



GREAT WATER HEALTHY LAKES

CHOOSE TAP | SPARTANBURG WATER

Simple Acts. Great Impacts.

Drinking water resources are a critical component in the health and wellness of our community, and we're grateful for your support and interest in our shared commitment to preserve them for generations to come. Remember: Simple acts, like maintaining your septic systems, keeping fertilizers from running off into the lake, or even properly disposing of your Christmas tree, can have great impacts, now, and well into the future.

Please read the following updates to learn more about the watershed, some exciting developments in our growing team, as well as for a few simple requests from us as we look towards the holiday season.

Thank you for all that you do to protect our precious natural resources!

Healthy Lakes equal Great Drinking Water.

Passing the Paddle

DEARYBURY RETIRES, O'NEILL NAMED NEW RESERVOIR MANAGER



After 34 years of dedicated service to the watershed, Eddie Dearybury will be retiring from Spartanburg Water at the end of the year. His successor, Ron O'Neill (left), has

already joined the watershed team, using the remaining time in Dearybury's tenure to learn more about his new role.

"We are grateful for Eddie's service," said Sue Schneider, Chief Executive Officer of Spartanburg Water. "His history and knowledge of the lakes is impressive. I know that he'll not only be missed by Spartanburg Water, but also the countless people within the community and on the lakes."

Ron began his career in law enforcement in 1977 with the Columbia Police Department. In 1982, he joined the Lexington County Sheriff's Office as a deputy and enjoyed a progressive career with that office that continued to 2011, when he achieved the rank of captain. During

his tenure there, he coordinated the SWAT unit for more than 20 years, and transitioned to a different role in 2011, which saw Ron, among other duties, coordinating annual training for correctional officers, until 2013. Following his long career in uniform, Ron moved to Spartanburg to serve, most recently, as the facilities manager for the Chapman Cultural Center.

He has a B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina, and is a volunteer leader for the United Way of the Piedmont and the Helping Hands of Woodruff. Ron is certified in open water scuba diving.

"Ron has the experience we need to help us to continue to move forward in achieving our goals," Schneider said. "His law enforcement experience, coupled with his great enthusiasm for the community, and his love of the water, are a great asset to Spartanburg Water and our commitment to lakes and the communities that call these reservoirs in our watershed home."

Please be sure to stop by our office and welcome Ron to his new role, and to the community!

Tis' the Season ...

TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF FATS, OILS, GREASES—AND TREES!



FOG: Pouring fats, oils and greases (commonly known as FOG) down the drain can cause major problems. When these materials interact with pipes, they build up and create blockages that can cause septic systems to backup. By simply throwing away leftover FOG, you can protect your septic tank from the hazards of overflows and backups, not to mention keeping our environment safe from these preventable challenges. (TIP: Allow FOG to harden in an old coffee can or in the freezer before throwing away.)

HOLIDAY TREES: When you take down your tree this holiday season, please don't throw it in the lake. While many believe that this is healthy for the lake and provides additional fish habitat, the disposal of Christmas trees into the lakes is another opportunity to feed the lake with more nutrients. These nutrients can result in algal growth that can make your drinking water taste or smell funny. For more information on proper tree disposal, please visit your local county or city recycling center.



QUESTIONS: (864) 592-2240 / spartanburgwater.org/healthylakes / USE HASHTAG: #healthylakes



Warden Winter Office Hours

Lake Blalock Warden's Office:

1925 Sandy Ford Road
Chesnee, SC 29323
(864) 578-5442
8 – 10 a.m., Monday – Friday

Lake Bowen Warden's Office:

8515 Highway 9
Inman, SC 29349
(864) 592-2240
2 – 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Geese Waste Can Affect Water Quality

LAWNS ARE AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET FOR GEESE, LEAVING POUNDS OF WASTE IN THE WATERSHED

Large armies of geese living on our Lakes can pose an unnecessary risk to the drinking water supply. But, how? Lawns bring geese. The geese poop. As a result of the nutrients in the poop, algae can grow in the water that can make our drinking water smell and taste bad.

Poop. Yes, that's right: P-O-O-P.

Specifically, healthy geese are hungry geese. And they find no greater spread than the leafy green lawns that can thrive in our mild climate.

It's tradition: When we hear the plaintive sounds of low-flying geese overhead, we know that the seasons are changing. Those v-formations are nature's way of signaling the arrival of fall temperatures.

And, according to our watershed experts, while geese may be a majestic illustration of nature's beauty, they also leave a lot of waste behind during their winter sojourn to our reservoirs and points further south.

"When I was a child I lived where there were no geese, and I remember watching on television the V-flights of massive flocks of Canadian Geese, I was thinking that must be the greatest thing ever to witness that in person," said K.C. Price, Water Resources Manager. "Move forward 40 years and now, when I see a goose, I see their leftovers."

Price is referring to goose waste, and lots of it. In fact, he said, a single Canadian Goose can produce up to three pounds of, well, you know, poop, in a single day.

This waste can have a negative impact on our water quality. By defecating, geese release large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus that can then enter the water to help create growing conditions for algae that can lead to taste and odor issues, not to mention bacteria associated with animal waste.

The solution is to "control the goose habitat." In other words, don't feed them.

You're feeding the geese if you're keeping a lush lawn. Geese are particularly attracted to lawns near water reservoirs and ponds. This is their food source and having a lawn is like putting out a buffet for geese. However, geese can quickly strip the area bare leading to even higher fecal loads and greater

opportunity for nutrient and contaminant runoff into the water. Therefore, minimizing lawns is a fundamental practice in controlling geese populations.

Ensuring trees are planted near the water's edge is a natural way to safely divert the geese and discourage them from viewing healthy lawns as Thanksgiving dinner.

Also, our natural, vegetative buffers with native plantings along shorelines also help prevent geese establishing residence.

Spartanburg Water asks that you work with our Watershed Management Specialist to help minimize lawns within the buffer, to maintain a natural buffer and most importantly, please don't feed the geese.

