

FOREST LAKE NEWS

Forest Lake Homeowners Association - P.O. Box 12284 - Florence, SC 29504

Website: www.forestlakesc.com

NOVEMBER, 2011

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We are presenting here an update of recent association activities. We also take this opportunity to welcome all those new to the community

FISH KILL

Many of us were shocked to see large numbers of dead fish by our docks.

Here's one of them:



The term “fish kill” is also known as **fish die-off** and is a sign of environmental stress. The most common cause is reduced oxygen in the water. This has been confirmed by both DHEC and DNR who were called immediately to investigate the problem. The technical term used by them was **ecological hypoxia** or oxygen depletion. Apparently fish can only endure short periods of reduced oxygen. The rapid fluctuations in temperature with the extremely long hot weather in August followed by heavy cold rains reduced the oxygen level severely.



We are told that this was a natural phenomenon and the fish population will recover. We certainly hope so. We had just restocked certain species just two months earlier and we are not sure of their fate. It appears that the larger fish were most affected.

CORMORANT CONTROL

The FLHA Board has all permits in place from USDA and SCDNR for 2011 and 2012 to participate in a regional cormorant depredation program that covers most of the Eastern part of the United States. The cormorants come into our area on a cyclical basis and we are seeing evidence of their return now. We are ready to take a stand.

It is done legally and safely by our more experienced lake users over open water and monitored by DNR. Any shooter needs to be cleared by our designated Board member (currently Lavern Blohm) and have a copy of our permit with them.

The depredation program is a continuing effort and we believe it will help preserve our property values for all Forest Lake residents. We appreciate your patience.

DOCK, PIER & RETAINING WALL CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE

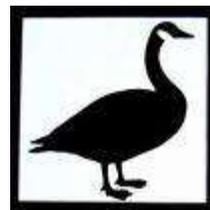
Board members have recently inspected all docks, piers and retaining wall on the lake. We have located several deficient structures. We are reminding people that it is their responsibility to maintain the structure in a safe condition.

As you know, we are the owners of the lake bottom (west side) which includes anything over it. The Association also maintains an easement over the last five feet of property before the water. Our concern as the owner is that everything be in “ship-shape” condition. We are approaching affected residents one-by-one to either remove the dilapidated structure or have it repaired.

For new structures we have implemented specific guidelines to follow. The official document will be finalized and appear on our website shortly. In the meantime we ask that anyone contemplating new construction of a dock or pier contact us first. We can explain the guidelines and even help recommend experienced contractors.

Those of you in Forest Lake Shores will need to contact your association for specifics. We have no jurisdiction on that side of the lake.

CHRISTMAS GOOSE ORDERS



For the holiday season, most of our neighborhoods display a Christmas lawn decoration –a Canadian Goose. They are handmade by a local craftsman and painted in red and green holiday colors. They have become part of a very impressive display of holiday spirit and we encourage everyone’s participation.

If you would like to order a holiday goose, please contact Frank McIntyre at **629-9955**. He has a sample one for your inspection as well. The cost is **\$85.00** and an additional \$10 to have your family name in large white vinyl letters on the goose.

LAKE LOWERING

We generally lower the lake every 2 or 3 years. This is done for making retaining wall or dock repairs and to help with insect control (when done in very cold weather).

We will begin lowering this year right after the **1st of January** and leave the lake lowered for about three weeks. This should allow for most repairs. Be sure to lengthen the ropes that tie your boat to your docks. Please also keep in mind that construction of new docks or piers is typically done with the lake at its full level.

BOAT RAMP CHANGE

As previously mentioned, we have changed the configuration of the new dock on Forest Lake Drive. It has been reconfigured in an L-shape versus the previous T-shape.



We believe this will allow for easier launching of larger boats. We also remind members that the revamped boat ramp should be ideal for picnics or get togethers, and, of course, fishing from the new floating dock. Members are encouraged to make use of the newly acquired picnic tables.

BOARD ELECTIONS

As usual some of our current Board members will be rotating off at the end of the year. We are looking for replacements. This is a great opportunity to participate in the voice of your community. Associations are a big part of how things get done.

Our goal is to have all the various subdivisions represented on the Board. Please consider serving or recommend someone you think might be interested. We will be happy to talk to them. You can contact any of the current Board members listed below.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

We are pleased to announce that plans have been finalized for our annual homeowner's meeting. We will be sending out formal notices to everyone in late December or early January.

If you would like to mark your calendar, please note that it will be held on Tuesday, **January 31, 2012** at 7:00pm with dinner being served at 6:00pm. again at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cherokee Rd.

If there are topics or concerns you would like to bring up, please contact a Board member in advance.

WANT TO JOIN ?

Membership application forms are available from our website. We also refer you to our letter on the website explaining the value of joining a homeowner's association.

MOVED-IN or MOVED-OUT?

Our best source of knowledge as to who has moved into the neighborhood or moved out is **you!**

If you have new neighbors, or just lost one, we would appreciate your telling us. We can then update our records and be sure to keep them informed.

Please contact a board member below.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

David Lawson President	615-3360
Burt Owens	250-6644
Gerry Braun	407-6730
Lee Daugherty	229-9393
Frank McIntyre	629-9955
Lavern Blohm	662-6425
Chris Morris	292-0778
James Stepp	661-2809
Jon Bergrin	667-6413

Website: www.forestlakesc.com

CAUSEWAY MAINTENANCE

We will be seeking contractor bids for maintaining the causeway next year. We will include a few other common areas and the surface of the dam as well. The Board requires that the contractor carry insurance. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a Board member.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Nov. 24, 2011 - **Happy Thanksgiving**

Dec. 25, 2011 - **Merry Christmas**

January 1, 2012 - **Happy New Year**

January 2, 2012 – begin lowering lake

January 31, 2012 – Annual Meeting

February 4, 2012 - begin filling lake

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