

Healthy Lakes

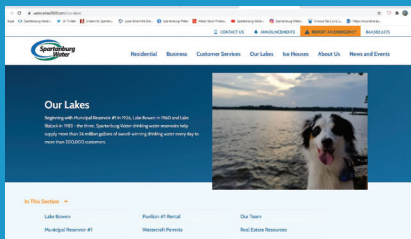
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

News and information
brought to you by Spartanburg Water.

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



Check out our new website!



The new and improved
www.spartanburgwater.org
site is now up and running,
and all the important
information you need is
just a click away!

Be sure to visit the “Our
Lakes” section, where you
can find rules and regula-
tions, permitting information,
pavilion rental information,
and a special section
dedicated to anyone looking
to buy or sell a reservoir-
adjacent home!

Reminder to Renew!

It's that time of the year again... time to renew your
boat permits for the 2021 season!

Boat permits will be on sale starting March 15, 2021.

If you have previously purchased a boat or watercraft permit, please keep an eye out in the mail. Spartanburg Water will be sending you a letter the last week of February.

Review the form, and if no changes are needed, then send back the signed letter – along with a check or money order for the permit fee.

If any changes are required, please call the Lake Bowen Office at (864) 592-2240.

If this is your first time permitting a boat or watercraft – or if you prefer to renew your boat permit in-person – the process will look a bit different this year.

To assist you with the permitting process, while keeping you safe, Spartanburg Water has installed contactless, walk-up windows at both the Lake Bowen (8515 Hwy. 9, Inman) and Lake Blalock Offices (1925 Sandy Ford Rd., Chesnee).

The walk-up windows – with a Plexiglas divider and slot – will both be open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Permits can be bought for seasonal or daily use. Fees are based on horsepower and residence. A full breakdown of pricing is available at www.spartanburgwater.org.

Please remember, in order to avoid a citation, a current permit sticker must be purchased and properly placed on your vessel no later than April 1, 2021. Watercraft without valid permits are not allowed on the lakes.

Permits are good through March 31 the following year. For boat permit renewal questions, please contact the Lake Bowen Office at: (864) 592-2240 or the Lake Blalock Office at: (864) 578-5442.

Other important reminders regarding boat permits:

- In addition to your Spartanburg Water permit, you will also need a state registration from SCDNR displayed on your watercraft.
- State registrations must be renewed annually.



Before hitting the water, shore up your boater ed!

Our lake wardens are dedicated to making sure you stay safe on the water this year.



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Boater Education Program teaches the fundamentals of safe and responsible boating, and is the best way to learn about boating law.

Boaters under the age of 16 are required to pass an approved boater education course before operating a personal watercraft unsupervised. Additionally, the class may make you eligible for a discount on your boat or personal watercraft insurance.

For more information on class availability, please visit:
<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/education/boated.html>

For additional questions, please call our Lake Bowen Office
at (864) 592-2240.

Sedimentation and Erosion Response

Storm water runoff is a major challenge when it comes to caring for our watershed. That's why Spartanburg Water has turned to you – the community – for help identifying problematic areas where this is taking place.

We asked for your submissions to pinpoint areas where excess sedimentation and erosion may be entering our drinking water sources, and many of you have responded.

Spartanburg Water has taken action to address the areas of concern you have identified in an effort to reduce the amount of sedimentation from storm water runoff into our reservoirs.

For example, we have installed Silt Soxx – or barriers – in multiple locations around the reservoirs to help filter sedimentation from storm water currently entering the lakes. This tactic has shown to be an effective tool to prevent the introduction of excess sedimentation and nutrients into the reservoirs.

We thank those of you who have already given input on impacted areas to address, and we want to remind you to send pictures of trouble spots, along with comments and concerns, to healthylakes@spartanburgwater.org – so we can continue to work to help control storm water runoff into our drinking water reservoirs.



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Healthy Lakes

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

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Are you ready for the upcoming Boating Season?

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

Boating Permits

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

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

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

Spartanburg Water's official start to boating season begins each year on April 1. Your permit is good from April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022. Be sure

to have your permit sticker applied in the proper location on your watercraft by this date for it to be considered a valid permit and to avoid a fine.



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



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

State Permits

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

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

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

Safety First

Preparing for a safe day on the water is essential whether you are using a motorized or non-motorized watercraft. This

includes ensuring everyone in your party is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket and you have a horn or whistle while on board.

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



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

Welcome to Our New Lake Wardens

Richard Crocker



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

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

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

Caleb Owens



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Maintaining Your Septic System

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

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

Pumping is needed when solids fill from one-third to one-half of the tank. But, the only way to know when this occurs is to have your tank regularly inspected by a licensed septic contractor, sometimes referred to as a licensed septic installer. If your system requires pumping, the contractor will recommend pumping by a licensed septic pumper. A licensed septic pumper is only permitted to remove and dispose of the contents of a septic system, not to inspect it, per SCDHEC regulations.



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

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

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

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

Healthy Lakes

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

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Lake Alerts: Important Information Delivered Digitally!

Lake Alert

Want to get important information about Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock, and Municipal Reservoir #1 delivered straight to your e-mail inbox? Remember to sign up for our free Lake Alerts! This is the quickest way to receive information about issues related to our drinking water reservoirs.

Visit spartanburgwater.org and click News and Events to register.

A New and Improved Lake Bowen Park

With your family's safety and convenience in mind, Spartanburg Water began work on the Lake Bowen Park Improvement Project, and we're happy to report some exciting changes for park visitors.



You'll notice added parking for vehicles without boat trailers, as well as a designated parking area for vehicles with boat trailers. We have also added an additional boat ramp for motorized watercraft and designated an existing boat ramp in the upper loop of the park for the use of non-motorized watercraft.

By centralizing motorized boating and water activities and providing a separate space for visitors enjoying the park for walking, picnicking or fishing – the new flow of traffic and parking will make the park safer and easier to navigate. A new ramp and special safety handrails will also make Lake Bowen Park more accessible for our visitors.

As part of the next phase of the project, strategic landscaping will be performed to better protect Lake Bowen from erosion and storm water runoff. This will prevent excess nutrients from entering our largest drinking water reservoir.

To learn more about the project and ongoing updates, please visit:
<https://www.spartanburgwater.org/bowen-project-info>



Sunglasses? Check! Sunscreen? Check! Life jackets?

Life jackets are one of the most important items to bring along while boating this summer. The key is not just wearing them – but wearing them correctly. Here are a few reminders to make sure you're doing so:

INSPECT IT. → TRY IT ON. → ZIP IT, OR BUCKLE ALL STRAPS. → WEAR IT.

All life jackets should be Coast Guard approved (look for the stamp on the life jacket) and in good condition (no rips, waterlogging, or mildew).

Put it on to check for fit. Check the label on the life jacket for weight and size limits. Remember, life jackets for adults do not work for children.

Discard any life jacket with torn fabric or loose straps.

South Carolina requires everyone on board to have a proper fitting and serviceable life jacket.

Wondering how your life jacket should look?

Here are some major faults with fit:



X Too Big



X Too Small



X Not Buckled



X Buckled Incorrectly



✓ Correct

Life jackets are appropriately named, as they do just that – save lives; so no matter what style you choose or what activity you're doing, please remember to be responsible and wear one at all times while on the water!

Summer Boating Safety

The water is warm and the sun is shining! It's the perfect weather for a day on the lake! But as you soak up the summer, it's imperative to do so safely.

There are several important precautions to take before even getting out on the water. Some of these steps include:

- **Filling out a float plan.**
This includes pertinent information about your boat, your route, and the passengers on board.
- **Checking the weather.**
- **Letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.**



Another crucial step is making sure you have all the required safety equipment on board, such as:

- **Personal flotation devices** – enough for each passenger, US Coast Guard approved and in good condition.
- **Throwable flotation cushion** – in case someone goes overboard.
- **Fire extinguisher** – required by law, dependent on the size of your boat.
- **Navigation lights** – on between official sunset and sunrise.
- **Sound device** – horn, air horn, whistle.

It's important to not only take responsibility for your personal safety but to also keep an eye out for others. If you see a potentially dangerous situation, please contact the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office at 864-592-2240 or the Lake Blalock Wardens' Office at 864-578-5442. Safety is the top priority as you kick, back, relax, and recreate on the reservoirs this summer.



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Lake Alerts: Important Information Delivered Digitally!

Lake Alert

Want to Stay Updated? Sign-up for Lake Alerts!

To keep our contiguous neighbors and boat permit holders updated on the latest reservoir news, Spartanburg Water will periodically send Lake Alerts via e-mail to our subscribers. Whether sharing inclement weather and boating notifications, or letting you know about an upcoming DNR visit – we want you to be informed. Subscribe today by sending an e-mail to healthylakes@spartanburgwater.org.



Thinking About Trimming? Be Sure to Call Before You Cut

As the winter approaches, and vegetation and trees begin to shed their many layers of foliage in preparation for the season, you may want to take advantage of the cooler weather to do some yardwork.

But, prior to beginning any raking or trimming, be sure to remember the following:

- Spartanburg Water property extends to the 827' Mean Sea Level (MSL) Contour Line around Lake Bowen, 720' MSL around Lake Blalock, and the 780' MSL around Municipal Reservoir #1. This buffer area around all three reservoirs is owned by Spartanburg Water System, and is governed by set Rules and Regulations.
- Any trimming, cutting, or removal of vegetation within the buffer area surrounding Lake Blalock requires a valid permit and approval by Spartanburg Water System, before any activity can occur.
- For those residents of Lake Bowen, only those "Authorized Maintenance Activities" as described in the Lake Bowen Rules and Regulations document are allowed without a permit.
- Leaf raking, blowing and/or burning is prohibited in the buffer area. All yard debris from the contiguous landowner's property should be picked up and disposed of outside of the buffer zone.
- For contiguous landowners around Municipal Reservoir #1, the buffer area must remain in its natural, vegetative state, except for a permitted and approved walkway.



Our watershed staff and wardens are always more than happy to help answer any questions and assist with permits for tree and vegetation management.

To view the Rules and Regulations for all three reservoirs and contact information for our Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Park Offices, please visit our website: www.spartanburgwater.org/our-lakes



Mark Your Calendar – Irrigation Permit Renewals

With the holidays quickly approaching and your mailbox starting to fill up with cards, catalogs and gifts, be sure to stay on the lookout for your yearly irrigation permit renewal letter that will arrive in December.

As part of Spartanburg Water Land Permits, irrigation permits are required for those adjacent properties to Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock, and must be renewed each year – or must be removed for non-renewal. Irrigation permits are not allowed for properties adjacent to Municipal Reservoir #1.

New to the area and interested in installing irrigation?

For those who are interested in installing irrigation on their property, a Land Permit Application can be completed and submitted to either the Lake Bowen or Lake Blalock Warden's Office. For questions, please call the watershed staff at Lake Bowen (864) 592-2240, or Lake Blalock (864) 578-5442.

To access the application, as well as pricing information and all Rules and Regulations governing our three reservoirs, please visit: www.spartanburgwater.org/our-lakes

Picnic Pavilion Rentals

At this time, Spartanburg Water has decided to allow for first-come, first-served use of our picnic pavilions at both Lake Blalock and Lake Bowen parks, rather than accepting reservations.

We appreciate your support, and hope you will still take advantage of the picnic pavilions while enjoying both of our beautiful lakeside parks.

For more information, please contact our Lake Bowen Office (864) 592-2240, or Lake Blalock Office (864) 578-5442.



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