

LAKE WATCH of Lake Martin
Post Office Box 72
Alexander City, AL 35010
825-9353

25 July 1992

This is our first Lake Watch newsletter, with many more to follow. While we haven't yet developed a format or logo, this will serve to report on our last meeting. It will also announce some new initiatives and obtain your commitment to future membership in Lake Watch.

LAKE WATCH MEETING ON 2 JUNE 1992:

1. Some 36 people met in the CACC library auditorium to discuss ADEM Administrative Order No. 92-121 dated 2 June 1992 concerning the Sugar Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant. This order follows very closely the content of an earlier draft order from ADEM, and states that Alexander City is required to "take certain actions regarding violations of applicable environmental laws and regulations". Several actions are required:
 - a. Immediately, begin sampling discharge from the Sugar Creek plant on a 7-day per week 24-hour composite basis using an automatic sampler.
 - b. August 1992, submit a plan of study to determine the amount and type of sludge deposited in the Sugar Creek / Elkahatchee Creek basin.
 - c. September 1992, submit an engineering report to determine the need for new and/or modified treatment plants to be operational 1 April 1994.
 - d. Spring 1993, submit a plan for the disposition of sludge deposited in the Sugar Creek / Elkahatchee Creek basin.

The Administrative Order should remove any doubt that ADEM is serious about requiring Alexander City to address the two key issues concerning Sugar Creek, which are:

- a. to immediately **stop** the plant from polluting the lake any further, and
 - b. **remove** the sewage sludge already in the lake.
2. There was unanimous agreement at the meeting that Lake Watch should initiate action to **incorporate** as a non-profit organization. It was agreed that Dick Bronson would obtain information from LEAF about incorporating and begin the administrative process this summer. This will include preparation of a Charter, By-laws, and provision for new officers and an Advisory Board. A progress report will be provided at the next meeting.
3. During the meeting, Lake Watch members agreed that:
- a. yearly dues will be **\$10** per person / **\$20** per family beginning **June 1992**.
 - b. **additional donations** will be encouraged to further increase the Lake Watch fund and permit better flexibility in responding to future lab testing requirements.
 - c. a Lake Watch **brochure** will be developed and will include a tear-off membership form.
 - d. a newsletter (**this one**) will be sent to those on our current mailing list encouraging their continued participation with Lake Watch and soliciting membership dues: (**see application**)
 - e. a **new mailing list** will then be developed based on membership dues.

UPDATE ON DRAFT PERMIT FOR SUGAR CREEK PLANT

As many of you know, both Lake Watch and LEAF provided comments to ADEM concerning the proposed new permit for the Sugar Creek plant and requested a public hearing on the issue. ADEM has now **modified** the draft permit and has incorporated some, **but not all**, of our points while opening a new 45-day comment period that expires in mid-August. ADEM is still proposing to allow a part of the lake to be used as a mixing zone for the plant's discharge water

despite LEAF's contention that ADEM is failing to properly follow EPA and State guidelines in the matter. LEAF has requested an opinion from EPA, and unless ADEM modifies its position on this, they will likely request a public hearing for early Fall. We'll keep you posted.

NEW TEST REPORTS

ADEM recently provided us a report of a series of water sample tests they conducted in the Sugar Creek and Elkahatchee Creek area during April-May 1992. Although their first few samples showed high fecal coliform levels, particularly in the upper Sugar Creek area, the overall tests reveal a **significant improvement** in the quality of discharge from the Sugar Creek plant. In order to verify the ADEM tests, we had Dr Blevins run our own series of water and sludge sample tests on 12 July. While our tests verified that **water** discharge from the plant is **indeed improved**, they again showed extremely high fecal coliform levels in the **sludge** lying on the bottom of the lake. This simply confirms the reason for having the sludge removed because of the ever-present threat of its being mobilized by any water disturbance, whether from boats or rainfall. It also explains why we are requesting that **warning signs** be posted in the Sugar Creek basin upstream from the Dean Road boat landing to alert unsuspecting boaters and fishermen of the huge deposit of sludge just a few feet under the surface.

FUTURE PLANS FOR LAKE WATCH

Lake testing / monitoring. Lake Watch plans to begin working with Fletcher Scott and his BRHS Environmental Science program this Fall. Lake Watch members will provide boat and facility support for students who will conduct regular sampling and analysis of water collected at points around the lake. This will enable us to begin building a data base that can provide a means of detecting future changes and trends in lake water quality. We are also exploring the possibility of a joint program with CACC or Auburn University to collect and analyze various reports from a variety of agencies that have previously conducted water testing of Lake Martin. Other states already have such lake testing / monitoring programs being conducted by similar organizations, and many have formed partnerships with state colleges and universities. We believe our Lake Watch testing / monitoring program will provide invaluable data in the future as we work to protect and improve water quality in Lake Martin.

File review of other activities. We have begun addressing whether other sewage treatment facilities around the lake are causing pollution. Several Lake Watch members have visited and conducted ADEM file reviews on the Dadeville plant, the remaining three plants in Alexander City, and the Wind Creek State Park system. We also intend to address other systems around the lake. A report on these reviews will be provided at the next meeting.

The next Lake Watch meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM, Tuesday 15 September 1992 in the CACC library auditorium.

=== (tear off)===== (tear off)=====

LAKE WATCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (June 1992 - May 1993)

name_____

address_____

telephone_____ \$10 for 1 person_____ \$20 for family_____ Already paid_____

>>>Mail to: **Lake Watch** of Lake Martin, P.O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010

Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 2
November 1992

Dick Bronson, President
825-9353

Over 50 people attended a lively and informative Lake Watch meeting on 15 September at the CACC library auditorium. The highlight was a presentation by Mr Reggie Rowe of CH2M Hill and the follow-on discussion concerning Alexander City's plans to upgrade its waste water treatment facilities. >> More on that after a summary of topics covered during the meeting. >>

Current membership of Lake Watch: We now have over 60 people on our rolls who have paid dues for 1992-93. We urge those non-members still on our mailing list to join Lake Watch by using the tear-off membership application at the bottom of this newsletter. *Due to mailing costs, we are unable to continue sending newsletters to non-paid members after this letter, so please help us out.* It's only \$10 per person or \$20 per family, and it's for a good cause (at least, we think so)! Our funds will be used for water testing costs, supplies and mailing costs. By the way, we hope you like our new logo; it was designed (no charge) by a talented lady at a Birmingham ad agency. We are working on a brochure that will be out later this year.

Incorporation: If all goes according to plan, we will have completed the process for incorporation by the first of the year. This will include a charter, by-laws, an advisory board, and a new slate of officers. (see 'nominating committee' below).

Nominating committee: In order to elect new officers for Lake Watch, three members have agreed to provide a slate for election at our meeting on 8 December.

The nominating committee:

<i>Reggie Dean</i>	<i>234-2202</i>
<i>Betty Daniel</i>	<i>825-8012</i>
<i>Sam Locke</i>	<i>234-4675</i>

They will develop a slate for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, so we hope you will consider volunteering for any of these positions and call a member of the committee. And please be receptive when they call asking you to run!

Advisory sign: As many of you know, we made a formal request to the Alexander City Council in July to post advisory signs in the Sugar Creek area near the boat ramp to alert unsuspecting boaters and fishermen of the sludge in the lake and the sewage plant upstream. The City Council disapproved our request, whereupon we sent a similar request to the State Health Officer. Dr Samuelson (interim State Health Officer) has authorized the Tallapoosa County Health Officer to post appropriate advisory signs, and the issue is now under consideration. A report will be provided at our 8 December meeting.

Report on Wind Creek State Park waste treatment system: Stan and Virginia Pietrzykowski volunteered to look into the Park's waste treatment system by doing a thorough file review at ADEM and visting the Park. Following that, they invited Phil Easterwood (Park Superintendent) to speak at our Lake Watch meeting. Phil provided an excellent overview of the lagoon system and its ability to adequately handle the large number of visitors every year. Based on ADEM inspection reports and comments at the meeting, it appears that the Park waste treatment system discharge does not now pose an environmental danger to Lake Martin. We appreciate the Pietrzykowski's efforts and Phil's willingness to address Lake Watch.

Report on visits to Alex City treatment plants: Leon Runnells visited all four waste treatment plants in Alex City and reported a general willingness by operators to provide any information requested. We will continue our interest in these plants as their upgrade takes place. Thanks Leon! *Later information now reveals some recent serious problems with discharges into the lake from at least two of the plants other than Sugar Creek. ADEM is looking into the matter.*

Report on the Dadeville waste treatment plant: Charlie and Ruth Zeisler made several visits to the Dadeville plant and also did a file review at ADEM. Their findings indicated a need for further investigation, so we had an independent lab in Birmingham analyze some water samples taken from the plant discharge. The numbers from the lab point to some *potential problems* for the lake, so we will have Dr Blevins do a more thorough analysis of the Dadeville plant discharge. We will keep you posted.

Lake testing program: We contacted Patti Hurley who helps manage ADEM's "Legacy" program, a new lake monitoring program that seems tailor-made for Lake Watch. Under the Legacy program, our Lake Watch volunteers will monitor predetermined locations on Lake Martin on a regular basis using sampling equipment. ADEM will provide technical assistance and retrieval of information to evaluate changes in chemical, physical and biological factors in order to determine long range trends in water quality. We hope to have assistance from students in area high school environmental science classes. Patti Hurley will speak about the Legacy program at our next Lake Watch meeting on 8 December.

Final permit for Sugar Creek plant: ADEM issued the final permit for the Sugar Creek plant effective 1 October 1992. Although the new permit did incorporate some recommendations from the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF) and Lake Watch, there are still some discharge limits that are questionable. LEAF (on behalf of Lake Watch) may ask ADEM for a 'declaratory ruling' to explain why certain permit limits were adopted that are inconsistent with state regulations. Also of concern is the strong likelihood that the plant discharge cannot meet toxicity limits of the new permit. If the plant discharge fails to meet toxicity requirements during the next few months, ADEM will require the city to look at other options. One option discussed at past Lake Watch meetings is to change the plant discharge now going into Sugar Creek and, instead, pipe it down Highway 280 and discharge into the main river channel via pipe and diffuser. Such a major change would require a new ADEM permitting process all over again. Stay tuned, because there is more to follow!

Upgrade of Alexander City's waste treatment facilities: During the September Lake Watch meeting, Reggie Rowe of CH2M Hill gave members a glimpse of plans to upgrade the waste water treatment facilities in Alexander City, with emphasis on the Sugar Creek plant. It appears that a 'color removal system' to neutralize textile dyes in the plant discharge will be a reality by late summer 1993. Considerable discussion ensued during the meeting about past operating practices of the four waste water treatment plants in Alexander City. Historical perspectives were provided by Former Mayor Jack Bush, Larry Tuggle, and Donald Neese, while newly elected Mayor Ben Cleveland stated his commitment to meeting all requirements of the ADEM Administrative Order. It was announced that Lake Watch would participate in a meeting with officials from Alexander City, CH2MHill, Russell, Avondale, Alabama Power, and Russell Lands on 18 September to discuss the plan to determine the quantity and characteristics of sludge in the lake. (see following paragraph)

18 September meeting. Lake Watch was represented by Dr Will Blevins and Dick & Mary Ann Bronson at the meeting. Dr Blevins expressed strong reservations about whether the plan would accomplish the requirements of the ADEM Order, and it was agreed that he would participate in a follow-on meeting of technical experts on 21 September to revise the plan. As of this newsletter printing date, we have not received a copy of the revised plan. However, during the period 19-28 October, a five-man team from CH2MHill (including three divers) took extensive samples from the lake bottom starting at the Highway 128 bridge all the way upstream to the Sugar Creek entry point. Lake Watch was invited to observe the operation, and four members (Leon Runnells, Stan Pietrzykowski, Dr Blevins, and Dick Bronson) were present at various times during sampling. Once the sample tests are completed within the next few weeks, Dr Blevins and Lake Watch will participate in the analysis and assessment of the results. And, of course, LEAF is vitally interested in the test results because of our mutual contention that the sludge, at least the amount upstream of the boat ramp, must be removed from the lake. We hope to have at least a preliminary report of test results for the meeting on 8 December.

~~~~~  
**BASSMASTER Magazine:** For those who aren't BASS members, you may not yet know that an article about Lake Watch and Lake Martin written by environmental writer Robert Montgomery appeared in the November 1992 issue. Robert traveled to the Sugar Creek area in April and wrote what we believe is a well balanced story. **Thanks Robert and BASS!**

**ROSS PAYTON:** We saw Ross the other day waiting in his car for Gladys to catch some burgers at a local fast food place last week. He looked and sounded good, although still a bit weak from a stroke, and vowed he'd be back to future Lake Watch meetings. **Hurry back Ross!**

**IDEAS!** If any of you have ideas about possible issues for future Lake Watch projects, please keep them in mind for the next meeting. One area where we might need some volunteers is to begin looking into **golf courses** around the lake (there are three: Alexander City's Municipal, Still Waters, and Willow Point). Research would be required into how they are regulated as to types and amounts of chemicals used and possible effects on lake water quality. Another possible area of interest is to begin looking at **highway spraying** and possible effects of run-off into the lake. These type issues will undoubtedly have a bearing on specific locations for sampling points in our Legacy lake testing program. If you have ideas you want to share before the meeting, please call Dick Bronson.

And speaking of meetings, we invite Mayor Ben Cleveland and City Councilmen from Alexander City, along with civic leaders from all communities around the lake, to our 8 December meeting.

~~~~~  
>>> **Next Lake Watch meeting: 6:00PM, Tuesday 8 December 1992 / CACC**<<<

=====(tear off)=====

Lake Watch membership application (1992 thru May 1993)

name _____
address _____
telephone _____ \$10 for 1 person _____ \$20 for family _____

>>>mail to: Lake Watch of Lake Martin, P.O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010<<<

Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 3
15 January 1993

Dick Bronson, President
825-9353

This newsletter will serve two purposes: (1) to report on our December general membership meeting, and (2) to explain the details of our commitment to the Legacy lake monitoring program and announce dates for our field training by Auburn University.

LAKE WATCH meeting, 8 December 1992: Over 40 members attended our meeting at 6:00 PM in the CACC library auditorium. Agenda items are discussed below.

Membership / Treasurer report: Paid membership has now passed 70, and our fund stands at \$700. As stated earlier, due to mailing costs, we will no longer send newsletters to non-paid members except for a select few (public officials and supporting agencies). So if you know anyone who wants to be on our mailing list, please ask them to complete the membership application at the end of this newsletter.

Clipping service for LEAF: We have been asked to assist LEAF with news clips from newspapers and magazines concerning environmental issues such as water quality, energy conservation, toxics use reduction, pollution prevention, and environmental justice. Please include the name of the source and date of publication. You can provide the clips to our Secretary (Virginia Pietrzykowski) or send them direct to: Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation, ATTN: Cynthia Valencic, 1115 N. Gadsden St, Tallahassee, FL 32303-6327. Thanks!

Petition for State Water Resources Agency: Members are encouraged to continue supporting the formation of a water resources agency at the State level, either through writing or calling your State Senator or Representative, or by supporting a petition effort by LMRA. Last year, several Lake Watch members wrote to Governor Hunt, Lt Gov Folsom, and other State agencies with strong urging for a badly needed 'overwatch agency' for Alabama's water resources. Recent contact with Senator Ted Little indicates a more positive climate for favorable consideration of such legislation during the coming general session in February.

Dadeville waste water treatment plant tests: We have not yet completed follow-on tests of the plant discharge into Lake Martin, although analysis of earlier tests show reason for some concern. We will continue to monitor the Dadeville plant and report to you soon.

Health advisory sign at Sugar Creek: As reported in December, the Tallapoosa County Health Environmentalist is considering posting a health advisory sign near the Dean Road boat ramp to alert unsuspecting boaters and fishermen of possible health implications from sewage sludge in the Sugar Creek area and the upstream proximity of the sewage treatment plant. Some officials have asked that the sign **not** be posted because of planned improvements to the Sugar Creek plant; however, these requests fail to address the fact that health implications will still be present for at least **two** more years pending completion of the plant upgrade. This really is a **public right - to-know issue**, since anyone who has knowledge of the contaminants now in that part of the lake would not allow their own families to swim there, yet some would deny that same knowledge to the general public. The **sign must be posted**, at least until the plant is upgraded and the sludge issue is resolved. ***[Our choice would be for the City of Alexander City to voluntarily post an advisory sign at the Dean Road boat ramp.]***

Petition to ADEM for 'declaratory ruling': In early December, LEAF and Lake Watch sent a request to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for a declaratory ruling on the recent Sugar Creek plant permit and the applicability of water quality criteria for pH and temperature. We have just received ADEM's ruling which states these criteria are not applicable because "Sugar Creek is, in fact, a drainage ditch from downtown Alexander City. Normally, there is no flow in Sugar Creek." Yes folks, you read it correctly! ADEM is saying that Sugar Creek is normally dry (has anyone ever seen it dry?), and ADEM is saying that it's ok to issue a permit to discharge treated sewage water into an open drainage ditch some two miles long! You can bet LEAF will be digging into this ruling, and you can bet we haven't heard the last of this issue!

Lake Watch incorporation. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws have been completed in draft form and are available for comment and revision. Please contact Dick Bronson if you want a copy. The paperwork should be completed by our next meeting.

New Lake Watch officers: As a result of elections at our December meeting, the following people will serve as officers: Dick Bronson, President; Ricky Brand, Vice President; Virginia Pietrzykowski, Secretary; and Margaret Dean, Treasurer. Many thanks to our nominating committee of Reggie Dean, Betty Daniel and Sam Locke.

Upgrade of Alexander City wastewater treatment plants: Those of you who have seen recent articles in the Alexander City 'Outlook' know that Mayor Ben Cleveland and the City Council have made a strong commitment to improving the city's wastewater treatment facilities. It is obvious that major expenditures will be required in the next few years to correct past neglect in dealing with these issues. Clearly, the new administration deserves our support and encouragement.....and they have it.....but they must also expect us to continue our interest and involvement in issues affecting Lake Martin.

The City Council recently authorized CH2M Hill, the city's engineering consultant firm, to look at the feasibility of phasing out the operation of Dobbs and Christian Creek wastewater treatment plants, and concentrate their upgrade efforts on Coley Creek and Sugar Creek plants to handle future municipal requirements. The Council approved \$1.3 million to upgrade the Coley Creek plant, and will expend considerably more on the Sugar Creek plant. It is anticipated that the color removal facility at the Sugar Creek plant will be operational by mid-1993, although the entire upgrade of that plant won't be completed until 1995. [Incidentally, it appears from recent reports that the Sugar Creek plant discharge has not been able to meet toxicity requirements of the new ADEM permit, and options to address this critical problem are being considered within the overall upgrade of the plant.]

As reported earlier, part of the ADEM Administrative Order of June 1992 required the city to determine the quantity and content of sewage sludge in the Sugar Creek-Elkahatchee Creek basin, and CH2M Hill completed their sampling program in October 1992. During the December Lake Watch meeting, Reggie Rowe of CH2M Hill stated that a preliminary review of sample analysis indicated 'no toxicity' associated with the sediment or sludge. Frankly, there is strong **skepticism and concern** by many Lake Watch members about such test results (even if preliminary), and we hope there is no intention of brushing aside the problem. The fact is, the large amount of sewage sludge in the lake is a clear violation of state law and simply must be dealt with, either by removal or containment. Nothing less is acceptable.

Legacy / Lake Monitoring program. During the December meeting, we heard a presentation by Patti Hurley (ADEM Water Division / Legacy Director) and Dr Bill Davies (Auburn University Department of Fisheries) concerning a long-range lake monitoring program. This is a joint effort between AU and ADEM whereby volunteer organizations around the state are organized, trained, and assisted by AU scientists to conduct water sampling of Alabama waters and develop data to protect our valuable water resources in the future.

By unanimous agreement, Lake Watch members made a commitment with AU and ADEM to conduct a long-range lake monitoring program on Lake Martin. Dr Davies stressed the long-range implications, stating that it may take several years of monitoring results before reliable trends on water quality can be developed.

Under the program, AU scientists will select monitoring sites that will measure the effects of non-point source pollution on the lake, while Lake Watch will select sites to determine the effects of specific point source pollution. Once the sites are selected, we will evaluate where we need additional volunteers to conduct sampling operations. Sampling will be done throughout the year on a regular basis using measuring devices and equipment; some sampling will be done from boats, while others may be taken from docks. Sampling results will be reported to and analyzed by AU, with periodic feedback provided to Lake Watch. We, in turn, will provide reports to local governmental agencies, media, and other interested agencies.

Since Lake Watch is already an active organization committed to the future health of Lake Martin, AU will use our group as a pilot program for the rest of the state. They will conduct our first volunteer training session on 5 & 6 February 1993 as follows:

Friday 5 February 1993

6:00 - 8:00 PM : General overview of monitor program
Community Room, Russell Hospital, Alexander City
Dr Bill Davies (Auburn University Dept of Fisheries)

Saturday 6 February 1993

8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon : Hands-on training with equipment
On the lake (place to be announced)
Dr Bill Davies

>>>We need as many volunteers as possible at the training session, so please invite your friends and neighbors to join us!!!

~~~~~  
**Our next regular Lake Watch meeting is changed from 23 February to Tuesday 9 March 1993, 6:00 PM, CRCC library auditorium.**

=====(tear off)=====(tear off)=====

**LAKE WATCH membership application (thru May 1993)**

name: \_\_\_\_\_  
address: \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 for 1 person: \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 per family: \_\_\_\_\_

>>>mailto: Lake Watch of Lake Martin, P.O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010<<<



# Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 4  
28 May 1993

Dick Bronson, President  
825-9353

Sorry for the delay with this newsletter following our last general membership meeting, but we were waiting to report on several recent developments.

LAKE WATCH meeting, 9 March 1993: Some 45 members attended the meeting at 6:00 PM in the CACC library auditorium. Agenda items are summarized and updated below.

- Membership/Treasurer report: Paid membership is past 80; our fund stands at \$700. We send newsletters to paid members and complimentary copies to public officials and agencies.

- Report on Dadeville treatment plant: Three sets of samples have been analyzed; one by a Birmingham lab, two by the Auburn University lab. All showed reason for concern. These lab results have been reported to ADEM along with a request for State testing and analysis. We will provide a report at the next Lake Watch meeting on 28 June.

- Report on Sugar Creek: As reported before, the Sugar Creek basin of Lake Martin contains large deposits of sewage sludge, including municipal sewage and industrial wastes from the Sugar Creek waste water treatment plant. As a result of this contamination, ADEM issued an Administrative Order in June 1992 specifying several requirements of Alexander City to address the problem. One requirement was to submit to ADEM their plan for disposition of the sludge. We have asked ADEM the status of this plan, but to date have received no reply. We will report on this at the 28 June meeting. *Our position hasn't changed: the sludge must be removed or contained!*

Lake Watch efforts to get either the City of Alexander City or the County Health Environmentalist to post an advisory sign informing the public of the contaminants in the Sugar Creek area have thus far been unsuccessful. Reasons given include: "lack of authority or jurisdiction", and "disposition of the sludge is under consideration". Yet, none of these reasons are acceptable, since Alexander City is responsible for discharges into the lake, and any action the city might take to remove or contain the sludge is still a long way off. >>>*Meanwhile, unsuspecting citizens continue to boat, swim and fish in an area that would be unacceptable for any water contact activities to most people if they knew of the pollution in the water!*

This was the essence of a state-wide effort to pass the Fisherman's Right To Know Act this year. During our 9 March membership meeting, the proposed bill was discussed by three guest speakers: Bruce Mathews (Investigator, State Attorney General's Environmental Unit); Al Mills (National Environmental Director, B.A.S.S.); and Mike Odom (Executive Director, Alabama Citizens Action). All three speakers cited the Sugar Creek area as a classic case in support of the bill, and Alexander City Mayor Ben Cleveland stated he would ensure an advisory sign was posted at the Dean Road boat landing if the legislation passed.

However, as most of you know by now, the proposed bill was defeated by strong lobbying efforts of the Business Council of Alabama, and by State Representative Perry Hooper, Jr of Montgomery, who refused to even give the bill a proper committee hearing. It is a bit ironic that the BCA tactics and legislative manipulation displayed during the past month resulted in the formation of a loose coalition of pro-environmental groups with great potential for positive action in the future. The Conservation Coalition of Alabama (C2A) includes such diverse

organizations as B.A.S.S., Citizens Action, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Alabama Conservancy, Nature Conservancy, Cahaba River Society, Environmental Coalition, Lake Watch, and others. Members of CZA are making plans to get meaningful legislation passed next year, and we hope members of Lake Watch who are interested in specific issues will get involved.

.....Meanwhile, back to Sugar Creek.....! Some Lake Watch members may still not be willing to sit by for another year knowing that unsuspecting citizens are exposing themselves daily to contaminated water by swimming, boating and fishing in the Sugar Creek area upstream from the boat landing. There are several ways Lake Watch can address this issue, and these will be discussed during our next membership meeting on 28 June. <<<<< PLEASE DON'T MISS IT!

- Lake Testing: During the 9 March meeting, Dr Bill Davies, from Auburn University's Department of Fisheries, reported that results of our 'practice' sampling of sites around the lake were very accurate and consistent, and final results would be presented during a mini-workshop scheduled for 26 March.

-- Mini-workshop / 26 March: Dr Bill Deutsch described his experiences with water quality testing in other countries, and drew parallels to the type of testing Lake Watch is conducting. He concluded that the slogan "think globally, but act locally" was exactly what was happening on Lake Martin. Ain't it the truth!!!

Dr Davies reported in more detail the results of our February sampling and reinforced again the importance of long-range data to reveal trends in water quality. He agreed we should add an additional parameter for phosphate analysis in our Lake Monitoring Program and has obtained a test kit for our use. Based on recommendations from Dr Davies, we selected five permanent sample sites on the lake and have aligned volunteer teams to begin sampling operations in June. We will sample monthly unless conditions dictate greater frequency.

Dr Davies also discussed some methods for sampling and analyzing coliform levels at selected sites. Lake Watch is working on a Bacteriological Testing Program to address the concerns of those who live in the vicinity of sewage treatment plant discharges or suspected faulty septic tank systems. Early plans are to develop a cooperative effort between Lake Watch and the County Health Officer, and have periodic samples analyzed by the State Health Laboratory. We will report on the status of this program at the 28 June meeting.

As a way of introducing the topic of biological assessment of water quality, Dr Davies showed a short video of Junior High School students from the Auburn-Opelika area conducting sampling operations at a local stream. Dr Deutsch then described the value of bioassessment and its relationship to our lake testing program. He explained how the presence (or absence) of certain living organisms in streams within the watershed of Lake Martin could provide important indicators of future problems with water quality in the lake. *Simply put, we would be using bugs to help protect and improve the quality of Lake Martin!*

It was agreed that Lake Watch would conduct a Stream Bioassessment Program as an integral part of the overall Lake Martin Water Quality Program. A group of Lake Watch volunteers will work closely with students from area schools (Benjamin Russell HS, Dadeville HS, Horseshoe Bend HS, and possibly Wadley HS), and the County Extension Agent, to conduct periodic bioassessment sampling of streams in the Lake Martin watershed. Data will be integrated into the overall lake water quality program.

We hope to complete plans for the bioassessment program and have a workshop this summer, then begin working with schools in the Fall. The workshop will be conducted by Drs Davies/Deutsch at a local stream, and will include 10-15 Lake Watch members along with science teachers, the County Agent, and a few students from area schools. The program will then expand into periodic stream sampling events throughout the year. A progress report and workshop date will be provided at the 28 June meeting.

- **Incorporation**: Incorporation of Lake Watch as a non-profit organization should be completed soon. Members of our Board of Directors will be announced at the 28 June meeting.

- **Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF)**: During our recent association with the state environmental groups mentioned above, it became obvious just how valuable LEAF has been in addressing environmental problems in Alabama. Virtually every one of these groups has depended on the wise counsel and assistance from the experts at LEAF. We in Lake Watch were particularly blessed by their selecting the Sugar Creek issue as the Alabama Clean Water Crusade project for 1992, and Veronika Thiebach is still working with EPA and ADEM on rulings important to us and everyone in Alabama. And speaking of Veronika, she informed us last week she will soon marry and move to Washington DC where she will continue her legal work in the environmental field. We hate to see her leave LEAF, but we know she has even bigger and better things ahead. Good luck Veronika.....and thanks from Lake Watch!

Another way we can thank LEAF is by becoming a member of their organization and encouraging others to join. Please give it some serious thought. We'll have new LEAF membership brochures available at our 28 June meeting.

~~~~~  
- **Membership Drive**: It was one year ago when we decided to collect dues for Lake Watch, and the response has been great! In order to expand the water quality testing programs mentioned above, we will need additional funds to purchase test kits and still have a contingency fund for lab analysis of samples when the situation dictates immediate action. We'll talk more about a membership drive, but in the meantime, *please renew your membership by mailing in the application below or by bringing a check to the 28 June meeting. Thanks!*

~~~~~  
*Lake Watch membership meeting is changed from 14 June to 6:00 PM, Monday, 28 June at the CACC library auditorium. Please encourage your neighbors and friends to join us.*  
~~~~~

======(tear off)======(tear off)=====
LAKE WATCH membership application (June 1993-May 1994)

name: _____ telephone: _____

address: _____

DUES: \$10 for 1 person: [] \$20 per family: [] \$25 business/organization: []
>>>mail to: Lake Watch of Lake Martin, P. O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010<<<

Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 5
19 October 1993

Dick Bronson, President
825-9353

This newsletter reports on recent Lake Watch activities and announces the next meeting:
>>> Tuesday, 26 October 1993, 6:00 PM, CACC library auditorium <<<

LAKE WATCH meeting, 28 June 1993. Over 40 members attended the June meeting at 6:00 PM in the CACC library auditorium. Agenda items are summarized and updated below.

- **Member/Treasurer report.** Paid members = 90. Mailing list = 125. Fund = \$850.

- **Dadeville treatment plant.** Correspondence from ADEM indicated several deficiencies and permit violations during an inspection in late May 1993. The Dadeville plant is required to take corrective actions; ADEM will monitor and so will Lake Watch.

- **Lake Watch incorporation.** Lake Watch officially became a non-profit corporation on 17 August 1993, and we will soon complete our filing for state/federal tax exempt status.

- **Lake Martin Water Quality Program.** Probably the single most important thing Lake Watch accomplishes will be the impact we have on retaining and improving water quality in our lake. *Water quality is what really defines Lake Watch and its activities.* Our legacy will be the data we collect with our three sampling programs. Here's what we're doing:

-- Lake monitoring committee: Stan and Virginia Pietrzykowski chair this committee. Five permanent test sites are being sampled monthly by volunteer teams using the LaMotte chemical test kits. Parameters tested are pH, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, hardness, turbidity, secchi depth, and temperature. Reports are forwarded to Auburn University and ADEM (Legacy) for analysis and development of trend data. Results will be provided periodically to Lake Watch members, local agencies, and media.

-- Stream bio-assessment committee: June Brand chairs this committee. On 12 August, Dr Bill Davies and Dr Bill Deutsch, of Auburn University fisheries department, conducted a bio-assessment workshop for 16 people (local science teachers, county extension agents, and Lake Watch members) at the lake and stream on Jack Bush's property. During the morning, Drs Davies and Deutsch provided insights into the value of monitoring water quality throughout the Tallapoosa River watershed for non-point pollution sources as well as those specific point source pollution sites we already monitor. They explained that the presence, or absence, of certain organisms ("bugs") in area streams can provide clear indications of possible contamination from a variety of sources, including agricultural runoff, pesticides, herbicides, waste water treatment plants, local dumps, and industrial discharges.

To demonstrate their point, we collected all sorts and sizes of bugs from two spots on Christian Creek.....one spot upstream from the city's Christian Creek waste water treatment plant, and the second spot downstream from the plant. Even to us amateurs (and certainly to the two scientists), it was obvious that something in between the two collection spots was adversely affecting water quality in the stream. Clearly, it was the treatment plant discharge.

During our brownbag lunch break at Jack's lake, Dr Davies used his electro-boat to shock up some fish and assess the health of the fish and the lake. Healthy indeed! [Before you grab your bass rod and head for Jack's lake, remember he charges one Lake Watch membership per fisherman]!

We plan to work with local teachers and groups to set up stream bio-assessment projects on area streams. Lake Watch will provide necessary support, to include volunteers, chemical test kits, and the stream equipment (nets, pans, identification cards). What we need now are some teachers or group leaders who are willing to form partnerships with us for stream monitoring.

(P S: Due to other pressing commitments, June Brand has asked me to find someone to take over the stream monitoring committee. If you are interested, or know of someone, please call me.)

-- Bacteriological testing committee. This committee, chaired by Charlie and Ruth Ziesler, has been busy taking water samples around the lake and running them to the State Health Lab in Montgomery. This is a cooperative effort with Ken Sharpless, the County Environmentalist, and we are sampling selected lake sites for fecal coliforms. After 20 samples, we have found elevated levels of fecal coliform at four locations that call for further testing. Those sites are: Highway 280 river bridge near the houseboats; Stillwaters near a holding pond; Sandy Creek south of Dadeville at the Highway 49 bridge; and Sugar Creek at the Highway 63 bridge. The committee has extended the testing program to the Coosa County section of the lake through a cooperative effort with the Coosa HOBO's group. Welcome HOBO's!

- **Update on Sugar Creek.** The 'sludge report' required by the ADEM Administrative Order was completed in August 1993 by CH2M Hill for Alexander City at a cost of \$250,000 and was forwarded to ADEM. The report concluded that **less than 1%** of the material on the lake bottom is sewage sludge from the Sugar Creek waste water treatment plant, and states that the remaining material is attributed to sedimentation from agricultural, municipal, and industrial runoff, erosion runoff, and normal vegetation accumulation.

Also in August, Lake Watch took core samples from the Sugar Creek area and had them analyzed at Auburn University. Those tests confirmed that large amounts of sewage sludge still remain on the lake bottom, with significant levels of total coliforms and metal ions still present. In addition, ADEM records revealed that the Sugar Creek plant continued its record of failing to meet the chronic toxicity requirements of its permit. (The plant has now been in non-compliance for over one year!)

Lake Watch had two options: 1) accept a flawed report and ignore the non-compliance issue, or 2) take our case to higher authority. **We chose the latter.**

We obtained advice from LEAF and began discussions with ADEM officials and members of the Environmental Unit in the Alabama Attorney General's Office. A series of meetings between the Attorney General, ADEM officials, and Lake Watch representatives determined that the sludge report was not considered reliable. The last meeting resulted in a restating of the previous ADEM position: ***'The majority of the material in the Sugar Creek embayment is sewage sludge; it came from the Sugar Creek plant; and it was caused by faulty plant operation.'***

Also at the last meeting with the Attorney General, a decision was made to further investigate the issue and to conduct independent state-sponsored tests to determine toxicity levels in the sludge. ADEM and Lake Watch representatives will assist with sampling and analysis operations. ADEM will also conduct further observations when the lake is at its low point to assess the amount of sewage sludge remaining on the lake bottom and determine its disposition. The next meeting with the Attorney General is scheduled for December 1993.

We'll share more information on this at the meeting on **26 October**.

~~~~~  
**Lake Martin Clean-up is Saturday 23 October 1993.** Please contact your area coordinator and volunteer to help make our lake even cleaner! If anyone is interested in helping some Lake Watch members and the BRHS Key Club kids clean up parts of Woods Island, please contact me for details at 825-9353.

~~~~~  
Membership drive: Every member get a member!!!

~~~~~  
**See you Tuesday 26 October at 6:00 PM, CACC library auditorium.**

# Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 6  
20 January 1994

Dick Bronson, President  
825-9353

• **GREAT NEWS!** At the first annual Alabama Environmental Partnership Conference held in Birmingham on 14-15 January 1994, Lake Watch received an award from Legacy/ADEM for our water quality monitoring program. Pete Conroy, the newly appointed Environmental Advisor to Governor Jim Folsom Jr, presented a plaque engraved: *To Lake Watch of Lake Martin "In recognition of efforts to improve Lake Martin and to further environmental education"*. The award was accepted on behalf of the many dedicated volunteers of Lake Watch who made a commitment to ensure that our lake remains clean. Following the awards ceremony, an ADEM official stated that Alabama needs more organizations like Lake Watch who are willing to do something positive about water quality. We agree!

• We've been holding off publishing this newsletter and scheduling a membership meeting until we received results of the Sugar Creek sewage sludge tests conducted in November 1993 by the Attorney General and ADEM. The results are back, and Dr Blevins is preparing a report that will be presented soon to State officials in a meeting to determine further action required. The test results were very similar to our previous tests and confirmed, once again, the presence of **toxicity, elevated levels of heavy metals, and high levels of total and fecal coliforms**. State officials will visit again to observe and film the Sugar Creek sludge pit (yes folks, it is sewage sludge!). We'll share more on the test results at the next meeting.

• Our **lake monitoring program** is going very well under the leadership of Stan & Virginia Pietrzykowski. The five test teams are doing a great job of water sampling, and Dr Bill Davies continues to be impressed with the consistently accurate results. We'll soon have our first year of test results completed and will ask Drs Davies and Deutsch to attend a future meeting to share their interpretation of test results. Incidentally, they both agree that we are ready to expand the type of tests, to include additional parameters. More on this at the next meeting.

• Our **bacteriological testing program**, under the leadership of Charlie & Ruth Ziesler, is taking a "winter break" until we get some boats back in the water. As a result of 20 tests, we identified several areas on the lake with elevated levels of fecal coliforms for return visits. Those include the houseboats near the Highway 280 bridge; the Stillwaters area; and the Dadeville wastewater treatment plant. We also intend to monitor selected areas in the Big Kowaliga Creek area; the Coley Creek wastewater treatment plant area; and some sites the Coosa County HOBO's will sample.

• We plan to get our **stream bio-assessment program** moving this Spring by working with BRHS and Middle School teachers and students. This is the third leg of our Lake Martin Water Quality Program that will allow us to begin taking a real

watershed approach to monitoring our water. Future plans are to coordinate our program with other volunteer groups upstream (eg: Lake Harris, where we already have some contacts who are doing monitoring).

- **Legislative.** Remember the 'Fisherman's Right To Know Act' last year that would require those who hold permits to discharge toxic materials into public waters to **post signs** informing the public of that discharge? *Well, it's baaack!* And better than ever! The bill has been introduced in the Senate (S:277) and several of us will work to get it out of committee and passed by the Senate. We'll then begin working on the House where we had strong opposition last year by the Business Council of Alabama and their legislator friends. The BCA has stated that "the bill provides a serious potential for nuisance litigation and does nothing to improve the environment." [As Colonel Sherman Potter of MASH used to say: 'Horse Hockey!'] What the BCA really fears is having to tell the public precisely what they have been discharging into public waters for many years.....they simply can't stand the light of day! We'll discuss this and other pending environmental bills at our next meeting.

- **And speaking of meetings: Lake Watch will have a general membership meeting at 6:30 PM, Tuesday 1 February 1994 in the CACC library auditorium. Bring a friend!**

*See you on Tuesday, 1 Feb!*

- **Membership drive:** This Spring we'll begin a strong effort for new members, and we'll be asking some of you to serve on a membership committee. Be prepared!

~~~~~  
LAKE WATCH membership application (June 1994 - May 1995)

name _____

address _____

telephone _____ \$10 for 1 person [] \$20 per family [] \$25 business []

>>>mail to: Lake Watch of Lake Martin, P.O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010<<<
~~~~~

# Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 7  
11 May 1994

Dick Bronson, President  
825-9353

• It's time for another newsletter about Lake Watch activities and to announce the next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday 24 May 1994 at 6:30 PM in the CACC library auditorium**. Please mark your calendars. There are several topics I'll briefly touch on below and discuss in more detail at the meeting.

• **WATER QUALITY MONITORING**. The monthly lake monitoring program, under the leadership of Stan & Virginia Pietrzykowski, continues to produce meaningful data for Dr Bill Davies of Auburn University Fisheries Department. The results of the past year of testing will be discussed by Dr Davies at a regional water quality workshop scheduled for 22-23 July (see item below). We recently replaced outdated chemicals in test kits for our five test teams.

Our bacteriological testing program, under the leadership of Charlie & Ruth Ziesler, has resumed with recent samples taken near the Dadeville sewage treatment plant and in the Still Waters area. Results will be discussed at the meeting on 24 May. Samples will be taken soon near the houseboats (highway 280 bridge) and near the Coley Creek sewage treatment plant.

• **ALABAMA WATER WATCH**. Several Lake Watch members attended a meeting at Palisades Park in March concerning the progress in incorporating a non-profit organization that will organize and coordinate water quality monitoring efforts throughout the state. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 25 June 1994 in Montgomery (time & place TBA). This is an important step toward an overall goal of 'watershed management', and Lake Watch members are encouraged to attend the Montgomery meeting. More details at the meeting on 24 May.

• **ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**. As you may have read, the Alabama Boating Safety Act was passed during the regular session in April. YAY! And the "Takings" bill we heard about at the February meeting never got out of committee. DOUBLE YAY! However, the Fisherman's Right To Know bill did not pass out of the House CTU Committee. BOO!!! But here is an interesting development: Attorney General Jimmy Evans recently petitioned the US Environmental Protection Agency to issue a rule requiring NPDES permit holders who discharge toxic pollutants into public waters to post a sign near points of discharge informing the public of the toxic discharge. GREAT!!! Several environmental groups, including Lake Watch, have been asked to sign on as co-petitioners to EPA.

• **REGIONAL WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP**. Lake Watch will sponsor and host a regional water quality workshop at the Elks Lodge building on 22-23 July 1994. Plans are to meet from 1:00-5:00 PM on Friday 22 July, and from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM on Saturday 23 July. The workshop will be conducted by Dr Bill Davies and Dr Bill Deutsch, our Fisheries friends from Auburn University. Emphasis will be on the 'watershed management' approach we've discussed at previous Lake Watch meetings. AU will invite representatives from appropriate agencies in the Tallapoosa River watershed, including County Extension Agents, governmental, educational, and other environmental groups. Lake Watch attendance will be limited to those who currently participate in our water quality monitoring program, plus any members who desire to become test team members. Drs Davies and Deutsch will re-certify our current team members. We'll have more details on the workshop at the Lake Watch meeting on 24 May.



• SUGAR CREEK. First, a comment about the Outlook's "give it a rest" editorial last February. It was disappointing to see the paper *cave in to pressure*. But that's life, and if some choose to ignore an important, but troublesome, issue in hopes it will go away, that's their choice. As for Lake Watch, we'll continue to voice our concerns. Here's why.

Between 1991 and 1993, Lake Watch contracted three separate lab tests of sediment taken from the Sugar Creek area, and each report showed toxicity. In August 1993, the city paid a quarter million dollars for a CH2M HILL report that stated the sediment was "not potentially toxic". Finally, in November 1993, the Attorney General's office provided funds to conduct toxicity testing of Sugar Creek sediment. Sampling was conducted by ADEM, with assistance from Lake Watch and Dr Blevins, and observed by reps of the AG, Alex City, and CH2M HILL. Split samples were taken; one set to CH2M HILL for their analysis, and one set sent by the AG to an EPA lab.

We understand both split sample reports showed toxicity.

*These latest test results confirm previous lab tests by Lake Watch, and should finally put to rest any further claim that the Sugar Creek sediment is harmless. It isn't, at least to laboratory test organisms.*

~~~~~  
• LAKE WATCH MEMBERSHIP. We're entering our third year as a dues-paying organization, and it's time for renewals. Some of you have already paid, and we appreciate it. And to those who can afford it, we make a one-time special plea for additional contributions so we can settle an overdue bill from Dr Blevins for the great work he's done for us. We all know we wouldn't have made much progress without him. [Remember: we're non-profit].
~~~~~

LAKE WATCH membership application (May 1994-May 1995)

name: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 for 1 person     \$20 per family     \$25 business     \$\_\_\_\_\_ special

>>>mail to: Lake Watch of Lake Martin, P.O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010 (or bring to meeting)

~~~~~  
See you Tuesday 24 May / 6:30 / CACC.

Bring a friend.
~~~~~

# Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 8  
12 July 1994

Dick Bronson, President  
825-9353

• Thanks to the 40+ who attended the meeting on 24 May and to those who renewed their memberships. **Special thanks** for the extra donations to help settle some long-standing bills. If you haven't yet renewed for 1994-95, please take a minute now to do so. (see form on reverse)

• **REGIONAL WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP.** Dr Bill Davies, Auburn University Department of Fisheries, will conduct the state's first regional workshop under the Alabama Water Watch Program in Alexander City on 22-23 July 1994. The volunteer monitoring effort is growing so fast throughout the state that Drs Davies and Deutsch are virtually flooded with requests to conduct workshops. The overall plan, as envisioned by ADEM and Alabama Water Watch, is to concentrate on the ten well-defined Alabama watersheds, and conduct yearly workshops in each one. Workshops will be tailored to suit the unique needs of each watershed, and a variety of agencies will participate based on their interest and level of involvement with water quality issues within each area. Lake Watch will sponsor the Tallapoosa Watershed Workshop at the Alexander City Elks Lodge off Highway 280 near the Tallapoosa River Bridge. The AGENDA:

|          |               |                                                                                        |
|----------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday   | 12:30 - 1:00  | Registration (no charge)                                                               |
| 22 July  | 1:00 - 5:00   | Training of <u>new</u> monitors                                                        |
|          | 1:00 - 5:00   | (concurrent session for <u>previously</u> trained monitors)                            |
|          |               | Quality Assurance/Quality Control and recertification (including test kits)            |
| Saturday | 8:30 - 9:00   | Registration (no charge)                                                               |
| 23 July  | 9:00 - 9:30   | Coordinator's comments                                                                 |
|          | 9:30 - 10:00  | Review of past year's data; summary of QA/QC results; comparison with other watersheds |
|          | 10:00 - 10:15 | Break                                                                                  |
|          | 10:15 - 11:00 | Managing watersheds as ecosystems                                                      |
|          | 11:00 - 11:30 | Land use management trends in the watershed                                            |
|          | 11:30 - 12:30 | Lunch (provided by Lake Watch)                                                         |
|          | 12:30 - 2:00  | Where do we go from here?                                                              |

FRIDAY afternoon will consist of two separate training sessions. > One will train new volunteers in testing techniques. Approximately 15 people have already signed up, and we still have space for another 10 volunteers. If interested, call Dick Bronson/825-9353. > The concurrent QA/QC training session will be for volunteers who completed monitoring training last year, whether or not they currently conduct monthly testing. They will complete QA/QC training to meet annual re-certification requirements. We'll also recertify test kits.

SATURDAY morning will include discussions on water quality issues throughout the Tallapoosa watershed. Workshop attendees will be from local and state government, industry, service, and other groups interested in water quality. We believe this workshop will provide the foundation for long range plans to form a Tallapoosa Watershed Management Team.

• **ALABAMA WATCH WATCH ASSOCIATION.** Congratulations to Ricky Brand who was elected President of the newly formed Alabama Water Watch Association at a meeting at AUM on 25 June. AWWA will work closely with Auburn University, Troy State University, and ADEM to encourage groups throughout the state to get involved in volunteer water quality monitoring.

• UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE LAST LAKE WATCH MEETING.

- HOBO's: Several Lake Watch members conducted a workshop on water quality testing for the Coosa County/Lake Martin HOBO's (Home Owners/Boat Owners) in June. Les Sellers and Melinda Luker will work with 4-H groups to conduct monthly monitoring of selected sites on the lake, and we will include their test results in our monthly reports to Auburn University.

- Fish pond testing: Members of Lake Watch responded to a request from Jerry Hanks, Tallapoosa County Extension Agent, to test two fish ponds in the local area. Pond owners had experienced recent fish kills. Tests using the LaMotte test kit determined that both ponds had greatly decreased dissolved oxygen levels that were probably lethal to fish.

- EPA Directory: Lake Watch is one of only five groups in Alabama listed in the new EPA Directory of Volunteer Monitoring Groups. We hope more will be listed next year.

- Boating Safety Act: The bill was passed and signed by the Governor. As a community service, George and Rosemary Chandler will work with members of the Volunteer Search and Rescue Squad in Jackson Gap to conduct a 2-hour certification course and workshop on the law's requirements. The course will be given free each Thursday evening for 4 weeks beginning on 28 July. To pre-register, call the Chandlers at 825-5637.

- Fisherman's Right To Know Act: After the bill failed again in the last legislative session, the Alabama Attorney General petitioned EPA to issue a similar rule on a national basis. Many Alabama environmental groups, including Lake Watch, joined as co-petitioners. A significant number of other states around the country have joined Alabama's petition to EPA.

- Bacteriological testing: Charlie & Ruth Zeisler et al are continuing their sampling of selected sites around the lake for fecal coliform using the State Lab in Montgomery. They ran into some administrative resistance at the lab recently, but overcame those problems quickly through their "persuasive charm"! This testing, and plans for expanded local lab capability, will be discussed at the 22-23 July workshop.

- Lake Monitoring: Stan & Virginia Pietrzykowski continue their excellent supervision of our monthly water quality monitoring program. Results of our first 18-months of testing will be discussed by Dr Davies at the 22-23 July workshop.

- Central Elmore County Water Authority: Lake Watch has sent a letter to Walter Stevenson, Office of Water Resources/ADECA, expressing our concern about CECWA's future plans to withdraw up to 10 million gallons of water per day from the south end of Lake Martin. Although this water would ultimately return to the Tallapoosa River watershed, **most of it would not be returned to Lake Martin**, and would result in a significant daily water loss to the lake. We have asked OWR to intervene.

- Sugar Creek: As previously reported, the "split sample" tests conducted by ADEM in November 1993 showed clear evidence of toxicity in the Sugar Creek sediment. Nine separate locations in the Sugar Creek embayment were sampled by ADEM representatives, with assistance from Lake Watch and Dr Will Blevins, AU microbiologist. Representatives from CH2M HILL, Alexander City, Alabama Attorney General's office, and the Alexander City "Outlook" observed sampling operations. A composite sample was collected and split into two samples; one to ADEM, and one to CH2M HILL. Results from the split sample analyses showed **chronic and acute toxicity** to laboratory test organisms from the sediment.

The split sample reports were forwarded to the State Health Officer for a determination of public health implications and the need for posting advisory signs to inform citizens of the contamination. Lake Watch met with representatives of state agencies recently concerning possible action. > It was decided that the state will post signs in the Sugar Creek embayment. The specific language for the signs has not yet been determined, but will probably be similar to that found in Alabama Water Quality Criteria regulations.

These split sample reports have also been considered by ADEM as they prepare to issue another **Administrative Order** to Alexander City concerning the Sugar Creek waste water treatment plant. The draft AO, which city officials are now reviewing, contains tough new requirements that clearly indicate the city's plans to upgrade the plant are insufficient to address existing and future toxicity problems. Possible future actions being considered are: **tougher standards for color discharge; stream flow augmentation; relocation of the discharge point; pretreatment by industry; and upgrading the water quality classification of Sugar Creek.** Included in the draft AO is a discussion of the possible environmental impact of removing the sediment, ie: the potential re-suspension of *pathogenic bacteria and viruses* which may have escaped the water treatment process. Clearly, there is more to follow.

On a more positive note, we have been informed that ADEM will begin an extensive **Water Quality Assessment Study** of the Sugar Creek embayment later this month. Significant funds have been committed to this study, and will include a **fish tissue study** of fish taken this Fall from the Sugar Creek embayment (something Lake Watch has requested for three years). Although we've said that no more studies of Sugar Creek are needed, the fact that ADEM is willing to commit this much attention and resources to Sugar Creek is **good news** indeed! > It also says that progress is being made toward a time when Sugar Creek will no longer be an issue.

- **GRANT REQUESTS.** We've saved the best news for last. Through a great deal of effort by Dr Bill and B.J. Niedermeier, Lake Watch has submitted a grant request to ADEM for EPA funding to support a very ambitious water quality testing plan for Lake Martin and the surrounding area. If approved, significant federal funds would be available in October 1995. We also intend to request more immediate funding from **Legacy** in order to begin extended testing this coming Fall. Plans are to purchase new LaMotte test kits with the capability to test up to 24 separate parameters (we currently test for 6), and increase the number of test stations from 5 to 15.

The foundation of our Water Quality Testing Program will be the close collaboration between **Lake Watch and Central Alabama Community College.** Lake Watch will have access to sophisticated local laboratory equipment, and this will permit us to analyze a much larger number of water quality parameters and to conduct regular bacteriological testing for fecal coliform on a much larger scale. **Auburn University** will continue to provide overall technical assistance and analysis of our data, as well as the critical **Quality Assurance/Quality Control certification** of our volunteer monitors. > It is obvious that Lake Watch will need many more volunteers to conduct water quality monitoring in the years to come. Our hope is to enlist members of the entire lake community (**Lake Watch, Still Waters, LMRA, HOBOS, Lake Martin RV Resort, CACC, Wind Creek State Park, and area service organizations**). More on this at the workshop.

- **IMPORTANT!** If you plan to attend the 22-23 July workshop (and we hope you do), you must reserve a spot by Wednesday 20 July! [Bronson/825-9353 or Pietrzykowski/825-6412].

~~~~~  
LAKE WATCH membership application (May 1994 - May 1995)

name: _____ telephone: _____

address: _____

[] \$10 for 1 person [] \$20 per family [] \$25 business [] special _____

>>> mail to: Lake Watch of Lake Martin, P.O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010 (or bring to workshop)

~~~~~  
*[The next regular membership meeting will be in September.....details TBA]*

# Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 9  
12 February 1995

Dick Bronson, President  
(205)825-9353

• Another year gone by! 1994 was an eventful year for Lake Watch, and a short recap of events follows. Also included are some of our plans for 1995.

• 1994:

- Meetings: Lake Watch met three times in 1994: February, May and November; average attendance was 35-40 members. The Board of Directors also met three times. Paid membership steadily increased, as did our mailing list to other interested persons and agencies. Our bank balance remained sufficient for mailings and occasional water testing requirements.

- January: Lake Watch received an award from Legacy at their conference at Gulf Shores "In recognition of efforts to improve Lake Martin and to further environmental education".

- Spring: Results from the split-sample tests of bottom sediment taken from the Sugar Creek embayment by ADEM field representatives in November 1993 were obtained from the Alabama Attorney General's office and the City of Alexander City. Both split-sample tests, conducted by independent laboratories, showed acute and chronic toxicity to laboratory test organisms, and confirmed previous tests done by Lake Watch that showed undeniable evidence of toxic contamination of bottom sediment in the Sugar Creek embayment.

- May: ADEM conducted a public hearing to obtain input concerning fish consumption rates for Alabama citizens. Representatives from Lake Watch, LEAF, and other interest groups testified to request a higher consumption rate than that proposed in order to reduce the amount of toxins allowed to be discharged into public waters of the state. ADEM agreed to a higher rate.

- Summer: Lake Watch joined other state environmental groups as co-petitioners to EPA for a national rule that would require those who have permits to discharge toxic materials into public waters to post signs informing citizens of those discharges. A significant number of other states also joined the Alabama petition. The action is under consideration at EPA.

- Summer: Lake Watch members tested several area catfish ponds to find the cause of fish kills; low dissolved oxygen was determined to be the problem.

- July: Lake Watch representatives met with the State Health Officer, members of his staff, and staff members of the Alabama Attorney General's office to review possible public health implications of toxic contaminants in sediment in the Sugar Creek embayment. It was concluded that a potential public health problem existed. It was agreed that the State would post advisory signs in the area.

- July: Lake Watch sponsored the state's first Regional Water Quality Workshop by Auburn University scientists and Alabama Water Watch representatives.

- August: ADEM records revealed that the Sugar Creek plant discharge into Lake Martin continued to be out of compliance with chronic toxicity standards set in 1992.

1994 (continued)

- August: ADEM issued Administrative Order No. 94-250 to Alexander City concerning the Sugar Creek waste water treatment plant. The order cited the split-sample tests conducted by ADEM at the request of Lake Watch, and acknowledged that toxicity problems did exist with the plant discharge into the lake. The order directed the city to consider several options to correct the toxicity problems. The order concluded that removing existing sediments from the lake bottom might cause pathogenic bacteria and viruses that could still be in the sediment to be resuspended into the water column and "*thus could pose a potential human health hazard for downstream recreational users.*" >>>[The order failed to acknowledge that resuspension of existing bottom sediments into the water column already occurs from rainfall and recreational boat traffic.]

- September: Lake Watch received final approval of IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

- September: Lake Watch submitted requests to EPA and Legacy for funding grants to expand our water monitoring and public awareness programs. Action is still pending.

- September: Representatives from Lake Watch, LEAF, and other public interest groups attended an ADEM public hearing and requested that proposed changes to rules concerning citizen lawsuits not be adopted. ADEM decided against the proposed rules changes.

- Winter: The Lake Watch water quality monitoring program continued its monthly sampling of five permanent test sites on the lake. An additional five sites on the lake were selected, and monthly testing is planned for all 10 sites when more chemical test kits are obtained and more test teams have been trained. Test results continued to be forwarded to Auburn University as a part of the Alabama Water Watch program. The results of more than two years of monitoring and testing Lake Martin will be presented at a future Lake Watch meeting.

- December 1994: There were 2 actions of particular interest to Lake Watch members.

-- State Health. A follow-up letter was sent to the State Health Officer requesting a status report of agreements reached at the July meeting. (see above item concerning advisory signs). A similar letter was sent to the new Attorney General in January 1995.

-- Triennial Review. ADEM conducted a public hearing and requested comments on their Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. The Triennial Review is a report to the Federal EPA of actions taken by ADEM to meet water quality objectives of the Federal Clean Water Act. As a part of the triennial review process, two letters were sent to ADEM; one from Lake Watch, and one from the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF). Both letters requested formal action be taken to reclassify the waters of Sugar Creek embayment and Elkahatchee Creek to the higher water quality classification of "Swimming and other Whole Body Water-Contact Sports". The requests were based on the fact that swimming, wading, tubing, and water skiing activities regularly occur in these areas. If both areas are upgraded to the Swimming classification, the state would be required to maintain higher water quality standards to meet that classification. This would directly affect residents in the Raintree area who have homes on a section of the lake that is not now classified for swimming.

>>> This gets to the heart of the Sugar Creek issue. For many years, toxins have been discharged into public waters of the Sugar Creek embayment, creating unhealthy water and sediment conditions that adversely affect the traditional use of those waters for recreational purposes. Lake Watch will continue to press for resolution of this issue. <<<

• 1995 plans:

- Increase Lake Watch membership.
- Establish closer ties with area schools and youth groups.
- Continue our water quality monitoring program at five sites on the lake, and expand testing at five additional sites this Spring.
- Expand our chemical test kits to include the capability to test for organics.
- Establish committees to investigate other non-point pollution sources that affect Lake Martin, to include pesticides, herbicides, forestry practices, agricultural runoff, and septic tanks.
- Develop a local laboratory capability to test water samples for fecal coliform.
- Stay involved in the "water wars" process with Georgia and State agencies.

Continue to press State agencies for a solution to the problem of toxic deposits in the Sugar Creek embayment.

- Maintain our representation/association with the following groups:

- Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF)
- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the West Georgia Water Supply Study
- Basinwide Management Task Force (TF) to the ACT/ACF Comprehensive Study
- Alabama Attorney General's Environmental Advisory Council
- Alabama Water Watch Association
- Alabama State Rivers Coalition

• Three more points before closing:

- Please help support the ADEM Solid Waste Bill that will be introduced in the Alabama Legislature this April. This will be the fourth year ADEM has tried to get a mandatory garbage service law passed, and each year it has been opposed by the Alabama Association of County Commissioners. >>> Call your Commissioners and State representatives and request their support of the bill.

- At our November meeting, Mike Skladany from Auburn University distributed surveys to 37 Lake Watch members for a study of grass roots organizations; thus far only 20 have been completed and returned. >>> Please check your stack of "to do" items for the questionnaire, complete it, and get it back to Mike so he can tell us the results at our next meeting.

-And speaking of meetings, our next Lake Watch general membership meeting will be on **TUESDAY, 7 MARCH 1995, at 6:30 PM in the CACC LIBRARY.**

bring a neighbor... see you there! <<<<<

**BONUS!** During the Lake Watch meeting on 7 March, Dr **Bill Deutsch** will present the results of more than 2 years of water quality monitoring of Lake Martin and show comparisons with other waters of the state.

# Lake Watch

of Lake Martin

Newsletter No. 10  
6 June 1995

Dick Bronson, President  
(205) 825-9353

• This newsletter will set our summer agenda and bring you up to date on Lake Watch activities. We will also acknowledge friends of Lake Watch who died the past year or so.

• REMEMBRANCE.

- Many will remember **James Payton**, son of charter Lake Watch members Ross and Gladys Payton, who drowned tragically in a lake near Sylacauga nearly 2 years ago. At the time, James was Mayor of Sylacauga where Ross had previously served as Mayor. > Although Ross suffered a stroke and has been unable to attend meetings for some time now, none of us will forget his impassioned comments and his sage advice about the necessity to take hard and decisive action on issues affecting the environmental health of Lake Martin. You were right, Ross!

- Earlier this year, **Melba Bush** died after a long illness. She was the wife of Jack Bush who is a member of the Lake Watch Board of Directors and a former Mayor of Alexander City. Melba will be remembered for her gracious manner, her quiet sense of humor, and her strong will to continue life while confined to a wheel chair. > Jack has vowed that he will be back in Lake Watch with stronger than ever convictions. Thanks Jack for your service in trying times.

- And who could forget **Woodfin Martin** who died in April? Woodfin ("Mr Lake Martin") was the epitome of Lake Watch. He was always available for projects, he attended every meeting, and his comments were always on target. He had a knack for getting straight to the heart of things. > Wood will be remembered fondly for many things, but here are two.

1) In January 1994, Wood and several other Lake Watch members were interviewed on video tape by a TV film crew when the water level in the Sugar Creek embayment was at its lowest point and the sewage sludge was most visible. Of course, Wood was his vintage self as he described how that part of his beloved lake had been so badly degraded by pollution over the years. That segment of the video has been obtained for Wood's family. [Incidentally, Wood's daughter Annie H. Waters who lives in Phoenix, Arizona plans to join Lake Watch in memory of her Dad's love of the lake.]

2) In March 1995, Wood was highlighted in an 'Anniston Star' newspaper story about the Sugar Creek contamination. The article began with this paragraph:

"Woodfin Martin remembers Sugar Creek when the water ran purple. When it ran black. When it stank. 'There's been some improvement,' Martin said as he carefully scanned the embayment that links the creek to Lake Martin last month, 'but it still ain't right.' "

The article closed with this:

"Now 79, Woodfin Martin remembers fishing area waters as a child. He has not given up hope for a happy ending. 'I want to believe they'll eventually clean it up,' he said, 'I want to believe that.' " [For those who haven't seen the article, call me for a copy.]

Although time didn't wait for the happy ending Woodfin Martin hoped for, there are many Lake Watch members who will continue to press for clean up of the Sugar Creek embayment.



• **WATER QUALITY MONITORING.** Our monthly water quality monitoring of Lake Martin continues to go well, and data for the past two years shows a **very stable lake** (*if data from the Sugar Creek embayment is omitted*). During our last Lake Watch meeting on 7 March 1995, Dr Bill Davies presented a very graphic picture of how badly the Sugar Creek embayment test results compare with our monitoring results from the rest of Lake Martin. Sugar Creek test results showed **extraordinarily high alkalinity, hardness, turbidity, and pH readings, and low dissolved oxygen readings** compared with averages of these parameters from our regular 5 test sites. These test results mean serious degradation of water quality in the Sugar Creek embayment, and the only explanation for this phenomenon is the treatment plant discharge into the lake and the sewage sludge remaining on the lake bottom.

• **WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP AND LAKE WATCH MEETING.** Lake Watch will conduct its third annual Water Quality Workshop later this summer, and we will combine it with a General Membership Meeting. Alabama Water Watch personnel will re-certify those volunteer monitors who have already taken the training, and we will train new volunteer monitors to assist in testing additional sites on Lake Martin. The meeting is planned for **late August/early September** at the **Alex City Elks Lodge**. A flyer will be mailed out when details are final.

> If you, or someone you know, are interested in taking the training, please call Stan or Virginia Pietrzykowski at 825-6412 to be put on our list. See you at the workshop.

• **BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTING.** For the past several months, Dr Bill Neidermeier has worked hard to develop a method for simplified testing of selected sites for fecal coliforms. We recently tried a testing system purchased from a company in Indiana, and the preliminary results are very impressive. We plan to test sites around the lake where we suspect fecal contamination and use our equipment to indicate the need for follow-up testing by the State Health Laboratory. We will distribute some of the new test kits to Lake Watch members for a trial period.

• **PHOSPHATE AND NITRATE TESTING.** We recently obtained two test kits from Alabama Water Watch that gives us the capability to test for phosphates and nitrates. This will allow us to monitor near golf courses and other areas of the lake. We will begin this testing soon.

• **EARTH DAY 25th ANNIVERSARY.** Many thanks to those Lake Watch members who participated in Earth Day activities. On 22 April, our monitoring teams joined dozens of other Alabama Water Watch monitors around the state by conducting the largest one-day water quality sampling effort in the country. Lake Watch members also presented water quality demonstrations and workshops to a variety of youth groups, including church teens, Camp Fire Girls, and 6th grade students at Radney Elementary School in Alexander City.

• **PENDING (GOOD) LEGISLATION.** ADEM's Solid Waste Bill has a good chance of passing this year now that it contains a provision to provide strong economic incentive for counties to enact mandatory garbage service. *If* the bill passes, counties would be eligible for state funds for illegal dump clean-up and start-up funds only if mandatory collection is implemented.

> Please call Representative Betty Carol Graham (234-7068) and Senator Ted Little (887-3472) to encourage passage of the bill; then call your County Commissioners (825-4268) and request mandatory service for Tallapoosa County.

• **PENDING (BAD) LEGISLATION.** As many of you know from the media, there are some bills floating around Washington DC and Montgomery that pose a severe threat to nearly 25 years of environmental progress throughout the state and nation.

- Proposed revisions by the U.S. Congress would gut the Clean Water Act by allowing large wetland tracts to be destroyed by developers, and by rolling back the point source pollution program that has been so important in getting strong corrective action to stop pollution from facilities such as our very own Sugar Creek plant. This bill is being referred to as the "Dirty Water Act", and is sponsored by special interest groups who do the polluting!

> Please contact Representative Glen Browder, Senator Howell Heflin, and Senator Richard Shelby and ask that they **strengthen**, not weaken, the Clean Water Act.

- An even worse piece of proposed legislation in the Alabama Legislature is the Private Property Protection Act of 1995, or "Takings" bill. This bill would prevent agencies from protecting the environment, public health, and safety by enabling landowners to sue state and county governments for property that is devalued as a result of a denial of a license, permit or other regulation. Although this may sound reasonable, when you cut through the rhetoric of property rights advocates, this legislation is simply a way to compensate people who feel burdened by the inconvenience of obeying the laws of the state.

> Please tell your State Legislators (phone # above) to **just say "no" to takings!**

• **"WATER WAR II":** We have our very own water war brewing right here in our backyard. Last year we reported that the Central Elmore County Water Authority was planning to build a facility in the Parker Creek area of the lake and remove up to 10 million gallons of water per day from Lake Martin to supply Elmore County and industries in the city of Wetumpka. Such a withdrawal would constitute a significant water loss to the lake, and would be directly contrary to Alabama's legal challenge against Georgia to prevent their construction of a reservoir on the Tallapoosa River. The plans by CECWA raise a key question: How can Alabama object to plans by Georgia that could adversely affect our lake levels, when Alabamians are planning to do the same thing? Alabama's position in this matter is indefensible!

Inquiries about the water withdrawal plan have failed to get much response, and it appears there is a strong effort to avoid the issue until it is a "done deal". > We recently requested that Senator Ted Little and state agencies intervene, and we would hope that other groups who were previously so interested in the water war issue might once again get involved. Stay tuned.....

• **SUGAR CREEK WATER QUALITY STUDY.** Just before this newsletter went to press, ADEM released a report of a water quality study that was a requirement of their August 1994 Administrative Order. The study was conducted by ADEM personnel during the Fall of 1994, and it compared sample data taken from 3 separate areas of Lake Martin:

- 1) Sugar Creek/Elkahatchee Creek embayment
- 2) Oakachoy Creek embayment (Coosa County area)
- 3) Manoy Creek embayment (near Dadeville).

Okachoy and Manoy Creeks were chosen by ADEM for comparison with the Sugar Creek /Elkahatchee Creek embayment because neither creek receives any known point source discharges such as from Alex City's Sugar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Although the experts haven't yet had time to digest all of the report, it is clear that virtually all of the **previous findings** of seriously degraded water quality in the Sugar Creek/Elkahatchee Creek area are **once again verified**. The report shows repeated chronic toxicity, specifically in Copper and Chloride concentrations. The report refers to "unnatural" discharges into the lake that cause severely degraded trophic conditions in Sugar and Elkahatchee Creeks.

One statement from the biological section of the report quoted below should remind us of previous comments from Dr Bill Davies and Dr Bill Deutsch when they described the importance of "bugs" as indicators of water quality:

*"The results of the samples indicate that negative impacts to the macroinvertebrate communities of the Sugar and Elkahatchee Creek embayments have been severe."*

In other words, the presence of some organisms and the absence of others reveals seriously degraded water quality well downstream into the Elkahatchee Creek basin.

The study also provides a probable reason for repeated reports from Raintree residents about extensive blue-green algae blooms in the Elkahatchee Creek area. It discusses how high total Phosphorous concentrations, low Carbon-dioxide concentrations, and high pH conditions produce a nuisance biomass as follows:

*"These conditions very well describe the conditions of the Sugar Creek/upper Elkahatchee Creek embayment areas and strongly indicate a potential for nuisance blue-green algal blooms in the waters of these embayments."*

Unfortunately, these occurrences are likely to continue indefinitely because of the treatment plant discharge and the sewage sludge remaining on the lake bottom.

Probably the most telling aspect of the ADEM study is that virtually none of the adverse water quality conditions found in the Sugar Creek/Elkahatchee Creek embayment were found in the other two sample areas of the lake. This should put to rest any further suggestion that the Sugar Creek/Elkahatchee Creek area is just like any other part of the lake. It isn't! It's an area that is contaminated by years and years of municipal and industrial discharge into that section of Lake Martin. > The cause?.....disinterest and neglect!

A final note: ADEM plans to conduct a follow-on study of the same area after all construction and enforcement activity has been completed for upgrade of the Sugar Creek plant (late 1995).

~~~~~

- **ALABAMA WATER WATCH ANNUAL MEETING**. Dr Bill Deutsch and his crew will host the annual meeting of the Alabama Water Watch Association at Auburn University on **Saturday, 17 June starting at 10:00 AM**. The meeting will be held in the **Pharmacy Building Auditorium** [College Ave to Coomer's Corner; Right on Magnolia; Left on Duncan]. The agenda will include election of new Alabama Water Watch officers; guest speakers; awards; and a general discussion of the future direction of the Association.

Following the meeting, we will travel to the AU Fisheries catfish ponds for a catered fish fry lunch (compliments of Alabama Water Watch & Legacy). After lunch, there will be time for re-certification of volunteer monitors for those who desire.

The meeting is open to **ALL** Lake Watch members, whether or not you have participated in volunteer monitoring in the past. This will be a good chance to meet members of other groups from around the state who are interested in water quality issues, and we encourage you to attend.

> In order to give the Auburn folks adequate time for food arrangements, we have been asked to provide them with the number of Lake Watch people who will attend.

> Please call either the Bronson's (825-9353) or Pietrzykowski's (825-6412) **NLT Saturday, 10 June** if you plan to attend. See you there!

• **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME.** As Lake Watch enters its fourth year, it is time to renew our commitment to the goal of keeping Lake Martin the cleanest lake in the state. Lake Watch members should take great pride in our accomplishments. We came together when it became obvious that none of the agencies who have a responsibility to protect Lake Martin.....state, local, industry.....would respond to clearly identified problems. Those problems are now being addressed, and we have a great future ahead provided we keep focused on the thing that make us unique; that is our emphasis on **water quality** for Lake Martin.

Our funds have remained at the \$700-800 mark, and that's sufficient for newsletters, postage and minor administrative costs. However, our hope is to build up a **reserve fund** for the purchase of more sophisticated testing equipment and to pay for laboratory analysis of occasional samples. > So if you..... or your rich uncle..... can spare more than the basic membership fee, we would appreciate it!

Please send a check with the completed form below so we can update our mailing list with your new 911 address. And please, ask a neighbor or friend to join Lake Watch.

> Remember, our 501(c)(3) status means your membership fee is tax deductible.

~~~~~(tear off)~~~~~  
LAKE WATCH membership application (May 1995-May 1996)

name \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 for 1 person     \$20 per family     \$25 business     special \_\_\_\_\_

>>> **mail to: Lake Watch of Lake Martin, P.O. Box 72, Alexander City, AL 35010**