

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bill Graham

Spring is on the doorstep and much has been happening since the last issue of the Sentinel. PLEASE mark your calendar (and plan to attend) the March 27th Forum at the Duke World of Energy. Included in this Sentinel is a press release which further details the Forum topics and presenters.

Low Impact Demonstration (LID) Project

We have received the final engineering drawings from Goldie Associates and we are now primed to begin taking bids on the installation of: a new parking lot comprised of both pervious and impervious concrete materials, an underground water collection and storage system to allow the capture, monitoring and recycling of water runoff, and additional planting of environmental and lake friendly plant species. We are also well along in the planning of a new green roof shed structure in conjunction with Clemson University and the Hamilton Career Center.

Septic System Regulation Changes

Ben Turetzky and I have followed this topic very closely. Please take time to read the article in this issue which provides much greater detail. Also keep in mind that the proposed legislation is a complete overhaul of existing legislation which has remained little changed over a period of 20 plus years. The proposed 75' setback and 50% set aside for drain filed replacement are very positive changes.

As long as I am talking about septic systems, I strongly recommend the installation of septic tank risers on new and existing septic tank installations. If you are in the process of building a new home, or considering having your tank pumped, or perhaps have had the not so pleasant problem of sewage in your basement or crawl space; do yourself a favor and have a riser installed. The riser will not eliminate the need for regular maintenance (pumping) but it will certainly make the job easier and potentially less costly. If visible or marked, the riser lid/cap serves as a constant reminder. I just installed a riser myself. Cost \$60.00 plus my own labor to dig down 30" to the tank. I now have a grade level access to the tank for future maintenance.

319 Grant Activity

Although Bob Swank is the man in charge in the 319 Grant arena; as a non science person I would like to note how pleased I am with Bob's work and those on his team. One of the underlying issues of fecal coliform pollution deals with "source identification." In other words is the fecal coliform pollution due to human waste (failed sewers and septic systems), domestic animals, and or wild animals? There are currently several testing methods under development. Once perfected, FOLKS will be more clearly able to identify the source of fecal coliform from water samples taken from Lake Keowee and the attendant watershed. Bob's 319 Grant update article in this issue is a very worthwhile read.

Zoning (Oconee County)

The Oconee County Planning Commission and County Council are still struggling with this very key and volatile item. Currently at issue is the Zoning Enabling Ordinance which provides the fundamental mechanism by which those residents living within a defined district may initiate (by petition) a request to have a zoning plan considered by County Council.

Although the actual process is much more complex than I just stated – in that there are opportunities for all sides to be heard, and development of a land use plan within a given district – the bottom line is that without the enabling ordinance there will be no zoning or land use planning as is currently proposed. County Council and the Planning Commission have taken great strides to involve county citizens and property owners in the overall process however, a number of citizens would prefer to deny others the opportunity to properly plan for growth and development, instead opting for chaos.

I have often heard the following: “I should be allowed to use my property for whatever purpose as long as I do not harm my neighbor.” I have not yet heard a clearly explanation of that statement.

**The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards
Offers 2008 Lakehouse Privilege Program
To FOLKS Members**

Insert photo KV Lakefront Dining (shown below)

Once again, for the 2008 season, FOLKS members are being afforded the "Lakehouse Privilege Program". This opportunity is afforded to a very select number of organizations. The Keowee Vineyards Lakehouse is scheduled to open on May 16, 2008. The \$75.00 fee for the May-October 2008 season allows you to:

- Dine at the Lakehouse Restaurant

- Purchase items at the Keowee Vineyards Marina

- And a 12% discount on fuel at the Marina

If you are interested in this unique opportunity, please call Maryjo at the FOLKS office 864-882-3655 for questions and/or an application.

319 GRANT UPDATE

By Bob Swank

It's been very busy on the 319 Grant front since the last Sentinel update on this major FOLKS project. As previously reported, we have completed the Walhalla-Cane Creek side storm-drain "No-Dumping Hazard" warning stenciling, thanks to BSA Troop 45, but now also the educational mail-out to all Walhalla residences and businesses explaining why this activity was conducted and urging cooperation of everyone in protecting the sewer lines and keeping pollutants of all kinds away from the storm-drains. In addition, we have just successfully negotiated an increase in EPA/DHEC funding to expand our activities under the grant in fecal bacteria source identification (SID). Specifically, we are now formally investigating the relative utility (ease of use and cost) and effectiveness of 4 SID methods using common data sets taken in Cane and Little Cane Creeks in 2007, and to be taken throughout 2008.

The idea here is to see at a screening level if and how these relatively simple and inexpensive SID techniques might significantly improve the efficiency and reliability in identifying and prioritizing the key sources of bacterial pollutants above a monitoring site, so as to allow early focus on those sources for cost-share remediation negotiation during the TMDL implementation process. If our SID efforts are successful, both the DHEC process to arrive at the required load reduction goals to restore water quality compliance, as well as the allocation of cost-share resources (both public and private funds) to achieve those reductions, could be implemented more cost-efficiently.

The 4 SID techniques involved are: 1- Differential Carbon Assimilation (Dr. Jolley @ Clemson); 2- DNA Markers (Dr. Molina @ EPA-Athens, Ga.); and 3&4- Sterols and Detergent Brighteners (Ms. Farhenfeld & Drs. Elzerman & Coates @ Clemson). Each of these techniques brings different SID information to light when applied to a water sample. Although we are only at the "method" shakedown stage for the "Sterols" and enhanced "Brightener" techniques, useful source information has already been obtained from preliminary application of the other 2 techniques.

Specifically, 2-33 sample point collections were made throughout the Cane Watershed last summer/fall, augmented with several, targeted "hot spot" repeat samplings. From these data (total fecal coliform counts/100 ml water only), about 10 consistent "hot spots" were identified. Based on aerial photos (December 2005) plus "windshield recons", we developed a "likely key sources list" for each of those 10 "hot spots" in November. We then asked Drs. Jolley and Molina to look at these 10 "hot spot" site samples from the one set of 33 samples that we had split for all of the SID collaborators, and tell us what they could, even at this very preliminary stage, about the "likely key sources" for each. Their responses were very useful: 1- A suspected cattle-dominated "hot spot" was confirmed, and cost-share remediation plans are being negotiated to address it; 2- A human sewage suspected "hot spot" was confirmed, and a new "key source" for it identified and reported to Walhalla sewer officials; and 3- Suspected geese and human (septic system) sources were confirmed at another "hot spot".

Currently, we are expanding our local raw fecal matter reference species sources library to expand the power/accuracy of the Carbon Assimilation and DNA Markers techniques, focusing on those species we had identified as “key likely sources” in the 2007 “hot spot” sites. The previously mentioned, very useful, preliminary SID inputs to us, using these 2 techniques, were made using other South Carolina and Georgia watershed limited reference species library data, respectively. We are also planning a “winter” expanded “hot spot” sites sampling campaign for when the stream temperatures rise above 50 degrees to get both sediment and water special SID samples to be split among all our collaborators to obtain more definitive SID input for our ongoing source remediation cost-share recruitment, and to plan our 2008 wet weather and low-flow summer samplings.

I want to thank: our BSA Troop 45 partners; our Clemson and EPA SID collaborators; our Clemson Extension and USDA-NCRS source remediation specialists; ENTRIX and our FOLKS sampling volunteers; the Clemson, Goldie and Greenville Water Lab sample analysis and QA support team; FOLKS administrative and fiscal helpers; and, of course, our DHEC Project staff for the resources and other assistance in making the first 2 years of the Grant successful. Stay tuned for future Sentinel updates; this last Grant year will surely be interesting and productive.

Learning about native plants

Lisa K. Wagner, Ph.D.

Director of Education

South Carolina Botanical Garden

Perhaps you've moved into a house with an established landscape that needs upgrading or have built a house on former forest land (read pine trees), so you need to decide how to create the landscape and garden that you want. Sometimes there are community mandates or lakeshore requirements to consider that may affect your choices. And maybe you'd like to create a landscape that fits the site and our region. And, increasingly, you may be considering the environmental impact of your landscape—how much water will it need? Does it require lots of input in terms of nutrients or energy? And, will it buffer the soil from erosion and runoff?

The natural landscape provides clues to the kinds of plants to consider when planning. Certainly there are many excellent non-native ornamental plants, often from parts of the world with a similar climate, but if you want to have an attractive, low-maintenance landscape that sustains local wildlife and insects, I recommend adding a diversity of well-adapted native trees, shrubs, and herbs to your landscape mix.

Unless you're already a native plant enthusiast, many recommended natives may be unfamiliar to you, but many are stalwarts of traditional ornamental landscapes. Some natives are fussy, and not easy to grow, but most, when planted in appropriate sites, are relatively pest- and problem-free, being adapted to the regional environment.

One of the first steps to adding natives is to learn more about what's available and what's recommended for landscape use. Some species that are hard to propagate or are slow-growing, or don't take well to containers may be impossible to find; similarly, herbaceous species with a limited market are the venue of specialty mail-order nurseries.

Here are some of my favorite references about using native plants in the landscape:

Wasowski, Sally and Andy Wasowski. 1994. **Gardening with Native Plants of the South**. Taylor Publishing Co.: Dallas. 196 pp.

This book is an outstanding guide to native plant choices, combining plants, where to plant, complete with planting suggestions. It's been tremendously successful, and is probably the book I reach for first.

Jones, S.B. and L.E. Foote. 1990. **Gardening with Native Wild Flowers**. Timber Press: Portland, Oregon. 195 pp.

This is a classic, much reprinted, and just as useful today. It includes much more information than a standard wildflower guide.

Cullina, William. 2000. **The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada**. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Cullina, William. 2002. **Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North American Woody Plants**. Houghton Mifflin Company. *Bill Cullina's thorough descriptions of landscape-worthy natives are*

accompanied by excellent photographs, making these books an easy way to learn more about native plants to consider in your own landscape.

Bir, Richard E. 1992. **Growing and Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants.** University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, NC. *An expert horticulturist, Dick Bir provides hands-on advice for propagating our showy woodies, based on his experiences in the Fletcher Mt. Research Station in Western North Carolina.*

To help learn and identify native trees, shrubs, and herbs in natural plant communities, here are a few reference suggestions. There are also many good field guides that include native plants.

Brown, Claud L. and L. Katherine Kirkman. 1990. **Trees of Georgia and Adjacent States.** Timber Press.

Duncan, Wilbur H. and Marion B. Duncan. 2000. **Trees of the Southeastern United States.** University of Georgia Press,

Porcher, Richard D. and Douglas A. Rayner. 2002. **A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina.** University of South Carolina Press.

Foote, Leonard E. and Samuel B. Jones, Jr. 1989. **Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southeast: Landscaping Uses and Identification.** Timber Press.

Finally, there are a number of excellent organizations that promote interest in native plants and have both comprehensive programs and informative websites, which include plant suggestions, and numerous other resources.

Visit the websites of these regional organizations to find out more about the organizations and the resources that they offer.

South Carolina Native Plant Society

<http://www.scnps.org/>

North Carolina Native Plant Society

<http://www.ncwildflower.org/>

North Carolina Botanical Garden (focused on native plants)

<http://ncbg.unc.edu/plants-and-gardening/>

South Carolina Botanical Garden (many native plants in the landscape and offered in our spring and fall plant sales)

<http://www.clemson.edu/scbg>

Georgia Wildlife Federation

<http://www.gwf.org/habitats.htm>

And, here are a couple of national organizations, among many good ones, to learn about native plants and how to use them in the landscape.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (focused on native plants of the U.S.)

<http://www.wildflower.org/>

National Wildlife Federation (their backyard wildlife habitat program focuses on native plants)

www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/

Learning about native plants of our region and where they grow will help give you insights into how you might include them in your landscape.

Check out a few of these books at the local library or buy them online, and use some of the websites as places to learn more. There's always something else interesting to find out about the native plants that grow in our region, which is an area of exceptional diversity, especially in the Southern Appalachians.

For more information, feel free to contact me at the South Carolina Botanical Garden (lwagner@clemson.edu).

Trees in FOLKS' Backyard

by Bill Palmer

"I never before knew the full value of trees. Under them I breakfast, dine, write, read and receive my company."

–Thomas Jefferson

As a part of our LID project, and since we have a 3 acre lot, FOLKS requested a survey by Jimmy Walters a Regional Urban Forester of the South Carolina Forestry Commission. If you have not visited the FOLKS site, and seen how much clearing Don Brewer, Paul Marschewski and Bill Graham have done, you really should stop by.

In our region there are 34 oak and 10 pine species. Jimmy identified 15 species of trees and indicated that there is a good diversity of both sizes and species: White Oak, Post Oak, Water Oak, Southern Red Oak, Northern Red Oak, Blackgum, Sweetgum, Red Maple, Yellow Poplar, Pignut Hickory, Sourwood, Flowering Dogwood, Shortleaf Pine, Black Cherry and Eastern Redcedar. Don, Paul and Jack Ciupak marked the names of each of the trees and we will purchase nameplates for them.

Jimmy gave the group some good suggestions about controlling mistletoe and pointed out several invasive species. The accompanying photo shows Don, Paul and Jimmy checking out one of the trees. We will also be adding a web page on Trees and have a few copies of literature available for reference.

You will find some good lessons to be learned. Mulch is a real benefit when landscaping a yard and provides moisture retaining layer of nutrients. Unfortunately many landscapes are seen using *mulch volcanoes*. Deep mulch can create excess moisture. Too much water will stress a tree, cause root rot leading to insect and disease problems. These thick volcano shapes also provide a habitat for rodents. If this information gets your interest, look at our URL or drop by the office for a pamphlet.

Membership Update & Endowment Contributors

By Jim Hamilton, Membership Chairman

Welcome and thank you to the new members and those who have renewed at a higher membership level since the January-February 2008 Sentinel, through March 4th. **If you would like to help increase our membership in your community by becoming a Community Contact, please call Maryjo at the office to find out how easy it is.**

We thank the **Cliffs Communities** for their first year dues sponsorship of new Cliffs Communities' owners and also thank **1st Choice Realty** for their novel sponsorship program where they sponsor clients and direct that the first year dues be apportioned 50/50 between the endowment and operating funds.

New Members:

Yvonne & Bob Birchmore, Mary & Carl Cliche', Lyn & Nick Geiben, Darelyn & Bobby Holliday, Joanna & Tom Jenders, Ann & Wayne Kanipe, John Lake, Ronald Lang, Katherine & Larry Langway, Jane & Frank Powell, Cecelia & John Rogers, Dianne & Robert Scherer, Brenda & Alan Thompson, Ann & Jim Weedman

New Members Sponsored by 1st Choice Realty:

Catherine Bennett, John DeFeo, John MacPhail,

New & Renewing Patron Level Members:

Melba & Kay Doster

Thank you to the following members who have made end-of-year endowment contributions:

Anita & Dick Hudgens, Ferd & KathleneKojis

DHEC Board Unanimously Forwards Bill to Update SC Septic System Regulations to Legislature

By Bill Graham & Ben Turetzky

At their December 13, 2007 meeting, the SC DHEC Board heard a Staff presentation on the final draft of Regulation 61-56 Individual Sewage treatment and Disposal Systems. The document is available on the FOLKS website www.keoweefolks.org as well as the DHEC website: <http://www.scdhec.net/administration/regs/docs/3154.pdf>

FOLKS had presented comments to DHEC on September 13, 2007 and was also represented by Bill and Ben at this meeting. These regulations have not been updated since June 1986. The important changes contained in the Bill are: increase in the setback distance for any part of a septic system to a waterbody from 50' to 75' and the set aside of 50% of the area of the drain field for repair purposes if needed in the future. While many states require setbacks of 100' and up to 200', this is a step in the right direction. The choice of 75' is backed up by data from the final report on SCDHEC Contract Number J04-N058-MJ entitled "Groundwater Assessment-Onsite Wastewater Systems Assessment Program-Low Country Sites, Charleston County, SC" dated 01June2006.

To quote from our December 13th presentation: *"Nitrate is the only chemical constituent monitored in this groundwater assessment for which there is an established (Maximum Contaminant Level) MCL, 10 mg/l (USEPA, 2002). Of the 154 samples analyzed in this study 24 (15.6 percent) had NO3-NO2 concentrations exceeding the MCL. All 24 samples exceeding the NO3 MCL were within 65 feet of the OSWS..."* This statement means that Nitrates, at concentrations not exceeding the MCL, were found in the plume at distances in excess of 65' and further, that if there are clusters of septic systems at 100' intervals along the shoreline in coves, as we have on Lake Keowee, there is a strong likelihood that the shoreline waters would exceed the MCL for Nitrates. The possibility of small, mobile, potentially harmful pathogens reaching the lake is even more of a concern. Therefore, we conclude that "at least" 75' setbacks would be indicated by this study.

From our work on the Cane Creek 319 Grant as well surveys made at various large industrial health and safety fairs, we know that septic system maintenance is one of the most critical issues that is not being effectively addressed in SC and many other states. A septic system may be designed properly; sized properly; installed properly but if it is not used properly and not maintained properly it can cause impairment of our waters.

Since the publication of the work done in the low country, we have been asking DHEC to fund a similar study on Lake Keowee and they have agreed to do so. We have been invited to a meeting with a group of DHEC, Clemson University and the Sierra Club Technical Committee members on January 30th to contribute to the development of an RFP for that work.

Since very few states and localities have mandatory septic system maintenance regulations, it is not likely that SC will be in the forefront of such a requirement, so we will continue our efforts to spread the Crescent Communities regular maintenance program to other lakeside communities and use our outreach through the Sentinel and Forums to stress the importance of proper maintenance.

Practical limnology: Common problems

by Dr. John Hains, Clemson University

Of all the organisms that we think about in aquatic habitats, none seem to capture our thoughts like those which cause illness or mortality. And while the fantasy of schools of piranhas surviving the winter in Oconee Nuclear Station's warm effluent is sensational, a more realistic (and perhaps immediate) concern involves much smaller organisms. Of these, the microbes of greatest concern are associated with living creatures of many kinds. For unless an organism can use electromagnetic radiation to convert minerals into more organisms just like itself (in other words, unless it's a plant), it must consume other organisms or organic material, thus producing one common product for which I will rely on a crude, unscientific, vulgar four-letter word. It is NOT the term we sometimes use in a humorous affirmative question regarding what bears do in the woods - but rather, ...'poop'. The term connects all animals (at least most of the multi-cellular ones) to a common necessity: everything (almost) poops. Creatures with warm bodies are of particular interest in this regard, including...us.

The 2007 required reading for Clemson's incoming freshman class was particularly sanguine about this concern. I highly recommend that book, 'The Ghost Map' by Steven Johnson. It was the story of the mid-19th century London cholera outbreak and the excellent reasoning that led to a solution. And while cholera remains a remote threat for most of this country, another group of microbes, coliform bacteria from the same source (more specifically, fecal coliform and *E. coli* in particular) are commonly found in aquatic systems. The paragraph in the book starting at the bottom of page 114 was particularly blunt with regard to the importance of these questions.

Each of us maintains ideal habitat for these microorganisms in our gut. And the same is true for all mammals and birds. These bacteria flourish inside us and are usually beneficial. However, those rare cases in which they are pathogenic form the source of our concerns. In Lake Keowee, the sources of this material are many and we are correct to be interested in what the sources are as well as the relative importance of each.

First, inflows from the watershed offer a combination of sources. Animals of all kinds, agricultural or otherwise, contribute to watershed sources. Faulty sewage treatment or septic systems can also be a source. So can our pets (if we let them do what bears do in the woods). Streams may offer a continuous input or a storm event may bring a sudden consignment. In the lake these same sources are also possible.

And then there are waterfowl...I quote from the Charlotte Observer (26 January 2008, page 8E), "*Did you know? Ewww! A goose typically produces 1.5 pounds of poop per day.*" I swear, I did not make this up; I have a copy of the paper as proof!

I wager that having read the above revelation, some of us are, at this moment, making a relevant (and perhaps personal) comparison. This kind of factoid is in the category of those things that, once so informed, nag our minds for a long time...especially if we are right now at this moment staring out the window at our lakefront lawn with a couple dozen geese grazing and...ahem...doing that other thing. The equivalence that I have heard in the past varies from three to seven geese being

equal to one human. Imagine now, for every dozen geese in your yard, two to four of your neighbors...that's right...yeah.

This is one reason that identification of the sources of coliform bacteria, specifically *E. coli*, can be important. It's just **everywhere** – literally - and here I mean to warn you not to read the USDA list of things allowed in our foods. Really! Don't do it if you're squeamish. (I must also note that dust containing particles of camel dung blown from Africa has been collected in the Caribbean and on this continent...how long can you hold your breath?)

Fortunately, most of these bacteria are not harmful and there are 'acceptable' concentrations, less than which our state agency, DHEC, judges the lake to be swimmable. The acceptable concentration, roughly speaking, is anything less than 200 to 400 per 100 ml (100 ml is a volume less than one half cup). This means that if you fall overboard in water deemed swimmable by DHEC, you might swallow a couple of times, perhaps, without exceeding these numbers. However, there **are** water bodies in which, at times, you should make an effort NOT to swallow and DHEC lists these impaired waters for your information on their website.

Because we, the American public, are intelligent, highly educated, and extremely environmentally conscious, we are exceedingly careful to treat our fecal material in the proper manner, right? I am sensing equivocation among the readership. But basically, we often do the same thing that cats do (bury it) which proves, therefore, that cats must be intelligent too. Ok maybe that's pushing reasoning a bit. But burying it in a properly-installed and properly-operating septic system is one best management practice. But how do we know if there is a problem? This brings us back to the question of sources.

Hypothetically speaking, if a survey of our lake environments showed the presence of coliform bacteria at a large number of diverse locations, at different seasons or times, under different circumstances, what could we conclude? Unless such a survey was done experimentally in conjunction with comparisons to carefully-selected control sites (places proven to be without certain sources of these bacteria) there is little that we could conclude beyond the fact that these bacteria were present in whatever numbers were observed. If we observed such numbers for a variety of locations both with and without certain potential sources, our conclusions regarding sources would still be speculative at best. Carelessly gathered information might be sensational but it is hardly conclusive.

However, in recent years a method of Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) has been developed that can answer many of the questions regarding sources. BST involves molecular biological techniques (for example, ribotyping) that can differentiate between certain types of animals and thus can help identify the sources. For example, a very nice report that employs this method can be found at the web site:

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/wri034115/wrir03-4115.pdf>

This report also explains how BST is done. In short, the genetic code for production of ribosomal RNA is examined to identify strains of the bacteria that are specific to certain sources. Of course, this also requires comparison to a source 'library' based on samples from known sources (yep, it's exactly what you're thinking). And of course, sources that have the same strain of bacteria cannot be differentiated, but sometimes it is possible

to attain amazing specificity – read the report, pay special attention to figures from Figure 12 and beyond. The study reported discrimination between: humans, cattle, dogs, cats, raccoons, turkeys, horses, deer, opossums, sheep, rodents, ducks, coyotes, geese, seagulls, crows, rabbits, chickens, and more. This kind of specificity offers some wonderful capabilities. You DO have to wonder about that librarian, though.

By employing this technique, we can have confidence that when we fall overboard, the extra supplement we get with each swallow comes from perhaps, raccoons, geese, cattle, people, or even that bear in the woods. This important information can also lead us to sources for which we have control. For example, a broken sewer, a faulty septic system, a farm or feedlot...with BST it is possible not only to know how bad the contamination is but also to have an idea of where it came from. And THEN, we will be able to make some truly informed decisions regarding solutions. And then, perhaps those nagging thoughts might be diminished just a bit.....Or not. **Bon Appétit!**

FOLKS Business and Corporate Members

By Dick Millward

We are very proud of the expanding business and corporate membership in FOLKS. Under Dick Millward's leadership, a committee has been working hard to enlist their support. We appreciate their support and know that they will appreciate your patronage. When you do so, please thank them for supporting FOLKS.

Corporate Members

1st Choice Realty
BB&T Bank
Carolina First Bank
City of Seneca
Cliffs Communities
Crescent Communities
Duke~ World of Energy
ITRON
John Hamrick Real Estate
Keowee Key Property Owners Assoc.
Lake Keowee Chrysler LLC
Michelin North America
Prudential C. Dan Joyner Realtors
Seneca Daily Journal/Messenger
The Reserve at Lake Keowee
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Business Members

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Arnold Group
A' Set Custom Baths & Kitchen Design
Bob Hill Realty
Donald Brink, CPA
Britton & Co. Real Estate Develop.
Carolina Real Estate
Classic Lighting & Design, Inc.
Colonial Acres Nursery
Earth Design, Inc.
English Homes
Financial Dynamics, Inc.

Goldie & Associates (Lab)
Greenville Rental, Inc
Greg Sosebee & Associates
Gwinn's Tire & Alignment
Harding Waterfront
Harris Marine
Head Lee Nursery
ING Financial Partners
J.C. Sports
Jocassee Outdoor Center
Jocassee Real Estate
Jon Sanderson & Company
Keowee Mountain Inc.
Kingfisher Maps, Inc.
Kroeger Marine Construction, Inc.
Legacy Property Group
The Market at Keowee Towne
McCall Brothers Diving
Merrill Lynch Clemson - Mark Roe
Mr. Mulch
Northwestern Supply
Ponderosa Storage
Perry and Sally Rogers Real Estate
Round Mountain Bottling Company
Seneca National Bank
Strickland Marine
Spearman Brothers Collision Repair
Superior Dock Systems
The Happy Berry
The Investment Center
The Lake Company
Trees Unlimited
WaterLinks Realty
Zone 7 Inc.



Restrictions Continue for Lake Pump Use on Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee

by Sandra Magee

SENECA, S.C. – Despite the recent rain, restrictions on water withdrawals from lakes Keowee and Jocassee continue. The upstate of South Carolina, Western North Carolina and North Georgia remain in an extreme drought.

“We have received some rainfall, but the impact on lake levels has been minimal,” said Joe Hall, lake services and permitting manager. “As we receive rain and store runoff, Duke Energy is also making partial releases downstream to Lake Hartwell, as part of our agreement with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.”

Since Jan. 1, 2008, lakes Keowee and Jocassee have received about 7.6 inches of rain, which is 79 percent of the expected average for January and February.

While some rain has returned to the region, rainfall has been less than expected for this time of year. Last year ended with a significant deficit in precipitation, which has carried over into 2008. The region continues to suffer from low stream flows and a lack of significant rainfall.

Watering lawns and landscaping is one of the largest non-essential uses of water within the basin. Typically, March through May is the time of year when landscaping and lawns are started or enhanced, requiring additional water.

Because weather forecasts suggest the drought may continue, property owners may want to consider delaying these landscape investments or planting drought-tolerant plants, bushes and shrubs.

The restrictions on the use of lake pumps for landscape irrigation from Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee will remain in effect until consistent rain returns to the area and restores stream flows, lake levels and groundwater levels.

“We continue to be in a serious drought and we must continue to plan ahead to ensure adequate water supply for essential uses,” said Hall. “We encourage all water users, including individual households, to examine how they use water and develop plans to use less. Working together, these efforts buy time until more rainfall can arrive.”

If a lake pump is observed being used for lawns or landscaping, a warning will be issued for the first offense. For a second violation, Duke Energy will take action to remove the pumping facilities from the lake boundary. Continued failure to comply with these restrictions can result in the loss of dock access and future consideration of other lake use authorizations for up to five years.

Anyone observing misuse of lake pumps can report those to Duke Energy's lake services line at 1-800-443-5193.

For more information on lake levels and other related topics, please visit the web at <http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes>.

Warpath Landing Hits a Snag

by Ben Turetzky

One of the Pickens County Planning Commission agenda items for their March 10th meeting was a “request for a change in land use” for the 45 acres which are to be used for drip irrigating and spraying treated sanitary wastes originating from the Warpath Landing Project. One of our objections to the project was the original intent to discharge treated effluent into Lake Keowee. The solution required by the Planning Commission in their approval was to use this method of treatment.

The Auditorium was filled to capacity by near-by residents who felt that they had not been given proper notice for the meeting. They also expressed concerns including: odors; the placement of the 2-3 mile line from Warpath; possible negative impact on adjacent property values. After hearing all of the concerns and responses to the issues raised by Goldie and Associates Engineers as well as Tim Roberson speaking for the developer, “Hub” Smith made a motion which passed unanimously, to table action and directing Mr. Roberson to hold a public meeting so all citizens could have their say and to come back to the Planning Commission following that meeting.