



**Staghorn Plantation Estates
Homeowners Association**
P.O. Box 267
Nicholson, GA 30565

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

April 2026

Staghorn Lake – A Wildlife Sanctuary

One of the real benefits of being a member of Staghorn Plantation Estates is the ability to fish in Staghorn Lake. Homeowners, our lake is well stocked with Bluegills, Bass and even Catfish. The Lake is the home to many species This includes beavers and a great variety of birds, like the Kingfisher shown below.



Belted Kingfishers nest along our shoreline in vertical dirt or sand banks, and perch on branches, wires, or docks to hunt for fish. They dive for their prey straight into the water. It is an amazing sight to see.

Wildlife thrives on Staghorn Lake. This is the breeding season for the Great Blue Heron and other native fowl. You can see them in pairs along the lake shoreline and in trees surrounding the lake. Be careful not to disturb their nesting grounds often in trees, shrubs and right on the shore.

Fish from our Fishing Dock

Our Fishing Dock was upgraded in 2024 by Lighthouse Marine Solutions with new moisture resistant boards and floats.



Upgraded Fishing Dock

We spent \$28,000 in two years improving our docks. It is an important investment in the care and beautification of the Staghorn Recreation Area.

Lake Water Quality Rated as Excellent

SPEHOA uses your dues to ensure the safety and quality of Staghorn Lake. We have contracted with Garrett Pond Resources to maintain our lake. Currently, Garrett visits the lake monthly.

We also work with the UGA Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories, Feed and Environmental Water Lab to ensure that Staghorn Lake water is healthy and safe.

Time to Go Fishing

Our fish population is thriving. Staghorn Lake fish have grown since last year. Bluegills are 8-10 inches and largemouth bass are 2-4 pounds. The fish are spawning on their own without encouragement.

In May 2023, 1,500 1-2 inch Large-Mouth Bass were added to Staghorn Lake by Garrett Pond Resources. The Bass is a great sport fish and is fun to catch. They are easy to maintain because Bass tolerate both hot and cold-water temperatures.



George Reece caught this 3 lb. Bass from his dock on Staghorn Lake.

Georgia is considered the "Black Bass Capital of the World." Bass feeds on Bluegills and Shad. Bluegills were reintroduced into Staghorn Lake in 2022 when 35,000 1–2-inch Bluegills were added to the lake. Over 8,000 Threadfin Shad were also added in May 2023.

We also have Threadbare Catfish in our lake. They likely entered our lake transported downstream during floods or introduced as eggs on the legs or feathers of waterbirds. Catfish are highly resilient and even capable of surviving out of water for short periods.

They are known as the “cleanup crew” because Catfish are bottom feeders and eat organic debris that could damage the substrate where organisms live by preventing materials from decomposing and thus increasing harmful ammonia levels.



Threadbare Catfish caught by George Reece.

A Final Word

Your HOA Board of Directors thanks all of you who paid your dues in 2025-2026 and volunteered to serve the community. We can continue to enhance our community when you show you care.

Craig Gieler – Secretary SPEHOA