



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mobile District

News Release

Release No. 07-09

Contacts: E. Patrick Robbins 251-690-2512
ervin.p.robbins@sam.usace.army.mil

For Immediate Release:

Marilyn Phipps 251-690-2506
marilyn.j.phipps@sam.usace.army.mil

News Release: www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/

Allatoona Lake to launch new Fish Habitat Improvement Program

Mobile, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Allatoona Lake Project would like to announce a new partnership between the Corps, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and local volunteers on a program designed to develop and improve fish habitat around the lake.

The project will be the largest of its kind on Allatoona Lake and will consist of identifying, marking and cutting selected trees on the shoreline. These trees are placed in the lake bed to create fish attractors and are anchored to the shoreline for stability. The fallen trees will attract all species of game fish from bluegill and sunfish in the shallows, crappie and bass in the middle, to catfish in the deeper waters. They will provide game fish, such as largemouth bass, spotted bass and crappie, a safe habitat to bed, feed, and reproduce. This will concentrate fish in the attractor areas, making it easier for anglers.

DNR and Corps personnel have marked trees to be cut in several areas around the lake including Cooper Branch, Red Top Mountain State Park, Clear Creek and Allatoona Pass. “The trees being cut by DNR and the Corps are either dead or dying trees with exposed roots,” says Park Ranger Terrell Stoves, overseeing the project for the Corps. “These trees would eventually fall creating erosion problems on the shoreline.”

– more –

– 2/2/2/2 Allatoona Lake

Allatoona is the oldest multi-purpose project in the U.S Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division. The lake lost much of its tree cover prior to the lake being filled. Most of the trees and stumps were cleared and burned. “Natural decay and erosion through the years has rotted the remaining few stumps and branches,” says DNR Fisheries Biologist Jim Hakala. “Fluctuation of water levels, caused by the dam, also impact vegetation on the lake.”

“For this project to be successful, we depend on the help of local volunteers and businesses,” says Park Ranger Chris Purvis, public involvement coordinator for the Corps on Allatoona Lake. “Currently, 30 volunteers have enlisted for the project, and the Acworth Wal-Mart and Georgia Power Plant Bowen have donated supplies.” Volunteers will be organized by local fishermen and team leaders Mike Bucca, Bruce Miller, Ray Bowin and Matt Driver. The Corps and GA DNR are looking for more volunteers to help on the project.

For more information on Allatoona Lake or to volunteer for this project, please contact the Allatoona Project Management Office at (678) 721-6700.

– end –