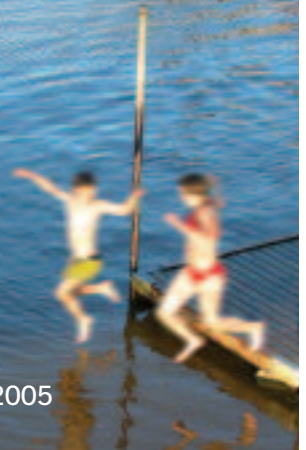




Catawba Currents

Updates on Duke Power Reservoirs and Relicensing for Summer 2005



Catawba Currents is designed to keep our neighbors along the Catawba-Wataree River updated on items of interest associated with Duke Power reservoirs and hydro relicensing. Please feel free to share this update with others that may be interested in receiving this electronic newsletter. If you are receiving this edition by hard copy and would like to be included on our electronic distribution, please go to Duke Power's hydro licensing Web site at www.catawbahydrolicensing.com and choose "contact us" to sign-up for future updates.

www.catawbahydrolicensing.com



STAKEHOLDER SPOTLIGHT...

Over the past four years, Maurice and Motty Blackburn have been working with Duke Power on two different hydro licensing processes – first on the Tuckasegee cooperative stakeholder team in western North Carolina and now the Catawba-Wataree relicensing stakeholder teams. Maurice and Motty have been steadfast to their commitment in representing paddling interests.

Their paddling story began over 25 years ago when, Motty is quick to point-out, Maurice was a "couch potato." It was a trip to the Nantahala River, coordinated by Motty's colleagues at Charlotte Memorial Hospital (now Carolinas Medical Center), that sparked their passion for the sport. Their first trip to the Nantahala River ended with an ice-cold swim at the infamous Nantahala Falls. Upon their return and in spite of a cold swim, Maurice and Motty purchased their first flat-water boat – they were only going

Continued on page 2

WATER SAFETY



As temperatures rise and we head to the water for swimming and boating, it is always good to review water safety tips. The American Red Cross has been educating people on water safety

for many years. Listed below are a few American Red Cross recommendations for swimming and boating safety.

Don't take a vacation from safety this summer!

General Water Safety Tips

- **Learn to swim and swim well** – One of the best things anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is learn to swim.
- **Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone** – No one, including adults, should EVER swim alone. Adults should practice "reach supervision," which means to be within arm's length of a child in case an emergency occurs.
- **Outfit everyone with the proper gear** – Kids and even adults who are not strong swimmers should use U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices whenever they are in or around the water
- **Don't rely on substitutes** – The use of flotation devices and inflatable toys CANNOT replace parental supervision. Such devices could suddenly shift position, lose air, or slip out from underneath, leaving the child in a dangerous situation.
- **Read and obey all rules and posted signs.**



things anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is learn to swim.

- **Watch out for the "dangerous too's"** – too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun or too much strenuous activity.

Protect Your Skin

- Limit the amount of direct sunlight you receive between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and wear a sunscreen with a sun protection factor of SPF 15 or higher.
- Children and individuals with light complexions may need a higher SPF.
- Use water-resistant sunscreen if you are going to be in the water.
- Reapply sunscreen as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before entering the water.

Protect Your Ears

- To get water out of your ears after swimming, try shaking your head or tilting your head and hop up and down OR lie on your side with the ear down so that the water will drain out.
- Do not use wax-type earplugs. They may damage the ear canal and make infection more likely. Silicone earplugs provide better protection.
- If you continue to experience discomfort, ask your doctor how to flush out your ears using warm water and an ear syringe.
- Children who have ear tubes should follow the directions of their doctor.

For additional information on water safety visit the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org.

CANOE-A-THON

On June 18, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF) held their first annual canoe and kayak-a-thon. Nearly 30 canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized boats gathered at Duke Power's Riverbend Steam Station on Mountain Island Lake. They paddled seven miles around the "river's bend" to the River bend Access Area.

Participants raised money for the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. "This event will help NCWF continue to enhance North Carolina's fish and wildlife

habitat," said Tim Gestwicki, director of the regional office of the NCWF.

The mission of NCWF is to be the leading advocate for all North Carolina wildlife and its habitat. Duke Power and NCWF have been working together for over 25 years. "The partnership between Duke Power and the NCWF has led to numerous projects that help sustain fish and wildlife communities. We feel fortunate to have Duke Power as a corporate partner," added Gestwicki.

SPOTLIGHT (continued from cover)

to paddle lakes and slow rivers. We now know that their flat water plans transformed into many whitewater experiences.

While paddling can provide an escape with total solitude from our busy lives, the Blackburns quickly point out that a tandem canoe is often referred to as a “divorce boat.” Paddling tandem requires precise movement and communication – and with two paddlers the risk for error doubles. So, they started paddling solo. However, during a trip to the Rio Grande, Maurice and Motty paddled tandem and have done so ever since. Together, these two have paddled difficult rivers in North America and Costa Rica. Maurice commented “there have been so many remarkable trips, not one single trip is a favorite,” and Motty agreed. Their paddling success is grounded in communication (or Maurice’s ability to take direction from Motty).

Maurice and Motty both represent the Carolina Canoe Club, which remains committed to teaching paddling skills and protecting rivers. Based on their experience with hydro licensing over the past four years, Maurice and Motty agree that the best advice they can offer the 160+ relicensing stakeholders, as negotiations intensify, is to “...remember that others have interests that are equally important – be ready to compromise.”

For more information on the Carolina Canoe Club visit www.carolinacanoecub.com.



MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

Duke Power kicked off its 82nd year of mosquito control in May. This program has been in place since James B. Duke hired Dr. Frank Boldridge, MD, from the federal government to manage a malaria outbreak during the construction of the Wateree Hydro Station near Camden, S.C. “The company’s commitment to mosquito control helps manage the spread of mosquito-borne disease along the Catawba River,” said Ken Manuel, senior scientist with Duke Power. Duke Power’s mosquito control efforts are conducted on four of the 11 Duke Power lakes on the Catawba River: James, Norman, Wylie and Wateree.

For information on Duke Power’s mosquito control program, call 704/382-0160.

TAILRACE SAFETY!

Wondering what a “tailrace” is? It’s the area directly below a hydro station where water is discharged. When hydro stations are generating electricity, this area can be hazardous. Water in the tailrace area is subject to sudden rise and violent turbulence.

Each of Duke Power’s federally licensed hydro stations has a Public Safety Plan that is required and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This plan ensures that proper warnings (audible, visible and physical) are installed to minimize accidents and to prevent recreational activities in tailraces.

Just prior to discharging water for generation, a warning horn will sound. If you are fishing or boating in or near this area, please be aware of your surroundings and understand the hazards and warnings in the area. Here are some additional tips.

- Stay 300 feet away from the upstream and downstream sides of the dam and powerhouse.
- Do not enter the tailrace section directly below hydroelectric stations. These areas are prone to a sudden rise and violent turbulence in the water. A flashing red beacon and/or sounding of a horn will alert you to this condition.

Note: Water discharged for generation may travel several miles downstream into a lake. Please be aware that in some areas, this current can still be felt. Boaters and swimmers should be aware of this environment and follow all water safety tips including the use of personal flotation devices.

PARROT FEATHER RESEARCH PROGRAM ON LOOKOUT SHOALS LAKE

Duke Power and North Carolina State University are partnering to study Parrot Feather management using sterile grass carp. Parrot Feather, an aquatic weed found in Lookout Shoals Lake, is one of several varieties of non-native aquatic weeds on the river.

Parrot Feather is an invasive plant that has the potential to spread rapidly. As the plant grows, it can cause restrictions to public water intakes and pose recreational threats to users of the lake. The research project will evaluate the effectiveness of sterile grass carp on the spread of parrot feather.



ISLAND RECREATION USE

Duke Power’s 11 lakes on the Catawba River provide exceptional recreational benefits to the region. Within many of the lakes on the Catawba River, there are islands large enough to support limited forms of recreation. Duke Power encourages day use activities on Duke Power-owned islands on the Catawba River lakes. “We support and encourage day use activities such as fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing. However, many of these islands are being destroyed by irresponsible use,” said George Galleher, manager of lake management. There are some islands on these lakes that are not owned by Duke Power and individuals should contact the owner before accessing such islands.

Many groups around the 11 lakes help keep these islands litter-free, but problems still remain. “I hope that people will use these islands responsibly, pick up after themselves and respect that these islands are for everyone to use. Destroying habitat ruins the experience for fish, wildlife and recreation users of the lakes,” remarked Jerry Barrows, volunteer program coordinator for the North Carolina Wildlife Federation’s Island Habitat Program.

Please help keep our islands litter-free and protect them for others to use now and in the future.

RELICENSING TEAM UPDATES-STAKEHOLDER FIELD TRIPS

The Catawba-Wateree relicensing stakeholder teams have been extraordinarily busy reviewing technical reports, negotiating interests and listening to presentations on studies, proposals and master plans. With all the intense technical focus of these stakeholder teams, the teams recently took advantage of field trips to the lakes and river sections of the Catawba-Wateree.

Utilizing scheduled meeting days, stakeholders visited Lake Hickory, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman and the Catawba River at Landsford Canal State Park. “These field trips allow us, as relicensing stakeholders, to get out and see firsthand the importance of other interests to fellow stakeholders. We are in a better position now to respect each other and strive for a mutual-gains outcome,” said hydro licensing stakeholder Vicki Taylor.

For more information on the Catawba-Wateree relicensing process please visit

www.catawbahydrolicensing.com.

For more information and updates on hydro relicensing and lake management news, visit www.catawbahydrolicensing.com or contact Duke Power at catawbahydrolicensing@duke-energy.com.

Catawba Currents is designed to keep our neighbors along the Catawba-Wateree updated on items of interest associated with Duke Power reservoirs and hydro relicensing. Please feel free to share this update with others that may be interested in receiving this electronic newsletter. www.catawbahydrolicensing.com

