



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

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

October 2026

Staghorn Lake Update

One of the benefits of being a dues paying member of Staghorn Plantation Estates is the opportunity to enjoy a day at the lake. That means different things to each homeowner.



A Family Enjoying a Summer Lake Visit

You might take grandkids swimming in shallow water; you could bring a deck chair and lounge on the beach; you could bring your fishing pole and catch fish, or you might take a jump off our dock. Why not consider fishing from your boat with no more than a 10 hp engine? How about enjoying a paddle board or kayaking. Staghorn Lake has something for everyone.

Members have access to beach area bathrooms that can be used for changing and an outdoor shower to get the sand off kiddies' feet. You can also choose to sit in the shade under one of the three covered pavilions.

How Safe is Our Lake Water?

The Staghorn HOA takes good care of Staghorn Lake. It is our community's greatest asset. Carla and Andy Fowler work with the **UGA Feed and Environmental Water Lab** to get our water tested every other month. The cost is covered by your all-important dues payment.



UGA Environmental Lab Specialist

AESL tests Staghorn Lake water for bacterial content by providing an estimate of the concentration of bacteria in a sample, expressed as MPN/100 mL.

The US-Environmental Protection Agency recommends **235 MPN/100mL** as the single-sample **maximum** for E. coli in recreational water (swimming and bathing). We are way below that level with just **20 MPN/100 mL** as of our most recent test this summer.

How Do We Protect the Lake?

Your SPEHOA has a contract with **Garrett Pond Resources** which is an Oconee County, GA based company specializing in pond management and stocking. Garrett Pond Resources works with us to customize a stocking and/or management plan that will assist in achieving desired fishing experiences and aesthetic appeal.



David Garrett takes time for Bass Fishing

David Garrett visits Staghorn Lake monthly. He gets in his boat and trolls the bottom of the lake and visibly inspects for weeds. For the past two years triploid grass carps have been controlling weeds and eliminating our use of chemicals.

David and his business employee Brandon Filaski are experts in lake management with clients with lakes from one half to one hundred-acre lakes. According to David, each lake is unique and requires its own aquatic needs.

In the case of Staghorn Lake, our mix of Largemouth Bass, Blue Gills, Shell Crackers,

Shad and Triploid Grass Carp is ideal, but that might not last forever.

David grew up in Hawkinsville, Georgia. That's about a 2 ½ hour drive from here. David, his wife and children aged nine and two moved to Watkinsville, GA in 2010. His wife is a speech therapist.

David and Brandon are graduates of the prestigious Aquatic Sciences program at the University of Georgia which focuses on ecology and management of aquatic environments.

David still has strong ties to Hawkinsville where his parents live. He also buys fish from Owens&Williams Fish Farm. That is where all our Staghorn Lake fish come from. This is the only fish farm in Georgia that offers **triploid grass carp**, the only carp authorized in Georgia because it can't breed.



Triploid Grass Carp

When I asked David about any tips he could offer me about protecting the lake, he said, "If you catch a bass less than 14 inches don't throw it back!" Clean and cook it.

A Final Word

Our Board of Directors plays a critical role in making our community an outstanding place to live. Come join us. Just email me at craig.gieler@gmail.com.

Craig Gieler – Secretary SPEHOA