

Page 6 from the Allatoona Log, February 2010.

The following article appeared in the Feb issue of the:



Allatoona Log, Flotilla 2-2, USCG-Auxillary' monthly newsletter

Marine Safety and Environmental Protection– William "Bill" Terhune, FSO-MS

How time flies...the month of January is already torn off the calendar and Valentines Day is just around the corner. With all the rain this winter Lake Allatoona is rapidly filling up toward full pool and we can look forward to a great boating season. After several years of drought I know we all regard water as a very precious resource which deserves our protection and conservation.

As I mentioned last month, education would play a key role in the Marine Safety/Environmental Protection (MS/EP) program. I will be looking for some classes that will help educate us about how we can help prevent water pollution to our local lakes and streams. But it is not enough just to tell people not to pollute our natural resources, you have to give them the tools to do the job and make a difference. For example the "Reel in and Recycle" program provided the tools in the form of "Drop Boxes" for fishermen to deposit their unwanted fishing lines so they don't end up discarded in our lakes and streams.

Another very serious issue for the lakes and streams is pollution from human sewage, some of which comes from careless boaters and campers. We also know how strict the marine toilet laws have become. By providing education and access to the proper tools, this kind of pollution can be greatly reduced.

Last month while on duty at the "Atlanta Boat Show", I saw a new product "Flex-Toilet" that would be an excellent tool for boaters and campers alike to consider. This product is easy to use, environmentally "green", compliant with current laws, inexpensive and adaptable for use with many kinds of waste receptacles. This product is simply a bag that is used as a liner for your boat or camper "head". When used, the bag will absorb the liquid waste and its odors into a solid gel. The solid content can then be easily disposed of as an odorless, leak free, compact discrete package along with regular household waste. To find more information about this, and similar products, use your favorite web search engine and keywords such as "compliant with in water toilet laws", or "easy to dispose of in approved manner".

As new products come on the market, we have to ensure that our education programs encourage sportsmen of all kinds to be responsible and use these kinds of products to protect our environment. By using these products we will not only be protecting our valuable natural resources but also ensuring good health for all our neighbors.