

August 2012



## From the President's Desk

By Louise Love

On Lake Murray in July, you expect to hear a lot of Ohhs and Ahhs, but they are not for the fireworks (awesome as they are). Exclaims of wonder are heard in one place from the first of July through the first of September, and they are for tiny birds called Purple Martins and their flights of joy. Purple Martins are the largest of the North American Swallows and are a protected species under the Federal Migratory Bird-Treaty Act. Thus, it is illegal to harm the birds, their nests, or any part of their habitat. Each year these unique birds migrate from Brazil to Bomb Island, a distance of about 2600 miles. The island itself was a practice site for WWII planes and now is a "dive bombing" site for Purple Martins.

In 1995 SCE&G entered into an agreement with the Columbia Audubon Society to construct signage identifying the island as a Bird Sanctuary. It is the first and largest officially designated Purple Martin sanctuary in North America, with nearly one million birds flocking to the island to roost in the summer, making it a popular tourist attraction. During the summer months, boaters are strongly advised to refrain from beaching their crafts on the island and certainly are asked not to let dogs run on the island. The eco system there is fragile and needs to be preserved to ensure the birds will return each year.

Purple Martins have been migrating to North America for hundreds of years. Native Americans hollowed out gourds and erected them to provide nesting sites for the birds. In the 1980's, competition with Starlings released by humans nearly caused the Purple Martins to disappear. Purple Martins are very dependent on artificial "Martin houses" supplied by individuals or organizations that are fond of the birds. Many Lake Murray area residents construct the bird houses each year to attract the birds. The male Martins actually begin arriving in South Carolina in February and March searching for nesting sites. Martins are monogamous and once a nesting site is chosen, the pair will return to it each year as long as it remains safe. The migration is a drawn out affair and can continue until the end

of June, with the arrival of younger birds and females staggered throughout that time. Purple Martins remain at their nests even after their young can fly, taking the fledglings out during the day and returning them to the safety of their nests during the night.

Once the breeding season is over, the Purple Martins gather in large flocks to feed and roost, which is when we see them on Bomb Island. These roosts are critically important to the annual life cycle and ecology of Purple Martins. Including our island, there are only about 300 such sites throughout the U.S. and Canada. Martins eat and drink on the fly. They consume a large amount of insects during the roosting to build up their energy for the long journey back to South America. Because they fly so relatively high, contrary to popular belief, mosquitoes are not a large part of their diet.

... continued on page 2

### The Lake Murray Association

*"The Voice of Lake Murray"*

#### ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A LAKE MURRAY BOATER?

**Tuesday - September 18, 2012 - 7 PM**

Come to the September meeting  
at Lighthouse Marina and find out.



Enjoy lively discussions on boating,  
have a hot dog and get some helpful information on  
ways to deal with those pesky muskrats and beavers.

The Meeting begins at 7:00, come early to have a  
bite to eat and get a good seat.

Entertainment provided by  
LMA and Lake Murray Power Squadron

FYI, THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE  
OCTOBER 16 AT MACEDONIA LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN PROSPERITY.

However, they love those pesky mayflies and can clean an area in short order. They also drink on the fly and you can see them dipping in the water as they fly towards the island in the late afternoon to roost. As evening approaches at Bomb Island, so do dozens of boats full of folks anxious to view the majestic avian swarm of these extraordinary acrobats. Martins typically will roost within 150 miles of their nesting site.

Small groups arrive first from all directions, and the island swells with tiny birds and the enormous noise they make. The birds can reach 45 miles per hour as they dive to their roosting sights among the trees. Each one seems to have a pre-determined spot, and a branch will fill up with the fluttering creatures quickly. As if they receive a signal from an unknown leader, the group will suddenly launch in unison from their roosting spots into the sky like a huge purple curtain. How they avoid rear-ending each other is a miracle, and their flight is a marvel. The Ohhs and Ahhs from surrounding boats can be heard over the chirping Martins as they seem to fold and unfold into each other. Again and again, the mass of birds will ascend and descend like small children getting out of bed to get that last drink, or just running down the hall before finally getting settled in. As the sun leaves the sky, the little Martins find their designated perches for the night and settle in. It is suddenly over, quiet and still for a moment until boats begin to start up for a leisurely ride home. But visions of this amazing sight are still in the minds of those who watched.

Erosion of the island is becoming a concern. Over time, many storms have hit the island pretty hard and portions have fallen into the lake, taking trees and shrubs which were roosting sites for the Martins. Tommy Boozer at SCE&G stated that they regularly inspect the island and promote growth of shrubs with strong root systems to help prevent as much erosion as possible. He also said, "That island, like most out there, is that hard red clay and it will be there for many years."

One other concern: There is no legislation in place to protect the Martins' habitat by making it against the law to be on the island. Although SCE&G has erected signage and the property belongs to them, the island has not been recognized by lawmakers as a reserve. If our state legislature does grant the sanctuary status, then SCDNR officers would have the authority to take action and keep trespassers from the Martins' habitat, providing protection for these tiny birds for many more years to come.

*"Lady of the Lake"*  
 Reprinted with permission of Kem Oliver,  
 with RelyLocal of Greater Columbia

Joy Downs started boating with her late husband, Larry, when they lived in Singapore on the South China Sea. When they lived in Atlanta it was on Lake Lanier; when in Charlotte, it was Lake Norman; but they found a new home when they came across Lake Murray. "We moved here for no other reason than Lake Murray," says Downs, "It was, and still is, the most beautiful piece of water." But she never thought that one day she'd be the co-owner of a 65 foot tour boat on the lake they fell in love with.

Joe Agnew, a well known name on Lake Murray and the owner of Agnew's Lake Service, brought the historic Southern Patriot Tour Boat to Lake Murray in 1990 from St. Michael's on the Chesapeake Bay. It was brought down the intra-coastal waterway and then up the Cooper River, where it was dismantled and brought up I-26 on trailers under the cover of darkness and with police escort. Agnew's Lake Service is where it was reassembled, inspected, and certified to sail by the Coast Guard.

**...continued on page 4**

*Calendar of Events*

| Date               | Time            | Location   |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| August 13, 2012    | 7:00 pm         | LMA Director's Board Meeting<br>- Farm Bureau Bldg.<br>Park Road, Lexington SC   |
| September 11, 2012 | 7:00 pm         | LMA Director's Board Meeting<br>- Farm Bureau Bldg.  |
| September 18, 2012 | 7:00 pm         | Public Meeting<br>- Lighthouse Marina "Fun way to learn Boating Rules of the Road"<br>Special guests David and Debra Allen |
| October 5, 2012    | To be announced | LMA Golf Tournament - Timberlake County Club, Chapin SC  |
| October 8, 2012    | 7:00 pm         | LMA Director's Board Meeting<br>- Farm Bureau Bldg.  |
| October 16, 2012   | 7:00 pm         | Public Meeting<br>- Macedonia Lutheran Church "Fun way to Learn Boating Rules of the Road. Special guests                  |
| November 12, 2012  | 7:00 pm         | LMA Directors' Board Meeting<br>- Farm Bureau Bldg.  |
| December 2012      | No Meeting      |  |
| January 8, 2013    | 7:00 pm         | LMA Director's Board Meeting<br>- Farm Bureau Bldg.  |
| February, 2013     | To be announced | Boat Show  |

If you wish to be on the Director's Meeting Agenda, please contact Joy Downs at 803-749-3888

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. Please call the Executive Director, 803-749-3888, at least two weeks in advance of meetings to be placed on the agenda, 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.



## LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year, on Friday October 5th, the Lake Murray Association will be holding a fundraising golf tournament at the Timberlake Country Club. As you well know, LMA is a non-profit organization and is volunteer-staffed. We need your support! This event is going to give you a wonderful outing of golf AND a great way to help LMA raise funds so that we can continue to be "The Voice of Lake Murray." What better place to have this event than at the Timberlake Country Club, which has such scenic views of the lake we all love. Additionally, we will have plenty of prizes, contests, and chances for your business to be noticed as our golfers make their way through the course.

If you are interested in learning more about our golf tournament, please go to LMA's website at [www.lakemurrayassociation.com](http://www.lakemurrayassociation.com) and scroll over the Calendar of Events link. You'll be able to register and pay for your involvement online! If you are a little more traditional in your approach and would like to speak with someone regarding our golf tournament, and the opportunities for participating or sponsoring, please call Dave Landis at [803-749-3888](tel:803-749-3888).

Registration is \$75 per golfer and you can sponsor a hole for \$100. We are also looking for a few partners to be our event sponsors for \$500.

Please come out and join us for some fun and sun during the tournament. What a pleasure it would be to have you and we could certainly use your support.



### Lake Murray Power Squadron

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®  
Sail and Power Boating

The Midlands' Premier Source of Boating Education

*is once again offering*

### America's Boating Course

the ABCs of safe boating on

Tuesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

beginning on September 11 for 5 consecutive weeks

(absences can be made up)

Classes will be held at Flotilla Island

Contact Stan Godfrey

[Stanlgmc@yahoo.com](mailto:Stanlgmc@yahoo.com) or (803)572-1602

## SEA CADETS' SURVIVAL TRAINING

by Dave Landis

Under the cover of darkness, 42 Sea Cadets slid into the waters of Lake Murray. They swam to the shores of Wessinger Island on the night of July 9th to start their survival training on the lake. Their overall training started about 9 days earlier in North Carolina and then they finished up here on our lake.

This year started about the same as previous years with a few modifications. The cadets arrived on a Monday instead of the weekend to avoid the busy weekend crowds at the marina. They used Lake Murray Marina and spent the afternoon getting certified for the evening swim. A small party went out in the early afternoon to set up a medical site in case of any emergencies. Other than normal scrapes and bug bites, no big emergencies occurred.

The day was sunny and hot and the lake water felt good to the cadets. As darkness rolled in, the cadets loaded their gear on 3 pontoon boats driven by LMA volunteers. Then they boarded the Southern Patriot for the 45 minute ride to Wessinger Island. Along with darkness of night was also the darkness of huge rain clouds off in the distance. By the time we got to the island, the rain was upon us but the lightning was still off in the distance, so the young men and women proceeded with the task at hand. One by one they entered the waters and made their way towards shore. The cadets were required to carry a chem-lite so no one would get lost. As the last of the cadets entered the waters, Jay Downs and his crew turned the Southern Patriot back towards the marina and disappeared into the darkness. The 3 pontoon boats, captained by Les Tweed, Mark Murphy and me were quickly unloaded as the wind and rain picked up. As we all rounded the northern tip of the island, the rain hit us full force. I can only imagine what was happening on the island as they tried to set up camp in that weather. By the time we got back to the Lexington side of the lake and into our coves, the rain was over and the water calm.

Tuesday morning I took Tim Dominick, a senior photojournalist from The State newspaper, over to the island for some interviews. It was another beautiful sunny hot day. Tim documented the cadets eating fresh water clams, drying out their gear from the previous night, foraging for food, catching fish, and developing their leadership skills. The cadets also realized the importance of teamwork in order to survive. We left the cadets mid-day and headed back to Lexington. As evening approached so did the thunder storms. Tuesday night was worse than Monday, with heavier rains, winds and lightning.

Wednesday morning, Lt. jg. Roger Wheeler and his officers had to put Plan B into effect and complete the survival training off the lake, as heavier thunder storms were predicted for the rest of the week. With the help of Jon Dukes and the Lake Murray Boat Club, everyone was brought back to the marina.

Although time on the lake was cut short by a couple days, Lt.jg. Wheeler said their training was a great success and thanked everyone for making it happen.

To learn more about the South Carolina Sea Cadets, go to the following sites:

[WWW.PALMETTODIVISIONSEACADETS.COM](http://WWW.PALMETTODIVISIONSEACADETS.COM)

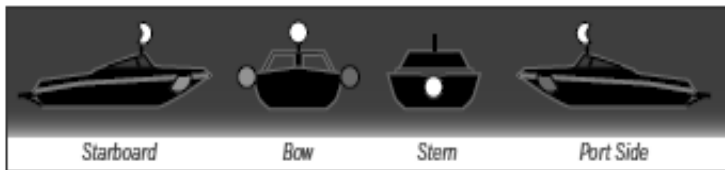
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/profile.php?id=100000935242961>

# LMA Lights up the Night!

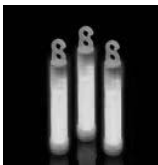
By Barbara Burchfield

Everyone knows that sometimes things just don't work out according to plan – like when your navigation lights don't work at night.

And anyone who's been on the lake at night knows just how dark it can get. Suddenly that familiar cove doesn't look quite the same. It seems like a long time before you recognize the big house near Rip Rap where you make your turn. Other boats suddenly appear out of nowhere. That's why navigation lights on your boat are so important: green on the starboard (right) side, red on the port (left) side, and white for the stern (or mast if you have a sailboat). It's a good idea to see the other boats coming, and that they see you, too!



Everyone knows that safety is one of Lake Murray Association's fundamental concerns, but did you know that LMA has funded the purchase of chemical light sticks for distribution by RCSD Marine Patrol Unit since 2010? These lights are small, portable, and floatable chemical sticks that glow brightly in the dark. They are cool to the touch, and can glow steadily for a few minutes or for several hours, depending on the type. All it takes is to bend the stick, which mixes the chemicals inside to emit light. Voila – suddenly you're in business again! Tape the lights so they are clearly visible on your boat – remember: green for starboard, red for port and white on the stern.



LMA buys hundreds of red, green and white chemical light sticks so that boaters can get home legally and safely. Richland and Lexington County Sheriff's Departments distribute the chemical light sticks to boaters who find themselves without properly functioning navigation lights at night. This does not mean the light sticks are replacements for the required navigation lights! RCSD Lt. Mark McColman tells us that LMA's purchase of the light sticks has provided a great service to the boating public. Rather than issuing a citation, RCSD Marine Patrol Units can offer the light sticks as a temporary safety measure and as a community service. It's another way LMA serves you and promotes boating safety on the lake.

*Lady of the Lake continued from page 2 ...*

After the unexpected passing of her husband, Joy looked for some way to fill her time, and her good friend Joe Agnew offered her a job. "That's how I started in the business," says Downs, who initially started out managing bookings and taking reservations for the boat, that would later become a full-time endeavor. Downs and Agnew had become friends through their service with the Lake Murray Association, of which Downs is a founding member and has served on the Board for the past 17 years. Agnew had also become friends with Joy's son, Jay Downs, who serves still as one of 7 licensed captains on board, and proposed the sale of the boat back in 1998. After a couple of years' thought, the Downs decided to take the plunge, and in March of 2000 they partnered in ownership of the Southern Patriot, and have been operating it ever since.

The all mahogany "Lady of the Lake", as she has been called, is an open air, double decker boat, with a dance floor. She is 60 years old and goes through annual Coast Guard inspections, as well as an out-of-water inspection every 5 years. She carries a minimum crew of 2 at all times and is part of the Captains Consortium, which certifies Master Captain status. They submit float plans before each sailing with the Coast Guard, and the Department of Natural Resources, so authorities know exactly where they are on the water at all times.

She has hosted dozens of celebrities from TV stars to governors, and serves as the platform for the Lake Murray Tourism radio broadcast each year for the fireworks display. She also leads the July 4th boat parade, and for the past 21 years has served the Lake Murray community through charity give-a-ways, community fundraisers, weddings, bar mitzvahs, corporate outings, special events, chamber meetings, and is a member of the "Safety Consortium" created to advance safety on Lake Murray. "Eighty percent of water-related deaths could be prevented if everyone wore lifejackets," says Downs, "we are proud to be a part of the effort to educate boaters on Lake Murray, and want to work closely with every organization on this lake."

One of the highlights of the boating year for the Southern Patriot is the influx of the purple martins to Lake Murray. Each year in July and August, they come to one specific island to roost, and it is an amazing event. "With between 750,000 to a million birds at one time, swooping in and out in these tornadic cyclones, it's an incredible site," says Downs, "and we have the perfect open air vessel for viewing this awesome sight." Hundreds of viewers each year make the trip aboard the Southern Patriot to see the purple martins and leave with a sense of awe.

# Ladies' Day on the Lake

June 19, 2012

by Ken Fox

Once again, we had a great time with Ladies' Day on the Lake. We had 32 eager and excited women show up for this special event, to learn how to safely operate watercraft on the lake. The day was filled with fun activities, but most importantly, it was set up for teaching these ladies the importance of safety on the lake. Under the command of Sgt. Karen Swink, the SC Department of Natural Resources was there to teach each participant, individually, how to operate a boat on the open waters of Lake Murray. Also, they were taught how to launch and retrieve boats, using DNR trucks and trailers.

Columbia Powers Sports' owner Wayne Wilkes provided personal water craft for ladies to learn how to operate and ride safely. The ladies were able to ride around the lake, jump waves, and have fun, but most importantly, it was all done with the purpose of learning how to safely operate a personal water craft.

Elaine Price, past Commander of the Lake Murray Power Squadron, again provided a comprehensive and informative safety presentation that included the proper use of marine equipment. This presentation also included personal flotation devices, signaling equipment, marine radios, rules of the road, reference markers, and lights on the lake. This is just a small sampling of things that Elaine taught the group.

Lake Murray Association would like to thank Jason Lusk and the staff of Lighthouse Marina, the SC Department of Natural Resources, Lake Murray Power Squadron, and Columbia Power Sports, for once again offering their time and expertise to help promote Safety on Lake Murray.



Clemson Extension  
**4-H<sub>2</sub> PONTON CLASSROOM**  
**June 11-15, 2012**  
 by Roy Parker

Members of local 4-H Clubs who participated in this year's 4-H<sub>2</sub>O Pontoon Classroom were given a wonderful learning and recreational experience on Lake Murray. This 5-day program was organized by the Clemson Extension Service, with Lake Murray Association assisting in the two days spent on Lake Murray. LMA Board of Directors Lee Barber, Dave Landis, Andy Hyman and Roy Parker provided boats to transport the group and their instructors for all activities carried out on the lake.



**The Lake Murray Boat Club donated a pontoon boat equipped with upper deck and water slide, which was piloted by Lee Barber, a member of the Lake Murray Association Board of Directors.**

Lake Murray Association assists the Clemson Extension Service each year in this valuable learning experience for young people, as they will become the users and guardians of Lake Murray in the future. On Monday, the first learning opportunity was at the Coast Guard station where several presentations were made about safety on the lake. Rainfall caused some events on Monday to be canceled, but the group enjoyed swimming from a docking area on Goat Island to conclude their day.

Wednesday, the second day on the lake, began with a detailed tour of the Lake Murray Facility for Water Collection and Treatment for West Columbia, the Town of Lexington and Lexington County. Admiration and appreciation is given to the devoted employees of this facility who go to extensive lengths to insure the water supply is safe, clean, and tastes good. Computer controls determine the injection amounts of various chemicals used in the treatment process, but most importantly, the water is being tested constantly in a laboratory to insure rigid standards for quality and safety are being met.



Following the water treatment tour, the group traveled to Sandy Beach where they had lunch and went for a leisurely swim. Afterwards, they went a short distance to the SC Department of Natural Resources' facility at Bundrick Island. Officials there explained and demonstrated some fish collection techniques which enable them to evaluate the fish for consumption safety or other reasons. Their final activity was collecting water samples for evaluation with testing kits that show levels of dissolved oxygen, pH, and water clarity (Secchi disk). Water samples were also collected and placed in a cooler for later testing for any levels of fecal coliform.

4-H students who participated this summer learned much that will equip them to be responsible users and future stewards of Lake Murray.



**Laboratory at water treatment plant where Emily Pires discusses lab testing procedures.**



**Editor's Note - Paddleboard Safety**

This summer, some of us have seen stand-up paddleboarders on Lake Murray who were wearing no PFDs, adults as well as a child. Safety in all water sports is so important that we have included DNR and Coast Guard requirements for paddle sports on pages 8 and 9.

In a recent conversation with Paul Goff, an experienced surfer and paddleboarder who runs Salty's Board Shop, Paul expressed concern for paddleboarders' safety when they are not standing up on the board. When they are in the water beside the board, powerboats or jet skis may not be able to see them very well from a distance. Perhaps a PFD in a highly-visible color would be safest.

We urge you to read through the articles on pages 8 and 9, and share this information with anyone you know who enjoys paddleboarding.

**Stay safe and wear a PFD!!**

# FROM THE HELM

by Andy Hyman

## WHAT IS THE ANSWER?



While recently conducting Advanced Boat Operator Certification training in the Bluffton/Hilton Head Island area, I had the pleasure of reading an article in *The Sun Today*, written by Representative Bill Herbkersman, R-Bluffton, concerning on-the-water safety. Mr. Herbkersman

stated his recent observations indicate the amount of bad behavior on the water is stunning. He said the combination of more boats, more powerful boats, and obvious alcohol abuse on the water makes for a very dangerous situation. He predicted that with the number of children towed behind these boats on water toys, we are likely to eventually find ourselves with bad consequences. He also reported the wakes from hundreds of boats are seriously eroding our shoreline and tearing up our docks and floats, and concludes that in one way or another, it has to stop. I commend Mr. Herbkersman for his article and for acknowledging there are issues concerning water safety on our waterways that should be addressed.

This article along with a personal observation on Lake Murray last weekend of a boat with 3 adults and 4 small children plowing through a no wake zone provoked me to think about the problem and ask myself, “**What is the answer**”? The boater I observed was fortunately stopped by a DNR Officer, who inspected the boat. It appeared there may have been only 1 life jacket on board and the boat was escorted to shore. I wondered if this operator had completed a safe boating course, or was he was just unknowingly negligent and endangering his family?

Our law enforcement agencies perform an outstanding job, though faced with budget reductions, staff vacancies and shortage of equipment. On Lake Murray we are supported by DNR, and the Lexington, Richland, Newberry and Saluda County Sheriff's Marine Patrols. These officers are dedicated and effective, but they can't be all places all the time. They need our help!

To say we love boating in South Carolina would be an understatement. Statistics published by the National Marine Manufacturers Association for 2010, show that we ranked 8th in the nation with more than 435,000 registered boats and PWCs. In South Carolina, anyone age 16 or older may operate any boat or PWC without restriction. Those younger than 16 may operate a boat powered by less than 15 hp without restrictions, and a boat powered by 15 hp or more if accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old who is not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or if the operator has passed a boating safety course approved by the SCDNR

**If we had stronger boater education requirements in our state, would it make a difference?** Our neighboring states have passed laws of varying degrees over the past few years. In North Carolina every person under the age of 26 (as of May 1, 2010) must complete a NASBLA approved boating course before operating any vessel propelled by a motor of 10 hp or greater in the state. In Florida, as of 2010, all boaters born on or after January 1, 1988 must have a valid Boating Safety Education Card when operating any motorized vessel of 10 hp or more. In Virginia, as of July 1, 2012, all PWC operators regardless of age, and boat operators ages 30 and younger must complete a boating safety course. Georgia laws are similar to ours and only place restrictions on boat and PWC operators under 16 years of age.

Now for the grim statistics: The U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Annual Boating Report for 2011 states that of the 758 boating deaths in the U.S., **78%** had no boating education at all. In South Carolina, according to SCDNR statistics, we experienced 98 boating accidents resulting in 19 deaths in 2011. If I look at the same data over the last 5 years, we have experienced 565 accidents resulting in 101 deaths.

Also, over the last 5 years organizations involved in teaching boater education report a decline in students, while the number of registered boats and PWCs in our state has increased by more than 14%. The proliferation of active boaters has increased, thereby increasing the potential for more accidents and deaths, but the number of boaters participating in safe boating classes is decreasing. **Where does it stop, or start?**

Mr. Herbkersman promotes individual responsibility in his article. In the absence of stronger educational requirements by our Legislature, the only present alternative is an individual's desire to complete a safe boating course. I believe those of us who are in responsible positions as members of boating clubs and associations promoting safety on Lake Murray must be advocates for safe boating classes for all boat operators. It is widely perceived among experts that an educated boater is a safer boater. **Is this the answer?**

I encourage you to sign up today and complete a safe boating course. Courses are offered by the Lake Murray Power Squadron, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. May I also recommend you take 12 minutes and view a video produced by the National Safe Boating Council. This video will expose you to the potential effects environmental stressors may have on a boater and how these affect our judgment when boating. The video may be accessed at [www.safeboatingcampaign.com/almost.../almost-a-perfect-day.html](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/almost.../almost-a-perfect-day.html).

*Andy Hyman is a Director of the Lake Murray Association, Past Commander of the Lake Murray Power Squadron, a United States Coast Guard Licensed Masters Captain, and a Certified Trainer Instructor for Boat Operator Certification and On-the-Water Training offered by the United States Power Squadrons. He is an avid boater, a resident of Chapin and lives on Lake Murray. He can be reached via email at [ahyman3@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahyman3@bellsouth.net).*

# Membership Matters

by Sean Abrams, Vice-President

The Lake Murray Association is known as “The Voice of Lake Murray”. So what exactly does that mean? It means that our non-profit organization represents all the lake users when it comes to the important issues concerning Lake Murray. Those issues include topics like: Lake Level, Safety, Pollution Monitoring, Shoreline Management and more....

So how does your membership with the Lake Murray Association matter? Your membership matters because without your support, the people that enjoy our lake would not have representation with the other stakeholders concerning the lake. Additionally, the money that you invest in your membership fee financially supports the Lake Murray Association, which is manned by all volunteers that love our beautiful lake. These volunteers provide information to the public on items and issues of interest to lake users through its quarterly newsletter (LakeLink), our website, regular meetings, lake-oriented programs, and participation in community events. Each one of the ways that Lake Murray Association delivers these messages has a cost. Although our intent is never for a profit, we do need funds to bring these messages to our lake users. I like to think that it would be much more costly if we did NOT deliver these messages.

If you are part of our Lake Murray community, whether you live or boat on the lake, or just like to visit each year, you are affected by the issues that face our lake. You can make an instant impact by joining our Lake Murray Association. Our strength and ability to influence others involved in the management of our lake will be measured by the size of our membership. If you would like to become a member, please take just a few minutes to visit our website: [www.lakemurrayassociation.com](http://www.lakemurrayassociation.com) and fill out our membership application. For as low as \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a family, you can support the Lake Murray Association for a whole year. I encourage you to become involved with our Association. We need your help and appreciate your support!

## It's the Law!

The 2012 Edition of The Handbook of South Carolina Boating Laws & Responsibilities issued by SC DNR has a new page “Specifically for Paddlesports”. These handbooks are available at your local marina or at <http://www.boat-ed.com/sc/handbook/>.

Want to know what is required equipment on your boat or speed regulations? It's all in the Handbook.

### Specifically for Paddlesports



In recent years, paddle sports have become very popular on the coast and on inland lakes. This includes paddleboarding.

#### Paddleboard Requirements

- ◆ The U.S. Coast Guard classifies paddleboards as vessels.
- ◆ Unless used in the surf at the beach like a surfboard, paddleboard users must comply with the USCG's navigation rules and safety requirements. This includes the following safety equipment.
  - **Life Jacket:** Paddleboards must have a readily accessible USCG-approved PFD for each person on board. Children under 12 years of age must wear an approved PFD.
  - **Sound-Producing Device:** Paddleboards must have on board a sound-producing device, such as a police-type whistle.
  - **Visual Distress Signals:** Paddleboards must carry night signals when operating on federally controlled waters between sunset and sunrise.
  - **Navigation Lights:** Paddleboards must have at least a flashlight to use as a navigation light when operating between sunset and sunrise or during periods of restricted visibility.



photo courtesy of Charleston Outdoor Adventures

Paddleboards are classified as vessels by the U.S. Coast Guard and have specific requirements for PFDs and other equipment.

It's the Law! 45



## Lake Murray Power Squadron

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®  
Sail and Power Boating

The Midlands' Premier Source of Boating Education

### VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

If you need your boat inspected before the next scheduled date is announced, please e-mail Lake Murray VSC Chairman Lt Bryant Blakeslee, AP, at [bblakeslee@metlife.com](mailto:bblakeslee@metlife.com), to arrange a time and location for one of the Lake Murray Power Squadron inspectors to check your boat. You also can visit <http://safetyseal.net/GetVSC/> and enter your zip code to find contact information for the nearest inspector from whom you can request a vessel safety check.

## DOCK SIGNS



Some years ago, our four County Sheriffs found that having home addresses 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. Dock signs are easy to order and are delivered to a location near you. Check LMA's website: [www.lakemurrayassociation.com](http://www.lakemurrayassociation.com)

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.

# RELIEF FROM NUISANCE GEESE

by Roy Parker

About a month ago, the President of the company Away with Geese gave a presentation about their products that will deter geese. Bill Melven, Manager of the Lexington Soil and Water District, Tommy Boozer of SCE&G, and myself attended their presentation.

The company claims that non-nesting geese problems can be eliminated by using either their floating or land-based lights. These lights disrupt sleep patterns of the geese and cause them to move to another location. These lights operate from solar-charged batteries. The amber flashing light emits about as much light as a 100-watt bulb, and is very effective in causing geese to leave the area. It does not harm the geese, and the company claims the light is not annoying to people or to other waterfowl.



**Floating unit**



**Land-based unit**

The Lake Murray Association is concerned with potential adverse effects on water quality caused by large concentrations of geese, especially in poorly flushed coves. Each goose can drop two to four pounds of excrement daily. This of course is a source of E. coli in water, which we are concerned with and regularly evaluate water samples for this contaminant.

The light works on a line of sight, effective up to 75 yards. Placement should be in areas where the geese roost. Adults with goslings will not be deterred, but the light will again become effective once the young geese can fly.

Those of us attending the above-mentioned presentation have not observed these products in use, and therefore cannot document their effectiveness. The company's President, Thomas Wells, made some floating and land-based units available free of charge for evaluation by anyone having problems with geese. I think most of the hatch-out this year might be either flying or about ready to fly, so it should be a good time to set up an evaluation test. **Please get in touch with me, royparker38@earthlink.net, if you have a problem with geese roosting near you and are interested in cooperating in an evaluation of these products.**

## Stand Up for Safety!

Reprinted from the U.S. Coast Guard "Compass",  
Posted by LT Stephanie Young



Stand-up paddleboarding has burst onto the beach scene in recent years and is the fastest growing water sport in the world.

With the rise in popularity, many paddleboarders often forget that being on a paddleboard requires the same safety precautions and vigilance as any other activity on the water.

The first thing to know about stand-up paddleboarding is that a paddleboard is a vessel when used "beyond the narrow limits of a swimming, surfing or bathing area." If a paddleboard is used within a designated "swimming, surfing or bathing area," the Coast Guard does not consider it to be a vessel.

What does this mean for you? When using a paddleboard beyond the limits of the swimming, surfing or bathing area, you need to be as prepared as you would be when using what is considered a traditional vessel, which includes wearing a life jacket.

Whether you are a seasoned paddleboarder or new to the activity, here are some other tips when it comes to using stand-up paddleboards.

1. Wear a lifejacket and carry a whistle
2. Be a competent swimmer
3. Know how to self rescue
4. Know how to tow another board
5. Know the local regulations and navigation rules
6. Understand the elements and hazards - winds, tidal ranges, current, terrain
7. Know when to wear a leash
8. Be defensive – don't go where you aren't supposed to be and avoid other swimmers, boaters, paddleboards
9. Use proper blade angle to be the most efficient paddle boarder
10. Take a boating safety course

And remember... have fun and be safe!

### LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## 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.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 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 |
| 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 & Ann 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 |
| 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 |
| Swingtech International, Ralph Crafton              | 803-359-2880 |
| 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 |

### IMPORTANT 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 |

## OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

### Environmental

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

### Lake Level

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Executive Committee, Joy Downs | 803-749-3888 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|

### LAKE≈LINK

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Lucy Wingard, Editor | 803-318-6267 |
| Bill East            | 803-781-7711 |

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

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Ken Fox, Chair | 803-604-1409 |
|----------------|--------------|

### Government Liaison

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

### Membership

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Sean Abrams, Chair | 803-334-4410 |
| Aleda Anderson     | 803-781-2343 |
| Russ Jernigan      | 803-359-7598 |
| Sharon Miles       | 803-233-3746 |

### Publicity

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Jim Nelson, Chair | 803-422-7647 |
|-------------------|--------------|

### Safety

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

### Nominating Committee

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Bill East, Chair | 803-781-7711 |
| Aleda Anderson   | 803-781-2343 |

### Special Events:

#### Boat Show, Dock Signs, Tour of Homes, Golf Tournament, and Ladies' Day on the Lake

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Ken Fox, Chair | 803-604-1409 |
| Don Tyler      | 803-932-4891 |
| Ralph Crafton  | 803-359-5361 |

### Web Site Manager

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Tom Ruple | 803-732-1342 |
|-----------|--------------|

### At Large

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Joe Agnew      | 803-781-0399 |
| Ann Head       | 803-309-7595 |
| Suzi McPherson | 803-520-6265 |
| Gerry Spragg   | 803-730-3614 |

# Getting to know our Corporate Members

by Dave Landis

The corporate sponsors are a special group that is invaluable to the Lake Murray Association. Besides being a supporter with their membership, they often help us with our various projects. It is wonderful when our sponsors bring their special talents and expertise to our events. Our newest member is Jesse T. Reese Insurance, and as is our practice, we are bringing you some information about them.

Jesse T. Reese Insurance  
Larry Dodson & Tim Reese  
P. O. Box 1026  
Columbia, SC 29202

Jesse T. Reese, Inc. is an independent insurance agency located in downtown Columbia, celebrating 102 years of service in the greater Columbia area. Lake Murray has been a part of the agency's life for most of these years in bringing recreational activities to everyone, and it believes the lake has increased the quality of life for all of us while continuing to enhance our property values. The agency has been blessed in growing with the Lake Murray community in providing insurance protection for lake property owners and for local businesses around the lake. Jesse T. Reese, Inc. is proud to be a corporate member of the Lake Murray Association.



[www.lakemurrayassociation.com](http://www.lakemurrayassociation.com)

Lake Murray Association's new QR Code  
for quick access to the website.

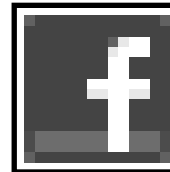
## LMA WATER TESTING JUNE 2012

by Ken Fox

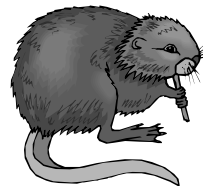


2012 will be the seventh year that Lake Murray Association has conducted water quality testing of Lake Murray. In 2011 we did random testing, selecting different areas of the lake from which to take samples. During 2012, we will continue to test in this manner. While our tests have yet to reveal any impaired waters, LMA wants to be vigilant in guarding the water quality of Lake Murray.

| Cove                     | Pollutant         | September |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| A<br>Clouds Creek        | Total Phosphorous | .50       |
|                          | Fecal Coliform    | 1         |
| B<br>Little Saluda River | Total Phosphorous | .068      |
|                          | Fecal Coliform    | 1         |
| C<br>Bush River          | Total Phosphorous | .062      |
|                          | Fecal Coliform    | 2         |
| D<br>Saluda River        | Total Phosphorous | .056      |
|                          | Fecal Coliform    | 2         |



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



**Muskrats residing  
at your Shoreline?**

**Ree O'Neal** may be able to help you or offer advice.  
Contact him at **803-397-7727**.