

Shorelines

S P R I N G 2 0 0 4

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY ALABAMA POWER COMPANY FOR LAKESHORE RESIDENTS

VOL. 11, NUMBER 1

Enjoy spring on the lake – safely

Dear neighbor,

If you're like me, you're ready to say "goodbye winter, hello spring!"



Warmer weather reminds me there is work to be done, cleaning up around the lake so that all of us can fully savor our surroundings. And that's why Alabama Power and WBRC-TV FOX 6 are so proud to be a part of your community coalition for the "Renew Our Rivers" river-system cleanups. It's important work that needs doing.

During the past five years, you've taken 1.69 million pounds of ugly garbage from Alabama lakes and rivers in conjunction with Renew Our Rivers. That's in addition to what homeowners removed in previous years.

In the next few months, you'll likely see public service announcements on TV publicizing Renew Our Rivers. We at Alabama Power want to thank you for everything you do to keep our waterways clean.

A beautiful spring awaits us. Take care as you enjoy your time on the lake, whether at work or at play.

Charles McCrary
President and CEO, Alabama Power

PHOTO BY BILL SNOW



PUTTING HIS HEART INTO WORKING SAFELY ... SCOTT McNEIL, A HELPER AT LAY DAM NEAR CLANTON, USES AN OHM METER TO TEST AN ELECTRIC FORKLIFT. ON VALENTINE'S DAY, McNEIL AND OTHER LAY DAM EMPLOYEES RECORDED 60 YEARS OF WORK WITHOUT A LOST-TIME ACCIDENT. LAY PLANT SUPERINTENDENT DANNY TIGNOR AND HIS STAFF RECEIVED ALABAMA POWER'S SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, WHICH RECOGNIZES WORK GROUPS WITH 25 EMPLOYEES OR LESS THAT COMPLETE MULTIPLES OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS WITHOUT A LOST-TIME ACCIDENT.

'Big Fish' filmed on company lakes

The movie "Big Fish" is reeling in viewers nationwide, due in part to Alabama Power employees' technical know-how.

Part of this Southern tall tale was filmed in spring 2003 near the

company's Thurlow Dam on the Tallapoosa River. Employees in Alabama Power's Alabama Control Center (ACC), which monitors the company's dams and water levels on its lakes, worked behind the scenes

See "Big Fish" on page 3

ALABAMA HYDRO
Powered By Nature



Teaching kids about environmental stewardship

A lot of caring and a grant from the Alabama Power Foundation to local home owner and boat owner groups have gone a long way in educating children about protecting the environment.

In spring 2003, the Foundation awarded \$1,000 educational grants to 10 lake associations. Lake home owner groups awarded those funds to schools and teachers for the pursuit of teaching youngsters to protect the land, water, air and wildlife.

For instance, Keep Etowah Beautiful (KEB) funded its third-annual Message in the Bottle Anti-Litter Symposium Oct. 30, 2003, concentrating on teaching kids about "How Litter Affects Your Community."

Students from throughout Etowah County participated in KEB's Message in the Bottle contest, with winners announced March 31, 2004, at the annual awards ceremony. Lisa Dover, KEB president, said, "We are grateful for this grant from the Alabama Power Foundation, which allowed us to take our symposium to a higher level of environmental instruction."

The first-place winner's poster design is being used for book covers by Gadsden, Atalla and Etowah County public and private school students in grades K through eight. KEB gave a grant to Glencoe Elementary School teacher Chad Strawn and Hokes Bluff Middle School teacher June Jackson, whose school systems used the money to participate in the Message in the Bottle anti-litter symposiums.

Now, Strawn and his fourth-grade class are enjoying the stuff of their

dreams: "smart board" Mimeo XI computer equipment.

The Mimeo XI allows Strawn to record whatever he writes, save computer files and let his entire class view Web sites at one time.

The Weiss Lake Improvement Association contributed to the Cherokee County Board of Education gifts of \$250 each to Michael Ray of Cedar Bluff Science School; Linda Prater for the Cherokee Indian Education program schoolwide; Cynthia Welsh for the Centre Elementary School's seventh-grade science class; and Andy Jones' 12th-grade science class at Sand Rock Elementary School.

The Smith Lake Civic Association helped Curry High School teacher Chris McCullar fund its FFA Greenhouse and Aquaculture project, for a unit that will offer various bedding plants and student projects for sale to the public.

The Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee and group President Deb Berry gave a \$1,000 grant to Good Hope Elementary

School third-grade teacher Celeste Weaver. She used the gift to build the Good Hope Outdoor Classroom.

During August 2003, the Weiss Lake Improvement Association and its president, Shad Ellis, gave \$250 to Cedar Bluff School teacher Michael Ray, Sand Rock School teacher Andy Jones and Centre Middle School teachers Cynthia Welsh and Linda Prater, allowing each to further pursue environmental education in their classrooms. Ray, Jones, Welsh and Prater were highly involved in 2003 river cleanups and were instrumental in involving students.

In October 2003, the Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association gave a \$1,000 grant to Sherry Brown, a Wedowee Middle School teacher, for environmental education and participation in Renew Our Rivers.

The Lake Jordan group gave a grant to Wetumpka High School teacher Virginia Vilardi, to benefit her environmental education class.

Other lake groups are still selecting their grant recipients.



PHOTO BY BILL SNOW

JUST THE FACTS AT THE BOAT SHOW ... BOATING ENTHUSIASTS TOOK HOME FREE INFORMATION AND FISHING TIPS FROM ALABAMA POWER DURING THE 2004 BIRMINGHAM SPORT AND BOAT SHOW AT THE BIRMINGHAM-JEFFERSON CONVENTION COMPLEX. CORPORATE REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST GALA WHEAT AND CHIEF TECHNICAL SPECIALIST TOM COOPER (BACK) WERE ON HAND TO ASSIST, ALONG WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND HYDRO RELICENSING EMPLOYEES.

“Big Fish” from page 1

to help make each scene perfect for director Tim Burton. While the ACC routinely manages river flows and water levels on its lakes, filming during early spring – the wettest part of the year – presented some challenges.

“The film crews required lower-than-normal water flows for filming,” said ACC Reservoir Operations Coordinator Andy Sheppard. “We coordinated with the crews dozens of times to make sure the river flows were exacting. They needed us to regulate the amount of flow so the Tallapoosa River could be used as a backdrop for the cave scene. We reduced the river flow at another site to allow crews to build platforms in the river bed, then adjusted the flow to put the platforms just under the water surface of the river for one of the film’s final scenes. Seeing the film, it was satisfying to know what it took to get those shots,” Sheppard added.

Prattville Office Manager Jason Davis also has a



unique perspective on Big Fish. Davis’ wife, Jennifer, was an extra in a circus scene with actor Danny DeVito.

“My appearance lasts a second or two at the most,” said Jennifer Davis, who had no idea about the long hours that go into making a movie. “It was thrilling for me and Jason to see that my scene made it to the final cut.” Davis said crews shot the same scene from various angles, sometimes taking hours for just one scene.

While the movie supplied some employees with unique experiences, Southern Division Vice President Gordon Martin said his region enjoyed a significant economic boost.

“Montgomery and the river region received about \$30 million in income from housing, set construction, food and living costs,” Martin said. “A lot of key people on the film stayed in hotels or rented homes for about four to six months.”

Combine precautions with boating privileges

Defensive driving is just as important on the lake as it is on the highway.

Alabama Marine Police Division statistics bear out that fact. About 17 percent – 21 of the 126 accidents that occurred on Alabama lakes in 2003 – involved personal watercraft. By Feb. 29, 2004, approximately 506,889 boaters had received an operator license.

“I believe that the requirement for a boater operator license has really helped decrease our fatality and accident rates,” said Alabama Marine Police Lt. Erica Shipman. “Alabama boaters are better educated about the laws, rules of the waterways and safe operating procedures, and it has made an impact.” However, as more lake residents venture out on the water in warmer weather, Shipman said, safety remains a

serious issue.

“As a boater, you must be a defensive driver, just like you are on the road,” she said. “There aren’t defined traffic lanes. And, with the sun and wave action, you can easily get boater’s fatigue, which can significantly reduce your reaction time. After you’ve been out in a boat for a long time, it can take 10 to 15 minutes to get your land-legs back.”

Shipman compares riding a Sea-Doo to motorcycle riding.

“They’re lots of fun, but a lot of the time boaters don’t see them because they’re so small and so quick,” she pointed out.

As a Marine policeman, Shipman said the main thing she tells people is to have fun. “But, know the rules of the road, know what you can do and know what you can handle. We want you to live to come back another day.”

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:

**Shorelines, 12N-0980
Alabama Power Company
P.O. Box 2641
Birmingham, AL 35291-0980**

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Lake interested in _____

Check one:

Delete address Add address

Correct address

If you have requested an address correction, please print your old address below:

Spring 2004 lake filling schedule

Lake	Start filling	At elev.	End filling	At elev.
Smith	Feb. 2	496	Apr. 1	510
Weiss	Jan. 1	558	May 1	564
Neely Henry	Apr. 1	507	May 1	508
Logan Martin	Apr. 1	460	May 8	465
Harris	Apr. 1	785	May 1	793
Martin	Feb. 18	480	May 1	490

Please note that these dates and elevations can change because of low inflows from drought conditions or high inflows from heavy rainfall. Stay informed by dialing **1-800-LAKES11**, Alabama Power's Reservoir Information System.

Annual project aids fish habitat

If you want a great fishing trip, your first step should be to look at Alabama Power's list of fish habitat sites and the corresponding Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) points.

Since 1993, the company has converted more than 45,000 used Christmas trees into about 2,000 fish habitat sites, where fishermen have an increased chance of finding a school of bass or crappie, said Environmental Affairs Specialist Doug Powell.

That's because submerged, decomposing trees release nutrients that boost microorganisms at the bottom of the food chain. While small fish hide around the trees to

avoid being eaten, they also attract the larger fish that anglers hope to catch.

By March 8, employees installed new fish habitats on Lakes Mitchell, Martin, Jordan, Logan Martin, Smith and Weiss, as prioritized by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division.

For habitat locations installed by the company through 2003, see www.alabamapower.com/hydro.



PHOTO BY BILL SNOW

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST JENNIFER RASBERRY IS ONE OF MANY EMPLOYEES WHO ASSIST IN CREATING LAKE HABITATS.

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, at no cost, 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
.....	.....(205) 257-2274
Logan Martin Lake	.....(205) 884-7826
.....	.....(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) 221-9626
.....	.....(205) 221-1837
.....	.....(205) 257-2274

Additional information concerning Alabama Power reservoirs can be obtained by calling the Reservoir Information System at **1-800-LAKES11** (in Birmingham: (205) 257-1077).



RENEW OUR RIVERS

HOBO/Alabama Power Contacts

VOLUNTEER PARTNERS

Lay Lake Home Owners and Boat Owners Association

Judy Jones (205) 669-4865

Logan Martin Lake Protection Association

Darrin DeLoach (205) 884-6909

Lake Jordan Homeowners and Boat Owners Association

Joe Young (334) 569-1213

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association

George Jackins (205) 978-8338

Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association

Bob May (256) 357-2656

Neely Henry Lake Association

Hap Bryant (256) 442-4319

Weiss Lake Improvement Association

Shad Ellis (256) 927-7172

Smith Lake Civic Association

Jim Beason (205) 387-2654

Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee

Debbie Berry (205) 823-0015

Keep Etowah Beautiful

Lisa Dover (256) 549-0900

ALABAMA POWER

Alyson Fuqua (205) 257-2570

Doug Powell (877) 486-1718

Alice Gordon (205) 257-4211



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN AND JUDY MURCHISON, LAKE MITCHELL HOBBO ASSOCIATION



JETS AWAY ... FIRES TAKE A BEATING FROM LAKE MITCHELL HOBBO'S FIRE AND RESCUE BOAT, WHICH CAN SHOOT WATER MORE THAN 35 FEET AND INCLUDES A LIFT, HOIST, MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT.

Mitchell HOBBO's fire and rescue boat saves lives on lake and shores

When Lake Mitchell residents formed their home owners and boat owners (HOBBO) association in 1996, they had one goal: to preserve, protect and improve the quality of life in and around Lake Mitchell. Funding a fire and rescue boat was their second goal.

So says George Jackins, president of the Lake Mitchell HOBBO Association. With about 650 families on the lake, members felt that financing a rescue boat was a must. So, they got together and had a number of fund-raisers, and also made personal contributions.

"We raised the funds in a small community, totally purchasing and supporting the boat – that's pretty significant," said Jackins.

Chilton County Fire Chief Terry Bates, who also is a Lake Mitchell HOBBO director and member, oversees the volunteer group. The boat is stored at the Wayne Hardy boathouse at Higgins Ferry.

Since Mitchell HOBBO bought the boat, the rescue crew has averaged two calls a year, and there have been no deaths on the lake, Jackins said. The crew has responded to several fires, putting the boat's water pump – which shoots water more than 35 feet – to good use.

In one instance, a lake visitor who was fishing had a heart attack. Using the defibrillator on the boat, the rescue team brought the man back and was able to get him to an ambulance, Jackins said.

"The man's family raved about the response time," he said. "All you've got to do is save one life and you've paid for it."

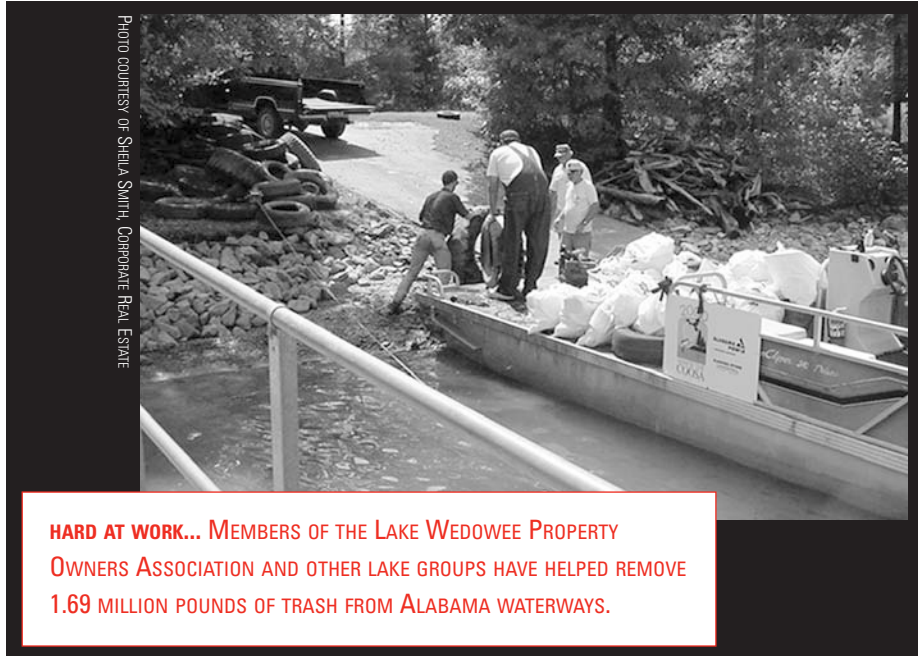
"All of the people on Lake Mitchell really care about safety. From the perspective of fire or life-saving capabilities, the crew has all they need to take care of someone in a real difficult situation."

Spring cleanups on lakes start March 15

Renew Our Rivers cleanup days are fast approaching.

Renew Our Rivers, the offshoot of the successful Renew the Coosa cleanups, has become the Southeast's largest independent river-system cleanup campaign. Saturday is the main event for each cleanup.

Willard Bowers, vice president of Environmental Affairs at Alabama Power, said that the company's interest is in conserving and protecting the environment, as well as the wildlife that resides around and in company lakes.



HARD AT WORK... MEMBERS OF THE LAKE WEDOWEE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LAKE GROUPS HAVE HELPED REMOVE 1.69 MILLION POUNDS OF TRASH FROM ALABAMA WATERWAYS.

2004 Renew Our Rivers cleanup schedule

Logan Martin	March 15 - 20	Logan Martin Lake Protection Association
Mitchell	April 3	Lake Mitchell HOB0
Jordan	April 17	Lake Jordan HOB0
Lay	April 19 - 24	Lay Lake HOB0
Henry	April 26 - May 1	Keep Etowah Beautiful / Neely Henry Lake Association
Weiss	May 3 - 8	Weiss Lake Improvement Association
Smith Lake	May 10 - 15	Smith Lake Civic Association
Smith Lake	May 17 - 22	Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee
Harris	Sept. 27 - Oct. 2	Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association

Editor's Note: Doug Powell, Alabama Power, made a \$1,500 donation to Camp ASCCA through Southern Company's LEAF Award.



Printed on recycled paper

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

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