

SLEPC

SMITH LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

SPRING 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Martin, President
lynnmartin21@hotmail.com, (205) 422-9889
Stephen Morros, Vice President
stephen.morros@slepc.org, (205) 939-3942
Peggy Hill, Treasurer & Chairman - Nominations
treasurer@slepc.org, (256) 287-1332
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Edwin Calvert, Board Member at Large
ed.calvert34@gmail.com, (256) 339-9869
Lee Morrison, Chairman, Membership
lmorrison64@gmail.com, (205) 939-3942

If you would like to join the SLEPC board, nominate someone for a board position, or serve on a committee, please contact us at info@slepc.org.

SLEPC VISION / MISSION

The Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee (SLEPC) was formed in 1995 as an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the goal of preserving and enhancing the water quality of Smith Lake and its tributaries for people, recreation, fish and other wildlife through education and volunteer efforts and by working with officials and agencies and other organizations with similar goals.

WATER LEVELS

As the Spring season approaches, the lake level is rising quickly. Make sure your dock lines are set with the proper slack to manage the fluctuating lake levels.

SAVE OUR LAKE, WATCH YOUR WAKE!

Visit us on-line

WWW.SLEPC.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SLEPC/

SPRING SOCIAL

JOIN US FOR A PICNIC ON MAY 19TH

Please join us at the *SLEPC Spring Picnic* on May 19th where you can enjoy some great food, have fun, and learn more about SLEPC. There will be games, grilling, and good times to be had by all. Please come spend time with us at the new Mallard Point development and let us know what makes Smith Lake special to you.

Save the Date - May 19th 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM AT MALLARD POINT

All are welcome. Invite your neighbors and lake friends. **See you there!**

SLEPC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SLEPC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which relies on membership dues and donations. Supplies used for water testing are expensive and need to be replenished on an annual basis. The water quality data is extremely valuable in our quest for attaining the Treasured Alabama Lake designation.

Your membership dues and donations, along with generous support from Alabama Power, also help fund the *Renew our Rivers* lake cleanups which have taken several tons of garbage out of Smith Lake over the years.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation and encourage your friends and family members to join SLEPC. Together we will continue to protect the beauty and quality of Smith Lake for future generations to enjoy. The membership/donation form is located on the back page of the newsletter.

SLEPC RENEW OUR RIVERS SPRING CLEANUP

Join us on **Friday, April 20th** at 8:30 A.M. for the spring SLEPC/Alabama Power *Renew Our Rivers* cleanup. We will meet at Trident Marina at Big Bridge at 8:30 A.M. and focus on Ryan's Creek from Big Bridge to the dam. All volunteers will get a **free SLEPC shirt!** Lunch will also be provided.

To volunteer, contact Jim Murphy at 205-529-5981 or info@slepc.org. We need an accurate count for volunteers in order to plan for lunch and shirts.

Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for working in wooded and muddy areas. Apply insect repellent and sunscreen liberally. Come join us, make some new friends, and earn bragging rights for helping keep Smith Lake clean and beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

**SPRING
CLEANUP:**

WHEN: Friday, April 20th at 8:30 A.M.

WHERE: Trident Marina at Big Bridge

DID YOU KNOW?

SLEPC would like to share some facts about the waterways and lakes in Alabama. We have something to be proud of and worth protecting in our great state.

- 10% of the **fresh water** in the continental U.S. originates or flows through Alabama.
- Alabama has over **132,000 miles** of rivers and streams.
- Alabama contains the **greatest aquatic biodiversity** of all our 50 states.
- There are **332 species** of freshwater fish in Alabama!
- Alabama ranks **#1 in the U.S.** for the number of freshwater crayfish, fish, snail, turtle and mussel species.
- 19% of the freshwater fish species in Alabama are **at risk** due to pollution and destruction of habitat.

PLEASE SECURE ITEMS ON YOUR DOCK SUCH AS BUCKETS, RAFTS, AND CHAIRS TO PREVENT LITTERING THE LAKE.

REPORTING FISH KILLS

Some of you may remember the fish kill that happened near the dam and up Ryan's Creek last year. The cause of that fish kill was the water flipping and leaving a layer of water with very low dissolved oxygen in which the fish were trapped. That may not always be the case.

Please help the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division of DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) in documenting and diagnosing fish kills in Alabama Waters by calling them ASAP when you witness a fish kill at **Operation Game Watch 1-800-272-GAME(4263)** or <http://www.outdooralabama.com/reporting-freshwater-fish-kills>.

Time is of the essence in diagnosing fish kills since waters are typically moving/flowing and water quality conditions are changing. When you witness a fish kill:

- Take digital pictures of the dead fish.
- Conduct water chemistry testing if you are a SLEPC monitor and have the water chemistry test kit (to evaluate critical parameters including dissolved oxygen [DO] and pH).
- Conduct bacteriological testing if you are a SLEPC monitor and have the bacteriological testing supplies (if *E. coli*/bacteria counts are high, this could indicate a sewage spill that could lead to DO depletion as sewage decomposes in the water).

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.slepc.org

RIVER HERO AWARD

Former Alabama Water Watch (AWW) Program Director Eric Reutebuch was recognized as a **River Hero** at the Alabama River's Alliance Water Rally Awards Banquet in March. This award is for his outstanding contributions toward river protection in Alabama. Eric has devoted his life to protecting Alabama's waters and has been an integral part of SLEPC since its inception. Eric always played a big part at our annual meetings where he would help present the *State of the Lake* using data collected by our volunteer water monitors. Eric is more than deserving of this award.

Eric retired from Auburn University and AWW in October last year after he was diagnosed with ALS. We would like to thank him for his 29 years of service and wish him well in retirement. He said his next major goal is to take the time with his wife to get out and enjoy the precious waters that flow through our state.



Eric and his wife, Maria, enjoying a float on the Paint Rock River.

STORM-WATER TIPS

Storm-water runoff refers to any water that leaves your property after a rain event. Runoff carries lawn products and loose soil to creeks, streams, and the lake causing pollution. The loose soil, sediment, and fertilizer in storm-water runoff effects water quality and clarity and also effects the creek/lake bed structure and habitat.

These are steps you can take to avoid storm-water runoff and protect our lake:

- Leave a buffer of native plants at your shoreline to help filter the runoff and protect from soil erosion.
- Consider pervious driveways and paths so that water can soak through instead of flow across.
- Use gutters and rain barrels for your house, garages, and major outbuildings.
- Eliminate paths that run directly from your house to the lake. Curvy paths allow water to soak in, thereby increasing soil stability.
- Apply fertilizer to your yard sparingly and only when there is no chance of rain in the forecast.

REPORT VIOLATIONS

If you notice a construction site on Smith Lake without a silt fence to prevent runoff into the lake, please call and report it to Alabama Power Shoreline Maintenance at 205-384-7385.

A silt fence is a temporary structure used to reduce the quantity of sediment moving downslope on a landscape. It is made of a permeable fabric to filter sediment that is trenched into the ground and attached to supporting posts.

We are the eyes and ears for the lake and need to be the protectors of the water quality and clarity. Ensuring that silt fences are in place for construction projects will prevent runoff from polluting and clouding the lake.

Thank you for helping us protect our treasured lake!

SUPPORT SLEPC

- **Maintain your membership in SLEPC!** By gathering with your neighbors, there is strength in numbers. Together we help monitor lake quality, help prevent the incursion of invasive species, host lake cleanups, and more!
- **Become a certified water monitor** for SLEPC and AWW and help us monitor the water quality of Smith Lake. If you are interested in joining us as a water monitor, please email stephen.morros@slepc.org.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and ADEM sample fish and compile an annual Fish Consumption Advisory. Fish Consumption Advisories offer information about fish from Alabama rivers and lakes that may be contaminated. This information enables people to make informed choices about which fish and how much fish to eat.

Visit the ADPH website for the latest advisory document: <http://www.alabama-publichealth.gov/tox/fish-advisories.html>



LINKS OF INTEREST

- slepc.org
- smithlake.info
- blackwarriorriver.org
- riversideflyshop.com
- smithlakeliving.com
- thelakesidelifelife.com

Download the Alabama Power Company *Shorelines App* to get instant access to lake conditions, lake levels and the best fishing spots on Smith Lake from your mobile device:

- <https://apcshorelines.com/our-lakes/smith>

RENEW OUR RIVERS

Alabama Power, with the help of volunteers around the Southeast, removed more than 14 million pounds of trash from 2000 to 2017 through Renew Our Rivers. The trash and debris removed includes everything from bottles and cans to tires, water heaters, refrigerators, boats, and mountains of white-beaded foam.

SLEPC SPRING CLEANUP:

Friday, April 20th at Trident Marina at Big Bridge
Meet at 8:30 AM, boat departs at 9:00 AM

To volunteer, contact **Jim Murphy** at 205-529-5981 or jmurphy137@gmail.com or info@slepc.org

Hope to see you there!

ENHANCING YOUR SHORELINE BUFFER

If your property needs trees or plants, make sure to select and plant the vegetation most appropriate for your location.

Native plants and shrubs that enhance the shoreline include button bush, tag alder, deciduous holly, sweet gum, maple (all varieties), yellow poplar, oak (all varieties), pine (all varieties), bald cypress, sycamore, weeping willow, river birch, native azalea, fern, oakleaf hydrangea, Carolina jasmine and sweet shrubs (*Clianthus flondus*). More than 200 native plants are commonly found on lands surrounding Alabama Power reservoirs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26-29: Fishing League Worldwide 2018 Tour

Info & Registration: <https://www.flwfishing.com/tournaments/2018-04-26-smith-lake>, 205-385-7979
Smith Lake Dam Launch 6:30 AM each day.

April 28: Heroes on the Water

Smith Lake Dam Launch from Safe daylight until 3 PM.

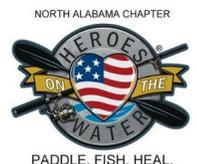
Contact: northal@heroesonthewater.org

Register: [Registration Form](#)

October 6: Smith Lake Park Bass Fest

Bass Tournament and Music Festival

Info and Registration: <http://smithlakeparkbassfest.com/>



SLEPC

SMITH LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

2516 Arlington Crescent
Birmingham, AL 35205

JOIN THE SMITH LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

SLEPC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and depends on your membership and generous donations. Please take a moment to review the membership information below. Please join us in our endeavors to preserve Smith Lake and its tributaries. Together we can keep Smith Lake beautiful and help it become a Treasured Alabama Lake for everyone to enjoy for years to come. **All donations are tax deductible** and very much appreciated.

Membership Levels:

- Annual Single Membership \$ 25
- Annual Couple Membership \$ 30
- Lifetime Single Membership \$ 100
- Lifetime Couple Membership \$ 200
- Annual Business Membership \$ 100
- I would like to volunteer services
- I would like to volunteer time
- Please add me to mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee

Please return this form to:

SLEPC
2516 Arlington Crescent
Birmingham, AL 35205

RENEW OUR RIVERS
SLEPC SPRING CLEANUP
FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH 8:30 AM
TRIDENT MARINA AT BIG BRIDGE!

**SPRING
SOCIAL:**

WHEN: May 19th from 11:00-2:00

WHERE: Mallard Point