

Shorelines

FALL REPORT 2005

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY ALABAMA POWER COMPANY FOR LAKESHORE RESIDENTS

VOL. 12, NUMBER 3

Innovative treatments cut algae growth on Jordan, Lay

It wasn't a football challenge that brought Lake Jordan residents out on their piers to cheer for Clemson University. Instead, it was the demise of a pesky type of water algae, lyngbya.

Found in many Southeastern lakes and most of North America, lyngbya can cause an off-taste in fish and also is linked to numerous fish kills. From the looks of test sites on Lay and Jordan lakes, treatments developed by Clemson researchers



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALABAMA POWER ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

to rid the waters of lyngbya are working. And, residents are ecstatic.

"We're tracking the chemicals in the water and they've done a great job. It's a real dramatic change,"

See "Algae" on page 5

HINDERING LYNGBYA GROWTH ...
WES ANDERSON (LEFT) AND SCOTT LANKFORD APPLY TREATMENTS TO THE PESKY WATER ALGAE, LYNGBYA, ON LAKE JORDAN.

Committed to communities, environment

5.5 million pounds of trash removed

Mission accomplished. The Renew Our Rivers cleanup campaign has reached a milestone in collecting more than 5 million pounds of trash and debris from Alabama's waterways and various other lakes and streams around the Southeast.

By the final fall cleanup Nov. 5 at Mitchell Lake, more than 5.5 million pounds of trash and debris had been removed during the entire Renew Our Rivers campaign, which began in 2000.

Earlier in 2005, Renew Our Rivers set a goal to reach a combined total of 5 million pounds of trash by year's end. Renew Our Rivers is the



PHOTO BY DONNA COPE

Southeast's largest organized river-system cleanup, thanks to the efforts of the more than 6,000 tireless volunteers in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida, with support from television media partner FOX6 WBRC.

"I'm proud that Renew Our Rivers began at Alabama Power, but I'm most proud of the partnerships and community involvement that have come from

See "Rivers" on page 4

VOLUNTEERS TO THE RESCUE ... STACY HOBBS (LEFT) AND SHEILA SMITH SPENT A WEEK THIS FALL CLEANING LAKE WEDOWEE IN RANDOLPH COUNTY.

ALABAMA HYDRO
Powered By Nature

Company files for new Coosa, Warrior licenses

It's hard to believe that five long, hard years of work are neatly packaged in just one binder.

Stakeholders such as Smith Lake resident Debbie Berry have had the past couple of months to review Alabama Power's Coosa and Warrior rivers relicensing packages – 3,000 pages of text, maps, research data, consultation records, reports and an executive summary, all held within 24 CDs.

Berry first heard about the relicensing in 1998 and decided to get involved in the process. President of the Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee, her main interest involves shoreline management.

"I went straight to that section in the document," Berry said. "Our organization couldn't be happier with the relicensing process and the results. The best thing about this process was that it addressed issues right up front."

From the start, Berry said, the Hydro Relicensing team was proactive in discussing needs of the reservoirs. During meetings, Smith Lake stakeholders told Hydro Services Principal Engineers Crew and Barry Lovett, who oversaw the hydro relicensing process for Alabama Power, that more surveillance personnel were needed on the lake. Lovett and Crew checked into the matter, with assistance from Corporate Real Estate employees, and not long after, the number of employees was increased.

STAKEHOLDERS INSTRUMENTAL TO THE PROCESS

In addition to FERC, about 150 active stakeholders – federal and state regulatory agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and homeowner and boat owner groups – received the completed relicensing packages.

Since 2000, Lovett and Crew have held more than 300 meetings with stakeholder and special interest



PHOTO BY DONNA COFFE

HYDRO RELICENSING, FIVE YEARS LATER ... BARRY LOVETT (LEFT), DEBBIE BERRY AND JIM CREW LOOK AT AERIAL PHOTOS OF SMITH LAKE, PART OF ALABAMA POWER'S 2005 HYDRO RELICENSING PACKAGE FOR THE COOSA AND WARRIOR RIVERS.

hydroelectric facilities on the Coosa and Warrior make 1,200 megawatts of affordable power, which helps keep the company's electric prices low.

While the licensing

documents are technically complete, groups, who voiced their personal and professional views in the relicensing process and the use of the lakes and dams. The relicensing team worked to balance Alabama Power's desire to produce clean, low-cost electricity, with the company's and public's desire to address ecological and recreational interests.

"To date, Alabama Power's hydro relicensing is the largest and most complex of all FERC relicensings undertaken by any Southeastern utility," Crew said.

The new, 50-year license applications are important to Alabama Power because the nine

documents are technically complete, Lovett said, "We're still finalizing agreements with the U.S. Forestry Service, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We'll be working throughout the next few months to shape what our new, final licenses will look like." To view the applications, go to Hydro Relicensing's Web site at www.alabamapower.com.

Crew said that FERC will review the packages for the next two years.

"We hope they'll issue the new operating licenses in August 2007," he said.

ON THE MOVE?

If your address has changed, or if you want your address added to or deleted from our mailing list, please fill out this form and return it to:

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Before you buy, improve or build on lake property ...

Before you buy, improve or build on land around an Alabama Power reservoir, please investigate the title to the land adjoining the reservoir to determine how much of the land is subject to Alabama Power's federally regulated ownership and easement rights. These regulations require that Alabama Power maintain ownership rights along the shoreline of its reservoirs.

Before you begin construction or make changes or additions to any facilities or the shoreline, you should obtain a permit from Alabama Power.

An Alabama Power representative will be happy to meet with you to discuss your construction plans. Please call one of these numbers for assistance.

COOSA RIVER

Lay Lake	(205) 669-4052
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Logan Martin Lake	(205) 884-7826
.....	(205) 369-7603
.....	(205) 472-0481
Neely Henry Lake	(205) 472-3309
.....	(205) 472-0481
Weiss Lake	(256) 494-1080
.....	(256) 546-9902
.....	(256) 927-2597
.....	(205) 472-0481
Mitchell Lake	(205) 755-8959
.....	(205) 257-2274

Walter Bouldin and Jordan lakes ..	(334) 569-1070
.....	(205) 257-2274

TALLAPOOSA RIVER

Martin, Yates and Thurlow lakes ..	(256) 825-0053
.....	(205) 257-2810
R.L. Harris Lake	(256) 396-5093
.....	(256) 357-4582
.....	(256) 357-0177

WARRIOR RIVER

Smith Lake	(205) 384-7385
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Additional information concerning Alabama Power reservoirs can be obtained by calling the Reservoir Information System at **1-800-LAKES11 (205) 257-1077**.

Hydro helps youth become leaders of tomorrow

When employees at Logan Martin Dam and Alabama Power Hydro Services recently gave Camp Cosby \$1,800 to help disadvantaged campers, they considered it an investment for the future.

"It's very important for our youth to experience the outdoors and nature from a realistic standpoint," said Chuck Shirah, superintendent at Logan Martin Dam. "We believe that it's a great way for us to educate our future leaders about the real world. Camp Cosby is our neighbor and we wanted to help."

Wheaton Griffin, executive director for the YMCA's Camp Cosby, said that for about the past 30 years, the camp has served a four-fold mission: to build the health, mind, body and spirit of children and youth through Judeo-Christian principles. Camp Cosby programs give youth first-hand experience in learning about nature and the environment and the importance of protecting them. Again this year, camp instructors and counselors, working one-on-one with the children, will do experiments in the great outdoors.

"In our environmental education classes, we ask kids, 'What do you see in the water? What do you see under the microscope?' Our



PHOTO BY DONNA COPE

FOR THE CHILDREN ... KIDS HAVE A CHANCE TO ENJOY ALL THE SIGHTS OF NATURE AT CAMP COSBY ON BEAUTIFUL LOGAN MARTIN LAKE. COSBY'S TYLER GAULT (LEFT), DIRECTOR OF OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, AND SUMMER RESIDENT CAMP DIRECTOR STEVE MERRIFIELD SPECIALIZE IN OUTDOOR PROGRAMS.

environmental education class gives children the chance to be a scientist, if only for a day. The experience gives teachers a whole new vantage point as well," Griffin said.

"At Camp Cosby, teachers get the chance to see their children learning in a whole new environment," he explained. "They learn how what we do affects the environment and animals. The plants that grow in this part of Alabama are different from what grows in the mountains and the seashore."

Attending camp is a great bargain,

Griffin said, with a three-day stay costing just \$77. So, Camp Cosby makes the gift from Alabama Power employees go a long way.

"Our rule is that we don't turn away anybody because of money," Griffin said. "We want to provide this service."

Camp Cosby will give a 10-percent discount for any school group or camper registering by Dec. 30, Griffin said.

For more information, call 1-256-268-2700.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHERN COMPANY



ALABAMA POWER'S GENE PHIFER, FATHER OF THE RENEW OUR RIVERS CLEANUPS, WILL TEAM WITH ENVIRONMENTALIST CHAD PEGRACKE, FOUNDER OF LIVING LANDS AND WATER CLEANUPS IN MISSISSIPPI, IN 2006.

it," said Charles McCrary, Alabama Power president and CEO. "Renew Our Rivers is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when we focus on a common goal."

Annually, Renew Our Rivers includes spring and fall cleanups on the Coosa, Tallapoosa, Black Warrior and Mobile rivers in Alabama and other rivers in Georgia, Florida and Mississippi.

"Goals are great, and reaching this goal is a significant milestone; however, the real important issue is improving conditions we see around the lakes and the continued enthusiasm of those thousands of volunteers that make this happen," said Willard Bowers, Alabama Power's vice president of Environmental Affairs. "Community pride is the real driving force behind Renew Our Rivers."

The cleanup program was started in Gadsden by Alabama Power's Gene Phifer and was originally known as Renew the Coosa. The first cleanup was on Lake Neely Henry, with help from Keep Etowah Beautiful, the city of Gadsden and the Neely Henry Lake Homeowner and Boat Owner Association.

"Any good deed that gives you 5 million reasons to

celebrate is a monumental deed," said Dennis Leonard, vice president and general manager, FOX6 WBRC. "The volunteers who have given of their time and hard work to pull over 5 million pounds of trash out of our rivers and lakes are truly our great neighbors in Alabama and we applaud them."

During the Lake Wedowee cleanup Sept. 26 to Oct. 1, those neighbors took to the lake and the streets. While many volunteers used their boats to clean hard-to-reach areas, for the first time Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association members also focused on the roads leading to Harris Lake,



RENEW OUR RIVERS

said Sheila Smith, cleanup co-chair for the association and a Corporate Real Estate specialist in Residential Land Management for Alabama Power.

"We realize that a lot of what is ending up in the Harris watershed starts on our roadsides. So, we picked out some roads and subdivisions in the area for cleaning," said Smith, who has worked on Lake Wedowee cleanups for about 15 years. She attributed the lessening of debris in many lake areas to years of work done by Alabama Power employees and the Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association.

Renew Our Rivers and its partners have been nationally recognized by Keep America Beautiful with a Litter Prevention Award. Alabama Power was selected as Water Conservationist of the Year by the Alabama Wildlife Federation.



THE BOY SCOUTS CAME OUT FOR THE HARRIS LAKE CLEANUP SATURDAY, OCT. 1.

PHOTO BY DONNA COPE

Algae continued from page 1

said Dr. John Rodgers, aquatic toxicology expert and chairman of Environmental Toxicology at Clemson University.

Taking sediment, lake water and *lyngbya* samples from Lay and Jordan, Rodgers and his researchers experimented with a concoction of Environmental Protection Agency-approved chemicals for use in reservoirs. One chemical is a peroxide-based compound that penetrates the algae's dense sheath and actually raises the water's oxygen levels. The other is a weakly combined chelated copper compound. Rodgers and his team found a winning solution: Apply the peroxide-based product and then apply the chelated copper compound 24 hours later.

"We're really pleased with what we've observed in the field so far," Rodgers said. "It's a new approach

to solving this problem. We want to knock back *lyngbya*'s growth – control it – to where it's not a problem. I don't know of another group in the country that has a more progressive application for tackling *lyngbya*."

Scott Lankford, Vector and Aquatic Plant Management team leader for Environmental Affairs at Alabama Power, has been helping the Clemson team apply the chemicals. Lankford and other employees recently applied three more treatments on several Lay Lake test sites and five rounds on Lake Jordan, completing the work for 2005.

"The Jordan sites look good," Lankford said, after joining Clemson researchers in pulling *lyngbya* samples from Lay and Jordan lakes in September. "We hope we'll do as well on Lay Lake next season."

Clemson's research team has begun its final analysis to determine how much the treatments are reducing the bothersome algae.

Because the algae inhabits some large areas on the two lakes, Alabama Power will expand its *lyngbya* control program in 2006, Lankford said. During spring and summer, he said, Vector and Aquatic Plant Management staff devote numerous work hours to vector control and treating other nuisance species of aquatic weeds such as water hyacinth, water lettuce and water primrose.

"If water conditions are favorable, Alabama Power will get an earlier start on treatments in 2006, since Clemson has established the amounts and frequencies at which the chemicals must be applied," Lankford said.

Hydro journeyman makes safety top priority

Jimmy Carter was president when Lee Hill had his first and last on-the-job injury.

The Hokes Bluff native had been with Alabama Power two years when in 1980 he smashed his thumb unclogging a coal chute at Plant Gadsden.

"I ended up losing a fingernail," Hill recalled.

His 25-plus years without a lost-time accident are noteworthy because his various jobs with the company aren't of the pencil-pusher variety; they all carry risks. Currently, the 46-year-old Hill is a Hydro journeyman at Neely Henry Dam, with duties that range from repairing waterwheels and turbines to cutting grass.

"We do everything from picking up trash to pushing power out of the system," Hill said.

Since joining Alabama Power in 1978, he's been a utility man, an assistant plant control operator and an electrician, serving at Plants Miller and Gaston, and Harris Dam, before moving to Henry Dam in June 2003.

How does Hill stay safe? His long-held philosophy sounds like an ad for Alabama Power's Target Zero employee safety program.



LEE HILL

"When I got into the electrical part of it, you tried to stay aware of the surroundings when you're around that stuff," Hill said. "You try to apply that to everything. I'm kind of a nitpicky person. I try to look at details and be constantly aware of what's going on around me."

Hill not only plays it safe, he plays the game from a lot of different angles as a hydro journeyman, but not in the way some perceive.

"I haven't been able to wet a hook in the two years I've been here," Hill

said. "There's always something to do. The trash needs to be picked up; the grass needs cutting; there's always something to maintain in the plant."

Ted Pyron, superintendent at Neely Henry, said that Hill has come up with new concepts for doing work at the dam.

"Lee is a planner," Pyron said. "Before he starts anything, he thinks about what he is doing, and when he's doing it, he's methodically thinking about what he's doing."

"You see so many things out here on the job; we've got wild turkey and deer," Hill said. "I like being back to nature here, close to the river."

To stay safe, obey the rules of the lake, Marine Police say

Don't put things in the lake.

This rule seems almost too easy, but it's one that Alabama Marine Police must reiterate often for residents' safety, said Marine Police Officer Kim Moeller.

This spring and summer, officers for the Marine Police Division removed several homemade "fish attractors" from the River Pine Cove areas of Logan Martin Lake near Pell City. The problem was that this homemade fish habitat – about 10 pieces of sharpened PVC pipe – was installed in a semicircle in the lakebed, some of it just visible above the waterline.

"PVC pipe with sharp edges can be very dangerous because someone could be seriously injured if they fell on it while boating, skiing or jet skiing," Moeller said. "PVC pipe isn't appropriate for attracting fish and, if I run up on something like this in the lake, I will automatically remove the hazard."

During certain periods of the recreation season, Moeller added, thousands of people are out swimming, boating and enjoying the lakes. She said that buoys and aids



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALABAMA MARINE POLICE

BE SAFE, PREVENT ACCIDENTS ... PVC PIPE DOESN'T BELONG IN A LAKE.

to navigation are requested by permit, and if Marine Police officers see unauthorized items that could be a hazard, cause personal injury or block a navigation channel, it will be removed. Moeller said that criminal littering charges may apply to offenders in some cases.

For the best fishing results, she recommends that boaters check Alabama Power's Web site at www.alabamapower.com for sanctioned fish habitats on company lakes. The Web site provides every Global Positioning Satellite coordinate for hundreds of fishing areas on all 12 Alabama Power lakes.

If you have questions, contact the Alabama Marine Police at 1-800-272-7930.

Water Compacts still in court

Water – and how it should be used – continues to be a significant and difficult issue in Alabama.

The Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Water Compact expired nearly two years ago, after much contention and several extensions of the deadline. Now, the original lawsuit filed by the state of Alabama in the early 1990s over water resources shared with Florida and Georgia has been reactivated.

Willard Bowers, Alabama Power's vice president of Environmental Affairs, said the company recently intervened in the lawsuit to ensure that the unique operating requirements of the company's 11 hydroelectric plants on the Tallapoosa and Coosa rivers are fully considered during coming deliberations.

"We had always believed that a negotiated settlement between Georgia, Florida and Alabama was in the best interest of all concerned," Bowers said. Despite the best efforts of everyone involved, however, circumstances placed the issues in court, he added.

"Alabama Power will continue to be involved in the process to ensure that the company is aware of potential effects on our operations," Bowers said.

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Shorelines is published quarterly by Alabama Power to provide information about the company's hydro projects, the Hydro Relicensing process, and departmental and company efforts affecting lakeshore residents.

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