

# Lake Alert

QUESTIONS: (864) 592-2240  
spartanburgwater.org/healthylakes  
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## 2018-2022 Lake Alerts

### May 26 Lake Alerts: Getting Ready for the Holiday Weekend? – Some Reminders

With Memorial Day Weekend kicking off the official start to summer boating season this weekend, we wanted to reach out with a few reminders:

If you are planning a trip to Lake Bowen, be sure to carpool! Our park has great amenities, but limited parking spaces. Share a ride with other members of your party to ensure you can secure a spot. Once the park is at capacity, we will have to turn away visitors until parking spaces are once again available.

Always remember safety first and make sure everyone has a properly fitting lifejacket when out on the water. If you need an extra lifejacket, check out our Lifejacket Loaner Boards at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks. Not sure if you have everything you need on board? Our Lake Wardens are more than happy to provide a safety inspection and suggestions to help keep you and your loved ones safe while having fun on the water.

We look forward to welcoming you this weekend at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock. Our Lake Wardens and Watershed Staff are always happy to answer any questions you may have – Lake Bowen (864) 592-2240, Lake Blalock (864) 578-5442; 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., seven-days-a-week.

### May 25 Lake Alert: Tomorrow SCDNR Restocking Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1

Tomorrow, May 26, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will be conducting a maintenance restocking of sterile Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. This is strictly annual upkeep to account for the loss of carp from natural causes.

Triploid Grass Carp are certified by biologists as being sterile and cannot reproduce. They feed primarily on aquatic plants and algae and do not consume other fish. Grass Carp are an effective biological tool to control nuisance vegetation and algae. They are used around the world for this purpose, and are one of the approved methods used by SCDNR.

Please remember, it is illegal to take Triploid Grass Carp from public waters. If you hook one while fishing, you must release it back into the same body of water or risk facing penalties.

There are a few ways to tell the difference between the common carp and the stocked Triploid Grass Carp. The major difference is the length of the dorsal fin. The Triploid Grass Carp has a significantly shorter fin than the common carp. They also do not have barbels (“whiskers”) around the mouth.

We thank you in advance for being mindful of this and for helping us to maintain a beneficial population of Triploid Grass Carp.

### May 1 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for May 2 and 3

Spartanburg Water will perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting the afternoon of Monday, May 2, 2022, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator.

Pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions, the application will take place over two days.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

### April 1 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for April 3 and 4

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide application starting on Sunday, April 3, 2022, on

Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator (pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions).

This is a maintenance application targeting some early season Geosmin producers that we have identified through our monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

**February 28 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for March 1**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide application starting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator (pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions).

This is a maintenance application targeting some early season Geosmin producers that we have identified through our monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

**February 15 Lake Alert: SCDOT to Begin Maintenance on I-26 Bridge Over Lake Bowen February 15**

Beginning today, February 15, SCDOT will begin conducting maintenance on the I-26 bridge that crosses over Lake Bowen.

The left two passages moving upstream may close during this scheduled maintenance, which should last approximately 2-4 weeks.

Those using watercraft should exercise extreme caution and avoid these areas at this time.

**January 18 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Re-open January 19**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will re-open for use tomorrow, January 19, at 7:30 a.m.

**January 17 Lake Alert: Winter Weather: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed January 18**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed again tomorrow, January 18, due to current safety concerns following our recent winter weather.

We will re-open both parks as soon as we deem it safe to do so.

**January 16 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed Tomorrow**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed tomorrow, January 17, due to the current winter weather situation.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes tomorrow for safety concerns.

**January 15 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed for Winter Weather Tomorrow**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed tomorrow, January 16, in anticipation of winter weather concerns.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes tomorrow for safety concerns.

**2021****December 22 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment Will Continue for Municipal Reservoir #1 on December 23**

In order to ensure a successful algaecide application, Spartanburg Water will now finish our application on Municipal Reservoir #1 tomorrow morning, December 23.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to provide the highest quality drinking water for our community.

**December 21 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for December 22**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide treatment application on Municipal Reservoir #1 on Wednesday, December 22. Depending on weather, we plan to complete this application in one day.

Our experts have determined that an additional application is needed to help control taste and odor concerns, based on continual and careful monitoring and sampling.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

**November 8 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Proactively Addressing Geosmin in Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1**

With warmer weather approaching in the next two months, we are focused on proactively addressing algae levels, before water temperatures rise significantly.

As part of this focus on preventative algae treatment for taste and odor causing algae in our reservoirs, specific areas of Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 will receive algaecide applications over two days, beginning February 23.

This method of preventative maintenance has been shown to help defend against taste and odor causing algae growth, and gives us a head start to prevent elevated levels of Geosmin – components of algae that can cause taste and odor issues, particularly beginning in the spring time.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us deliver the highest quality drinking water services to our community.

**September 27 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Addressing Geosmin and MIB Levels in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1**

As part of our continued focus on preventing taste and odor causing algae in our reservoirs, specific areas of Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 will receive algaecide applications, beginning Tuesday, September 28.

This will help us address elevated levels of Geosmin and MIB - natural byproducts of algae that can cause taste and odor issues.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us deliver the highest quality drinking water services to our community.

#### **August 16 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Proactively Preparing for Impending Rainfall**

In anticipation of the rainfall amounts forecasted for the next several days, Spartanburg Water is closely monitoring the weather and lake levels, and is proactively making adjustments to the levels of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock in order to help minimize increased water levels. Since our dams were created to hold water as a drinking water source, any release of water may be gradual.

As with all rain events, because the risk of higher streamflow's and elevated lake levels still remain, SWS recommends ensuring your boat is well-secured – either to your dock or elevated and secured to your boat lift. Please also always exercise caution in the days after the rain, as there may be more floating debris.

#### **May 25 Lake Alert: SCDNR Stocking Triploid Grass Carp Today in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1**

Today the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will be conducting a maintenance stocking of sterile Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. This is strictly annual upkeep to account for the loss of carp from natural causes.

Triploid Grass Carp are a sterile species and therefore cannot reproduce. They feed primarily on aquatic plants and algae and do not consume other fish.

Grass Carp are an effective biological tool to control nuisance vegetation and algae. They are used around the world to do so and are one of the approved methods used by the SCDNR.

Please remember, it is illegal to take Triploid Grass Carp from public waters. If you hook one while fishing, you must release it back into the same body of water or risk facing penalties.

There are a few ways to tell the difference between the common carp and the stocked Triploid Grass Carp. The major difference is the length of the dorsal fin. The Triploid Grass Carp has a significantly shorter fin than the common carp. They also do not have barbels ("whiskers") around the mouth.

We thank you in advance for being mindful of this and for helping us to maintain a beneficial population of Triploid Grass Carp.

#### **May 11 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Addressing Geosmin Levels in Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1**

As part of our continued focus on preventative treatments for taste and odor causing algae in our reservoirs, specific areas of Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 will receive algaecide applications, beginning May 11.

This will help us address elevated levels of Geosmin – natural byproducts of algae that can cause taste and odor issues, particularly at this time of year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us deliver the highest quality drinking water services to our community.

#### **April 12 Lake Alert: SWS to take preemptive step to combat algae growth**

In a continued effort to ensure drinking water quality, Spartanburg Water is set to perform an algaecide application on Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 beginning Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

This is a maintenance application that will target some early season taste-and-odor causing algae, which is naturally occurring – particularly in the warmer months as water temperatures start to rise.

By taking this proactive and proven approach to combat algae growth, our goal – as always – is to provide customers with drinking water of the highest standards. We thank you for your continued support.

### **February 22 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Proactively Addressing Geosmin in Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1**

With warmer weather approaching in the next two months, we are focused on proactively addressing algae levels, before water temperatures rise significantly.

As part of this focus on preventative algae treatment for taste and odor causing algae in our reservoirs, specific areas of Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 will receive algaecide applications over two days, beginning February 23.

This method of preventative maintenance has been shown to help defend against taste and odor causing algae growth, and gives us a head start to prevent elevated levels of Geosmin – components of algae that can cause taste and odor issues, particularly beginning in the spring time.

## **2020**

### **October 30 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks are re-opened after high winds**

Our staff has determined after the removal of tree limbs and debris that Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks can safely re-open at this time. Lake Bowen Park is still without power, but visitors can access all areas of the Parks, including the boat landings, with the exception of the bathrooms.

If power is restored, we will re-open the restrooms.

In the event of an emergency, Lake Wardens may be reached at (864) 578-2764.

Additional Lake Alerts may follow should conditions warrant.

### **October 29 Lake Alert: Severe Weather Impacts Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock**

Tropical Storm Zeta's strong winds are currently moving through our area, knocking out power at the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office and requiring the closure of the upper loop and Lake Bowen Park, which includes the Anchor Park playground, until conditions improve.

The boat landings at Lakes Bowen and Blalock are also temporarily closed to watercraft due to high winds on the lakes.

In the event of an emergency, Lake Wardens may be reached at (864) 578-2764.

Additional Lake Alerts may follow should conditions warrant.

### **September 16 Lake Alert: Impending Weather to Bring Heavy Rainfall**

In anticipation of the forecasted impacts from the remnants of Hurricane Sally over the next couple of days, Spartanburg Water is closely monitoring the weather and lake levels, and making adjustments to minimize an increase in water levels.

Because of the risk of elevated flow and lake levels, SWS recommends ensuring your boat is well-secured – either to your dock or elevated and secured to your boat lift. Please also be aware that in the days following the storm, if you plan to be on the water, it is important to exercise caution while boating as higher flows within the reservoirs can also lead to larger amounts of floating debris.

Additional Lake Alerts may follow should conditions warrant.

### **August 24 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned to Begin on Tuesday, August 25**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide treatment application on both Lake Bowen and on Municipal Reservoir #1 on Tuesday, August 25. Depending on weather, we plan to complete this application in one day.

Our experts have determined that an application is needed to help control taste and odor concerns, based on continual and careful monitoring and sampling.

The application will involve targeting areas at different depths, where the greatest algae growth has been observed through careful monitoring and sampling.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

#### **August 4 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned to Begin on August 5**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide treatment application on Municipal Reservoir #1 on Wednesday, August 5. Depending on weather, we plan to complete this application in one day.

Our experts have determined that an additional application is needed to help control taste and odor concerns, based on continual and careful monitoring and sampling.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

#### **July 26 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for Monday, July 27**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide treatment application on Municipal Reservoir #1 starting on Monday, July 27. Depending on weather, we plan to complete this application within 2-3 days. As part of our ongoing efforts to treat algae growth, our experts have determined that an application is needed to help control taste and odor concerns.

The application will involve targeting areas at different depths, where the greatest algae growth has been observed through careful monitoring and sampling.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to proactively control algae growth in our reservoirs, ultimately resulting in better drinking water quality for all.

#### **July 10 Lake Alert: New Lake Blalock Policies and Procedures Document is Available**

The Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg recently voted to adopt a new Policies and Procedures document to help provide guidance for residents with property adjoining Lake Blalock. The document takes the place of the former Lake Blalock Buffer Management Plan and goes into effect today, July 10, 2020.

A collaborative group of members of the Lakefront Property Owners' Association, representatives from the County, and Spartanburg Water worked together to finalize the document that received approval by the Commission at their June 23 meeting.

The new Lake Blalock Policies and Procedures document provides guidance to those with property adjoining the Spartanburg Water System property below the 720' MSL Contour Line and is now available as both an e-reading version and printable document on the Spartanburg Water website:

<https://www.spartanburgwater.org/Blalock-policies-guidance>.

We do have printed copies available that can be requested by calling the Lake Blalock Wardens' Office. For this and for any questions, please contact the Lake Blalock Wardens' Office at 864-578-5442.

#### **July 8 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for July 9-10**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an additional algaecide treatment application on Municipal Reservoir #1 on Thursday, July 9, and Friday, July 10.

As part of our ongoing efforts to treat algae growth, our experts have determined that an application is needed to help control geosmin and taste and odor concerns.

The application will involve targeting areas at different depths, where the greatest algae growth has been observed through careful monitoring and sampling.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to proactively control algae growth in our reservoirs, ultimately resulting in better drinking water quality for all.

**July 1 Lake Alert:** Spartanburg Water announces reopening of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and other public areas

Spartanburg Water recently reopened the public spaces at Lake Bowen Park and Lake Blalock Park following guidelines established to protect public health.

To allow for proper safety protocols, Lake Bowen Park will be operating at a reduced capacity and the maximum allowed capacity of 75 within Anchor Park and 100 around the outer perimeter shoreline has been posted. Spartanburg Water staff will be monitoring the total number of occupants to help protect the health of our visitors. Once capacity has been reached, you may be asked to return at a later time.

Areas reopening to the public at Lake Bowen Park include: the Anchor Park playground, picnic shelters with a reduced number of picnic tables, park restrooms, and shoreline fishing areas inside the park. Public fishing areas located on Rainbow Lake Road, River Oak Road, Edwards Road and the fishing pier located on Compton Bridge Road have also been reopened.

There will be parking at Lake Bowen for vehicles with watercraft trailers, and a more limited number of parking spaces designated for those without trailers on weekends and holidays. Visiting to drive through the park is currently prohibited.

Those visiting Lake Blalock Park will have access to the park for walking, as well as use of the fishing pier, picnic shelters with a reduced number of picnic tables and the park restrooms. The fishing area located on Parris Bridge Road has been reopened.

The gates at both parks are open from 6 a.m. to midnight.

In accordance with CDC recommendations, Spartanburg Water continues to encourage and implement social distancing. Please be mindful of this, as signs have been posted in all areas and the fishing piers have been marked reminding visitors to keep proper distance while recreating. We also encourage you to bring and use masks and hand sanitizer.

“Reopening our public spaces at both parks in a phased approach has allowed us to implement the plans we need to help keep our park visitors safe,” said Robert Walden, Chief Operations Officer. “We are confident that with the safety guidelines we have established and the enhanced awareness in our community of the importance of social distancing, our parks can now welcome additional visitors. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation and compliance with the guidelines set forth.”

#### **May 31 Lake Alert: Proactive Application of Algaecide Planned for June 1 and 2**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an additional preemptive algae treatment application on Municipal Reservoir #1 on Monday, June 1, and Tuesday, June 2.

Two previous preemptive treatments took place in March and April, and our experts have determined a third application is needed to help control geosmin and taste and odor concerns associated with algae growth.

The application will involve areas of Municipal Reservoir #1 where the greatest algae growth has been observed through careful monitoring and sampling.

As was the case with our earlier treatments, the goal is to proactively control algae growth in our reservoirs, ultimately resulting in better drinking water quality for all.

#### **May 20 Lake Alert: Weather Causing Lake Levels to Rise**

With the continued heavy rains in our watershed, lake levels will rise above their normal levels for the next several days. Spartanburg Water has opened the gates on the dams to reduce the rise in water levels, however, with the continuing weather pattern, the flows coming into the lakes may exceed the capacity of the gates to release all the flow.

As a reminder, the dams were designed to hold water as a drinking water source, and were not designed to release flow for flood control.

But please be assured that SWS is continuously monitoring the weather and lake levels and making all possible adjustments to minimize an increase in water levels.

We will keep you updated as to the flows the reservoirs are experiencing. If you plan to be on the water in the coming days, please be aware that higher flows within the reservoirs can also lead to larger amounts of debris, so exercise caution while boating.

### **May 8 Lake Alert: Governor Lifts Some Boating Restrictions**

This afternoon Governor McMaster rescinded Executive Order 2020-16, in regards to the beaching and rafting of boats.

With the lifting of these restrictions:

- Boats can now raft up with other boats.
- Boats may anchor at any time, not just for fishing purposes.

Though these particular restrictions are lifted, there are still several restrictions in place, and the Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock park areas, other than the boat ramps, remain closed.

Social distancing restrictions still remain in place, including restrictions on large group gatherings.

- Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock parks will continue to restrict access to anyone who is not putting in or retrieving a permitted boat from the water.
- All other park areas are closed to public access, including bank fishing at this time.

Our Lake Wardens will be posted at both locations to ensure that these restrictions are followed, and will ensure that maximum capacity is not exceeded.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we work to provide for safe boating recreation this weekend and moving forward.

### **May 5 Lake Alert: SCDNR plans maintenance stocking of sterile Triploid Grass Carp Wednesday, May 6**

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will be conducting a maintenance stocking of sterile Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1.

At this time, they will release 80 carp in Lake Bowen and 25 in Municipal Reservoir #1. This is strictly annual upkeep to account for the loss of carp from natural causes.

There is no need to worry about these fish dominating or disrupting the ecology of our lakes and the current aquatic life found there. Triploid Grass Carp are a sterile species and therefore cannot reproduce. They feed primarily on aquatic plants and algae and do not consume other fish.

Grass Carp are an effective biological tool to control nuisance vegetation and algae. They are used around the world to do so and are one of the approved methods used by the SCDNR.

Please remember, it is illegal to take Triploid Grass Carp from public waters. If you hook one while fishing, you must release it back into the same body of water or risk facing penalties.

There are a few ways to tell the difference between the common carp and the stocked Triploid Grass Carp. The major difference is the length of the dorsal fin. The Triploid Grass Carp has a significantly shorter fin than the common carp. They also do not have barbels ("whiskers") around the mouth.



We thank you in advance for being mindful of this and for helping us to keep the Triploid Grass Carp stock up, ultimately ensuring better drinking water quality for all.

**April 26 Lake Alert: Second Proactive Application of Algaecide Planned for April 27 and 28**

In an effort to ensure drinking water quality, Spartanburg Water is taking preemptive steps to combat algae growth in its reservoirs before the arrival of warmer weather.

A second algaecide application is scheduled for Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 on Monday, April 27, and Tuesday, April 28. The first treatment took place on Monday, March 30, and Tuesday March 31.

This is the time of year when we've previously seen an uptick in algae counts. SC-licensed experts will apply the algaecide based on recent reservoir monitoring and sampling, targeting areas where the most prolific algae growth occurs.

The application will employ an environmentally-friendly, peroxide-based product, which is certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a safe treatment method in drinking water resources.

A global engineering firm focused on water-related issues has developed prescriptions specific to Lake Bowen reservoir and Municipal Reservoir #1 to ensure the protection of the ecosystem and aquatic life that inhabits these reservoirs while specifically targeting the algae species known to contribute to unpleasant taste and odor.

By taking early action to combat algae growth, our goal – as always – is to provide customers with drinking water of the highest standards.

### **April 17 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water to Re-open Public Boat Landings**

In support of Governor Henry McMaster's recent modification to his Executive Order 2020-16, Spartanburg Water has made the decision to re-open the public boat landings at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock at noon today, for the purpose of launching and retrieving boats. Operating hours for the landings will be 6 a.m. to midnight. Fishing piers, pavilions, picnic areas, all other public park areas, including walking areas and restrooms will remain closed.

SCDNR guidance states that no more than two individuals who are not family members from the same household may be on a boat, with some exceptions. Family members who reside in the same household may boat together in numbers greater than two. In addition, vessels on public waterways of the state must remain underway at all times, unless exigent circumstances exist or anchoring to fish. The beaching or rafting of boats, whether on a sandbar, lakeshore, riverbank, or island, remains prohibited for the duration of the State of Emergency.

The Lake Wardens will continue to patrol both lakes and park areas, and will enforce, when necessary, directives that remain in place in the Governor's Executive Order.

The Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Park Offices are also still closed to public traffic, but watershed staff remain available by phone to provide assistance and answer questions Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **April 3 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Announces Its Responsibilities in Implementing the South Carolina Governor's Executive Orders 2020-13 and 2020-16**

In compliance with Governor Henry McMaster's latest executive order, Executive Order 2020-16, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in South Carolina, all public boat ramps, landings and fishing areas/piers at Spartanburg Water Systems Lake Bowen, Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Blalock are closed.

The governor's executive order authorizes and instructs the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), in consultation with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Attorney General's office, to provide any necessary supplemental guidance. SCDNR has released guidance that states, "Executive Order 2020-16 does not prohibit fishing, but it does restrict access to public facilities for recreational purposes" for the duration of the State of Emergency. "

Governor's Executive Order 2020-13, prohibits the gathering of people in groups of three (3) or more, to respond to the social distancing necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Spartanburg Water is committed to protecting the public health of our community and we are asking our neighbors around the reservoirs to obey the Governor's Executive Order and observe the limits on gathering of people in the buffer area and docks on Spartanburg Water property surrounding Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1.

The Spartanburg Water System Lake Wardens are commissioned law enforcement officers of the State of South Carolina and under the authorization contained in the Governor's Executive Order 2020-13 have the authority and duty to prohibit or disperse any congregation or gathering of people in groups of three (3) or more people on all Spartanburg Water System owned property around the reservoirs. Specifically this applies to groups of three (3) or more people gathering below the 720' MSL at Lake Blalock, 827' MSL at Lake Bowen, and below the 780' MSL at Municipal Reservoir #1.

Lake Wardens will continue to patrol the parks and lakes, and enforce, where necessary, the directives of the Governor's Executive Orders.

Spartanburg Water System is committed to protecting the public health of our community. This commitment is even more important during this State of Emergency. We ask that our neighbors on the reservoirs understand that SWS is working to protect the health of the people who live and work in Spartanburg County. In addition, adjacent lake property owners, their families and guests are asked to observe recommended social distancing on their private property as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic can be stopped, and we all must do our individual part to make this happen as soon as possible.

To reach the Lake Bowen Warden's Office, please call: (864) 592-2240; Lake Blalock Warden's Office: (864) 578-5442; and for emergency assistance, please dial 911 first, then call our Lake Warden Emergency Number at (864) 578-2764.

### **March 30 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Announces Public Boat Landings, Ramps and Park Closures**

In compliance with Governor Henry McMaster's latest Executive Order today in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, all public boat ramps and landings at Spartanburg Water's Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock are closed. Gates will remain closed until otherwise notified by Gov. McMaster's office.

Executive Order 2020-16, which orders the closure of all public access points to the state's beaches, as well as closure of all public boat ramps, landings and other access points on the state's lakes, rivers and waterways, was issued by the South Carolina governor after 5 p.m., Monday, March 30.

The Governor's Executive Order authorizes and instructs the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), in consultation with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Attorney General's office, to provide any necessary supplemental guidance.

### **March 29 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water is focused on the application of an environmentally friendly product to combat a potential taste and odor compound in Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1**

With warmer weather quickly approaching and water temperature rising in our drinking water reservoirs, Spartanburg Water is focused on proactively addressing the early growth of algae that produces the taste and odor compound geosmin.

As part of this focus, specific areas of Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 are scheduled for a preventive algae treatment application for taste and odor during the week of March 30, 2020.

The hydrogen-peroxide product selected for this treatment application has been previously used in our reservoirs without any side effects and has proven to be effective in suppressing algae producing geosmin. The areas treated in the reservoirs, with the hydrogen-peroxide product selected, may be used for recreation immediately after the application.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have been notified and approved the hydrogen-peroxide product selected and the method of application.

An algaecide prescription has been developed specific to Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1 for this application and the contractor selected will target predetermined areas in both reservoirs.

### **March 26 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Announces Modified Lake Park Hours and Additional Restroom Closure**

Hours of operation at Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock parks moving to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and remaining restrooms to be closed.

In an effort to protect public health, Spartanburg Water has closed all remaining public restrooms located at the boat landings at Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock.

Additionally, beginning tomorrow, Friday, March 27, at 7 a.m., both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock parks will

operate with modified hours. The new hours for all open areas of the parks, including boat landings, will be from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. until further notice. Gates will be locked promptly at 8 p.m.

The Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Park Offices are closed to public traffic, but watershed staff remain available by phone to provide assistance and answer questions Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lake Wardens continue to patrol the parks and lakes, and are also available to provide assistance.

### **March 24 Lake Alert: All Public Events Postponed at Spartanburg Water Lake Parks Until Further Notice**

In light of a new Executive Order by S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster, all public gatherings planned to take place at either of our public lake parks at Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock will be postponed until further notice.

As a reminder, our public landings, boat ramps, fishing piers and restrooms located at the landings will remain open.

The Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Park Offices are closed to public traffic, but watershed staff are still maintaining operations and are available by phone Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **February 11 Lake Alert: Lake Blalock Park reopens**

Lake Blalock Park will re-open tomorrow, Wednesday, February 12, at 6 a.m.

Please continue to exercise caution while enjoying the lake, and watch for any remaining debris.

Our Lake Blalock Wardens' Office is open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Please feel free to call between these hours – (864) 578-5442.

If you require emergency assistance, please call 911 and then dial our Lake Warden Emergency Number at (864) 578-2764.

### **February 10, 2020 Lake Alert: Current Reservoir Conditions**

With the recent severe weather, Spartanburg Water is continuing to monitor conditions on Lake Blalock and Lake Bowen.

Water levels have returned to normal levels in the reservoirs. The landing at Lake Bowen opened on Saturday for normal activities. We are keeping the landing at Lake Blalock closed due to the storm related debris floating in the water. We are recommending that adjoining neighbors at Lake Blalock Reservoir refrain from boating and if it is necessary to do so, please be cautious and aware of your surroundings to any hazards.

Rain is in the weather forecast over the next week for the Spartanburg area, with potentially heavy thunderstorms. Since the watershed is saturated from the recent storms, please be aware that increased rain over the next few days could cause hazardous conditions in the reservoirs.

Some of our neighbors at Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Reservoirs have experienced storm related damage to their dock or the buffer area. Our Watershed Management team is available to expedite the process if a dock requires maintenance, replacement or cleanup of storm debris and may be contacted at (864) 578-5442 or (864) 592-2240.

### **February 7 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks remain closed**

The Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock public parks remain closed today, Friday, February 7.

They will remain closed until further notice for safety.

Please stay safe and keep away from all Spartanburg Water docks and landings.

For assistance with any concerns, please call our Customer Service line at (864) 582-6375.

**2019**

**November 7 Lake Alert: DNR currently on Lake Bowen to evaluate fish**

Following a recent comment and concern expressed by a resident during our Commission Meeting on October 30 regarding the health of fish in Lake Bowen, our Spartanburg Water System team immediately connected with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

We had received communication from DNR that they would be reaching out to alert us to when they would be arriving to perform their testing of local fish populations, however, they arrived today without advanced notice.

We very much appreciate the rapidness of their response, but wanted to be sure to alert you of their presence on the lake today, as they will be humanely shocking small groupings of fish in order to study them.

After DNR completes their study they will share their findings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please always feel free to contact the Lake Bowen Warden's Office, 8515 Highway 9, Inman, SC 29349, (864) 592-2240.

**November 1 Lake Alert: Press Pause program ends soon**

On October 1, 2018, Spartanburg Water System (SWS) initiated the "Let's Press the Pause Button" program for our adjoining neighbors that provides an opportunity to gain authorization for any existing improvements—including both permanent and semi-permanent structures around Lake Bowen—that currently exist on Spartanburg Water System property below the 827' MSL Contour Line.

We want to remind you that the Press Pause program will end at midnight, December 1, 2019.

During this one-time only, 14-month period, adjacent property owners may request to "Press Pause" and establish a baseline of permits for the improvements below the 827' Spartanburg Water System property line. SWS staff will work with each adjoining property owner to review and establish a baseline of permits, licenses and/or agreements. All existing improvements, semi-permanent or permanent structures, as of October 1, 2018, that are in good condition, will receive an authorization to remain on SWS property.

All you have to do is visit our website or call our staff and request a "Press Pause Review." Our staff will assess Spartanburg Water's records with you directly to ensure all permits, licenses, and agreements have been filed and reflect the current owner.

You may register for "Press Pause" by using one of the following methods:

- Email: [presspause@spartanburgwater.org](mailto:presspause@spartanburgwater.org)
- Voice mailbox: 864-580-2095
- Register online at <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/pause> and click on the link.
- Stop by the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office and complete a request form.

Please note some permanent or semi-permanent structures on SWS property may not have been permitted by a past owner. This is your opportunity to ensure all authorizations are in place so the items may remain. The adjacent property owner will be responsible for paying all applicable fees associated with additional permits, licenses, and agreements that are issued during this period.

The Press Pause Program is voluntary, but remember, it's your chance to get improvements below the 827' contour authorized and placed under your name before they are subject to the Lake Bowen Policies and Procedures, effective now. The Commission passed this revised document at the October 30, 2019, meeting.

Any of the below items not permitted by the December 1 deadline are subject to removal. Structures included in the program are:

- Sea walls, in good condition
- Docks, in good condition
- Sitting areas/patios, benches, swings, patios, lawn furniture and picnic tables
- Planters

- Boat ramps, in good condition
- Playground equipment and structures
- Fire pit structures
- Walkways and/or all pathways (concrete, wooden, stepping stones, gravel, mulch, pavers, etc.)
  - Decks
  - Garages \*\*
  - Outbuildings \*\*
  - Retaining walls and/or stone/riprap shoreline stabilization
  - 2 or more docks on 1 adjoining parcel
  - Kayak racks
  - Irrigation systems
  - Light posts
  - Gazebos/pergolas
  - Swimming pools and/or hot tubs
  - Cement slabs
  - Statues and other decorative accents
  - Water spigots
  - 3 or more boat/PWC lifts
  - Flagpoles
  - Beaches
  - Recirculating fountains
  - Fences, in good condition

\*\*Garages and/or outbuildings are allowed only with an Encroachment Agreement. Our lake staff will be happy to help you with this during the inventory of all items you have requested to include in Press Pause. We know the improvements you have made are important to you. That's why it is important to us to work together to reach a resolution that will make allowances for improvements, while also protecting the integrity of our watershed.

**October 17 Lake Alert: Drought conditions spur need for ongoing algaecide treatment on Reservoir #1** With abnormally dry conditions persisting into early Fall, Spartanburg Water is preparing to initiate a second algaecide treatment on Municipal Reservoir #1.

The most recent application began on September 18, 2019. Our Watershed Staff has closely monitored the results of that treatment and its success in reducing a taste-and-odor causing algae byproduct, known as MIB.

Conditions, however, are still prime for the growth of certain blue-green algae species that produce this naturally-occurring constituent that poses a challenge to our watershed.

To combat the lingering algae that produce MIB in Reservoir #1, Spartanburg Water will apply another small, targeted, and precise application of algaecide on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

The treatment will utilize a product called Algimycin, which has the ability to penetrate dense algal mats growing near the bottom of the reservoir.

Spartanburg Water has used this product in past applications with great success and with no adverse side effects.

Algimycin is an environmentally-friendly algaecide certified by the EPA as a safe treatment for use in drinking water resources. It is viewed by the experts at SCDNR as among the best options for combating taste-and-odor causing compounds.

“Spartanburg Water is taking all precautions to effectively treat taste and odor issues in its potable water sources by utilizing a variety of industry standard compounds,” said Chris Page with the SCDNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program. “The methods are well thought out and meticulously planned to minimize any impacts to the aquatic ecosystem.”

“Spartanburg Water’s new computerized method of detection is cutting edge technology to specifically facilitate quick, safe and limited applications to minimal areas only as needed,” added Page.

Hazen and Sawyer, a global engineering firm focused on water-related issues, has developed a prescription specific to Reservoir #1 that is safe to the ecosystem and aquatic life.

“We have reviewed the existing data on key algal species in the lake at this time that may be causing taste and odor issues in the finished water and have selected Algimycin as the most appropriate algaecide,” said Doug Baughman, AVP, Senior Water Resource Scientist, Hazen and Sawyer. “This compound has been used successfully for seasonal algae management practices across the country and has been proven to be safe for both aquatic resources and human exposure.”

The prescription calls for a conservative dosage of Algimycin – even lower than amounts recommended in past applications.

The upcoming treatment is a targeted approach that will focus on three strategic areas in Reservoir #1 where experts have identified the greatest production of MIB.

Spartanburg Water is committed to ensuring superior water quality, and the management and treatment of algae is one of the many ways we do that. We are dedicated to following the recommended best practices to care for our reservoirs and to countering any challenges Mother Nature presents in order to serve the highest-standard drinking water.

For more information, you can visit [spartanburgwater.org](http://spartanburgwater.org) or call our Customer Service team at (864) 582-6375.

**October 9 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen levels are receding due to drought conditions**

Lake Bowen Adjacent Property Owners:

Lake Bowen residents may have noticed lower lake levels recently. This is due to the current drought conditions we are experiencing, as well as operational needs related to the hot, dry conditions. This trend could persist as the dry weather pattern continues.

Please be aware of shallower waters in some spots. Although not required, we highly recommend that any boats or personal watercraft be removed from the water should this dry weather continue.

Please contact our Lake Bowen Wardens' Office at (864) 592-2240 if there are specific questions regarding boats or other personal watercraft on the lake.

**September 17 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water proactively addressing elevated algae levels on Lake Bowen** In keeping with our mission to provide quality water to our nearly 200,000 customers, Spartanburg Water is set to begin an algaecide application on Lake Bowen starting Monday, September 23, 2019.

This treatment is a proactive step by Spartanburg Water to combat a rise in an algae byproduct, known as MIB, which is not uncommon to see during the hot summer months. While MIB does not pose a safety threat, if left untreated, it can impact the taste and odor of our drinking water.

Experts have developed an algaecide prescription specific to Lake Bowen using two hydrogen-peroxide based products. These products release oxygen as they perform work on algae and have been proven by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to be non toxic to the ecosystem and environmentally friendly.

The treatment is expected to last between four and five days and will not impact any lake activities during that time.

It is imperative that we implement this recommended best practice in order to continue serving our community to the highest standard. We take great pride in our reservoirs and are committed to caring for them in order to produce quality drinking water for our customers.

For more information, you can visit [spartanburgwater.org](http://spartanburgwater.org) or call our Customer Service team at (864) 582-6375.



### **September 17 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water proactively addressing elevated algae levels on Municipal Reservoir #1**

With temperatures reaching the mid-to-upper 90's over the last several weeks, Spartanburg Water has observed an increase in algae in Municipal Reservoir #1. While this is a common occurrence during the heat of summer, we are closely monitoring the levels of an algal byproduct, known as MIB, and taking a forward-thinking approach to combat it.

On Wednesday, September 18, 2019, contractors, hired by Spartanburg Water, will begin applying algaecide on Reservoir #1. The treatment process is expected to take three to four days.

Hazen and Sawyer, a global engineering firm focused on water-related issues, developed a prescription specific to Reservoir #1 that is non-toxic to the ecosystem. Contractors will target five treatment areas using a hydrogen-peroxide based product.

This product has been used successfully in the past without any side effects and has been proven by SCDNR to be a more environmentally-friendly treatment method. The product releases oxygen as it performs its work on algae, producing water as a byproduct.

Not only is this hydrogen-peroxide based product proven to be non-toxic to fish and other aquatic life, it is also safe for you. Experts consistently rank algaecide applications among the best lines of defense against algae growth.

If left untreated, elevated MIB levels could affect the taste and odor of our drinking water. We take this – and our dedication to serving quality water – seriously, and this proactive step is one of the many tools Spartanburg Water uses to help us achieve our mission.

### **September 6 Lake Alert: Land Access Agreement**

Please find an important update regarding a change to the Land Access Agreement (LAA) initiative.

Background:

Originally, the Land Access Agreement (LAA) was designed as a mechanism to ensure that future adjoining property owners on Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1 were made aware of the Spartanburg Water System Rules and Regulations prior to the purchase of property, and so they fully understood that Spartanburg Water System owns and manages the land immediately adjacent to the reservoirs.

The LAA would be added to a property's deed and recorded by Spartanburg County.

Why was the Land Access Agreement (LAA) created in the first place?

In the listening sessions with adjoining property owners conducted by Spartanburg Water in the summer of 2018, it was expressed by many that they “did not know” about Spartanburg Water’s ownership and management of the land immediately adjacent to the reservoirs, and that their realtors had not disclosed this information. By recording this information through the LAA on a property’s deed, this would ensure all information was disclosed to a buyer.

Why are we removing/dropping the Land Access Agreement (LAA) requirement?

The requirement to obtain a signed LAA, prior to acquiring any permit from Spartanburg Water System has been a point of concern for many adjoining landowners. Many of the comments received during the recent public comment period in August for the draft Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations pointed to an issue with the LAA.

What happens now?

Rather than wait for the full Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations document to be approved by the Commission, on September 6, 2019, the Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg announced that Spartanburg Water System would no longer require the Land Access Agreement as a prerequisite to any action, permitting or enforcement.

Spartanburg Water System will begin the process of removing the LAA's that have been recorded, and

returning the agreements to property owners that have not been recorded with the County.

For adjoining property owners on Lake Bowen, the LAA will no longer be a component of the “Press Pause program.”

### **July 31 Lake Alert: Watershed and Reservoir Rules and Regulations open for comments**

We wanted to let you know Spartanburg Water is opening a window of opportunity to submit public comments for a draft set of Rules and Regulations governing our drinking water reservoirs.

The Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations will serve as a framework to encourage the responsible use of these natural resources in order to help us achieve our top priority: to protect the integrity of the water quality and sustain a longterm supply of source water. These draft Rules and Regulations are a comprehensive document that apply to all three reservoirs.

In a continued effort to engage with our customers and community, Spartanburg Water will accept feedback on the draft Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations between August 1, 2019, and August 30, 2019.

Your input is important to us. In order to maximize participation during the public comment window, we have made the complete Rules and Regulations document readily available to you in several formats. You can read the draft as a digital version on our website, [www.spartanburgwater.org](http://www.spartanburgwater.org).

If you prefer to review a hard copy of the document, the digital version will be print-ready and we will also have copies available for review at each of the following Spartanburg County Library branches:

Downtown Spartanburg

Boiling Springs

Chesnee

Inman

Landrum

While we prefer you submit comments electronically through the online form that will be available on the SWS website, written comments will also be accepted by mail. If sending written comments, please make every effort to note the document section you are referencing. Written comments can be sent to:

Spartanburg Water System

Attn: Public Comments

P.O. Box 251 Spartanburg, SC 29304

Once the 30-day window for public comment closes, only comments with a name and address attached will be considered for review.

Pending approval by the Commission, the final rules and regulations will supersede all previous policies and will apply to any and all SWS-owned properties along the North Pacolet River, the South Pacolet River, the Pacolet River, Lake William Bowen Reservoir, Municipal Reservoir #1, and Lake H. Taylor Blalock Reservoir.

We all share a common goal: to preserve the reservoirs and our shared resources. Drinking water quality and water supply are critical to the prosperity and economic growth of Spartanburg County and the surrounding area.

We are confident that by opening this line of communication and working together, we will establish a set of Watershed and Reservoir Management Rules and Regulations that will ensure the continued preservation of our reservoirs for the use and recreation of our growing community.

### **June 19 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water purchases 72 acres of land along Municipal Reservoir #1**

In keeping with our mission to provide quality drinking water in a reliable manner, Spartanburg Water has purchased a piece of property along Municipal Reservoir #1 that will help protect our drinking water resources while maintaining affordable rates for our customers.

The 72 acre property along the South Pacolet River is located at 2290 Rainbow Lake Road, Inman, SC. It includes 3,000 feet of shoreline and a 2,400 square foot house.

There are several benefits to this purchase. Not only does it ensure the property will not be developed in a way that would impact Municipal Reservoir #1, it also allows Spartanburg Water to establish a centralized Watershed Management Field Station by converting the existing house on the property. Here, staff will be able to monitor and sample water from all three drinking water reservoirs from one central location, making it quicker and easier to respond to changing water quality conditions.

#### **May 31 Lake Alert: Experts to apply second round of environmentally-safe algaecides next week**

With the arrival of warmer temperatures, Spartanburg Water has observed a rise in algae that could affect the taste and odor of our drinking water if left untreated. Spartanburg Water, in an ongoing partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, is preparing to apply a second round of environmentally-friendly products to reduce algae levels in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. Next week's application will target specific areas where higher algae counts have been observed.

The application of algaecides is a familiar best management practice used to reduce the presence of taste-and-odor causing algae. What's new this year are the recommended algaecide products that our engineering experts and our partners at SCDNR said are proven to be even more environmentally safe.

Hazen and Sawyer, a global engineering firm focused on water-related issues, developed a prescription specific to Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 at a dosage that is non-toxic to the ecosystem and to the fish and aquatic plants that live there. According to the prescription developed by these experts, the upcoming algaecide application will consist of eight treatment areas on Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1, totaling 191.6 surface acres.

This treatment method is safe and will not impact lake activities. Water treated with these algaecides may be used for recreation immediately after they are administered.

Spartanburg Water will continue to perform extensive water quality monitoring and collect data regularly in order to optimize treatment. Algaecides are one of many tools we use to uphold our mission to provide quality drinking water in a reliable manner to the nearly 200,000 people we serve.

#### **May 14 Lake Alert: Experts to begin application of environmentally friendly products to combat algae growth**

With the arrival of warmer temperatures, Spartanburg Water has observed a rise in algae that could affect the taste and odor of our drinking water if left untreated. Spartanburg Water, in an ongoing partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, is taking a proactive and environmentally friendly approach to reduce algae levels in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1.

The application of algaecides is a familiar best management practice used to reduce the presence of taste-and-odor causing algae. What's new this year are the recommended algaecide products that our engineering experts and our partners at SCDNR said are proven to be even more environmentally safe.

"We have used these peroxide-based algaecides with no side effects," said Chris Page with the SCDNR-Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

Hazen and Sawyer, a global engineering firm focused on water-related issues, developed a prescription specific to Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 at a dosage that is non-toxic to the ecosystem and to the fish and aquatic plants that live there. According to the prescription developed by these experts, the upcoming algaecide application will consist of 21.3 acres on Lake Bowen and 76 acres on Municipal Reservoir #1.

This treatment method is safe and will not impact lake activities. Water treated with these algaecides may be used for recreation immediately after they are administered.

Spartanburg Water will continue to perform extensive water quality monitoring and collect data regularly in order to optimize treatment. Algaecides are one of many tools we use to uphold our mission to provide quality drinking water in a reliable manner to the nearly 200,000 people we serve.

**May 7 Lake Alert: SCDNR announces it will stock grass carp today**

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources announced this morning it will be stocking Triploid Grass Carp at Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1 today.

Spartanburg Water, in conjunction with SCDNR, is continuing a natural approach to control the growth of an invasive aquatic plant known as Bladderwort. This free-floating aquatic plant can attach to boat motors, affecting navigation and recreation and can potentially impact the long-term sustainability of our drinking water and treatment efforts.

Triploid Grass Carp feed on aquatic plants and are an effective biological tool to control nuisance vegetation and algae. These vegetarian fish are used around the world and are one of the approved methods used by SCDNR.

SCDNR-approved signs are now posted at public fishing areas and boat ramps as a reminder. For more information, please click [here](#).

**April 1 Lake Alert: A reminder to Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Reservoir #1 adjacent property owners**

Most property owners like to take advantage of the warmer weather to trim any vegetation around their home, however, we want to remind all adjacent property owners that Spartanburg Water has important policies in place for all vegetation around Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Reservoir #1 buffer areas.

No trees, brush or vegetation on Spartanburg Water System property may be cut, pruned or removed without a valid permit issued by our Watershed Management staff.

Thank you for helping to protect and preserve the buffers around Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Reservoir #1 that, in turn, protect water quality for all of us.

For more information about applying for a permit, please call or visit:

Lake Bowen Wardens' Office, 8515 Highway 9, Inman, SC 29349  
(864) 592-2240 or

Lake Blalock Wardens' Office, 1925 Sandy Ford Road, Chesnee, SC 29323 (864) 578-5442

**March 15 Update: Lake drawdowns end March 17**

Spartanburg Water initiated a lake level drawdown December 1, 2018, in order to allow adjoining property owners at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock the opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance while the water levels are down. However, the above-average rainfall over the past three months has resulted in Lake Bowen staying above "full-pool" level for most of the scheduled drawdown period with it currently just above "full-pool."

The drawdown was originally planned to end February 28, 2019, but a decision to extend the drawdown period through March 17 was based on evaluations of extended weather forecasts and consultation with our partners at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). SCDNR requested Spartanburg Water return the lakes to normal operating levels on or before April 1, 2019, to ensure no disruption of conditions during fish-spawning season. Due to Lake Bowen's current status, no action is necessary to adjust its level.

Staff will make the necessary adjustments to return Lake Blalock to "full-pool" status beginning Monday, March 18, 2019.

**March 8 Update: Lake drawdowns continue through March 17**

At the February 26, 2019, Commission of Public Works Meeting, Spartanburg Water staff announced that the lake drawdown period for Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock would be extended from March 1 to March 17.

The decision to extend the drawdown period through March 17 was based on evaluations of extended weather forecasts and consultation with our partners at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

SCDNR requested Spartanburg Water return the lakes to normal operating levels on or before April 1, 2019, to ensure no disruption of conditions during fish-spawning season.

On March 18, 2019, our staff will make the necessary adjustments to return the lakes to "full pool" status. We'll continue to keep you informed with additional Lake Alerts.

**March 1 Update: Lake drawdowns extended through March 17**

The surrounding area has continued to receive above-average rainfall causing Lake Bowen to remain above its "full-pool" level and Lake Blalock is just below "full-pool" level.

After careful evaluation of the extended weather forecast from various weather agencies and to allow adjoining property owners additional time to perform routine maintenance, Spartanburg Water has decided to extend the end of the drawdown period from March 1 to March 17.

Spartanburg Water System staff have consulted with our partners at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; they've requested that we return the lakes to normal operating levels on or before April 1, 2019, to ensure no disruption of conditions during fish-spawning season.

On March 18, 2019, Spartanburg Water System staff will make the necessary adjustments to return the lakes to "full pool" status. We'll continue to keep you informed with additional Lake Alerts.

We also wanted to answer a question that some of our neighbors have asked us:

Q: Why has Spartanburg Water System been able to lower Lake Blalock and not Lake Bowen?

A: Both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock were constructed to serve as drinking water reservoirs.

The most recent modifications to the Lake Blalock Dam feature a gate system that allows a more-controlled release of water, in addition to providing operators the ability to lower water levels more quickly within the Lake Blalock drinking water reservoir. However, because the Lake Bowen Dam was constructed much earlier—in 1959—the same gate-system technology for quicker releases used on Blalock isn't available.

#### **February 22 Update: Lake drawdowns extended due to increased rainfall**

As you may recall from previous Lake Alerts, Spartanburg Water System initiated a lake-level drawdown on December 1, 2018, with plans to continue it through February 2019. The target range of the drawdown is 2.5 to 3 feet below what is referred to as "full-pool level" for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock. The purpose of the drawdown is to allow adjoining property owners the opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance while the water levels are down.

Due to an extremely wet winter, and the current rainy period, Lake Bowen remains above its "full-pool" level. Lake Blalock has also gained 2.5 feet and is approximately six inches below "full-pool" level.

After careful evaluation of the extended weather forecast from various weather agencies and to allow adjoining property owners additional time to perform routine maintenance, Spartanburg Water has decided to extend the end of the drawdown period from March 1 to March 17.

Spartanburg Water System staff have consulted with our partners at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; they've requested that we return the lakes to normal operating levels on or before April 1, 2019, to ensure no disruption of conditions during fish-spawning season.

On March 18, 2019, Spartanburg Water System staff will make the necessary adjustments to return the lakes to "full pool" status. We'll continue to keep you informed with additional Lake Alerts.

In addition to today's update, we also wanted to answer a question that some of our neighbors have asked us:

Q: Why has Spartanburg Water System been able to lower Lake Blalock and not Lake Bowen?

A: Both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock were constructed to serve as drinking water reservoirs.

The most recent modifications to the Lake Blalock Dam feature a gate system that allows a more-controlled release of water, in addition to providing operators the ability to lower water levels more quickly within the Lake Blalock drinking water reservoir. However, because the Lake Bowen Dam was constructed much earlier—in 1959—the same gate-system technology for quicker releases used on Blalock isn't available.

#### **February 15 Lake Alert: Heavy rain in forecast impacts lake drawdowns**

Spartanburg Water initiated a lake level drawdown on December 1, 2018, with plans to continue it through February 2019. The target range of the drawdown is 2.5-3 feet below what is referred to as "full pool level" for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock.

As a result of drier weather in early February, Lake Bowen's water level has dropped around one-half foot below full pool, however, heavy rainfall is expected over the next week, which will likely result in Bowen's level rising once again to above full pool. This means Lake Bowen is not projected to reach its target level by February 28.

Spartanburg Water plans to remain on schedule with the drawdown and starting around March 1, staff will make adjustments to return the lakes to normal operating levels.

#### **February 8 Lake Alert: Level at Lake Bowen continues slight downtrend**

Spartanburg Water initiated a lake level drawdown on December 1, 2018, with plans to continue it through February 2019. The target range of the drawdown is 2.5-3 feet below what is referred to as "full pool level" for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock.

As a result of drier weather over the past two weeks Lake Bowen's water level has dropped around one-half foot below full pool, but the drier weather may have come a little too late. Heavy rainfall in December and January have resulted in Lake Bowen staying above full pool for most of the scheduled drawdown period. At the current rate of decline, Lake Bowen is only dropping around three inches per week. Lake Bowen is not projected to reach its target level by the end of February.

Spartanburg Water plans to remain on schedule with the drawdown and starting around March 1, staff will make adjustments to return the lakes to normal operating levels.

Even though Lake Bowen will not reach its intended target level during the current drawdown cycle, adjacent property owners may still find it beneficial to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance while the water levels are down.

#### **February 1 Lake Alert: Water Level at Lake Bowen Has Inched Down**

Spartanburg Water initiated a lake level drawdown on December 1, 2018, with plans to continue it through February 2019. The target range of the drawdown is 2.5-3 feet below what is referred to as "full pool level" for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock.

As a result of drier weather over the past week the Lake Bowen water level has slightly declined but remains near "full pool" level. While Lake Bowen level has decline this week, if wet weather patterns return, it may prevent Bowen from reaching or sustaining lower levels by February 28.

One of the main benefits of the drawdown is that it gives adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Spartanburg Water continues to recommend that any boats be moved from the water during this drawdown period. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

#### **January 25 Lake Alert: Rainfall continues to affect lake drawdowns**

Spartanburg Water initiated a lake level drawdown on December 1, 2018, with plans to continue it through February 2019. The target range of the drawdown is 2.5-3 feet below what is referred to as "full pool level" for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock.

Lake Blalock has been lowered to within the 2.5-3 foot range, however, above average rainfall has continued throughout the month of January and Lake Bowen has remained above "full pool." If these wet weather patterns continue, it may prevent Bowen from reaching or sustaining lower levels by February 28.

One of the main benefits of the drawdown is that it gives adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Spartanburg Water continues to recommend that any boats be moved from the water during this drawdown period. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

#### **Lake Alert: January 18 Drawdowns Update**

Reminder: Adjacent property owners on Spartanburg Water's reservoirs should be aware that we are conducting a lake level drawdown of 2.5-3 feet below Lake Bowen's and Lake Blalock's full pool level. Spartanburg Water initiated the lake level drawdown on December 1, 2018, and will continue it through February 2019. While Lake Blalock is within the target range, Lake Bowen is not.

Lake Bowen has dropped about 2 inches since the last rainfall event on January 13, which places Bowen at nearly full pool level. The watershed received a total of 66.8 inches of rain during 2018 with 19.73 inches of that rain falling in November and December alone. To date, 3.58 inches of rain have fallen in 2019, compared to 2.64 inches of rainfall in all of January 2018.

Consistent rains result in higher stream flow and lake levels, requiring a longer time to reach our target level for Lake Bowen. If projected wet weather patterns continue, it may prevent Spartanburg Water from reaching or sustaining lower levels in Lake Bowen.

The drawdown provides our adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Although not required, we continue to recommend that any boats be moved from the water during the drawdown period. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

#### **Lake Alert: January 11 Drawdowns Update**

**Reminder:** Adjacent property owners on Spartanburg Water's reservoirs should be aware that we are conducting a lake level drawdown of 2.5-3 feet below Lake Bowen's and Lake Blalock's full pool level. Spartanburg Water initiated the lake level drawdown on December 1, 2018, and will continue it through February 2019. While Lake Blalock is within the target range, Lake Bowen is not.



With drier weather over the past five days, Lake Bowen has dropped more than one-half foot since January 5, but is still approximately one-tenth foot above the full pool level. Our watershed received 1.43 inches of rain over the last week and we continue to watch predicted weather patterns. Consistent rains result in higher stream flow and lake levels, requiring a longer time to reach our target level for Lake Bowen. If projected wet weather patterns continue, it may prevent Spartanburg Water from reaching or sustaining lower levels in Lake Bowen.

The drawdown provides our adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

#### **Lake Alert: January 4 Drawdowns Update**

**Reminder:** Adjacent property owners on Spartanburg Water's reservoirs should be aware that we are conducting a lake level drawdown of 2.5-3 feet below Lake Bowen's and Lake Blalock's full pool level. Spartanburg Water initiated the lake level drawdown on December 1, 2018, and will continue it through February 2019. While Lake Blalock is within the target range, Lake Bowen is not.

Our watershed received 2.87 inches of rain over the last week and we continue to watch predicted weather patterns. Consistent heavy rains result in higher stream flow and lake levels, requiring a longer time to reach our target level for Lake Bowen. If projected wet weather patterns continue, it may prevent Spartanburg Water from reaching or sustaining lower levels in Lake Bowen.

The drawdown provides our adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Although not required, we continue to recommend that any boats be moved from the water during the drawdown period. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

#### **2018**

#### **Lake Alert: Thursday, December 27, Drawdowns Update**

**Reminder:** Adjacent property owners on Spartanburg Water's reservoirs should be aware that we are conducting a lake level drawdown of 2.5-3 feet below Lake Bowen's and Lake Blalock's full pool level. Spartanburg Water initiated the lake level drawdown on December 1. While Lake Blalock is within the target range, Lake Bowen is not.

We continue to watch weather patterns, with heavy rainfall forecast for Thursday evening and throughout Friday. We expect this to result in higher stream flow and lake levels, requiring a longer time to reach our target level for Lake Bowen. If projected wet weather patterns continue, it may prevent Spartanburg Water from reaching or sustaining lower levels in Lake Bowen.

The drawdown provides our adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Although not required, we continue to recommend that any boats be moved from the water during the drawdown period. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

#### **Lake Alert: December 21 Drawdowns Update**

**Reminder:** Adjacent property owners on Spartanburg Water's reservoirs should be aware that we are conducting a lake level drawdown of 2.5-3 feet below Lake Bowen's and Lake Blalock's full pool level.

Spartanburg Water initiated the lake level drawdown on December 1. While Lake Blalock is within the target range, Lake Bowen is not.

Over the past week, we have received 3.7 inches of rain in our watershed and more is projected over the next week. We expect this to require a longer time to reach our target level for Lake Bowen and, if projected wet weather patterns continue, it may actually prevent us from reaching or sustaining lower levels in Lake Bowen. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), over the last two weeks stream flows have been greater than 90 percent above normal when compared to the same days of the year throughout the historical record of measurement.

The drawdown provides our watershed management staff and adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Although not required, we continue to recommend that any boats be moved from the water during the drawdown period. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

#### **Lake Alert: December 14 Drawdowns Update**

You were recently informed that Spartanburg Water initiated a lake level drawdown project for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock on December 1. The target range is 2.5-3 feet for both lakes. While Lake Blalock is within the target range, Lake Bowen is not.

Recent rain and snow events have caused Lake Bowen levels to fluctuate. We expect this to require a longer time to reach our target level for Lake Bowen and, if projected wet weather patterns continue, it may actually prevent us from reaching or sustaining lower levels in Lake Bowen. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is currently predicting a 40-50 percent chance of above normal precipitation.

The drawdown provides our watershed management staff and adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Although not required, we continue to recommend that any boats be moved from the water during the drawdown period. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

#### **Lake Alert: Drawdown begins December 1 (November 30)**

Spartanburg Water is initiating a lake level drawdown project for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock beginning Saturday, December 1. Important details:

This process will require the lower level to remain in place until the end of February, providing our watershed management staff and adjacent property owners an opportunity to examine the shoreline and perform other routine maintenance.

Although not required, we recommend that any boats be moved from the water during the drawdown. Our wardens can answer any specific questions regarding boats on the lake.

A lot of different variables may cause lake level fluctuations during the drawdown period, the most significant being heavy rainfall. This may result in a longer time to reach our target drawdown level and, if wet weather patterns persist, may actually prevent us from reaching or sustaining these lower levels in Lake Bowen.

The drawdown will slowly lower Lake Bowen's and Lake Blalock's standard, or "full pool," heights by approximately two-and-a-half to three feet.

For Lake Bowen FAQ's about watershed maintenance and lake levels, click [here](#).

For Lake Blalock FAQ's about watershed maintenance and lake levels, click [here](#).

For more information, visit [spartanburgwater.org](http://spartanburgwater.org) or call our Lake Bowen Wardens' office at (864) 592-2240.

Spartanburg Water's number-one priority continues to be the fulfillment of our mission to provide quality water in a reliable manner. Reliance on facts allows us to address this issue and get back to the business at hand: Ensuring the delivery of safe, quality water to more than 200,000 people.

#### **Lake Alert: Land sale reports are false (November 2)**

A small number of our customers have called to ask us about a rumor that Spartanburg Water has orchestrated the sale of an unspecified tract of land to an outside entity without the public's knowledge--in fact, we've heard reports that an environmental group--and even a local fish camp--have either bought or sold property in transactions behind closed doors. These claims are false and have no basis in fact.

To be clear, Spartanburg Water is not selling any property around any of our reservoirs, nor have we purchased any additional property.

Spartanburg Water's number-one priority continues to be the fulfillment of our mission to provide quality water in a reliable manner. Reliance on facts allows us to address this issue and get back to the business at hand: Ensuring the delivery of safe, quality water to more than 200,000 people.

#### **Lake Alert: 120K more sunfish added Friday to restock reservoirs (October 19)**

More than 120,000 sunfish were released into Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir Number One on Friday in the latest phase of a restocking partnership between the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Spartanburg Water.

Officials said on Friday afternoon that about 60,000 sunfish were released in Lake Bowen, and another 60,000 sunfish in Municipal Reservoir Number One. The restocking plan was first put into action with the release of 85,000 bluegills, more commonly known as bream, on October 8. 322,000 were released Thursday, October 18. SCDNR biologists recently conducted an assessment to determine what species would benefit from a restocking.

Last May, more than 200,000 fish died on both reservoirs.

"We're grateful to our partners at SCDNR for their support and encouragement in this continued strategy to restock our lakes," said Sue G. Schneider, Chief Executive Officer of Spartanburg Water. "This is another exciting step in a collaborative process that strengthens our watershed and brightens our collective future."

Spartanburg Water's reservoirs provide drinking water to a population of more than 200,000 people.

#### **Lake Alert: Fish restocking continues Thursday on Lake Bowen, Reservoir #1 (October 18)**

Fish restocking efforts continue on Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1 Thursday, October 18, officials from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources have announced.

Thursday's release of approximately 100,000 red ear sunfish, 50,000 per location, signals the next step in SCDNR's partnership with Spartanburg Water to replenish the lakes. Last May, more than 200,000 fish, primarily bluegill, more commonly known as bream, died in both Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1.

This is the second release by SCDNR in the last 10 days, Spartanburg Water officials said. 85,000 bluegill were released into Lake Bowen on October 8 by SCDNR.

The restocking will not have an impact on any recreation planned for Thursday.

#### **Lake Alert: Reservoir levels lowered for increased rainfall (October 10)**

Spartanburg Water is taking steps to safely lower the water levels on Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Reservoir #1 today and through the next several days in preparation for potential problems caused by heavy rainfall from Hurricane Michael.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control advised owners and operators of reservoirs statewide October 9 to take a precautionary step by lowering water reserves to accommodate any additional rainfall.

Oversaturated soil has the potential to increase the runoff to South Carolina's ponds and lakes, according to DHEC.

Spartanburg Water officials will continue to monitor lake levels and weather patterns closely in order to ensure adequate supply of drinking water to its 200,000 customers.

#### **Lake Alert: Fish restocking begins Tuesday on Lake Bown (October 8)**

Fish restocking efforts will begin in earnest on Lake Bowen as early as Tuesday afternoon, officials from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources have announced.

Tuesday's release of approximately 85,000 bluegill signals the next step in SCDNR's partnership with Spartanburg Water to replenish the lakes. Last May, more than 200,000 fish, primarily bluegill, more commonly known as bream, died in both Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1.

Dan Rankin, SCDNR's Upstate regional fisheries biologist, said the timing of Tuesday's release was based on availability—the agency partners with South Carolina-based hatcheries that supply restocking efforts like these.

"The great thing is that we're ready to begin the process and the fish are available," Rankin said. "This restock will focus solely on bluegill, which was the primary species in Lake Bowen affected by what occurred earlier in the spring."

Other species affected by the May fish loss may be stocked at a later date, Rankin said.

Ken Tuck, Spartanburg Water's Director of Water Treatment, said the precise location of the release will be dependent on the weather. A 30-percent chance of rain is likely in the later part of the afternoon.

"We're excited to have this great news and looking forward to continuing to work with our partners at SCDNR," Tuck said.

Last month, SCDNR biologists conducted an assessment of both lakes affected last May to determine what species would benefit from a restocking. Rankin and Tuck said that more updates about next steps, including any restocking efforts on Municipal Reservoir #1, will be made as plans are developed. The restocking will not have an impact on any recreation planned for Tuesday, both said.

"Thanks to SCDNR, important research is being conducted that will not only help us avoid another fish loss, but will also allow us to work together in this replenishment of fish stocks in our lakes," Sue G. Schneider, Spartanburg Water's Chief Executive Officer, said. "I'm confident in the path that we have forged together, and I'm honored to be a part of these efforts to ensure a bright future—one in which our precious natural resources are protected and conserved for our children and grandchildren."

#### **Lake Alert: Fish restock study begins this week (September 10)**

SCDNR researchers on hand to collect samples, determine next steps

A study to determine the need for a potential fish restocking effort on two of Spartanburg Water's reservoirs begins this week.

Researchers with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will conduct the first phase of an assessment on Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir Number One. A team of biologists will be collecting samples that will help the agency calculate a restocking rate following a major fish loss that occurred on both reservoirs last May.

Samples will be collected by a process known as "electrofishing," which injects a minor electrical charge into the water that temporarily stuns fish so that they can be collected and safely returned to the water with little stress or injury. Electrofishing is the safest and most effective method for these kinds of assessments.