Have you ever had issues with plants hitching a ride on your boat? Aquatic plants like Bladderwort can attach to boat motors, affecting navigation and recreation.

In an effort to identify and map areas in our reservoirs where Bladderwort and other aquatic plants are growing, Spartanburg Water uses a variety of tools—one of which is sonar technology.

Our boats equipped with the sonar technology make the rounds on Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1 throughout the year, and collect data that gives us insight into the exact location and density of the underwater vegetation.

This data not only tells us the current state of vegetation in our reservoirs, it helps provide the mapping information we need to help mitigate it. In partnership with SCDNR, we restock Sterile Triploid Grass Carp each year as an effective biological tool to help control excess plant growth.

These vegetarian fish feed primarily on plants and algae, such as Bladderwort, and do not consume other fish. As one of the approved methods used regularly by SCDNR, the number of Triploid Grass Carp we stock each year is based on the density and growth of underwater vegetation that we are seeing – information that we gather with sonar technology.

On the flipside, Bladderwort isn’t all bad. In moderation, it can actually be beneficial. Bladderwort helps filter pollutants and is an indicator of good water quality; however, there is such thing as too much of a good thing. So by using effective technology we can ensure that we maintain the proper balance – providing a safer place to recreate and better drinking water quality for all.
A friendly reminder for our neighbors…

Please be sure to alert your Realtor of this opportunity prior to the sale of your home:

In accordance with the Lake Bowen Policies and Procedures, permits for improvements/structures can now be transferred along with the transfer of a property. Existing authorizations (permits/licenses) are transferrable 1) if the previous holder was in compliance with the permit requirements immediately prior to transferring the property, 2) and the application for transfer is received with all necessary fees paid 3) within 90 days of the transfer of ownership.

For more information and permit questions, please contact the Lake Bowen Wardens’ Office at (864) 592-2240.

Are you short a life jacket?

Please don’t risk your safety!
Instead, access our life jacket loaner board.

Created in partnership with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System’s Safe Kids of the Piedmont, the life jacket loaner board at Lake Bowen offers a variety of life vests and sizes if you’ve forgotten one at home or have more passengers than you do life jackets.

Vests are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and are disinfected after each use.

This loaner system was developed to keep everyone safe, and we encourage you to use it – because nothing is more important to us than your safety!

Even better than a hard copy of our newsletter?
Make the move to digital and save paper and postage by signing up to have Healthy Lakes delivered to your inbox. Go to our website and enroll to make the switch: https://www.spartanburgwater.org/Healthy-Lakes-newsletter

Please be sure to visit our website – spartanburgwater.org – for the latest information on park offices hours and public access to recreational areas.

To continue to reach our Wardens and Watershed Staff for questions and assistance, please call:

Lake Bowen: (864) 592-2240
Lake Blalock: (864) 578-5442