

April 2012

## LMA Interviews New DNR Director Colonel Alvin Taylor

By Barbara Burchfield/Photo courtesy of SCDNR  
Interview on February 14, 2012

“I learned to water ski and boat on the Little Pee Dee River as a boy”, said Colonel Taylor – and then added, “When there was water in the river.” Colonel Alvin Taylor was born in Mullins and grew up in South Carolina. He graduated from Clemson University and the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy before beginning his lifelong career in varying aspects of law enforcement in the state.



Col. Alvin Taylor

Colonel Taylor was appointed Director, Department of Natural Resources by the SCDNR Board during the regular Board meeting on Jan. 26 in Columbia. Taylor assumed the position on March 17 following the retirement of John Frampton. Taylor is the first DNR Director to come from the Law Enforcement Division, and he brings with him a long history of service as he worked his way up through the ranks. Early in his career he was part of a boating accident investigation team and taught boating education classes; that involvement shaped much of his working career. Later he became the Boating Law Administrator (BLA) for South Carolina, a national position representing the state in development of public policy for recreational boating safety. His love of boating shows up often in his life – attending the U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Training Center in Virginia, his skill as a certified SCUBA diver, his part in raising of the H.L. Hunley in Charleston, and service in the coastal marine law enforcement and aquatic investigations.

Sitting in his office on an early February morning, he wore his uniform neat with pressed pleats that spoke of his respect for duty and service. Taylor answered all my questions politely and candidly in our interview for the Lake Murray Association.

**Question: What is your vision for the future concerning recreational boating in South Carolina?**

**Taylor:** We have a great state. Our population in South Carolina is about the same as Atlanta, but we have more registered boaters in

South Carolina than all of Georgia. Boating is an extremely important part of our state’s economy; it’s a business and it’s a lifestyle. We have a number of boat manufacturers here; we have a lot of marinas who depend on people boating, and support industries for fuel, fishing, and water activities.

We are a boating state and boating is year-round in South Carolina. People don’t think about that but you look at our population and it crosses all economic lines. Anyone can go boating – and they do. We are 8th in the country of registered boats and boating safety on our waterways is extremely important. DNR very much

*Interview continued on page 2*



“The Voice of Lake Murray”

Sponsors  
Public Meeting  
Lexington High School  
Tuesday April 24, 2012  
7:00 PM

**Don’t miss this important meeting!**

Come hear New Director of  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
Col. Alvin Taylor  
and  
SCE&G Officials

Come find out what is new and what you don’t know  
about Lake Murray and its future.

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Public Meetings are your opportunity to ask questions  
about where we live and play Lake Murray.

All Questions will be addressed

Refreshments will be Served

Bring a Friend

**We need YOU to accomplish our Goals!**

## *Interview ... continued from page 1*

supports mandatory education. We feel that all boaters should take a boating safety class approved by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and taught by a boating safety professional - whether it's from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power Squadron, DNR or one of our other partners. It's hard to tell whether we'll have mandatory education in the future, but it is something we support. The boating public expects to go out with their families and have a safe day on the water. Education and enforcement go hand in hand to get compliance on the waterways.

### **Question: What does the Boating Law Administrator do?**

**Taylor:** The Boating Law Administrator is a liaison person who works with the industry, state, federal partners, and private partners to promote boating safety. BLA also works on boating legislation on the state level.

The BLA also works with other states to create a uniform boating environment from a legal and regulation standpoint across the country; so if a boater from North Carolina goes boating in South Carolina, we have the same basic boating safety requirements. Uniformity is the key because we want people to boat from one state to another and do it legally and safely. When boaters travel around the country they should know what to expect in that state, but they should call or go online to the state authority and find out, for example, the age limits for wearing a life jacket or operating a boat.

### **Question: How can we improve boating safety on Lake Murray?**

**Taylor:** We need to offer as many boating classes as we can to include as many boaters as possible in the education program. We can offer more public service announcements, news articles, work with the news media more to promote boating safety, and work towards mandatory education – because education is the key to getting knowledge and information directly to the boaters.

All of our public and private schools across the state are aware that we offer a Natural Resources course curriculum for boating safety. A lot of schools are participating but we will continue to work with school districts to offer the course in more schools. The boating course is NASBLA and DNR approved so students will receive a South Carolina Boater Education Card when they pass the course.

We also need to remember that we need enforcement on our waters, too. At the end of the day, compliance with our boating safety regulations depends on boaters realizing that we have an enforcement presence there. And it's not that we're out to ruin someone's day on the water, it's to make that day safer for everyone that's out there. During tough budget times, at the local level, we have seen a reduction in the number of officers across the state. This concerns me because we might not have the presence we would like to have. One of the things we'll be working toward in the near future is to try to have enough dollars to put more officers on the water.

### **Question: Boat speed and noise are frequent problems on Lake Murray. What can boaters and residents do about it?**

**Taylor:** Call DNR Dispatch at 1-800-922-5431 if they see any unsafe

activity; the dispatcher contacts the closest officer on the lake. Maybe we can get there while the problem is still going on and we can take care of it, or it may take some time for the officer to arrive on scene. We still encourage people to call because it makes us aware that there is a problem and maybe we can set up special patrols. If we never get a call, we may never know there's a problem. So let us know when you see unsafe activity.

As far as speed, there's been a lot of talk about needing additional legislation. We feel like we have some good statutes in place now, like negligent operation of a boat that can cover most problems. Noise is not a safety issue; in most cases noise issues are covered by local ordinances. Noise isn't going to cause someone to lose their life on the water necessarily, but speed as a safety issue may. A huge priority for law enforcement in the state is alcohol abuse, because if someone loses their ability to operate a boat, even 5 mph may be too fast. Our biggest priorities are dealing with negligent operation and alcohol on the waterways.

### **Question: DNR has sole responsibility to maintain all state aids to navigation (ATON), but has a staff of only one or two people for this and they cover other duties as well. Lake Murray has over 50% of the state aids to navigation; many are inoperable, damaged, missing, or off station. How can DNR improve the maintenance of these aids?**

**Taylor:** Our aid to navigation program on all of our lakes is something we do as a courtesy to boaters. It is not mandated by law to maintain the aids; we do that to try to help create a safer environment. It is true that we need more staff covering that area, and as our budget improves we will put more staff on the program. Another issue, especially during times of low rainfall and the mandate for utilities to produce power, is that we are seeing large fluctuations in lake levels. It is impossible for anyone to mark every hazard at every lake level because what you may have out today may not be a hazard tomorrow because you can see it. Or, the lake level may come up and you can't see the hazard. Having someone on the water marking hazards every day is impossible to do. So, what we have done is to work with Santee Cooper, SCE&G, and Duke Power and look at average lake levels, then we try to mark the hazards on the lakes based on the average low water mark.

However, the boater has a responsibility to know the lake and to be cautious, especially when the lake level is going up and down. One thing that concerns me about marking any hazard is giving a boater a false sense of security because he may think that all hazards are marked – and that they can operate a boat anywhere they want at any speed.

There is a school of thought that boaters are always responsible to know the waters and to be sure they know how to navigate safety in a body of water. So when you start marking hazards, what happens when you don't mark them all? I'll give you an example; at the Santee Cooper lakes – covered in stumps. There's no way you can mark all the stumps; if you do one, or two, or fifty, then does the boater think all the stumps are marked? If you mark a buoy on the 1st of May as a hazard area and it's still there in July but is no longer a hazard – maybe the boater will think the next buoy doesn't pose a threat either. I have a real concern that boaters think everything

is marked all the time, and water fluctuations create an issue; it's impossible to mark everything every day.

There's a real balance here between recreational activity on the lake and the utilities that are required to produce power. The issue is to determine when is it a hazard, when is it not a hazard, and how does it affect the mindset of the boating public when they see these buoys?

All boating safety classes talk about operator responsibility; to take time to look at charts when you're operating your boat because safety on the waterways is the operator's responsibility. It's back to education again. The boater still has the responsibility of knowing the lake, knowing the levels, knowing the channels, and being safe. You can't turn that responsibility of safe boating over to someone else; it has to be the operator's responsibility.

Now, do we need more people? Yes, we could use more people in the aids program. Our aids to navigation people do a fantastic job but we could use some more folks in the program.

**Question: DNR authorizes permits for major public events on Lake Murray. Would it be possible to establish a web site for lake users to know what on-water events have been approved by DNR?**

**Taylor:** That's something we can look at. I can understand that perhaps a family going out for a boat ride may want to choose a different launch site rather than the one hosting a large marina event or fishing tournament. We can explore how to put that information in place for the boating public.

**Question: Do you anticipate an increase in the marine patrol staffing this summer?**

**Taylor:** We are requesting the General Assembly to give us some dollars to hire some 30 to 40 officers but we are down one-third of our force right now. At full force, we would have 301 officers statewide, which is not enough, but right now we're at 208. With those numbers, you can see that we're not going to have quite the presence on the water we would like. If the General Assembly funds a class of officers this year, we cannot get them hired, trained through the Academy and on the water by this summer. We have to wait for the budget process to come to an end before we can even hire the officers.

Boating in the state has grown tremendously with the number of boats and boaters these past years. Having law enforcement presence on the water is extremely important. It's just like when you're riding down the interstate – when you see a Trooper, the first thing you do is lift your foot up off the gas, even before you look at the speedometer. Presence gives compliance.

Presence of a law enforcement officer on the lake helps with compliance to our laws, especially alcohol issues and life jacket use. You never know how many tickets you don't issue or how many accidents you don't have because people see there's an officer on the lake. You can't measure that.

**Question: Is there any upcoming legislation concerning life jacket use, mandatory boating education, boating under the influence, or other recreational boating issues that you are aware of?**

**Taylor:** We are having some conversations with legislators dealing

with mandatory education, and strengthening BUI laws but we don't expect any meaningful boating legislation during this legislative session.

**Question: What is DNR's position on stocking the lake with striped bass and sterile grass carp if needed?**

**Taylor** Striped bass have become a big issue over the past few years. We've put together several task forces with fishermen, guides and users groups to look at legislation dealing with striped bass. Historically, striped bass have brought fisherman to our lakes, and over the past few years there is real concern about the drop in the number of fish, especially Lake Murray and Santee Cooper lakes. There's been a lot of work done dealing with limits, slot limits, fish size, and fishing restriction times to try to rebuild that number. Some big strides have been made in the last legislation session and this one, too, to help bring back the striped bass population.

There's also been a concern, especially with water levels dropping, with hydrilla weeds on the lakes. We have a Land and Water section that spends a lot of time dealing with weed eradication. That's a real balancing act, too, because some weeds and grasses are needed for fish and waterfowl, but at the same time they must be controlled. Duck hunters and bass fisherman want as much as they can; recreational users may not. We have scientists who work on that and make recommendations. We try to figure out what is the right amount.

**Question: What kind of support does the DNR need from the general public that LMA can promote when it comes to laws that encourage safety and conservation?**

**Taylor:** Lake Murray Association has always been very supportive of our boating safety efforts and it's been a good partnership with DNR. They've been out front for years on lake safety issues, and any time we have legislation for boating safety they've been ready to go to bat for us.

LMA has been very realistic whether we needed new regulations or whether we have enough regulations. No matter how many laws and regulations are passed, you've got to have enforcement and presence. When it comes time when we feel like we're getting some momentum for mandatory boating education, we will certainly be talking to LMA to support it. We welcome their support in helping us to get more officers on the water. I think that's extremely important.

At the interview end, Colonel Taylor agreed to give a presentation for Lake Murray Association membership this spring, along with the new Boating Law Administrator if that appointment has been made. We look forward to a continuing good working relationship with Colonel Taylor and DNR, and offer our congratulations on his appointment to Director of DNR.

## **BOOZE AND BOATS DON'T MIX**

More than 50 percent of the boating accidents that result in death can be traced to alcohol impairment.

## From the President's Desk



### Are you happy now?

That's a question for all our members. Over the past 17 years LMA has worked hard to ensure that the interests of all Lake users were addressed. The concern at the top of everyone's list was lake level. LMA has worked closely with SCE&G over the years, and

we feel much has been accomplished in the area of lake level. We are pleased to report that under most circumstances the desired levels for lake users are being reached each year. Are you happy now?

We are very happy indeed to continue to be your "Voice" with all agencies that address the many issues Lake Murray will face in the coming years, including: interbasin water transfers, water usage plans, sterile grass carp mortality, along with safety and traffic concerns. LMA looks forward to the very important work of participating in the various Adaptive Management Teams which may provide for adjustments in the new Saluda-Hydro license in the future if deemed necessary.

Who is going to be here to make sure you stay happy? LMA will be, but only if our membership continues to grow and provides ample numbers needed to be heard. So, make sure your neighbors know about us, and bring them to the next public meeting in your area. Check out the Lake=Link for all the events coming up. We look forward to seeing you. If you have an area you would like to know more about, let us know.

We want to be sure you can say "Yes" when asked..... Are you Happy Now?

Have a great spring and stay safe out there.

*Louise Love*

**The Lake Murray Association's annual Pontoon Tour of Homes will not be held this year.** While this is a significant fundraiser for the Association, we will need to use other sources to complete our ongoing work for Lake Murray. One of those will be a golf tournament in the fall, and we will have more information on this in our next issue. We very much appreciate the efforts many folks gave to this event and are planning to reintroduce the Tour in 2013. Should you have a home you would like to feature, or have one you would like to nominate for next year, please contact Louise Love at 781-6536 or rodlove1@bellsouth.net.

## Lake Murray Safety Consortium

By Lee Barber

After taking off the months of November and December, the Lake Murray Safety Consortium began the 2012 monthly meetings at Flotilla Island in January. These meetings highlight the fact that there is much forward thinking going on relating to safety on the Lake.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department is conducting diver training and in the process is cleaning out underwater trash at one of the islands. They are putting together a five-year plan and budget. Collaboration and discussions with law enforcement agencies in other states is ongoing in order to share information regarding equipment, procedures, and innovations.

Lexington County continues training in helicopter search and rescue operations. They have received grants to improve lake and river rescue operations. Sgt. Garry Rozier has been named to head up the Incident Management Team representing nine counties in the Midlands. The team has a \$100,000 grant to provide for the management and coordination of emergency responders in the Midlands.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Lake Murray Power Squadron continue to provide excellent boater education classes. The Auxiliary also reported that for the year 2011, the 276 members in South Carolina devoted 66,908 volunteer hours promoting boating recreational safety.

In summary, the Lake residents and users should know that the members of the Lake Murray Safety Consortium (LMA, SCE&G, DNR, the four county Sheriffs' Departments, the Lake Murray Power Squadron, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary) are diligently working as a team to keep our beautiful Lake as safe as possible. Although the LMA sponsors and facilitates these meetings and efforts, it is the spirit of cooperation exhibited by the members, who meet regularly to share information, ideas, and collaboration that makes it work.

### Good to Know... SCE&G conducted controlled burns at Lake Murray

Did you see smoke in the air?? SCE&G conducted controlled burns on islands in Lake Murray over several weeks in February as part of its ongoing safety program.

SCE&G conducts the burns annually to reduce undesirable ground litter and underbrush, according to Tommy Boozer, who oversees the company's lake management program.

The controlled burns are under the regulation and approval of the S.C. Forestry Commission and performed under the direct supervision of SCE&G registered foresters who hold approved prescribed fire managers licenses.

# KEEPING LAKE MURRAY HEALTHY

## HOW LMA ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

by Roy Parker

Vigilance is the word. We have constant change going on around the lake. How will that change impact lake health? What will be the impact on water quality? The Lake Murray Association is keenly alert to changes taking place, and we are monitoring water quality in areas where new development is being planned.

The Stony Point Home Owners Association contacted our organization concerning a new housing development planned for 57-74 new homes to be built near the Cedar Cove Subdivision. The development will be located on a gentle to moderate slope with drainage directly into the lake. As the housing density increases in the vicinity of the shoreline, the potential for lake contamination increases. Our first step was to establish water quality prior to the beginning of new development. Our first water quality samples were taken Feb. 15 prior to any activity in the planned new development. Samples were taken from the cove where runoff from the new development will drain. The samples will be analyzed for levels of fecal coliform and total phosphorous. Future samples will be

taken during development and after completion to determine if there is any change to water quality.

About three years ago LMA was notified concerning a sewer line running along Murray Lindler Road in close proximity to the lake that had overflowed into Lake Murray. The line was replaced with a larger twelve-inch heavy duty plastic line. There were no further problems until about a month ago when the line ruptured again. The soil through which the sewer runs is very rocky and may have contributed to the damaged pipe. Two lengths of the plastic pipe were replaced with metal pipe which should be less vulnerable to damage by the rocky terrain. I think a good effort has been put forth to correct this problem, and the metal pipe should certainly decrease the chances for further breaks and thus contamination into the lake.

I encourage all lake users to be vigilant to help keep Lake Murray healthy and clean. Problems can be corrected, but someone must first be aware of the problem or potential problem before it can be addressed. Thanks to all who contribute to helping keep Lake Murray clean and healthy.

### Why Homeowners Need Dock Signs



Some years ago, the four county Sheriffs found that having home addressess visible from the lakeside aided calls for assistance. If you have to call for help, having your address lakeside and roadside can save precious minutes. These signs are also necessary should you desire to request a property check from your local sheriff's department while you are away fro your home. Dock signs are easy to order and are delivered to a location near you.

Check the LMA website [www.lakemurrayassociation.org](http://www.lakemurrayassociation.org)

### Help Law Enforcement by Preparing Your Home in Advance

A special property check is available if your business or residence borders Lake Murray. If you would like for the Sheriff's Patrol on Lake Murray to check your property while you are away, go online to <http://www.rcsd.net/propertycheckform-lm.htm> or call 803-576-3000.



### LMA Water Testing

by Ken Fox

Water quality is a primary concern for all users of Lake Murray. LMA is committed to a water quality monitoring program. This year will mark the seventh year that LMA will continue to monitor the waters of Lake Murray by testing for phosphorus and fecal coliform. In 2011 our program conducted random testing from various areas of the lake. During 2012 we will continue to test in this manner. Our testing program will run from May through October. While our tests have yet to reveal any consistent or permanently impaired water, LMA wants to be vigilant in guarding the water quality of Lake Murray. Please contact us if you know of an area that might be contaminated.

Random Coves	Pollutant	October
A	Total Phosphorous Fecal Coliform	<.050 1
B	Total Phosphorous Fecal Coliform	<.050 1
C	Total Phosphorous Fecal Coliform	<.050 1
D	Total Phosphorous Fecal Coliform	<.050 1

Freshwater standard for phosphorous = .060 mg/l

Freshwater standard for fecal coliform is not to exceed an average of 200 colonies per 100 m of water over a 30 day period.

Please contact us if you know of an area that you suspect contains impaired water or water flowing into Lake Murray that may be impaired.

# 4-H2O Camp 2012

By Dave Landis



The 4-H2O summer programs are water quality outdoor classroom experiences. These programs teach students about the value of water resources to wildlife, ecosystems, and people. The Lake Murray 4-H2O Pontoon Classroom is for children ages 10-12. The students will explore the treasures of Lake Murray! They will spend the week on and around Lake Murray, exploring the lake on pontoon boats, touring the Coast Guard station and water treatment plant, installing duck boxes, and conducting water quality tests. They will learn the history of Lake Murray, do watershed models, fish, swim, and get up close and personal with fish and other aquatic critters. This year's camp will be held June 11-15, from 8:30 am-4:30 pm daily. The

class is limited to 20 students, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is required. You may download the registration packet at [www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/consortiums/lcsc\\_home/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/consortiums/lcsc_home/index.html) or call 803-359-8515 Ext. 413.

Each year LMA assist the 4-H2O program by providing pontoons and captains to transport the students. This program is extremely informative even for adults. One of the benefits of being a captain is learning with the class. If you would like to volunteer to captain your pontoon a few days during the week, please call Dave Landis at: 803-315-1628.



## LMA Goals Conference

Lake Murray Association board members met Saturday, January 21 to discuss goals and organizational objectives for 2012.

Over the years, Lake Murray Association has become a major advocate for the lake in the areas of safety, water levels, water quality, nuisance aquatic weed management, shoreline development and other issues that impact Lake Murray and its users. We are proud of the many successes we have achieved, even though many of these are not clearly visible to the public. LMA wants to continue to be vigilant in all areas concerning the health and quality of Lake Murray.

The Goals Conference was conducted by Lee Barber, LMA Board Member, who also served as the facilitator for the classic break-out sessions to brainstorm additional ideas about current lake concerns. Essentially, LMA reaffirmed its commitment to represent ALL users of the lake and seek to preserve and protect Lake Murray. We look forward to implementing many of the ideas.

– By Barbara Burchfield–

## Columbia Boat Show 2012

The Lake Murray Association participated in the Columbia Boat Show at the State Fairgrounds. Each day the booth was staffed by several from the LMA Board. These people volunteered their time and were happy to answer any questions concerning Lake Murray and/or the Association. We were encouraged by the comment: “Keep doing what you are doing.” Most people expressed they were happy with the higher lake level and consider safety and environmental issues of prime importance. LMA appreciates this valuable feedback and will continue to work on important issues that affect the health and well-being of Lake Murray.

As a result of the boat show we gained 25 new memberships, and 10 renewals. This year not one but three prizes were given. The first drawing was a \$50 gift certificate donated by West Marine and won by Doris Warren. The second drawing was 2 tickets for a Purple Martin Tour upon the Southern Patriot donated by the Southern Patriot won by Jeannie Vinson. The third drawing was for 2 tickets for the LMA Tour of Homes won by Daniel Noctkamper. Congratulations to all three winners!

– By Russ Jernigan

Good to Know...

## Newberry Co. Meeting Recap

By Jim Nelson



Fireboats, dive teams, helicopters, door prizes, free hot dogs and more were featured at the Newberry County meeting of the Lake Murray Association, November 29 at Macedonia Church, in Prosperity, SC. Newberry County Sheriff Lee Foster and the Newberry Co. rescue teams were on hand to explain their services for lake users. The Fire Department, Rescue Stations, Hazardous Material Team and the Dive Team are all staffed by volunteers in Newberry Co. Lake Murray is not the only body of water for which Newberry Co. has responsibility. The others include: Lake Greenwood, the Broad River and Parr Shoals Reservoir. Sgt. Garry Rozier brought in the Lexington Co. helicopter for guests to view.

Captain Andy Hyman showed a safe boating video entitled "Almost a Perfect Day." SCE&G representatives gave an update on the pending license. Door prizes rounded out the attractions for residents and lake users.

The Association holds a meeting in each of the four counties adjoining the lake every year to inform members and lake users of the many issues facing the lake and to listen and address concerns of lake residents and users.

## Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location
March 20, 2012	6:30 pm	LMA Member and Public Meeting – Spinner's Resort & Marina, 101 Sandalwood Rd, Leesville SC
April 9, 2012	7:00 pm	LMA Director's Board Meeting – Farm Bureau Bldg. Park Rd, Lexington SC
April 24, 2012	7:00 pm	LMA Member and Public Meeting – Cafetorium at Lexington High School.
May 14, 2012	7:00 pm	LMA Director's Board Meeting – Farm Bureau Bldg. Park Rd, Lexington SC
May 19, 2012	9:00 am to 1:00 pm	LMA Pontoon Tour of Homes. Starting from Bundrick Island – At end of Old Cherokee Road
June 11, 2012	7:00 pm	LMA Director's Board Meeting – Farm Bureau Bldg. Park Rd, Lexington SC
June 19, 2012	8:30 am -3:00 pm	Ladies Day on the Lake - Lighthouse Marina, 1925 Johnson Marina Road, Chapin – see LMA website for application

**CANCELLED**

As members of the Lake Murray Association you are invited to participate in any of the events shown above, including Board meetings. We encourage you to bring to the attention of the Board any issues or concerns regarding Lake Murray that you may have.

If you wish to be on the Director's Meeting Agenda, please contact Joy Downs at 803-749-3888 at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. However, urgent concerns may be brought to the Board at any time. We suggest that complicated matters be sent to us in writing, including e-mail, so we may have a complete and accurate understanding of your concern.

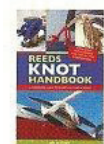
## LMA Mission

To preserve, protect and enhance Lake Murray through conservation, science, education and good governance so that the lake remains clean, safe and beautiful for the community, users, visitors, area businesses and homeowners, both now and for generations to come.



### Overhand Shortening Knot

**T**HERE WILL PROBABLY BE MANY OCCASIONS when a rope is too long for the job at hand, so knowing how to shorten a rope is valuable. There are a number of different knots for this purpose - many ornamental in appearance - but the overhand shortening knot is one of the simplest. This method involves shortening the rope by folding it into three, and tying an overhand knot in the center to hold the parts firmly. The overhand knot is very secure, and provided you make sure that there are no twists in the rope, it will hold the three pieces together safely.



*Reeds Knot Handbook, A pocket guide to knots, hitches and bends,*

By Jim Whippy,  
9781408139455, \$9.95,  
Published by Adlard  
Coles Nautical, [www.adlardcoles.com](http://www.adlardcoles.com)

# LMA Contacts

## Officers

Louise Love, President	803-781-6536
Sean Abrams, 1st Vice President	803-334-4410
Vacant, 2nd Vice President	Vacant
Joy Downs, Executive Director	803-781-8411
Bill Mathias, Recording Secretary	803-957-5829
Tom Ruple, Treasurer	803-732-1342
David Landis, Past President	803-520-7509

## Committee Chairpersons

### Environmental

Roy Parker, Chair	803-603-8988
Ken Fox	803-604-1409

### Government Liaison

Bill Mathias, Chair	803-957-5829
Curtis Hipp, Vice Chair	803-794-9012
Joy Downs	803-781-8411

### Lake Level

Executive Committee, Joy Downs	803-749-3888
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### LAKE≈LINK Newsletter

Sharon Miles, Chair & Editor	803-233-3746
Bill East, Vice Chair	803-781-7711

### LMA Funded Projects: Osprey Nests & Wind Socks

Ken Fox	803-604-1409
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### Membership

Amy Jo Jacobson, Chair	803-917-1884
Aleda Anderson	803-781-2343
Russ Jernigan	803-359-7598
Sharon Miles	803-233-3746
Philip Spear ( Chamber of Commerce Liaison)	803-260-3585

### Nominating Committee

Bill East, Chairman	803-781-7711
Aleda Anderson	803-781-2343

### Publicity

Jim Nelson	803-422-7647
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## Safety

Lee Barber, Co Chair	803-749-1841
Jay Schabacker, Co Chair	803-808-7339
Ken Fox	803-604-1409
Lucy Wingard	803-318-6267
Andy Hyman	803-932-7707
Barbara Burchfield	803-240-9264

## Special Events: Boat Show, Dock signs, Tour of Homes, Golf Tournament, Ladies Day on the Lake

Dave Landis, Chairman	803-520-7509
Ken Fox, Ladies Day on the Lake Chair	803-604-1409
Russ Jernigan, Boat Show Chair	803-359-7598
Louise Love, Pontoon Tour of Homes Chair	803-781-6536
Ralph Crafton, Dock Signs Chair	803-359-5361
Don Tyler	803-932-4891

## Web Site Manager

Tom Ruple	803-732-1342
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## At Large

William McCain	803-606-3500
Leo Whigham	803-678-9783

## ADDITIONAL PHONE NUMBERS

Lake Level	800-830-5253
Lake Murray Information	803-217-8399
Dock Permits	803-217-9221
DNR Information	803-734-3888
Marine Office	803-951-2564
Richland County Sheriff's Office	803-576-3000
Lexington County Sheriff's Office	803-359-8230
Newberry County Sheriff's Office	803-321-2211
Saluda County Sheriff's Office	803-445-2112
Sea Tow Lake Murray	803-957-0664
SC Legislative Info.	800-734-2145
DNR Nuisance Animals	800-922-5431
Lake Property Check	803-576-3000

**BE A LIFESAVER!**

- Wearing life jackets saves lives.
- Boater education saves lives.
- Safe boats save lives.
- Sober boating saves lives.

**WEAR IT!**

SafeBoatingCampaign.com

## Good to Know...

### Got Muskrats????

Ree O'Neal may be able to help or give advice. You may contact him at 803-397-7727.



## What Do You Get for Your \$\$\$\$ Membership Matters

By Sharon-Leigh Miles

Your membership in the Lake Murray Association comes with many benefits. However, you are holding in your hand the only tangible benefit that comes directly to you. This doesn't mean there are not numerous other benefits you experience but may not think about.

LMA board members spent countless hours in numerous meetings representing your interests during the re-licensing. As a result of this enormous effort LMA represented its membership in signing the settlement agreement for the new Saluda-Hydro license. A new guide curve for lake level was established in the new license. SCE&G has been successful in targeting the guide curve resulting in higher lakes levels year-round for the past few years. These meetings are continuing with SCE&G and other stakeholders with the formation of the Adaptive Management Teams. In addition, staying abreast of new issues that may affect Lake Murray requires many meetings with various governmental agencies. There is not a week that goes by that an LMA board member is not representing you in a meeting.

Another benefit you experience is the knowledge that LMA keeps a watchful eye on the lake through its water quality testing program.

Safety is a prime concern for everyone on the lake. LMA began and continues to host the Lake Murray Safety Consortium (LMSC). This group of law enforcement officials has made great improvement in communication and emergency response. They meet together monthly to monitor and improve safety on Lake Murray. LMA also purchases and maintains the windsocks around the lake for Life Reach Flights.

When you see the beauty of our lake consider this another benefit. LMA is active not only in shoreline management issues, but we have established and maintain platforms for Ospreys and Wood Duck Boxes.

These are just a few of the many activities in which LMA is involved. As you can see, your membership dues are stretched to the fullest. I cannot think of another organization where you will get this much "Bang for your Buck."

Would you take a moment and be sure to renew your membership? Would you think of others that may like to share in all these wonderful benefits? LMA depends upon a large membership to make "the voice of Lake Murray" count in the many meetings and to sustain our various endeavors. We depend upon our membership to spread the word about LMA. Won't you become a voice for LMA in your neighborhood?



Lake Murray Power Squadron  
Vessel Safety Checks 2012



The Vessel Safety Check is a complimentary check of your boat conducted by members of the Lake Murray Power Squadron, confirming that it meets both federal and state requirements for safety.

Vessel Safety Checks will be conducted on the following dates and locations:

- **March 31 – Shake N Break at Flotilla Island 9:00-1:00**
- **April 14 – Windward Point 10:00-1:00**
- **April 14 – Harbor Watch 10:00-12:00**
- **April 21 – Jake's Landing 10:00-1:00**
- **April 28 – Lake Murray Marina 10:00-1:00**
- **May 12 – Lighthouse Marina 10:00-1:00**
- **June 9 – Lighthouse Marina 10:00-1:00**
- **June 19 – Jake's Landing 10:00-1:00**
- **June 23 – Lake Murray Marina 10:00-1:00**

Please contact Bryant Blakeslee, AP if you would like to schedule a vessel safety check or with any additional questions.

[bblakeslee@metlife.com](mailto:bblakeslee@metlife.com) or (803) 476-0373



### LMA'S ANNUAL LADIES DAY ON THE LAKE

- WHO:** Ladies Only!! (17 years of age or older)  
Only 32 spaces are available!  
This event is always a sell-out!
- WHEN:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 – From 8:30a.m. to 3:00p.m.
- WHERE:** Lighthouse Marina  
1925 Johnson Marina Rd. Ballentine, SC
- WHAT:** Learn the elements of safe boating including:
- How to operate and dock a boat
  - Back a boat trailer into the water
  - Learn to safely operate a personal watercraft
  - Learn Boating and Water Safety Rules
- HOW:** All "hands-on" under the watchful supervision of DNR, Columbia Power Sports and Lake Murray Power Squadron officials.
- COST:** The \$35.00 fee is required in advance to hold your place. This includes lunch, drinks, and all other expenses for the day.

FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION AT OUR WEBSITE AT

[LAKEMURRAYASSOCIATION.ORG](http://LAKEMURRAYASSOCIATION.ORG)

OR CALL KENNETH FOX AT (803) 604-1409.

# Know Before You Go

By Bill Mathias

## Boat Registration:

All boats must be registered with the SC Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources (SCNDR). The only exceptions are non-motorized vessels such as rowboats, vessels documented with the U. S. Coast Guard, and vessels with valid registration in another state or country temporarily in South Carolina.

## Water Skiing:

It is illegal for vessels to tow persons on water skis, a surfboard, or any other device between sunset and sunrise. While towing, the boat operator must operate in a careful and prudent manner maintaining a reasonable distance from other boats, people and property so as not to endanger life or property. Buzzing or spraying another boat or swimmer is illegal.

A person(s) being towed must wear a U. S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. In addition to the operator, there must another person observing the towed person(s) at all times, or the boat must have a wide-angle rearview mirror mounted in such a fashion that the operator can observe the towed person(s) at all times.

If an observer is used when towing a person behind a personal watercraft, the PWC must be rated for three people- the operator, the observer and the retrieved skier.

To assist in communications between the skier(s) and the boat operator or observer, hand signals should be utilized. On its website, SCDNR provides illustrations of proper hand signals.

## Law Enforcement Assistance:

By South Carolina law, the primary responsibility for enforcement of boating regulations is vested in SCDNR. However, on Lake Murray laws are also enforced by the sheriffs' departments of the counties in which the Lake is located; Lexington, Richland, Newberry and Saluda. The Richland and Lexington Sheriffs' Departments maintain a year-round presence on the Lake with significant resources deployed in the boating season.

Law enforcement assistance from SCDNR and the sheriffs' departments can be obtained by cell phone calls from boats on the Lake or via marine radio Channel 16. Lexington County maintains a marine law enforcement facility on Bundrick Island (near Bomb Island), and Richland County maintains a similar facility at Lighthouse Marina in Ballentine. SCDNR can be contacted directly at (800) 922-5431.

## Corporate Sponsors

The following businesses are affiliate members. Affiliate members are identified as sponsors of LMA since they directly support us with larger membership dues. We extend special thanks to our affiliate members. Let us support them in return.

Ist Mate Marine Construction, William Phillips	803-738-6012
Abby's by the River, Debbie Kirklin	803-268-3771
Ameriprise Financial, Ryan Westmoreland	803-957-1912
Automated Business Services, Rick Jones	803-781-3033
Bio Gator, Wallace Hubbard	803-749-1140
Buffalo Creek Marina, Charles Higgins	803-466-5335
Callaway Construction Company, Wes Lawson	803-753-7948
Carts Plus, Ed Horton	803-359-5505
Dam Bar & Grill, James Arnold	803-808-0882
Dantzler's Lawn & Landscaping, Chad Dantzler	803-917-7983
David's Fine Jewelry, Matthew Baughman	803-732-1235
DuBose Home Inspections, Inc., David DuBose	803-276-3250
First Citizens Bank, Ballentine, Rick Pascall	803-781-3414
Giles Brothers Allstate, Craig Giles	803-798-4800
Harbour Watch on Lake Murray, Phil Savage	803-920-1224
Jakes Landing, Archie Trawick, Jr.	803-359-9268
Jesse T Reese Insurance, Larry Dodson & Tim Reese	803-799-9206
Kaminer Heating & Air, Inc. Woody Kaminer	803-772-9140
Kelley-Moser Consulting, William Moser	803-808-0338
Lake Murray Boat Club, Jon Dukes	803-407-2828
Lake Murray Chamber of Commerce, Debra Lauer	803-356-2151
Lake Murray Cruises, "Spirit of LM" Ken Colton	803-730-3044
Lake Murray Power Squadron, Lee Ayers	803-781-9157
LakeMurrayTimes.com, Gerald Head	803-422-5709
Lake Tours, Inc. "Southern Patriot", Jay Downs	803-749-8594
Lexington Chamber of Commerce, Tiffany McCullar	803-359-6113
Lexington Medical Center, Patti Williams	803-791-2801
Lighthouse Marina, Jason Lusk	803-749-1554
Medicine Mart Pharmacy, Gerald Culler	803-231-2003
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Byron Williams	803-251-3285
Night Harbor Home Owners Association, Bert Floyd	803-345-6537
Pine Press Printing, Lori Harmon	803-359-9162
Pontoon Rentals & Tours, Ken Hardee	803-413-1693
Richland County Sheriff's Dept., Sheriff Leon Lott	803-576-3031
Rotary Club of Chapin, George McConnell, Jr.	803-345-2890
Russell & Jeffcoat, Barbara Seward	803-361-1254
Sargeant Air Conditioning, Bob Thompson	803-520-6279
♦ Sea Tow Lake Murray, John Altenberg	803-957-0664
\$25 discount off Sea Tow membership	
Senior Express Transportation Services, David Smith	803-926-7933
Southern First Bank, Nancy Hutto	803-520-5390
Spinner's Resort & Marina, Theresa LeJohn	803-532-5300
Timberlake Country Club, Inc. Michael Kletter	803-345-9909
Well Pets Veterinary Clinic, Scott Christy	803-732-3883
Wingard's Nursery, Delores Steinhauer	803-359-9091
Woodley's Garden Center, Rick Woodley	803-407-0601
♦ Indicates Corporate Sponsors with benefits for LMA members	



# Getting to Know Our Corporate Sponsors

## David's Fine Jewelry

By Lee Barber

Located at 7001 St. Andrews Rd, David's Fine Jewelry has been proudly serving the Columbia area since 1977. They specialize in quality services and repairs, custom jewelry, and the information to feel confident in their purchases. The store was honored by the Irmo Chamber of Commerce as the "Business of the Year for 2011." Matthew (Matt) Baughman has been the owner since 2001, when he took over the business from his father, Mike Baughman. He grew up in Coldstream, graduated from Irmo High School and went to the College of Charleston. He and his wife, Anna, have two wonderful children, Brycie and Andrew. Although he has never lived on Lake Murray, he has owned and kept a boat there for a number of years. When he heard of the many things LMA does to enhance the lake, it took no persuasion to sign him up as a corporate sponsor. Having done business with Matt in the purchase of specialized jewelry, I can personally vouch for the quality, honesty, and integrity of David's Fine Jewelry.

## Medicine Mart Pharmacy

By Dave Landis

LMA would like to welcome Medicine Mart Pharmacy as a new Corporate Sponsor. Medicine Mart has been in business for 34 years and is owned by Gerald Culler. Gerald's pharmacy is located at 3729 Rosewood Drive in Columbia. There are two other Medicine Mart Pharmacies owned by his friends in West Columbia and Lexington. I asked Gerald what he attributes their successes to and he said, "low prices and great service keep our customers coming back!"

Gerald said he and his family have enjoyed the lake for most of his life and moved to the lake 12 years ago. If you want to patronize a well-run local business, stop in and say hello to Gerald and his staff. They would enjoy seeing you.



***Like the Lake  
Murray Association  
on Facebook***

## REDUCE YOUR INCOME TAX!

by bill east

The April 15th deadline for filing income tax returns is fast approaching! Even as we prepare our returns for 2011 we also should be planning ahead for the 2012 tax year.

Charitable gifts are a great way to reduce your tax liability while supporting worthwhile causes. Contributions to your Lake Murray Association qualify as tax-deductible for both federal and state tax returns. Remember that LMA is working to protect and preserve our beautiful Lake Murray for all to enjoy. We need your support to help fund our projects such as water quality testing, boating safety education, environmental protection, and our many other programs.

Make your donations to LMA early this year. This provides much needed funds to LMA, as well as possibly reducing your income tax liability. Remember LMA when setting up your estate plan, as well as preparing charitable-giving budgets for corporations and businesses. We are a private non-profit organization that depends on your membership dues and contributions.



## You Request

If you would like to receive the Lake≈Link in full color via electronic means, just send a request with your e-mail address to [lma@lakemurrayassociation.com](mailto:lma@lakemurrayassociation.com).

## We Request

**Kindly Recycle!!** Have you finished reading the Lake≈Link? Don't toss it. Pass it along to a friend, neighbor, family member, co-worker, etc.—anyone who cares about the lake! Help us spread the word of caring and preserving Lake Murray.

