

Apology to Jeff Jackson

Jeff Jackson contributes informative and often off-beat occasional columns, under the title *In the woods* (now with one of his delightful drawing on the head), to *The Oglethorpe Echo*. He is often consulted by us locals about a wide range of topics. He is the first person to talk to about an odd bird or animal or any aspect of the local ecology.

Prior to the LOA Board meeting, he was contacted by several persons who were trying to discover upstream flow rates, to understand stream hydrology and the effect of the long-term drought. As usual, he was very helpful. For instance, he knew how to get to the point at which Upper Goulding Creek enters Lake Oglethorpe and led at least one expedition there. He may have been asked about various proposals for releasing water from the lake and desired flow rates of this water as it entered downstream Goulding Creek. The motivations for, and predicted results of, what became a request for release of water from Lake Oglethorpe was a Natural Story and it was incorporated into a broader column about streams and the drought that he was almost certainly thinking about or had already written.

The day after the 22 August 2007 LOA Board Meeting, his column *Drying streams* appeared in the *Echo* (*The Oglethorpe Echo*, Thursday, August 23 2007, Page 5; Document 4.2.1). In it he: describes a lake very similar to Lake Oglethorpe; assumes a particular outflow *rate*, and; finds that at that rate the lake would drain in two and one-half weeks. I have added formatting not in the original.

Suppose you controlled the water in a 60 acre lake that averages eight feet deep. The total water volume is 480 acre feet of water. An acre foot is the volume of water that would cover an acre a foot deep - about 43,000 cubic feet.

If you opened the valve to let water *flow a foot deep into a streambed ten feet wide at the rate of a mile an hour* it would drain the entire lake in about two and a half weeks.

In a letter to the LOA membership (Document 4.6.1.), which spoke to many issues, I contributed the following:

Wildlife biologist Jeff Jackson's math is just carelessly wrong. His flow rates are at least a hundred-fold higher than what we are asking for.

Both of my claims in that letter are wrong. The math is correct and the flow rate he used is not too outrageous. I did not understand what was said, although now I do not see how I could have made any mistake.

To Jeff Jackson I offer my tardy and humble apology.

Glenn Galau
23 September 2007