

Healthy Lakes

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News and information
brought to you by Spartanburg Water.

QUESTIONS: (864) 592-2240
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Are you ready for the upcoming Boating Season?

Be sure to remember these important points as you prepare for the upcoming season.

Boating Permits

Be sure to keep an eye on the mail. If you are a current boat permit holder for either Lake Bowen or Lake Blalock, you will receive a letter in the mail to renew your permit for this year. Please make sure that you include your daytime and evening phone numbers as well as your email address. We will not be able to renew your permit without this information. Once updated, you can return the signed letter, along with a check or money order for the permit fee.

If any changes need to be made or you are a first-time boat permit applicant, you will need to go in-person to the corresponding Lake Office for the permitting process, including an inspection of your watercraft.

Permits are available for seasonal or daily use – and are fee-based on horsepower and residence. You can find a full breakdown of pricing at www.spartanburgwater.org.

Spartanburg Water's official start to boating season begins each year on April 1. Your permit is good from April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022. Be sure to have your permit sticker applied in the proper location on your watercraft by this date for it to be considered a valid permit and to avoid a fine.



Conventional watercraft, sailboats and personal watercraft (PWC, ex. Jet Skis): Please attach your permit sticker to the left side of the watercraft adjacent to the end of the state registration number.



Paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, pedal boats and other non-powered watercraft: The permit sticker must be applied to the left topside front of the vessel.

State Permits

Don't forget – you not only need a boat permit from Spartanburg Water; you also need a state permit issued by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). The state's boat registration process was changed in 2020.

Boat owners are required to renew their registration annually, and the cost of the new registration is \$10 – a third of the former, three-year fee of \$30.

For more information, please visit <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/boating/2020RegistrationRenewalChanges.html>.

Safety First

Preparing for a safe day on the water is essential whether you are using a motorized or non-motorized watercraft. This includes ensuring everyone in your party is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket and you have a horn or whistle while on board.



If you have any questions, our Lake Wardens are always available to answer them and to provide free safety inspections of your watercraft. Also don't forget about our Lifejacket Loaner Board at Lake Bowen – created in partnership with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's Safe Kids of the Piedmont. There are a variety of life vests and sizes if you've forgotten one at home or have more passengers than you do life jackets.

Lake Office Hours: Beginning March 15, boat permits will also be on sale at both the Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Lake Offices seven-days-a-week from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. For your safety, we have installed contactless, walk-up windows at both locations for in-person needs.

Welcome to Our New Lake Wardens

Richard Crocker



Richard Crocker graduated from James F. Byrnes High School and lives in Woodruff with wife Lori and son Nathaniel. Richard is coming back to

Spartanburg Water after working previously in the maintenance department for seven years at the R.B. Simms DWTF.

Richard started his law enforcement career in the South Carolina Highway Patrol, serving more than 17 years in Greenville and Spartanburg Counties. When he has downtime he likes to spend time with his family fishing and camping. Richard is thankful and proud to join Spartanburg Water as a Lake Warden.

Caleb Owens



Caleb Owens graduated from Gaffney High School. After high school, he joined the Army National Guard and served in a Military Police

Unit in South Carolina for six years. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Limestone University in Gaffney, S.C. After graduation, he began his law enforcement career with Gaffney Police Department as a patrol officer for three years.

Caleb is proud to join the Spartanburg Water team as a Lake Warden. He loves spending time outdoors on Lake Blalock and Lake Bowen, as well as learning more about the watershed.

Caleb and his wife, Dakota, have one daughter, Charlcie. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family, traveling, and being outdoors.

Thinking of selling your home? Don't forget about permit transfers.

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



Please be sure to alert your Realtor of this opportunity prior to the sale of your home. You can also visit our website for more Real Estate Resources: <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/real-estate-resources>

Maintaining Your Septic System

I have a septic system, why should I have it inspected?

According to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), most home septic tanks require pumping every three to five years.

Pumping is needed when solids fill from one-third to one-half of the tank. But, the only way to know when this occurs is to have your tank regularly inspected by a licensed

septic contractor, sometimes referred to as a licensed septic installer. If your system requires pumping, the contractor will recommend pumping by a licensed septic pumper. A licensed septic pumper is only permitted to remove and dispose of the contents of a septic system, not to inspect it, per SCDHEC regulations.



But, what I can't see can't hurt anything, right?

If solid waste builds up too high, it can be forced out of the tank and into the drainfield, where it clogs the gravel and soil. This can cause wastewater to back up or seep out from the ground. Worse still, if you live adjacent to any of our drinking water reservoirs – Bowen, Blalock or Reservoir #1 – and your property is sloped, that means waste can flow directly into the water. Yes, you heard that right. Waste from your septic tank could be mixing in with the water you enjoy for recreation.

Source water protection of our most precious natural resource, water, begins prior to a single drop making it to our community's water supply reservoirs. Proper septic tank inspection and maintenance is an important way to safeguard public health and the environment by protecting the water at its source.

You can find more information about maintaining your septic system by going to the SCDHEC website. It provides a wealth of information for septic system owners here: <https://scdhec.gov/environment/your-home/septic-tanks>.