



# WAVES

## Don't be a Sap: Save your Hemlocks!

If you haven't done your homework on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), it is high time you did – as many of our most majestic trees around Rabun are now at risk from this virulent bug.

Don't tell Lou Dobbs, but HWA is an unwelcome immigrant from East Asia that arrived in the U.S. in 1924. The bugs feed on the sap of Hemlock trees stretching from Rabun County along the Appalachians into southern Maine. Infested trees die in about four years.

The good news is HWA is 100% treatable – if you are willing to pay the price. That was the message when certified arborist Chris Hastings of Arbormedics (770-715-1713) spoke at the Labor Day LRA meeting.

He says HWA is an easy bug to kill using standard landscape insecticides. The choice in treatments depends on logistics and timing. Here are some of his suggestions:

For easy to reach Hemlocks and Hemlock hedges:

- Spraying with insecticidal soap, oil, and general use insecticides is an option. Coverage is important. Repeat sprays may be necessary

Tall Hemlocks:

- Treat the ground with one of two systemic insecticides for root uptake.
- SAFARI works best and is fastest.

See **Hemlocks**, page 5



*The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid sucking the sap out of a tree.*

## PAVILION MORTGAGE

### Visionary LRA burns Mortgage *before* Nationwide Credit Meltdown



*Where there is smoke...The Pavilion mortgage kicks the bucket.*

by Rick Asbill  
*Chairman, The Pavilion Fund*

It has changed the way we gather community at the lake. In fact, it is hard to imagine life on Rabun without it. And now we own it lock, stock and barrel.

The seed was planted for what has become the Lake Rabun Pavilion at our Labor Day meeting in 2004. That's when Charlie Arp (see article on page 4), on behalf of the owners of Hall's Boathouse, offered to sell us the property. It was obvious this was an opportunity we could not pass up. In December of that year, the Trustees endorsed the project and created a tax-deductible entity to own the Pavilion and seek donations to foot the bill.

During the course of the past four years, the Pavilion Committee has worked hard to make the dream a reality. Members Alan Price, Dave Cowan, Kirk Knous, Thad Warren, Bob Voyles, Nan Troutman, Ron Hinson, Charlie Arp, Carol Raeber, Joe Hamilton, Ann Webb, Buz Stone, Lisa Longino and Rick Asbill deserve our gratitude for shepherding this project to fruition.

This group met regularly and worked with our architects, Harrison Design & Associates; our contractor, Chris Clay; our landscaper, Ridley Hailey; our banker, Jim Wallis, of Mountain Heritage Bank; and our foundation executive, Jim Mathis, of North Georgia Community Foundation.

We obtained a line of credit and began construction in the spring of 2006. By

See **Mortgage Burning**, page 4

# President's Message: Savoring a Great Summer



LRA President Nan Troutman addressing throngs of supporters at the Labor Day rally...I mean meeting.



Waves is a publication of the

**The Lake Rabun Association**  
P.O. Box 490  
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

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I hope this newsletter finds you in front of a fire basking in its warmth as the fall season is winding down and winter is upon us. Fall and winter are two beautiful seasons at Lake Rabun. The tranquility of the still water on those clear, crisp days offers a different kind of enticement to venture out in the boat. It is also a perfect time to hike a trail that has been on your list and/or do some holiday shopping in the mountains.

This colder season does not mean that our LRA activities stop. One of the most special times of the year at Lake Rabun is our after Thanksgiving dinner at the Pavilion. This is the perfect time to see your lake friends once again and connect them with family and friends who are enjoying the holiday with you. Our pavilion is the perfect spot for this event – with its welcoming fireplace upstairs and warm, comfortable accommodations downstairs for dining.

We had a fabulous summer filled with activities provided by your Lake Rabun Association. In this issue, you will see photos that offer proof of that. The beauty of our association is that it provides fun activities for all ages to participate in together. My friends on other lakes often tell me they cannot believe we have such incredible social functions for the entire family to enjoy. We have folks of all ages enjoying Bingo, great food and live music at our barbeques. Where else can you enjoy watching grandchildren dancing with their grandparents – or even teenagers who are shaggin' with their parents!?

But let's not forget there is a good purpose behind a lot of the fun – the Tour of Homes and Rabun Ramble are great examples of that. Both events set new fundraising records

this year – bringing in more than \$25,000 for the Lake Rabun Foundation. Now more than ever, it is important we keep in mind the LRF (and those deserving Rabun County students) as we consider what charities we wish to support.

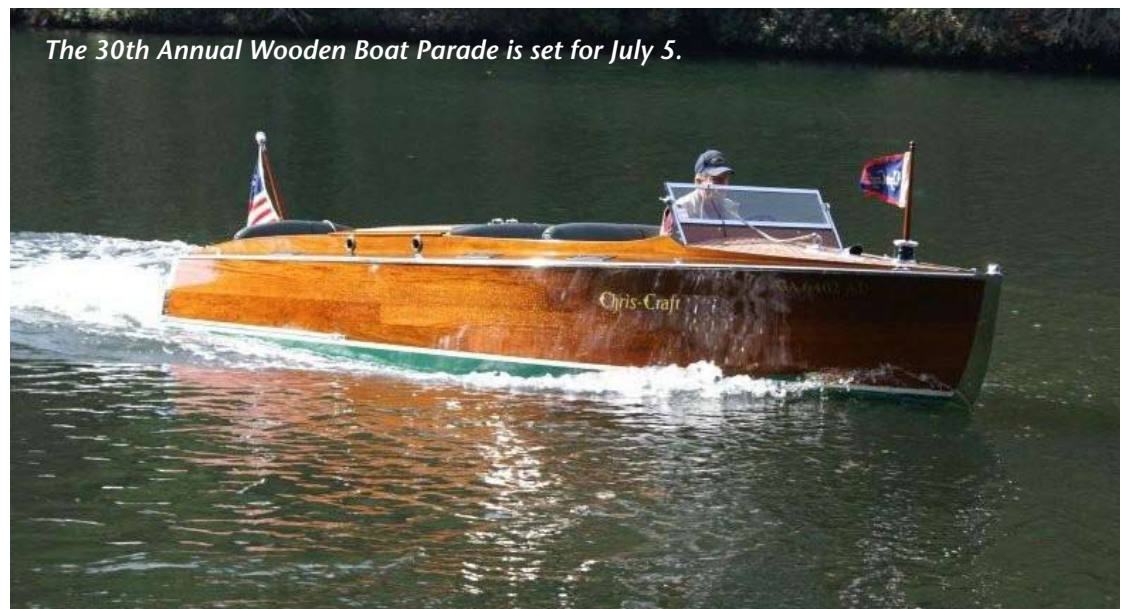
We are looking forward to even more fun (with or without a purpose!) next summer. Those popular dance bands will be back of course, but we are also cooking up some exciting new ideas to expand your horizons and give you a keener appreciation of the world around you in Rabun County. We are calling it "Lakemont University" and it is the brainchild of John King. I encourage you to read more about it in this issue.

This summer will be the 30th anniversary of the Fourth of July Wooden Boat Parade – a tradition that continues to be a highlight of our Fourth of July activities. And don't forget it is a flea market year – so now it the time to clean out the basement or attic and turn your formerly-loved items into something the Lakemont-Wiley Fire Department can currently love: funds to keep the trucks and the boat running – and thus, your house safe.

I want to thank Peter McIntosh, Beka Clay, Kathy Handy-Swink, Bill Cross and Morgan Harvill for contributing photos for this newsletter. Just looking at them makes me long for the lake.

On behalf of your Officers and Trustees of the Lake Rabun Association I would like to wish everyone a safe and joy-filled Christmas Season.

Nan Troutman  
LRA President



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Rabun Wins Lakes Links Classic – Again**

by Dave “Tiger” Cowan

Rabun golfers once again showed they are a sub-par group this past year – handily beating that other Georgia Power Pond in the Eighth Annual Lakes Burton vs. Rabun Golf Challenge.

It is the fifth time our home-lake team has brought home the hotly contested trophy.

Planning is underway for the Ninth Annual Golf Challenge in late spring – likely Friday, May 1 or Friday, May 8. The event is a movable feast – depending on which course wants to play ball, so to speak.

Further details on how and when the Rabun team will continue its links dominance – and notch its sixth victory – are forthcoming in the New Year.



*Dave “Tiger” Cowan gloating over Rabun golf victory before home team crowd Labor Day weekend.*

## RABUN RAMBLE

**Great Place...Great People...Great Race!**

On July 5, 2008, Lake Rabun’s new holiday weekend tradition took off like a firecracker. About 475 runners got up early to run the second annual Rabun Ramble Road Race. This is nearly double the turnout for the inaugural run – which far exceeded the organizer Sandy O’Brien’s expectations. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities – and from all over the country – once again offered up rave reviews.

This year, the Ramble cut a check to the Lake Rabun Foundation for \$9,000. Next year, the race will be held on the morning of the Fourth of July. Now we have heard rumors of another road race that is scheduled at the same time

about a hundred miles to the south, but there is no way that hot slog down Peachtree can match the scenery, spirit and cool temperatures of our sprint up and down Lake Rabun Road.

If you ran last year, check out the great photos we captured of you on the course (and we literally missed no one!). There’s a link to our Shutterfly site at [www.rabunramble.com](http://www.rabunramble.com). The pictures, mugs, t-shirts, etc., make great Holiday gifts – and proceeds go straight to the LRF. If you have any questions, or would like to be among the first to volunteer, contact Sandy at [sandy@sandyobrien.net](mailto:sandy@sandyobrien.net).

## TOUR OF HOMES

**Tour of Homes  
Raises the Roof**

by Craig Kettles

There is nothing more fun than peeking in other people’s closets, right? This year that innate desire once again yielded some big money for the Lake Rabun Foundation, which funds four-year college scholarships for some outstanding sons and daughters of Rabun County. This year the Tour drew 500 people and raised more than \$16,000 for the cause – a new high water mark!

Of course this could never happen were it not for the generosity of our Lake neighbors willing to open the doors to their prized vacation enclaves. This year, we owe a debt of gratitude to homeowners Dan & Sue Lipson, Spring & Tom Asher, the Ralph Edwards Family, Margie Stockton & Harry Marshall, Anne & Denny Webb and James & Melissa Bunnan Jernigan.

The tour will of course return in 2010 with 5 new homes – and now is the time to raise your hand if you are interested in showing off your pad by the lake. We aren’t sure which end of the lake will be the focus this time – a lot depends on whom we hear from. Interested? Know someone who should be volunteered? Email Michael Mc-Gaughey at [mmcaughey@me.com](mailto:mmcaughey@me.com). And if you are not ready, willing or able to share your house with the public, feel free to lend us your time, your boat or both.



*Ramble 10k winner Thomas Pilliad, 18, running beneath Old Glory on his way to a 36:07 finish. Not seen in this picture: Greg Rhodes.*

## LRA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Pay Us Now – Please!**

Your LRA membership dues for 2009 are due by the end of the year! Dues paid after December 31st, 2008 will cost you an additional \$50. The rolling deadline has become an organizational nightmare for us and we are encouraging you to stop procrastinating...please.

So please make your check payable for \$200 to “Lake Rabun Association” and mail it to PO Box 490, Lakemont, Georgia 30552 before year’s end.

If you have any questions, please call Felicia Lease at (770) 399-5252 or cell (770) 313-1223. Do it now!

## Foundation will Crumble Without You

by Buz Stone, *Lake Rabun Foundation Director*



*LRF Scholarship Recipients (l-r): Keri Cannon—UGA; Logan Nichols—DeVry Univ.; Heather York—North Georgia College; Claire Bleckley—UGA; Bob Voyles—LRA President. Not pictured: Bonnie Owens—North Georgia Tech; Hayley Sheriff—Piedmont College.*

The Lake Rabun Foundation is feeling the pinch just like you are. Nevertheless, the Trustees have decided to maintain our previous level of support – despite a fund corpus that has been hammered in the stock market crash.

We continue to fund college scholarships for 26 Rabun County high school graduates (\$2,000 a year for four years).

The good news is we did well with our big fundraisers this year. The Tiger Mountain Wine Tasting, the Tour of Homes and the Rabun Ramble brought in more than \$26,000. That said; please do not forget us as you do your year-end or estate planning.

The Lake Rabun Foundation has been providing these scholarships for 21 years and there are a lot of bright, deserving young students from Rabun County who are counting on us. Let's not let them down.

Make checks payable to: The Lake Rabun Foundation, P.O. Box 490, Lakemont, GA 30552

## Mortgage Burning, from page 1

July 4th, 2007, we had our first big event under the roof – and it was clear by the turnout (about 575 people) we had a hit on our hands.

But the committee did not sit on its (mountain) laurels - tirelessly beating the bushes for more contributions. On Memorial Day of this year, the momentum renewed when Lisa and George Longino challenged us all to give a little more to pay off the note. It worked. In late June, we wrote our last check to Mountain Heritage Bank and we had the pleasure of publicly burning the mortgage at the Labor Day meeting (with members of the Lakemont-Wiley FD standing at the ready in turnout gear, of course).

In all, about 400 people contributed to the cause – 270 of them donating at or above the threshold for entry into the “LRA Pavilion Navy”.

We all know how much the Pavilion has improved life for us on the lake, but it has also quickly become a magnet for the community at large – hosting all manner of memorable events for folks looking for that special place for that special occasion in the mountains.

Believe it or not we aren't quite done yet. We are working on some finishing touches that should be complete by Memorial Day. But don't worry – we won't be asking you for more money – we intend to pay the final bills by collecting on our outstanding pledges (you know who you are!).

Thanks to all of you who participated in this fun, successful, gratifying endeavor. I know that you and your families will enjoy the Pavilion for many years to come.



*Whippoowill Award Winner Charlie Arp thanking all the little people at the Labor Day meeting.*

## Sharp Arp earns 2008 Whippoowill

Hollywood may have its *Oscar*, but in Lakemont, we have the coveted *Whippoowill*. It is our highest honor and it is bestowed annually upon one (or some) of our own who have made great contributions to the quality of our life on the verdant shores of Lake Rabun. This year's winner put the syndicate together that purchased Hall's and prevented a ghastly real estate development from replacing our humble marina. He helped Ben and Sheila McCracken become owners of Lakemont Marine. He was instrumental in establishing the Lake Rabun Foundation Scholarship Fund (while helping support students out of his own pocket as well). And, of course, there is his *piece de resistance* – the Lake Rabun Pavilion. He was the driving force that made it all a reality. Wow. I don't feel worthy. Good thing we have Charlie Arp on our side! We thank him – and honor him with the 2008 Whippoowill Award.



*Bob Voyles delivering his final address as President of the LRA.*

by Bob Voyles\*, *LRA Vice Chairman*

10. Fireworks are a longstanding tradition at the lake any weekend, provided they are fired off before 10:30 p.m. but not after!
9. When you pass another boat on the lake, or have one pass your dock, be sure to wave!
8. Remember the Golden Rule when it comes to watching out for your children as well as others.
7. If you ski or wakeboard before 8 a.m., try to keep a little quiet unless you're on the "big water." Some folks may still be sleeping.
6. If you have one of those big speaker systems on the wakeboard tower on your new tow boat, remember that the 500 people within hearing distance may not want to listen to the latest *50 Cent* rap hit (i.e. this is not Lake Lanier...).
5. Remember when describing flora on the lake that the mountain laurel have small leaves and rhododendron the big ones, and that the big blue flowers are hydrangeas!
4. Lake Rabun Road, Shady Lane and the other roads surrounding the lake are not I-285: remember to slow down and enjoy the view!
3. When coming up on other vehicles in Rabun County, it is the custom to wave using your steering wheel driving fingers (one or two fingers are acceptable as long as it's not the solo middle finger! – save that for the Perimeter).
2. Your local merchants make our lives easier and depend on us for their livelihood; so remember to support them!
1. No one cares how important you think you might be back home in Atlanta. On Lake Rabun you are just one of the folks.

*\* With apologies to my good friend, LRA Chairman Thad Warren, who originally published an earlier version of this several years ago.*



## Hemlocks, from page 1

- MERIT (or MERIT generics) works well but is slower.
- Treat your trees when they are active. Best times are late summer, fall or early spring.
- \* Best to treat when the ground is moist after a rainfall (any day now, we hope).

**\* Do not treat trees within 20-30 feet of lakes or streams.**

Hasting says if you do it yourself, the cost of treating a Hemlock will be about \$1.50 per inch of trunk diameter (it is easiest to measure the circumference at four-and-a-half feet above the ground – then divide by pi – 3.14).

Despite having to employ pi, of all things, mixing and injecting the chemicals into the roots isn't rocket science, but you do need to follow some precise instructions to protect yourself and the environment. If you are not patient about such things, call a pro and expect to pay about \$3.00 per inch of trunk.

At the very least, survey the trees around your home. If you have some Hemlocks that you would hate to lose, you better get busy fighting this woolly pest now – or in a few years you may very well feel like a sap.

## LRA UNIVERSITY

### Enroll in Lake Rabunology 101

by John King, *Chancellor, Lakemont University*

Have you ever walked through the Rabun woods and wished you could name all the species of the trees that you see? Do you wish you knew more about the history and folklore of the area? Do you lie on your dock looking at the night sky wondering if that is Cassiopeia or Perseus? Have we got the "university" for you!

We are happy to inform you that, as an LRA member, you have been accepted to enroll in the Lakemont University lecture series—designed to help us better understand appreciate the Rabun experience. We have scheduled three ninety-minute classes this year that will begin at 8:00 PM following Bingo at the Pavilion.

John King will conduct our first class, "The Night Sky," on Saturday, June 27. With far less light pollution than the cities in which most of us live, the night sky is one of Lakemont's many treasures. Understanding what objects are up there, how they got there, what they are doing there and how far away they are can really add to your enjoyment of the dark.

We have two more sessions planned and we are seeking suggestions from you on some interesting topics and possible volunteer "professors." If you know a little something about such subjects as local birds, trees, plants, insects, geology, meteorology, etc., please contact Nan Troutman at [nan@numail.org](mailto:nan@numail.org) or John King at [jking@breitland.com](mailto:jking@breitland.com).

See you on campus in June! No "winter" reading required.



PAVILION THANKSGIVING  
**Nothing Better than a Leftover Sandwich with Friends...**

Contrary to popular belief, the Pilgrims did not invent Thanksgiving Dinner 387 years ago in order to create great leftovers to sustain them as they watched the Patriots game on the subsequent Sunday. But I think we can all agree the hot turkey, stuffing, cranberry and gravy sandwich is truly something to be thankful for.

Now add to the mix a wonderful setting and some of your favorite friends - and you have the recipe for a fine post Turkey Day gathering.

We are talking about the Annual LRA Post Thanksgiving Leftover and Libation Gathering (maybe when we get together we can cook up a shorter name?). It's happening at 5:30 pm at the Pavilion on Friday, November 28 – the day after Thanksgiving, of course.

Bring your family, friends, your best leftovers and your choice of beverage, be it hot or cold – soft or adult.

LAKE LEVELS

**Down is Out: Lake will not be lowered again**

You no doubt got the letter from Georgia Power's Roger Harrison with the final (and not surprising) word that there will once again be no lake drawdown this Holiday season.

This may be an inconvenience for those of us hoping to take advantage of the low water to do some needed shore chores and improvements. But I am sure you would agree it is better to delay some work on your boathouse – than have it landlocked this summer!



*Lake Rabun during a drawdown a few years ago. It was cancelled this year to insure our lake doesn't look like this in the summer.*

FLEA MARKET

**Mirror, Mirror on the Wall – Who has the most Clutter of All?**

by Laura Rhodes, *Flea Market Chairman*

An odd-year summer is ahead and that means it is time once again for our favorite win-win charity event: the Lake Rabun Association Flea Market. This year the theme is "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall" – as in do we really *need* that mirror anyway?

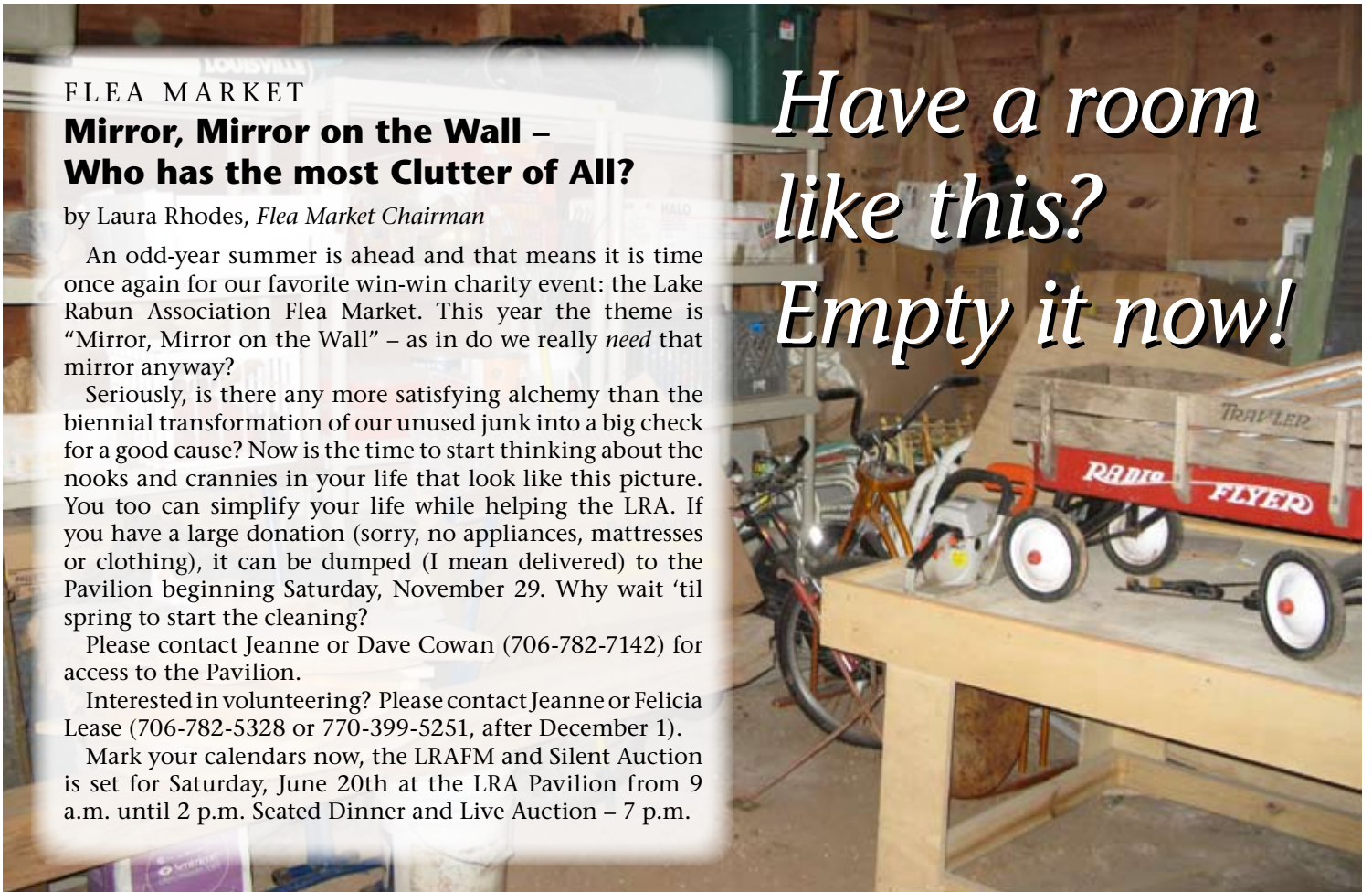
Seriously, is there any more satisfying alchemy than the biennial transformation of our unused junk into a big check for a good cause? Now is the time to start thinking about the nooks and crannies in your life that look like this picture. You too can simplify your life while helping the LRA. If you have a large donation (sorry, no appliances, mattresses or clothing), it can be dumped (I mean delivered) to the Pavilion beginning Saturday, November 29. Why wait 'til spring to start the cleaning?

Please contact Jeanne or Dave Cowan (706-782-7142) for access to the Pavilion.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Jeanne or Felicia Lease (706-782-5328 or 770-399-5251, after December 1).

Mark your calendars now, the LRAFM and Silent Auction is set for Saturday, June 20th at the LRA Pavilion from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Seated Dinner and Live Auction – 7 p.m.

*Have a room like this? Empty it now!*





## Mark Your Calendars!

### 2008

- Friday, November 28 Thanksgiving Leftovers and Libations at the Pavilion
- Wednesday, December 31 Deadline for LRA Annual Dues

### 2009

- Friday, May 1 or 8 Ninth Annual Lakes Burton Rabun & Seed Golf Challenge
- Sunday, May 24 LRA General Membership Meeting
- Saturday, June 13 Tiger Mountain Wine Tasting
- Friday, June 19 Annual Lake Clean-Up Day
- Saturday, June 20 The LRA "Flea Market"  
Dinner with Silent/Live Auction
- Saturday June 27 Bingo  
Lakemont University Course:  
"The Night Sky"
- Friday, July 3 BBQ Dinner & The Foxfire Boys
- Saturday, July 4 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Rabun Ramble"  
5k and 10k Road Race
- Saturday, July 4 Fireworks!
- Sunday, July 5 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Parade
- Saturday, July 18 Bingo  
Lakemont University Course 2:  
TBA
- August (TBD) LRA Golf Tournament
- Saturday, August 1 LRA Beach Music Party with  
the Dirk Howell Band
- Saturday August 8 Bingo  
Lakemont University Course 3:  
TBA
- Saturday, September 5 Labor Day BBQ Dinner &  
Dance with The Mystery Band
- Sunday, September 6 LRA General Membership  
Meeting
- Friday, November 27 Day after Thanksgiving Dinner

# Partyin' at the Pavilion



Cole Barber, Stuart Witham, Lee Troutman, Veanne Smith, Myra Stromquist, David Stromquist David Stromquist, Austin Smith and Brian Smith.

Teens actually seen – and photographed – at party with parents. Alert the media!



The Mystery Band Bringing It!

So what did we do on the Lake in the B.P. era (you know...Before Pavilion)? Our beautiful gathering place has already become the home to a plethora of great Lake Rabun memories. This past summer, we kicked off a Pavilion Party season with some events that are sure to become ingrained in our Lake traditions.

We began in June with a Tiger Mountain Wine Tasting – courtesy of LRA members Lecky and Bill Stack – who donated the fermented fruits of their labor. And talk about an event with good legs and a pleasing aftertaste: proceeds went straight to the Lake Rabun Foundation.

On the Fourth, we smashed the Pavilion attendance record: more than 700 Rabunites, their families and friends celebrated the Main Event of the summer with some fine music from the *Foxfire Boys* and barbeque from the Dillard House. Maybe its time to start plans for an addition?

In August, the Pavilion sounded a lot like Myrtle Beach – as 250 came to shag the night away to the strains of the *Dirk Howell Band*. It's important we pass the shaggin' torch on to a generation that thinks hip-hop is music!

And also in August, the Dillard House returned to the Pav for a night of fine eating – with music from the *Mystery Band* – which played everything from quiet dinnertime music for our silver haired generation – to rock and roll for the kids. Six hundred turned out for this event.

President Nan Troutman was the driving force behind our exciting "Pavilion Cotillion" Season (country style). No point having a great place to meet – without some great people to make the magic happen. Thanks, Nan! Looking forward to doing it again next summer!



Check out those curls!



Tiger Mountain Wines wearing their Bling.



Jane and Kevin Heeney cuttin' a rug.



Emerson Leonaitis savoring dessert.

LRA Chairman Thad Warren holding up the buffet line.