

Shorelines

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY ALABAMA POWER COMPANY FOR LAKESHORE RESIDENTS

VOL. 12, NUMBER 2

Closing in on lyngbya at Lay and Jordan lakes

It's a problem that's kept environmental toxicologist Dr. John Rodgers hunched over his desk, exploring all avenues of attack.

"We're after lyngbya, the beast of water algae," said Rodgers, an expert in aquatic toxicology and chairman of Environmental Toxicology at Clemson University. "I consider it among the top 10 worst natural environmental enemies I've seen in my 30-year career."

In May, Alabama Power's Aquatic Plant Management team began new, innovative treatments developed by Rodgers and his

See "Closing" on page 3

FACING THE FOE ...
WES ANDERSON
 PULLED THIS
 LYNGBYA SAMPLE
 FROM LAY LAKE.
 HE IS HELPING
 ALABAMA POWER
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 AFFAIRS COMBAT
 THE ALGAE.



PHOTO BY DONNA COPE

Renew Our Rivers moves to 4.28 million pound mark

It's official: Cleanups on Alabama Power lakes have now pushed the total trash collected in five years of Renew Our Rivers events to 4.28 million pounds.

Volunteers from hundreds of groups across Alabama – homeowner and boat owner associations, Alabama Power Hydro and Southern Company Generation employees from the fossil plants, Alabama Power Service Organization, and many other civic organizations and groups – have done their part to achieve "5 in '05" – the goal to remove five million pounds of trash by year-end. Poundage from each cleanup varies depending on the type of items removed, volunteer numbers and how long each cleanup has been ongoing.

Environmental Affairs Specialist Doug Powell, who has worked in lake cleanups for 12 years, said, "Reaching our goal by the end of the year is a very strong possibility. It's all because of this outstanding grassroots effort made up of thousands of volunteers from various groups."

Some cleanups with particularly high poundage result from a large number of tires and appliances such as abandoned refrigerators and freezers. Lower poundage totals are mainly hand trash: cans, bottles, plastic jugs and paper. "None of it belongs in our waterways," Powell said.

FOX 6 WBRC-TV is one of Alabama Power's partners in supporting Renew Our Rivers and received a Keep Etowah Beautiful Corporate Citizen Award on April 20. Through the station's news coverage, FOX 6 General Manager Dennis Leonard said he hopes people are becoming more compelled to not litter and will get involved in protecting the environment.

"We hope to help educate people about the importance of our resources, and to not throw refrigerators and trash in our waters," Leonard said. "We feel that within three years, Renew Our Rivers will be a household name. We're working to keep the public aware of this campaign."

NEW EVENTS ON TAP

This year brought two new cleanups to the ROR schedule. During the Lower Tallapoosa's first-ever cleanup March 5, Martin Hydro Dam employees and volunteers hauled off 21,190 pounds of trash.

In the first Demopolis cleanup held at the Tombigbee and Warrior rivers April 12-16, more than 30 Plant Greene County employees and other volunteers hauled off 78,900 pounds of debris. Consider the sight of a tractor tire weighing almost 600 pounds, a treadmill, washers and dryers, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, sofas, swing

See "Rivers" on page 4

ALABAMA HYDRO
 Powered By Nature



Neely Henry Dam gets new spillway gate chains

It's a sight that comes around only every 35 to 40 years.

Now that spring rains are over, Neely Henry Dam employees in Ohatchee are performing the complex task of installing 12 new spillway gate chains, two apiece for each of the dam's six gates.

Hydro Plant Superintendent Ted Pyron said the equipment is needed for ease of use in opening and closing the dam's massive spillway gates, as well as for safety. The old 1,500-pound chains are worn, rusted and ready for replacement.

"Our present chains aren't flexible enough to roll over the sprockets for the gates, and kink up as they're pulled up or down," Pyron said. "That hinders us in opening and closing the gates. When they kink up, an employee has to remove the sprocket covers, then use a hammer to beat down the kinked area."

Pyron said the problem is that during rainy weather, those gates must sometimes be raised or lowered several times a day. It's all part of flood-control measures to safeguard lake residents and the Gadsden area upstream from the Coosa River and Lake Neely Henry.



CAREFUL, CAREFUL ... KATIE GLENN (LEFT) AND PAUL POOLE REMOVE HEAVY METAL GEARBOX COVERS FROM THE MOTORS THAT OPERATE THE SPILLWAY GATE CHAIN AT NEELY HENRY DAM.

Hydro employees can manually open the gates, or open them remotely from the Neely Henry Dam control room or from Alabama Power's Alabama Control Center in Birmingham. However, if chains were to kink during hydro operations at 2 a.m., for instance, employees usually aren't on-site to manually work them out. Neely Henry Hydro employees inspect the chains weekly to ensure correct operation.

In late May, Pyron's team began the detailed process of replacing the chains on the first gate. Helper Katie Glenn, Hydro Journeyman Paul Poole and Keith Winn rode a crane bucket about 50 feet down to the spillway entrance, with Hydro Journeyman Lee Hill carefully lowering his co-workers by remote control, via the dam's 60-ton electric crane. From there, the team stacked heavy timbers on which to rest the spillway gate, while unhooking the old chains from the sprocket arms

on the gate. Throughout the operation, stop logs isolate the spillway so water can't enter.

"There's got to be a certain amount of trust there between all of us," said Hill, who noted the team has worked together for more than 10 years. Glenn admitted, "Riding in the bucket is kind of fun, but there's a lot of scariness involved, just going down on the crane and being in a tight area."

The work team uses air-gun wrenches to remove the metal covers from gearboxes on which the chains move up and down. Safely using the crane to remove the old, 60-foot-long chains takes several hours. Pyron said that installing a complete set of chains takes one week.

"With the chains as heavy and bulky as they are," Pyron said, "our Hydro crew has to take several safety precautions. Our team won't be working here by the next time this needs to be done, about 40 years from now. We're making sure the job is done right."

HONORS RECEIVED ... ON APRIL 20, GENE PHIFER RECEIVED THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, CERTIFIED BY PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, DURING KEEP ETOWAH BEAUTIFUL'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE GADSDEN COUNTRY CLUB. THE AWARD IS PART OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S NATIONAL PROGRAM RECOGNIZING AMERICANS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED A SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO VOLUNTEER SERVICE. KEEP ETOWAH BEAUTIFUL ALSO NAMED ALABAMA POWER AN "OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZEN" FOR THE COMPANY'S CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN RENEW OUR RIVERS.



PHOTOS BY BILL SNOW

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

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

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

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

COOSA RIVER

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

<i>Walter Bouldin and Jordan lakes</i> ..	(334) 569-1070
.....	(205) 257-2274

TALLAPOOSA RIVER

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

WARRIOR RIVER

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

"Closing" from page 1

research staff to combat lyngbya (pronounced ling-be-uh) on Lay and Jordan lakes. The project came at the request of Environmental Affairs Vice President Willard Bowers. Rainfall has hampered scheduling, but treatment regimens by Rodgers and his staff will be completed around July 20.

"We're using three approaches that look promising, using new herbicides and additives," Rodgers said. "We've gone through a real detective process and we've seen success in our controlled lab tests. If our treatments work as they have in the lab, where about 96 to 97 percent of the algae have decreased, we'll definitely be able to get it under control."

A PESKY PROBLEM

Found in many Southeastern lakes and most of North America, lyngbya can cause an off-taste in fish and also is linked to numerous fish kills.

"There's some factor that we can't figure out in which lyngbya produces a virulent toxin, and under those conditions the toxins kill fish," said Rodgers, who has worked in aquatic technologies for 33 years and earned his Ph.D. in toxicology. "We also know that young fish often die when exposed to the algae."

During the past 15 years, Environmental Affairs employees

have used a variety of herbicides and other means to fight lyngbya on Lay and Jordan lakes. The algae likes shallow, slow-moving current, making sloughs, docks and piers perfect targets.

The algae grows upward for light, producing black or brown, musty-smelling mats sometimes mistaken for sewage. The unsightly clumps not only are a nuisance to swimmers and boaters, said Environmental Affairs Team Leader Scott Lankford, but also can eliminate fish-spawning areas, suppress native plant growth and hinder hydroelectric generation.

Guided by Lankford and Environmental Affairs Specialist Wes Anderson, in May 2004 Rodgers' team collected lyngbya specimens and more than 1,000 gallons of water from Jordan and Lay lakes.

"We have plenty of experience in treating the insidious lyngbya," said Lankford, who has worked to remove the pest from the lakes. "We've used products that are environmentally safe and EPA-approved for aquatic use. Lyngbya is difficult to kill because the plant forms a coarse, mucilage sheath around its filaments, which protects it from herbicides."

"We take special care in applying any herbicides to make sure that fish, microorganisms and other plant life aren't adversely affected," said

Anderson, who combats lyngbya during the growing season.

When herbicides proved ineffective, Anderson and others attempted to rake out the lyngbya, which didn't work. Environmental Affairs teams even used the lift on the company barge in an attempt to pull it out. All efforts were futile, and Lankford suggested the research project to Bowers.

"This experience points out the need for everyone to be aware of exotic species and be careful in handling them," Bowers said.

"Lyngbya is somewhat like kudzu – something no one wants, but we don't realize it until we get it. We have other aquatic plants that may be pretty in an aquarium, but can play havoc in a lake. Educating the public about these issues has long been a part of our overall program and we will continue that – as well as sponsoring the type of research Dr. Rodgers is doing."

In October 2004, Rodgers joined Lankford and Anderson in discussions with members of the Lake Jordan Homeowners and Boat Owners Association about future treatments.

"I believe we'll see these lakes at the point where you'll be in maintenance mode to keeping lyngbya down," Rodgers said. "It's on the way to getting gone – it's just a matter of time."

"Rivers" from page 1

sets, air conditioners, record players, water heaters, three outboard boats, a houseboat and more than 150 tires.

"Seeing all of it was ridiculous, but it's true," said Bob McCants, Compliance team leader - Plant Greene County. "We collected enough trash to fill up 12 Dumpsters."

VOLUNTEERS GETTING YOUNGER

Many groups are also enjoying increased participation from young people. At Weiss Lake's March 21-26 cleanup, Shad Ellis - cleanup coordinator for the Weiss Lake Improvement Association, said more than 1,300 volunteers – 700 of them children with 20 schoolteachers – showed up.

"All of this has been phenomenal," Ellis said. "In 2000, we only had 25 people. A lot of teachers have made the project an ecological day for their students. We're proud to have so many kids working with us."

It was the same story at several other cleanups. Barbara Dreyer, a longtime member of the Lake Jordan

PHOTO COURTESY OF PLANT GREENE COUNTY



PLANT GREENE COUNTY EMPLOYEES CAME OUT FULL FORCE FOR THE FIRST LAKE DEMOPOLIS EVENT.

Environmental Affairs Specialist Larry Browning said the litter situation is improving in many areas.

HOBO, said that about 35 kids joined in at the April 16 event. "We had excellent turnout, with about 250 volunteers in all and more than 40 boats," Dreyer said. "This year, we had kids from the Goodwyn Junior High School Civitans and Beta Club, and members of the Key Club from Jefferson Davis High School in Montgomery." Jordan HOBO already is planning its next cleanup on April 27, 2006.

"FANTASTIC WORK" DONE

Every HOBO association and civic group has done fantastic work in the cleanups, Powell said. And, despite the impressive tonnages removed,

"It's to the point where we're turning the corner and trash is getting harder to find in many areas," said Browning, who jokingly calls himself "Trashman No. 2."

Best of all, residents are seeing less trash on the Coosa River, where everything began, said Alabama Power Environmental Affairs Vice President Willard Bowers.

"We're seeing a real change as debris is removed," Bowers said, "because a lot of this is being taken from the roadways and watersheds before it reaches our rivers. This is indeed a renewing effort for Alabama."

Get ready for fall Renew Our Rivers cleanups

All of us have seen the fantastic results from this spring and summer's Renew Our Rivers events.

Join in the fun, food and fellowship this fall as homeowner and boat owner organization members, volunteers, and Alabama Power employees from throughout the company come together to improve the lakes. Here are dates for the fall cleanups.

Aug. 20 — Holt Reservoir (Black Warrior)

The first-annual Renew Our Rivers cleanup will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at Rocky Branch Park in Peterson off Hwy. 216, followed by a picnic lunch.

Contact: Kellie Johnston (205) 264-8461 or Gerald Capps (205) 553-8359.

Sept. 15-17 — Smith Lake (Cullman County)

The volunteer cleanup will be on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 8 a.m. to noon. A picnic lunch will follow. Volunteers will meet at Castle Rock Marina.

Contact: Debbie Berry, Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee (205) 823-0015.

Sept. 24 — Bankhead Reservoir (Black Warrior)

The volunteer cleanups will be held at Clevenger's Marina and Buddy Vine's Camp (two locations from 8 a.m. to noon). A picnic lunch will be held at Clevenger's Marina.

Contact: Kellie Johnston (205) 264-8461 or Dale Pickard (205) 553-9373.

Sept. 26 - Oct. 1 — R.L. Harris (Lake Wedowee on the Tallapoosa River)

The Saturday cleanup will be held at Hwy. 48 Bridge boat ramp from 8 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will work from Alabama Power's Harris Field Office during the week.

Contact: Shelia Smith (256) 396-5093 or Bob May, Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association (256) 357-2656.

Oct. 3-8 — Smith Lake (Walker County)

The volunteer cleanup will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Smith Dam boat ramp. A picnic lunch will follow.

Contact: Charles Boyd (205) 221-2183 cbboyd@bellsouth.net or Jim Sanders (205) 221-7446, Smith Lake Civic Association.

Oct. 15 — Lake Martin (Tallapoosa)

The volunteer cleanup will be held at various lake locations from 8 a.m. to noon. Call Dave Heinzen for the location you want to work.

Contact: Dave Heinzen (256) 825-2642 or drheinzen@charter.net.

Nov. 5 — Lake Mitchell

The volunteer cleanup is on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at Higgins Ferry Park.

Contact: Johnye Woodrow (205) 425-9431 or (205) 663-4196, ajking@aol.com, or Doug Martin (205) 755-0863, Lake Mitchell Homeowners and Boat Owners Association.

A spring cleaning like none other



PHOTO BY DONNA COPE

Thirteen cleanups were held on Alabama Power lakes this spring, with 885,400 pounds of trash and debris removed. "What can you say about our volunteers? It couldn't be done without them," said Environmental Affairs Vice President Willard Bowers.

Lake

Total pounds

Henry (Plant Gadsden)	94,520
Holt (Holt Dam)	8,000
Jordan	12,460
Lake Demopolis (Plant Greene County)	78,900
Lay (including 4,720 pounds - Plant E.C. Gaston)	45,500
Logan Martin	39,440
Mitchell	8,000
Mobile (Plant Barry)	7,500
Smith (Cullman County)	424,840
Smith (Walker County - Plant Miller)	90,000
Yates and Thurlow	21,190
Warrior (Plant Gorgas)	410
Weiss	54,640
Total	885,400



PLANT GASTON WORKERS GAVE THEIR ALL TO CLEAN LAY LAKE APRIL 27.

PHOTO BY WALTER BYRD



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLANT GREENE COUNTY

PLANT GREENE COUNTY EMPLOYEES GIVE A FREEZER THE "HEAVE-HO."



PHOTO BY DONNA COPE

"DON'T TRASH OUR WATERS," SAYS WBRC FOX 6 TV GENERAL MANAGER DENNIS LEONARD, REMOVING PLASTIC BOTTLES FROM A RIVER BANK.

Shoreline permitting program moves forward

In the last issue of *Shorelines*, we discussed changes in the shoreline control program designed to enhance and protect the lakes for all users. We indicated that a permit fee system would be a part of the total program. Effective July 1, 2005, Alabama Power will implement a \$250 permit fee for residential use shoreline construction where there are no existing structures or where the shoreline is vacant.

Some examples of residential uses requiring a permit include, but aren't limited to, construction of piers, boat houses, wet slips, boat ramps, seawalls and other bank-stabilization projects.

The company will also implement a commercial permit application fee July 1. Examples include, but aren't limited to, marinas, fee campgrounds, water intakes and minor access roads to subdivision developments. The fee amount will depend on the complexity of the application and the review process.

The following \$250 permit fees will be **effective Jan. 1, 2006**:

- New construction such as a new boat house being built in front of a lot with an existing pier and boat ramp.
- Heavy maintenance (total replacement of an existing structure with the same design, size or shape, etc.) on structures that are not currently permitted. On previously permitted structures, no fee will be assessed for heavy maintenance activities. Light maintenance such as upkeep work on an existing structure to keep it physically sound won't be subject to a fee.
- Major reconstruction (significant changes to an existing structure in design, size, shape or location),

whether or not the existing structure was previously permitted.

- Certain types of bank stabilization designed to provide fish habitat will not require a permit fee. Normal or light maintenance to existing structures to keep them physically sound and heavy maintenance to structures which are currently permitted will not require a fee. In addition, there will be no fee associated with change in ownership. All shoreline work must comply with the company's current general guidelines for shoreline permitting.

In all situations requiring a permit, Alabama Power representatives will visit the site to make sure the work to be performed won't negatively impact the scenic, recreational or other environmental values of the lake project. Alabama Power's shoreline management personnel try to be as flexible as possible within the confines of company guidelines and its license.

To contact one of Alabama Power's shoreline representatives, see "Call Before You Build" in *Shorelines*. To get the phone number for your local shoreline management office, you may also call the company's automated Reservoir Information System at **1-800-LAKES11**.

The changes to the shoreline management program are being implemented to provide increased surveillance and ensure everyone is aware of the requirements for shoreline facilities. These measures will enhance everyone's use of these recreational resources.



PHOTO BY DONNA COPE

JUST DUCKY ... ABOUT 15,000 RUBBER DUCKS JOINED IN THE GREAT ALABAMA DUCK RACE ON NEELY HENRY LAKE MAY 14. ALABAMA POWER'S ALABAMA CONTROL CENTER (ACC) COORDINATED OPERATIONS WITH RACE ORGANIZERS TO HELP FLOAT THE DUCKS DOWNSTREAM. THE FRISKY CRITTERS WERE REINED IN BY PERSONAL WATERCRAFT. THE ACC'S ANDY SHEPPARD SAID, "NEELY HENRY IS A LARGE BODY OF WATER WITH A LOT OF INERTIA — WE HAD TO CONSIDER HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO GET THE WATER MOVING FROM ONE PROJECT TO ANOTHER. WE HELPED ORGANIZERS UNDERSTAND WHEN THE BEST TIME WOULD BE TO PUT THE DUCKS IN THE RIVER TO FLOAT DOWNSTREAM." THE LUCKY WINNER OF THE FASTEST DUCK WON A PT CRUISER. ALL PROCEEDS WENT TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF NORTHEAST ALABAMA.

EXCEPTIONAL EVENT ... ALABAMA POWER RETAIL MARKET SPECIALIST SCOTT MCKEEN LENDS A HAND TO A YOUNG ANGLER DURING THE "GONE FISHIN' — AIN'T JUST WISHIN'" FISHING TOURNAMENT AT OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK. ABOUT 600 PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY OR MEDICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS FROM JEFFERSON AND SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS ATTENDED THE EVENT, SPONSORED BY ALABAMA POWER AND OTHER ENTITIES. THE COMPANY'S ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS GROUP PROVIDED 6,500 FISH TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR A CATCH.



PHOTO BY PHIL FREE



RENEW OUR RIVERS

HOBO/Alabama Power Contacts

VOLUNTEER PARTNERS

Lay Lake Home Owners and Boat Owners Association

Rachel Garrett (205) 960-7220

Logan Martin Lake Protection Association

Darrin DeLoach (205) 884-6909

Lake Jordan Homeowners and Boat Owners Association

Joe Young (334) 569-1213

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association

George Jackins (205) 978-8338

Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association

Bob May (256) 357-2656

Neely Henry Lake Association

Hap Bryant (256) 442-4319

Weiss Lake Improvement Association

Shad Ellis (256) 927-7172

Smith Lake Civic Association

Jim Beason (205) 387-2654

Smith Lake Environmental

Preservation Committee

Debbie Berry (205) 823-0015

Keep Etowah Beautiful

Lisa Dover (256) 549-0900

ALABAMA POWER

Alyson Fuqua (205) 257-2570

Doug Powell (877) 486-1718

Alice Gordon (205) 257-4211



Always on.™

Brooks becomes ESPN fishing pro

Dile Brooks' fondest dream came true this spring.

For the Alabama Control Center (ACC) team leader, the chance came with the 2005 B.A.S.S. Masters Alabama Citgo Elite 50 Tournament at Alabama Power's Smith Lake April 20-23. Brooks partnered in the competition with the B.A.S.S. organization's top 50 fishermen – and 20 of the sport's all-time money winners.

"It had always been a dream of mine to fish with the pros. It was so enjoyable," said Brooks, who won the chance to observe through a B.A.S.S. drawing. On two different days of the ESPN-

televised event, Brooks paired with bass-fishing champs Bud Prewitt and Brian Snowden. "It was really exciting. They treated us just like the pros," said Brooks, who enjoyed dining with the pros and was paired with Prewitt for the contest. The duo investigated several small creeks around Smith Lake, where Prewitt showed Brooks hundreds of bass in shallow, clear water.

Here's a fishing tip just for *Shorelines* readers, straight from the No. 1 fish-catcher in the Smith Lake tournament: Fishermen can't go wrong with a light line No. 8 on a spinning rod, with spot-sticker jig-head lures, using green pumpkin finesse worms.

"The little round-head jig bounces down the sides of rocks, making the



PHOTO COURTESY OF DILE BROOKS

BROOKS SHOWS OFF A BIG BASS FROM SMITH LAKE.

worm stand up so the tail jiggles," Brooks explained. "Those spotted bass seem like they can't stand it when they see those – they can't resist. Out of 50 fishermen I talk to, that's the go-to bait."

Brooks admits his competitive streak surfaces in a tournament. He and his son-in-law, Eric Cope, an engineer in Alabama Power's West Jefferson Office, have had several top-five finishes on Lakes Jordan, Logan Martin, Neely Henry and Smith.

"You go out there and it might be your day," he said. "You might get the big fish that wins. It's really enjoyable and sometimes you win a little money at it. Plus, it's a big stress reliever."

ON THE MOVE?

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

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Lake interested in _____

Check one:

- Delete address Add address
 Correct address

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

2005 biennial drawdown slated for Lower Coosa River

Lake	Normal elev.	Drawdown elev.	Start lowering	End lowering	Fill date	End fill
Jordan*	252	248-249	Sept. 9	Sept. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 14
Mitchell	312	308-309	Oct. 12	Oct. 14	Oct. 24	Oct. 26
Lay	396	393-394	Oct. 24	Oct. 28	Nov. 7	Nov. 10

*Note: Maintenance work will be performed.

ACC boosts crappie spawn at Weiss, Harris lakes

The Alabama Control Center (ACC) gave Weiss Lake crappie a boost this spring by keeping water levels steady or slightly rising each day.

Alabama Power takes the action in response to a yearly request by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Since 1990, ACC employees have stabilized the lake levels during fish-spawning season from April 11-25, said ACC Reservoir Coordinator Andy Sheppard. This means holding lake levels steady or letting them rise only slightly during the two-week period when fish spawning activity is the greatest.

"We provide water-level stabilization to ensure a good spawn, which tends to occur during the same time of year as our ACC flood-control operations. This can cause a conflict, but our stabilization plan balances both of these important activities," Sheppard said. Biologists say that crappie spawn in 1 to 2 feet of water. If lake levels aren't kept steady, the fish eggs get uncovered and won't hatch. The problem is in making sure that

inflows don't drive the fish from their nests.

"If the fish don't guard and fan the fry, that can be a problem," said Dan Catchings, biologist and District II supervisor - Eastaboga Office, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He believes the ACC's efforts are helping.

"We feel that Alabama Power's work does provide an edge in the crappie spawning season," Catchings said. "Part of the rationale is that steady or slowly rising water levels in spring are conducive to spawning, while fluctuating water levels can dry out the nest, causing the loss of a lot of eggs."

The work at Weiss and Harris lakes, Catchings said, is all about trying to provide the best environment for a successful spawn.

The state has tracked the crappie spawn for several years. "We appreciate the Alabama Control Center doing this for us," he said. "Hopefully, the crappie spawned well and we'll see good results."



ALABAMA HYDRO

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Printed on recycled paper.

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