state legal requirement for boat and PWC operators) for late summer or early fall. Please get in touch with Gerry at capgerry@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Just a reminder that Gerry is conducting FREE Vessel Safety Checks (VSC). While the VSC is not compulsory, it could save you some dollars if you are stopped by DGIF and found to be non-compliant with state regulations.

A final word from the National Weather Service: Be extremely cautious driving on a road that is under water, especially during a rainstorm.  
"DON'T DROWN, TURN AROUND"

**Navigational Aids Committee**  
**By: Pete Pettit**



As our fiscal year ends, the committee has made great progress toward establishing a Navigational Aids System (System) on Leesville Lake. The year's objectives are to determine responsibility for funding, designing, installation, maintenance and ownership for the forty-three navigation aids. These aids were identified in the Appalachian Power Company's (APCO) Aids to Navigation Management Plan (Plan) a document that is part of the overall relicensing application for Smith Mountain Lake Project.

Even though APCO has made a commitment to take ownership of the System, they have agreed through their Plan to fund 43 unlighted aids. The committee has disputed this proposal for unlighted aids and considers this a safety hazard. The Association plans to continue efforts to resolve this issue.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, who has responsibility for final approval of navigational aids on Leesville Lake, has agreed to support the System on Leesville Lake. The State of Virginia will provide \$50,000 over the next two (2) fiscal years for navigational aids.

In recognition of navigation on Leesville Lake, the counties and Smith Mountain Lake Association have offered much appreciated support during meetings with APCO. I feel this recognition of Leesville Lake signifies a new acceptance to our importance in the overall Smith Mountain Lake Project.

The navigational committee wants to establish "adopt a mile post marker" on Leesville Lake. Those who adopt a mile marker would only require that an individual keep the foliage away from the marker so that it is visible from the water and report any maintenance problems. If anyone wishes to participate please contact Pete Pettit by email at petepettit@aol.com.

**Debris Committee Report**  
**By: Sam Skillman**

The Association's Fifth Annual Lake Beautification Day was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> and the "Thank You" picnic was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 131 workers removed over 120 cubic yards of debris from three sites. Given the very hot weather and competition from other events, the Beautification Day was a success.

Appalachian plans to put its skimmer on the lake the week of July 21<sup>st</sup> and keep it on the lake no later than September 5<sup>th</sup>. The debris will be placed in the park at the Brumfield development. Appalachian plans to grind

the debris and remove it during the months of January and February 2009.

The Association sent requests for proposals (RFPs) for debris removal to five contractors. A pre-bid meeting was held on June 20<sup>th</sup> and three proposals were received by the July 11<sup>th</sup> deadline. The Committee is evaluating the proposals and a recommendation will be made to the Association Board of Directors in August. One or more contractors will likely be hired to remove debris after Appalachian completes its work with the skimmer.



## Health Corner

By: Sue Glasscock

At the Annual Meeting, we had a speaker from VDGIF discuss "safe boating." He stressed the law about alcohol, drugs and boating. It is worth another look at the laws. Virginia's law states that boat operators with blood alcohol concentrations of .08 percent or more (that equals 1 and 1/2 beers, 1 mixed drink, or 1-2 wine coolers) shall be presumed to be under the influence of alcoholic intoxicants. The Virginia Implied Consent Law states that by operating a watercraft, you are agreeing to submit to a breath and/or blood test to determine the amount of alcohol and/or drugs in your blood. Unreasonable refusal to submit to these tests constitutes grounds for the revocation of operator's privilege to operate a watercraft on the waters of the Commonwealth. Virginia law prohibits persons younger than 21 years from consuming alcohol and operating a watercraft with any measurable alcohol level. Operation under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is a criminal offense. Cannabis (one joint/blunt) stays in the body 30 days. There are over the counter cold medications that give a false positive in blood screening for drugs. Protect yourself, your family and your neighbors. Being under the influence of intoxicants, from one or many sources can easily result in jail time. While boating in the sun, the body loses water, and intoxication can result with lower amounts of alcoholic drinks. Stay alert to others and steer clear of other boaters who appear intoxicated. Everyone have a safe boating season.



## Water Quality Report

By: Mike Lobue

We began Leesville Lake water quality monitoring in late April and will continue through mid-September. We have great participation this year—13 sets of volunteers. Water quality to date has been very good. The lake water meets all of the state standards except dissolved oxygen in the lower portion of the lake below about 35 ft depth. Between late April and late May, the lower portion of the lake stratified. Between late May and early July, the section of the lake around mile mark 6 began to stratify. Stratification means that there are effectively two zones or layers in the lake—the upper warm surface layer is called an epilimnion and the cooler bottom waters are called the hypolimnion. The transition zone between the two layers shows rapidly changing temperature and is known as the thermocline. Nutrient enrichment increases algal production, which leads to oxygen depletion in the lower layer of the lake. The oxygen depletion affects both plants and fish. The upper portion of the lake (from below Toler's Bridge to the Smith Mountain Lake Dam) does not stratify because of the shallower depth and the constant movement of water in that section.

## Relicensing Update

By: Mike Lobue

Appalachian filed its application for a new license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 26. On May 16, FERC requested additional information, including more specific management plans, before it could say that the application was complete and ready for environmental analysis (EA). Appalachian submitted the additional information to FERC on July 14<sup>th</sup>. We are reviewing the revised management plans. Once FERC deems the application complete and ready for EA, there will be a 60-day comment period.



After relicensing, Appalachian would like to work with just one organization to manage projects on both Smith Mountain and Leesville Lakes. Therefore, there is an effort under way to try to get Campbell County and Leesville Lake in a restructured Tri-County Lake Administrative Commission (TLAC). TLAC is the three-county (Bedford, Franklin & Pittsylvania) organization that manages projects on Smith Mountain Lake. If Campbell County and Leesville Lake become a part of TLAC, Leesville Lake projects would have a more consistence source of revenue and TLAC could assume any liability associated with major projects such as navigational aids.

## **Native Aquatic Vegetation**

**By: Mike Lobue**

The Tri-County Lake Administrative Commission (TLAC) started an Awareness Campaign to bring attention to measures that can be taken to protect Smith Mountain Lake (SML). As part of that campaign, TLAC is producing a series of articles. We plan to share with you some of those articles because they are equally applicable to Leesville Lake. Below is the article on native aquatic vegetation. In the next newsletter, we will share with you the article on non-native aquatic vegetation.

Native aquatic vegetation is often defined as plants that occur naturally, without human interference, in a body of water. During the past several years, much attention has been given to aquatic vegetation in Smith Mountain Lake (SML). Both native and non-native aquatic vegetation exist in SML. In our efforts to Protect Smith Mountain Lake, it is important that we differentiate between the two. Protecting the native vegetation is extremely beneficial to the lake. Some of those benefits include:

- Maintains healthy biodiversity in the lake ecosystem
- Provides food and shelter for a wide variety of animals including insects, fish, birds and mammals
- Helps to reduce shoreline erosion by reducing the force of waves.
- Protects water quality by using nutrients that might otherwise be available to less desirable plants like some species of algae.

Through aquatic vegetation surveys completed for TLAC beginning in 2002, several native vegetation species have been identified at SML. Chara and coontail are two examples of beneficial native aquatic vegetation that currently exist in SML.



Chara

For more information about aquatic vegetation, including pictures, visit the TLAC website [www.sml.us.com](http://www.sml.us.com).

## **On The Web**

**By: Richard Beaton**

Since the last newsletter, I have given the association web site a new look. I added many new pages, dropped a few pages and changed some aesthetics. Take a look at <http://leesvillelake.org> and see for yourself. There is one new page that I should mention. It is the "Lost and Found" page. I thought it would be useful to fellow lake users since I have had reports of a few lost canoes lately. Perhaps it will help connect losers with finders and vice versa. If or when you are in such a situation, instructions are on the "Lost and Found" page.

Other new items include lots of Beautification Day 2008 pictures and lake fireworks pictures from the 4th of July.

Happy web surfing.



**Future Generation of LVL Skiers**  
**By: Michelle Dixon & Julie Moore**

Mike and Michelle Dixon have been water skiing since they were young and so teaching their young children, Tyler and Zachary, to water ski at Leesville Lake was only natural. Tyler learned to ski on a trainer ski at age 3. Mike stayed in the water with Tyler to help stabilize the ski as Tyler came up. Tyler came up easily and skied by himself. The following year, when Tyler was 4 years old, he came up on the trainer ski without any help. At age 5, Tyler learned to ski on two skis using a barefoot boom bar that attaches to the side of the boat. He quickly progressed to the next step, which was attaching a rope handle to the boom bar to learn how to come up using a short rope. This summer, at age 6, Tyler is coming up behind the boat on his own. Zachary started showing an interest in water skiing at 19 months old. He had watched the rest of the family ski and he pointed at the trainer ski and said, "Ski." By 21 months he was skiing on the trainer ski with either Mike or Michelle holding on to the back of the ski in order to catch him if he fell. He liked it so much that he would start to cry when they stopped and say, "More." This past weekend Zachary, at 2 years and 9 months, learned to ski by himself on the trainer ski from a rope attached to the boom bar. Mike held the trainer ski with one hand and the boom bar with the other. He stabilized the ski and then let go and held on to the boom bar near Zachary so he could catch him quickly if needed. Zachary was all smiles. Michelle learned of a "Get Recognized" section of the Overton's water sports website and submitted pictures of the boys skiing on Leesville Lake. On July 14, 2008 Zachary's picture was chosen as the picture of the week.



The pictures can be viewed at <http://www.overtonsoutdoors.com/thumbnails.php?album=6>

**Appreciation for our Lake and a Job Well Done**

Dear Leesville Lake Association Members,

On behalf of my family (Sherwood & Patsy Zimmerman, my husband and our children) I would like to thank all of you that participated in the Annual Meeting and Picnic. It was great to meet and see so many people that are working to improve and enhance the lake for the beauty and enjoyment that it brings.

Growing up my Dad worked for Centers for Disease Control and we were transferred every couple of years all across the country. Every summer we would come "home" to Lynchburg to visit grandparents and other family. When I was 1 year old my parents bought a lot here on Leesville Lake. So for forty-four years Leesville Lake has been my home away from home throughout the summer months. Our family has many great memories here and looks forward to many more. My wish for all of you is that you and your family will find many joys and create lots of great memories here at Leesville Lake as we have.

We had a great time putting the picnic together as a family and we sincerely appreciate all the help we received. I would especially like to thank Gerry and Janet Caprario for all their hard work over the past several years in putting the picnic together. They had everything well organized in crates, which made it easier for us to shop and prepare for this years picnic. We have carried on their organization of crates and will look forward to handing them off to another family next year.

Again thanks for supporting the Annual Meeting and Picnic and for all the help many of you gave.

From South Carolina,  
Warmest Regards -  
Sherrie Beard

## **Former Resident Appreciates Thoughtfulness**

Dear Friends at Leesville Lake,

Words cannot express how much it meant to our family when you showed your sympathy and support in our loss. It has been many years since we were all friends together, raising our children together on the lake. Time has passed but friendship continues as evidenced by your presence, tears and love shown to us in the loss of my son Bill (or "Little Bill" as he was called in those days). In spite of the newspaper's error in not getting the obituary in at the proper time, it was unbelievable how many of you showed up to pay your respects, and still others who couldn't be there sent their condolences. I want you all to know how much you mean to our family, now in our tragedy, as well as in the past when we had such "fun" times at the lake.

I know the whole family joins me in thanking you for being there for us. Kevin is now almost 28 years old, and he and his wife Amanda have a beautiful son, Landon Jacob, who will be 2 years old in June. Kevin was in business with his dad (sub-contracting), and this is especially hard for him. Bill and JoAnn had celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February, and she needs your prayers in the days ahead (as we all do).

My son Vic and I have shared a home for quite a few years now, and he has been a blessing to me, especially in this last year since I've been dealing with health issues. Holly and Larry live a short distance from us and are always there for me. (As most of you know, Holly has always been my "best friend" as well as daughter.) Their son Jacksen is 26 years old, and will be married to Jessica in September of this year.

Again, thanks for your outpouring of love and sympathy in our loss, and thank you for all the friendship we've shared and continue to share.

Jean B. Lawrence

## **Lost & Found (Hopefully) Bill & Julene Chilton**

While out on the lake on June 7th, our family came upon a kayak with a paddle floating in the middle of the lake at about mile marker 9. Any responders can contact me at [julenechilton@earthlink.net](mailto:julenechilton@earthlink.net) with a description of their missing kayak. Thanks.



## **Flooding Anyone?**

Recently, letters were sent out to some Bedford County residents about changing contour lines for the flood plain. If you're as confused by the letter as everyone else is, please contact Bedford County's Flood Plain Coordinator, Kevin Leamy. He can be contacted at 540-586-7616, ext.1348. He was very helpful and will answer anyone's question.

## **Use Native Plants for Landscaping Within The Project Boundary By: Richard Beaton**

The Project Boundary on Leesville Lake is the 620-foot contour. Plantings within the Project Boundary are restricted to native plants. Natives can pretty much fend for themselves when it comes to survival and reproduction. They are non-invasive while providing habitat for wildlife. Native plants are plants that lived here in Pre-Columbian times. Many other wild plants have been introduced either purposefully by people or inadvertently by hitchhiking along with the unknowingly new human and non-human arrivals in the Americas. These new plants called aliens have spread and can fend on their own very well, sometimes too well, becoming what we call invasive plants. Kudzu and honeysuckle quickly come to mind as purposefully introduced invasive plants. One recurring theme of the Shoreline Management Plan is sustainability without intervention. You can see where native plants fit the bill.

AEP provides a list of natives compiled by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and others that can be downloaded from their SMP website. For your convenience there is a link to it on the Shoreline Management page on the Association's website: [www.leesvillelake.org](http://www.leesvillelake.org). The list was compiled for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Leesville Lake is in the Roanoke River watershed, which is immediately bordering on the south and west of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Many of the plants on the list are not natives of our area. Obviously, salt-marsh plants of the tidewater do not live here in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge region. One goal that the Association might pursue would be to refine the list for our area.

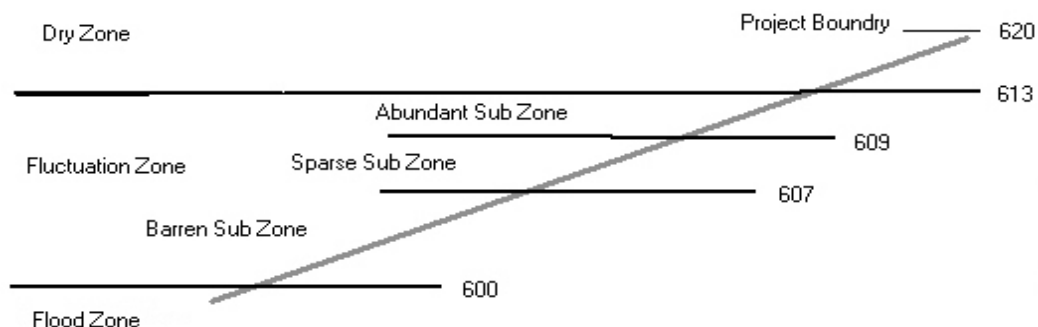
In general, plantings near bodies of water (streams, creeks, rivers, lakes and bays) can slow down the runoff from rains and impede the flow of unwanted things in the water. A planting can also stabilize the soil to slow erosion. Unwanted things around a lake home might include fertilizers, pesticides, and drippings from autos. Limiting your use of fertilizers and pesticides along with keeping your car in shape would be preferred.

A diagram of moisture zones for a normal body of water is shown on page three of the Native Plant Guide and at the end of this article. It starts with the flooded zone and then shows various stages of moisture zones ending with a dry zone. As we all know by now, Leesville Lake is not a normal body of water so a few changes to this diagram may represent the situation at Leesville Lake.

The dry and well-drained zones are from the high water mark on Leesville, which is the 613 ft contour, to the Project Boundary, the 620 ft contour, and above. Here we should use plants suited to lower moisture level. Most buffer gardens will be in this area. The dry zone can support moist, well-drained and dry plants depending on local conditions and soil types. At the other extreme we have the flooded zone where there is water all the time, which for Leesville is below the 600 ft contour. Between these two extreme zones is where there might be some speculation. Observation of the area between 600 ft and 613 ft, which we will call the fluctuation zone, leads to a few conclusions about plant life there. The fluctuation zone can be divided into three parts. From about 607 ft to 600 ft might be called the barren sub zone where there is no plant life. The sparse sub zone is from around 609 ft to 607 ft where some plants can live while 613 ft to 609 ft supports more abundant life in terms of numbers and diversity. Plants in the "flooded" moisture category will survive in both the sparse and abundant sub zones, while wet plants may only live in the abundant. This is a good area for future research by planting test gardens at locations around the lake.

Leesville Lake is in a region of the country that is dominated oaks and hickories due to the drier and less fertile soils. The acidic soil and open canopy give rise to shrub thickets of azalea and laurel in moist areas while the drier areas have lower scrubs of huckleberry and blueberry. Major species in the more moist areas include red and white oak, tulip poplar, hickory, and occasionally maple and beech with understory dogwoods. Drier areas have mostly red, white, black, scarlet, and chestnut oaks while the even drier ridge tops and south-facing slopes are limited to chestnut, scarlet, and black oaks. Short-lived pines like the Virginia and loblolly sprout and grow in areas opened due to human activities or fire only to be replaced in succession by the hardwood species. From the many herbaceous plants for the dry zone the most common are black-eyed susans, tickseeds, coneflowers, and bee balm.

Common fluctuation zone tree species include birch, sycamore, willow, and red cedar. Scrubs include smooth alder and shrubby St John's wort. A few good herbaceous plants for fluctuation zone are Joe pye weed, marsh hibiscus, cardinal flower, goldenrod and New York ironweed.



**Leesville Lake - Moisture Zones**

## 2009 Calendars

Reminder: Please send pictures for the 2009 calendar to [tnlstelle@embarqmail.com](mailto:tnlstelle@embarqmail.com) by August 15. Please use the highest resolution on your camera settings.

**THANK YOU!!**

*The Association thanks Cathy Dalton and Sandra Harter for their time and effort in getting this newsletter to you.*

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