

ADOPT-A-TREE

ADOPT-A-TREE

David Quebedeaux, Park Ranger

Trees growing on the shoreline of scenic J. Strom Thurmond Lake are important for water quality, erosion control, and wildlife habitat. For years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been planting trees around the J. Strom Thurmond Lake with the help of volunteers, adjacent property owners and those with Shoreline Use Permits. For several years, the Corps has sponsored an Adopt-a-Tree program. Again this year, people with Thurmond Lake Shoreline Use Permits will be able to adopt a container grown tree for planting on the public land surrounding Thurmond Lake. Adopting a tree is a big commitment and should be taken seriously. Those who participate in the adoption program will become the custodian of a tree, making a significant contribution to conserving the environment for future generations to enjoy.

Trees available for adoption will be similar species as those in previous years - nutall oaks, redbud, overcup oak, white oak, red maple, and magnolia. These healthy four-to-six feet trees come in a three-gallon container with fortified soil and will be available at the Thurmond Project Office beginning Jan. 11, 2010. The "orphanage" where these trees start out as seedlings has been carefully selected in order to provide tree species native to the region. Those who adopt a tree must promise to plant and continue caring for the tree so it grows to become a mature and stately tree offering shade, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. Tree availability is first-come-first-served. There is no fee for the Adopt-A-Tree program but those wishing to adopt must agree that the tree will be planted on public land administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Please call Park Ranger Roosevelt Pough at (800) 533-3478 ext. 1136 for additional information or to schedule an adoption. Adopting a tree is a great way to make nature part of your family.

ADOPT-A-TREE COMMITMENT

To participate in the Adopt-a-Tree program, the Thurmond Lake tree lovers must agree to the following conditions:

- 1. All trees will be planted on the public property adjacent to Thurmond Lake.** Since the trees are purchased with public funds, they are to be planted on public property.
- 2. Trees will be planted within a few days of "adoption".** Containerized or potted trees are used in the Adopt-a-Tree program to ensure greater survivability and easier handling. Planting and initial care instructions will be supplied with the tree. Trees not planted immediately should be watered regularly until they are planted
- 3. Participants in the Adopt-a-Tree program will water and maintain the tree(s)** to increase chances of survival. Once it's been planted, watering a tree through the first few months is critical for the tree's survival. Trees take much longer to establish than most think. The size tree used in the Adopt-a-Tree program can take more than a year to become fully established and "take care of itself." For best results, trees will require supplemental watering during the establishment period.

WHERE'S MY CHECK?

Robin Webb, Shoreline Permit Clerk

Have you ever wondered what happened to that check you sent to pay for your Shoreline Permit? Or that note with your change of address? Me too! After receiving your inquiry about that check you mailed or that change of address you sent, I began my own investigation. An incorrect mailing address may be the problem. As of October 2005, an enhanced 911 system was implemented in this area resulting in our physical address being changed. In April 2007, the U. S. Post Office discontinued sending mail to our old address, Route 1, Box 12, Clarks Hill, SC 29821.

All correspondence for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers J. Strom Thurmond Project Office should be addressed as follows:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
J. Strom Thurmond Project Office
510 Clarks Hill Highway
Clarks Hill, SC 29821-2711

If you have moved or changed your mailing address please notify us in writing with your old address and the new one so that our records can be updated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office toll free at 1-800-533-3478 or visit our website at www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond .



Winter 2009

Lake Times

J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake, Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



IT'S FISHING DERBY TIME!

Jay Weidman, Park Ranger

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, J. Strom Thurmond Lake has maintained a decades - old involvement with the East Central Regional Hospital (ECRH), Gracewood Division located in Gracewood, Ga. Since 1978, Thurmond park rangers and other staff members have helped support an annual Fishing Derby at D.W. Oellerich Memorial Park, the ECRH lease area on Thurmond Lake.

This year's Fishing Derby, held on Sept. 22 hosted 23 participants who were met by ECRH staffers and Thurmond Lake personnel. From park rangers to administrative staff, every section had a representative to help bait hooks, reel in fish, and keep score. There is never a shortage of volunteers! In addition to just the sheer joy of fishing, participants also eagerly anticipated renewing friendships with their Thurmond Lake buddies from past fishing derbies.

Once everyone is settled on the docks with a fishing pole and some worms - the fishing begins. Trophies were awarded for the "Most Fish", the "Largest Fish", and the "Smallest Fish" caught, so the competition was fierce! While three fishermen went home with a trophy, no one went away empty-handed. All the fishermen received awards of some sort, be it a sports bottle, a water safety wrist bracelet, a ranger safety badge - some tangible memento of their day at the lake. Thurmond Lake staffers take away something else - the sense of lending a helping hand and memories of a day of fishing with some very special people.

US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Savannah District



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAVANNAH, GA
PERMIT NO. 89

Resource Manager
J. Strom Thurmond Resource Office
510 Clarks Hill Highway
Clarks Hill, S.C. 29821

HUNTING SAFETY

Blake Goforth, Park Ranger

Approximately 55,000 acres of public land around the J. Strom Thurmond Lake are suitable for hunting including more than 28,400 acres of project lands leased to the Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) for wildlife management. All state hunting regulations apply to the Thurmond Project lands and waters. Hunters must possess a valid hunting license and all required permits for the state in which they are hunting. Maps showing the location of project lands suitable for hunting are available at www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond/hunting.

TIPS FOR HUNTERS:

- ▶ Tell someone where you will be hunting.
- ▶ Avoid outings alone. If you go alone, use extra caution and hunt in familiar areas only.
- ▶ Dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions. Protect yourself against hypothermia.
- ▶ Check the weather forecast before going into the woods.
- ▶ Identify your target before shooting.
- ▶ Check hunting equipment before and after each outing, and maintain it properly.
- ▶ Familiarize yourself with hunting equipment and weapons' operation before using in the field.
- ▶ Always wear enough blaze orange to be highly visible to other hunters.

WHERE TO HUNT:

Private land is open for access ONLY if you have the permission of the land owner. Remember, on private land "NO HUNTING" signs are not required in order for the land to be off limits. If you don't have permission to hunt, you are trespassing and can be prosecuted.

The best way to learn which lands are available for hunting is to stop by the Army Corps of Engineers Thurmond Project office or visit our web site where you'll find maps that depict land status and existing facilities, as well as travel regulations. Once you've decided where to go, you'll have to have a plan to get there. It's important to understand that the issue of private property and trespassing sometimes also can apply to roads. If you must cross private land to get to public lands, you are responsible for getting permission from the landowner. Normally, crossing private land is not necessary on the well-maintained county roads, but, is often required on many of the dirt roads and two-tracks that crisscross the area.

Whether you're on public or private land, common sense should dictate which roads and tracks are feasible for travel. Steep, deeply rutted tracks result from people driving where the terrain conditions are unsuitable for vehicles. Most hunters never see the damage that spinning tires can do to vegetation. The result is an ugly gully where a road used to be. With so few funds available for road maintenance, the gully may never be repaired. Please respect any road closure you encounter. Road closures are normally done to prevent damage to the resource.

All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATV) are not allowed on Corps of Engineers property around Thurmond Lake. Show courtesy to your fellow hunters by leaving the ATV in camp and walking to your hunting spot.

HUNTING SAFETY:

Most of us go through Hunter Safety Courses to obtain our hunting licenses. It's important to carry that knowledge into the field with us. State law demands that during black powder season, firearm hunters must wear 500 inches of solid hunter orange. Camouflage orange is not acceptable. Exercise care in handling your firearms in the field, particularly if you are climbing over fences or downed logs. Above all be sure of your target. Wait for your target to show itself and be sure it is a legal deer and not a cow, horse, or another hunter. Be extremely conscious of what would happen if your shot misses its mark or target. High powered rounds can travel more than a mile. You should be certain there are no hunters, houses, or highways within the possible impact zone.

Safety also involves other factors. You should always carry a map to know where you are going and how to get back. Always make sure someone knows where you are going each day while hunting so a search can be mounted if you don't return. Make sure to carry plenty of clothing for all types of weather, and extra food and water in case you are stranded. Be alert for any changes in weather and be prepared for the worst conditions. Finally, unless you are in excellent physical condition, take it easy and don't overdo it. Learn the signs of hypothermia (the lowering of the body's core temperature) and watch yourself and your partners for signs of this lethal condition.

Each year thousands of hunters enjoy the beauty of Georgia and South Carolina. By observing a few simple guidelines you can help make this a positive experience not only for yourself but for the local population. Be a responsible hunter and the hunting resource will continue to provide a source of enjoyment of these public lands for generations to come.

Partners in Progress - CSRA-SORBA and Corps of Engineers Thurmond Project

By Ranger Pepper Shields

On June 20, 2009, the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) - Southern Off Road Bicycle Association (SORBA), completed one of four bridges for the new 9.6 mile section of the Bartram Trail. CSRA-SORBA is one of the Thurmond Project's most active partners providing several hundred volunteer hours of service working on new sections of the Bartram Trail and general upkeep of the 6.5 miles of original trail.

This past year SORBA refurbished several of the original bridges, some dating back to the early 1980's, on the older sections of the trail. The staff of the Thurmond Project wishes to recognize and thank all SORBA volunteers for their efforts in maintaining current and future Project trails.



Pictured are some members of the "Crew" at work on the new section of Bartram Trail. Participants included: David Chapman, Billy Chapman, Jimmy Culppepper, Mark Yarbrough, Robert Yarbrough, Michael Drawdy and Barbara Drawdy.



New construction and upgrading courtesy docks begins on Thurmond Lake

Jay Jamison, Natural Resource Specialist

Have you ever launched your boat during low water levels and been unable to use the courtesy dock because it was out of water? The frustration and inconvenience of having to beach your boat in order to park your vehicle and trailer, or retrieve them after a day recreating on the lake, is now almost over. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers J. Strom Thurmond Project recently began work to correct this reoccurring problem. No one should ever have to get out of their boat and sink in mud up to their ankles at a Corps of Engineers public launch ramp with a courtesy dock.



BEFORE



AFTER

The Corps is not only concerned with providing safe lake access for our customers, but eliminating many of the maintenance issues associated with public courtesy docks around the lake. With additional funding under the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, several courtesy dock locations on Thurmond Lake are being extended. Listed below are locations where new construction and upgrades to existing facilities is occurring. Although, we would like to do more, the locations that have been designated for upgrade meet the needs of our customers and our concern with maintaining these types of floating facilities.

Once all the new construction and upgrade work is done, we will relocate the older courtesy docks that are in good condition and safe to use to locations that don't have an existing facility.

Park Location Description

Amity	Construct New Dock
Big Hart	Construct New Dock
Cherokee	Rehab Dock
Clarks Hill	Construct New Dock
Dordon Creek	Construct New Dock
Gill Point	Rehab Dock
Hawe Creek	Construct New Dock
Hesters Ferry	Construct New Dock
Keg Creek	Construct New Dock
Lake Springs	Rehab Dock
Modoc	Construct New Dock
Modoc 7	Construct New Dock
Morrahs	Rehab Dock
Mt. Carmel	Rehab Dock
Parksville	Construct New Dock
Petersburg	Rehab Dock
Ridge Road	Construct New Dock
Scotts Ferry	Construct New Dock
Raysville	Construct New Dock
Winfield	Construct New Dock



THE "OFF" SEASON IS FOR...

Jay Weidman, Park Ranger

Winter is here! In this part of the country the heat and humidity of summer are pretty much a thing of the past until next year. Days are pleasantly cool and the nights offer a refreshing crispness in the air. If you love being outdoors, the time is right and the time is now!

J. Strom Thurmond Lake, the largest U. S. Army Corps of Engineers project east of the Mississippi River, is one of the finest outdoor destinations around. With 80,000 acres of public land, 71,000 acres of water, and over 1,200 miles of shoreline, it's almost impossible not to find an outdoor recreation activity to enjoy. The crowds of summer are a fading memory and a more relaxed atmosphere prevails. Camping, sight- seeing, picnicking, hiking, biking, fishing, boating, and hunting are all activities readily available to anyone willing to forget about the football game, and pack up family and friends and head for the lake.

While many of the Thurmond Lake campgrounds are closed during the fall and winter months, Army Corps of Engineers facilities including Petersburg, Leroy's Ferry, and Bussey Point remain open. Also, the six state parks around the lake - three in South Carolina, three in Georgia, and two county parks in Georgia - offer camping as well.

Looking for something to do just for the day? Picnic areas and hiking/biking trails beckon. The Bartram Trail from West Dam to Petersburg Campground is a great hiking trail and novice-friendly for folks just getting started in off road and mountain biking. A major expansion of the Bartram Trail, going from Petersburg Campground to Wildwood Park, is currently underway. This section will add 9.6miles to the trail and will be more challenging for advanced users.

If you are a fisherman – 80,000 acres of water says it all. By now, most of the pleasure boaters have called it a year and boat traffic has become light. Fishing picks up after the heat of summer has passed. The cooler temperatures help make fishing a great way to spend the day. The old saying – "A bad day fishing beats a good day at work." really comes alive during an outing on the lake. Just make sure someone knows where you are going and when to expect you back. And, as importantly, Wear Your PFD! Safety and common sense on the water knows no season.

An abundance of public land offers the hunter many opportunities to pursue a number of different species. Deer is the most popular followed by dove, squirrel, and other small game. Hunters on Army Corps of Engineers land will need at a minimum, a state hunting license. Much of the land open to hunting around Thurmond Lake is leased to South Carolina and Georgia as part of each state's Game or Wildlife Management Area program. These tracts usually require additional permits. Hunters should carefully read and follow all applicable state laws!

Now, turn off that television! Unplug the computer, the kids' video games and get outside! Soak up some nature. Memories of days well spent in the great outdoors last a lifetime.

That movie you watched and the video games you played last weekend will soon be forgotten. The deer darting across the trail while you hike, your kids' first fish, a whisper of wings and a gaggle of honking geese splashing noisily into the water, a sunset hemorrhaging across the sky - now those are some lasting memories!

If your passion is the great outdoors – Thurmond Lake is the place! For more information on parks, camping, hunting, and fishing go to www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond