



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Nashville District

Old Hickory Lake

Lake Casts



Spring 2005

Public Workshops Scheduled

Please join us for our annual public workshop/open house presented by the Old Hickory Lake Resource Management Staff. The workshop/open house will be held Thursday, April 7th, at the Old Hickory Lake Resource Manager's Office in Hendersonville. The open house will begin at 4:00 p.m. with an open discussion to begin at 7 p.m.

This year's workshop/open house will provide extended hours for the public to view our visitor's center as well as to ask questions and provide input on the various natural resource management programs including shoreline management, recreation, environmental issues and other Corps programs. Free trees, shrubs and bird boxes will be available for adjacent property owners to plant and install on public property.

For more information, contact the Resource Manager's Office at (615) 822-4846 or (615) 847-2395.

Encased Flotation Required By June 1, 2005

According to the current Old Hickory Lake Shoreline Management Plan, all private boat docks are required to have encased flotation installed by June 1, 2005. Although most dock owners have already made the change, a few docks on the lake still have polystyrene bead-board flotation. Those docks will be required to convert to encased flotation by June 1st in order to retain their dock permits.

Although bead-board did provide adequate flotation for most docks, it was prone to crumbling and damage by wildlife and petroleum products; resulting in large pieces of styrofoam separating from the dock. After heavy rains, pieces of bead-board could often be found downstream at Old Hickory Dam.

To avoid the problems associated with bead-board flotation on the lake, the Corps instituted the encased flotation requirement in 1995, giving dock owners a ten- years notice to make the conversion.

IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE PLANS TO REPLACE YOUR BEAD-BOARD FLOTATION, PLEASE DO IT BEFORE JUNE 1ST.



1-877-444-6777

www.reserveusa.com

**National Recreation
Reservation Service**
Reserve *Now* Place Under the Stars

Book Your Camping Trip and Shelter Reservations with the NRRS

Your favorite campground or shelter is as close as your telephone or computer. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Old Hickory Lake, reminds you that the 2005 campground and shelter reservations may be made by contacting the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS). This is possible by calling toll free, 1-877-444-6777, or by internet at <http://ReserveUSA.com>. Shelters located in the Rockland Recreation Area may be reserved by contacting the Resource Manager's Office at (615) 822-4846 or (615) 847-2395. This year's schedule is as follows:

Campground Openings

Cedar Creek Campground

Open: April 1– Oct 31

Price: \$19 - \$23 per night

Cages Bend Campground

Open: April 1– Oct 30

Price: \$19- \$23 per night

Shelter Opening Dates

Rockland	Year Round
Nat Caldwell	May 13 - September 6
Avondale	May 13 - September 6
Cedar Creek	May 13 - September 6
Shutes Branch	May 13 - September 6
Old Hickory Beach	May 13 - September 6
Lone Branch	May 13 - September 6
Laguardo	May 13 - September 6

Reflect on Reflectors

The staff at Old Hickory Lake would like to thank those adjacent landowners who have already installed reflectors on their docks. However, there are a lot more to go. All dock owners are required to install and maintain safety reflectors on each corner of their dock. Help keep the users of Old Hickory Lake safe by making your dock more visible to boat traffic.

SPRING INTO SAFETY

We all want our visitors to be safe in, on and around water at Old Hickory Lake. The following list will help you, and your family avoid potential water hazards.

-Learn to swim and never swim alone.



-Keep a watchful eye on children and make sure an adult is present at all times. (Don't rely on substitutes such as inflatable toys that could easily puncture.)

- Do not dive into unknown waters. Make sure it is deep enough before entering and clear of any underwater hazards.

-Restrict swimming to designated swimming areas to avoid boats and underwater hazards.

-Make sure your boat is equipped with a coast guard approved life jacket for each passenger. The life jacket must be in good, working condition and properly fit the intended user.

-Be aware of weather conditions while on the water. Watch for sudden storms, and make sure someone

knows where you will be on the water.

-Become familiar with navigation channels around Old Hickory Lake and use common sense while underway.

This guide is just the beginning to ensuring your summer fun is safe and enjoyable. To find out more on water safety and boating regulations visit the U.S. Coast Guard website at www.uscgboating.org. National Fishing and Boating Week is June 4-12, 2005.

SWITH OFF LIGHT POLLUTION

When you think of pollution, what comes to mind? Smog? Chemicals? Oil? With all the development and sprawl that is evident around the Nashville area, there is often one pollutant that is overlooked. Light pollution is rapidly becoming an increasing concern. Of particular interest to users of Old Hickory Lake is how the inefficient use of artificial light effects water quality.

How might you ask, does artificial light have an effect on the water quality of Old Hickory Lake? To see what effect artificial light may have on lakes and ponds of urban areas, two researchers at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass. have developed techniques to measure the intensity and spectra of artificial light as it changes with depth. After looking at five New England lakes in a range of urban and suburban settings, they cal-



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www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

Do you enjoy being in the outdoors, working with people, and sharing your skills and talents? Then you may enjoy becoming a volunteer at Old Hickory Lake. Still not sure? Come give it a try Saturday, September 24, 2005, as part of National Public Lands Day. From participating in the shoreline cleanup to

tree identification, everyone has something to offer. Come spend the day, and see what a positive contribution you can make to our environment and public lands.

culated that aquatic organisms can detect artificial light to a depth of roughly nine feet and found that it could have a marked effect on their night maneuvers.

Small invertebrates that ordinarily rise to feed on surface algae at night become less active in the presence of increasing amounts of light. As light-pollution levels rise, the results suggest that some of the region's ponds and lakes could experience more algae blooms and lower water quality.

The Shoreline Management Plan strives to reduce the impact of artificial light by requiring that all lights on boat docks or on public property be low intensity. Motion sensors and timers are also recommended to reduce the amount of artificial light on the lake when docks are not being used. High intensity floodlights are not allowed. It is also recommended that all lights be equipped with caps, hoods or an opaque reflector to further reduce the impact of artificial light. With a little cooperation on the part of everyone, this is one pollutant that we can switch off.

GO NATIVE

Native plants have co-evolved with animals, fungi and microbes, to form a complex network of relationships. When non-native plants are introduced into an area they disrupt this balanced ecosystem. Non-native plants do not have the natural "checks and balances" that the native plants have with the other forms of life found in an ecosystem.

Although many non-native plants are quite beautiful, this beauty comes at a price. Since the

plant does not occur in the area naturally it may not be able to survive. On the other hand, some non-native plants such as bush honeysuckle, privet hedge, and multi flora rose have a tendency to become highly invasive. This type of non-native plant causes immense damage to the ecosystem. In some cases it may become the dominant plant species within an area. This type of invasion can be devastating not only to the native plants that are displaced but also to the animals that depended on the native plants as a food source.

When choosing a tree or plant, take into consideration what purpose you want the plant to serve and what species would be suitable for the area to be planted. No matter what the circumstances are there is a native plant to accommodate your needs. Due to recent legislative action, this is not only good advice but the law with regard to planting on public lands.

The loss of biodiversity caused by introduction of non-native plants is immeasurable. However, a study conducted by David Pimentel, et al in 1999 estimated that non-indigenous plants cost the country \$34 billion annually. This study did not place a monetary value on the ecological impact of non-native plants.

Please keep this information in mind when selecting a plant. There are many beautiful native plants to select from. If you want to join the fight against non-native plants, please contact the Resource Managers Office for volunteer opportunities to help remove nonnative invasive plants from public property.



BE AWARE OF TOXIC AIR

Generally, open burning is prohibited on public lands in this area because it may interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the air quality standards required by the state of Tennessee. Occasionally, extreme conditions, such as high water, wash large amounts of material onto the shoreline. During these times, burning of natural substances, such as driftwood and storm damaged vegetation may be approved; however, it must be approved by the Resource Manager prior to burning.

OK, so you can't burn on Corps of Engineers property; did you know that the state prohibits open burning of some materials statewide?

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) lists the following as materials that are strictly prohibited from open burning: tires, rubber products, vinyl siding, shingles, plastics, roofing materials and any asbestos containing materials. Although these materials tend to be the most toxic, it's important to remember that "harmless" household trash can also emit highly reactive chemicals into the air we breathe, and should be recycled or disposed of properly at a landfill.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry requires that you obtain a burn



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**Resource Managers Office
Old Hickory Lake
5 Power Plant Road
Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075**
www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/old/rec/

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permit for wildfire prevention between October 15 and May 15. The permits are free and can usually be obtained by telephone. Also, check with your city or county to make sure you are in compliance with any ordinances which may further restrict open burning. These regulations were put in place to protect the health, safety, and property of everyone.

By taking a few extra minutes to sort your trash for recycling, or to make sure you are not throwing any toxic material on a fire, you can help ensure that there will be clean, healthy air for all Tennesseans.

For more information on opening burning, or any environmental concerns, contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC): 1-888-891-TDEC.



ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS REQUIRED **EVERY FIVE YEARS**

In order to ensure public safety, the Corps of Engineers requires that all electrical installations on public lands be inspected, and a copy of the inspector's certificate be furnished to the Resource Manager's office.

In addition to an initial inspection, inspections are required when the license for the electric line is renewed every five years. Also, if the property changes hands, the new owner must have the wiring re-inspected and provide a certificate of inspection before a new license can be issued.