

# Tapping Jordan Lake

By Julian Sereno

Jordan Lake lies entirely within Chatham County, covering 60 square miles of what had once been Chatham's best agricultural land. It also supplies drinking water to Chatham County, and will supply a lot more in the future. The problem is that Jordan Lake was designed for flood control rather than as a source of drinking water. Many consider its water unfit to drink.

George Lucier, Chair of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, described Chatham's water plans. "Short term, up to 20 years, is we have an agreement with Durham to buy water from them, up to 4 million gallons a day," he said.

The water will be piped from Jordan Lake to Durham to be treated and then piped back to Chatham.

"The contact we have with them will allow us to purchase water from them for less than its costs us to treat the water ourselves," said Lucier. "That would more than double our water supply."

Chatham already has access to 3 million gallons a day from Cary's intake on the east side of Jordan Lake. The most the county has used is 2-1/2 millions gallons.

"The long-term solution will be a regional water intake and treatment system on the west side of Jordan Lake, closer to Pittsboro," said Lucier.

It will involve a partnership with the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Durham. There is land for it — about 500 acres — south of Seaforth Road.

"This could take up to 10 years to get all the permitting," said Lucier. "We would very much like to



A park ranger leads a fishing class on the fishing pier on Jordan Lake. PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

partner with Pittsboro, which has their own water treatment problems.

We would increase our allocation from 6 million gallons a day to 12 million gallons a day. This is in the long future."

## Pittsboro's predicament

Pittsboro Mayor Randy Voller also seeks partners for solving Pittsboro's water woes. "We need as a community to be working on collaborative solutions for our waste water as well as our potable water... Moving toward a collaborative solution with the county and potentially other regional partners would not only be economical for the stake holders but also insure a better quality product in the

JORDAN LAKE continued on page 8.

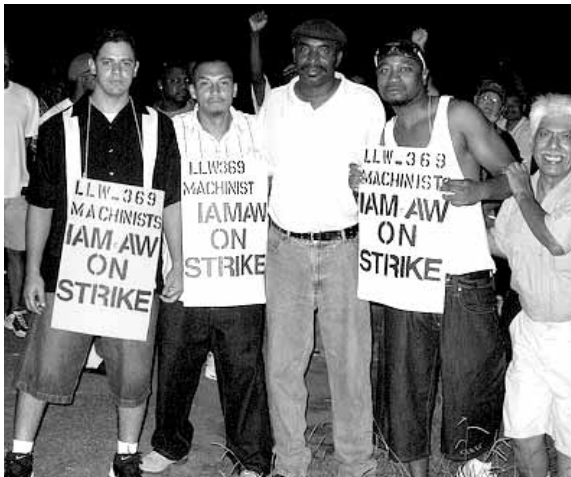
# Strike ends at Moncure Plywood

By Michael Pollock

An eight-month strike by workers at the Moncure Plywood LLC plant on Corinth Road in southeast Chatham County ended March 30. Local Lodge W369 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Woodworking Division, went on strike July 20.

The Union's bargaining committee unanimously backed the new contract. Lewis Cameron, Local President for 23 years, said "The new contract is a dramatic improvement over the original terms proposed by the company and rejected by members. Seniority is respected, scheduling issues will be resolved more equitably, and most importantly, the workers' contract is preserved."

Moncure sales and marketing officer Jeff Matuszak said, "This agreement is the product of good



In July, workers at the Moncure Plywood plant went on strike. This March a new contract was agreed to. The plant employs about 200 workers.

faith and determination by the IAM and Moncure Plywood to bring an end to the first strike in the history of this company and to make this mill a stronger, more agile competitor in the most challenging economic environment we have ever faced." He added, "This negotiation, as challenging as it was, has helped all of us — labor, management, and employees — recognize clearly that the

future of this mill relies on our working together every day to provide our customers with the lowest-cost mix of specialty plywood products."

In negotiations last spring management demanded increased health insurance premiums, instead of the former flat rate, the elimination of seniority, a 60-hour work week and forced overtime, and fewer holidays.

This year management reduced its demands and a new three-year contract has been established. Insurance premiums will rise, but more slowly and then level out. There will be 50-hour weeks, with up to 6 hours of overtime if work is stopped for repairs, etc. This mainly applies to newer workers and in the initial stage of production. Health and safety and

STRIKE continued on page 4.



Chatham's turbulent waters Page 6

## ONLY ONLINE

▶ Michael Pollock details Durham's vote to protect Jordan Lake water.

▶ Jeffrey Starkweather on the importance of passing the mixed-drink referendum.

# Three Durham Commissioners make a splash on Jordan's banks

by Gary Simpson

Across the Chatham County line in Durham, it was like watching old reruns of the former Chatham County Board of Commissioners (in

## OPINION

the hay day of the three blocks of granite, Emerson, Morgan and Outz). A developer submits a new study to define the critical boundary line for a northern arm of Jordan Lake.

Those in power to do so buy in, thus allowing the development to proceed. And then a funny (strange) thing happens on the way to another big developer Victory Party. The majority shifts. Heaven and earth seem to move. People who care about natural resources and due process are given a listening ear. The law is given due respect. On a contentious 3-2 vote the Durham County BoC moves for public hearings on the matter.

Laws at their BEST, I believe, are written, enacted, interpreted and enforced to protect, preserve and enhance the well being of the whole community. Laws at their WORST are written, enacted, interpreted and enforced to protect, preserve and enhance the vested powerful interests of the relative few at the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

the expense of the community at large.

What is critical in the volatile issue before the Durham County BOC is not only the legitimate definition of a proper boundary (no build zone) on the banks of Jordan Lake. Make no mistake, it is vitally important to properly define a line in the sand to protect a regional water source from further impairment. But in order to properly address this and all the looming water issues before us, it is of even greater import to define good government and identify conscientious officials who seek above all else to champion laws at

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHAPEL HILL, NC  
PERMIT #302

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

Postal Customer  
Rural Route Boxholder