

Outgoing President's Message: Get Involved!







Well, they say time flies when you're having fun and that was certainly the case for me the past year! Serving as your LRA President has been one of my most rewarding experiences. We are fortunate to have so many members who care deeply about our lake community and give so much of their time and talent to make it better. When you have this kind of widespread commitment leadership takes on a new meaning. It's impossible to individually recognize all of these great folks, but let me take a moment to share a few thoughts about the past year.

Boating safety took on a higher priority following the near disastrous accident in 2009. Your Boating Safety Committee did an outstanding job in raising safety awareness on the lake. They developed and executed a July 4th "fireworks plan" that restored sanity to the night and resulted in comments such as, "the best boat ride home in years". I encourage all to continue the commitment to boating safety and, remember, you drive the boat on the *right* side of the lake. This is not England!

Our members opened their hearts and pocketbooks to aid our Rabun County neighbors when the impact of a severe winter and the great recession wreaked havoc on local families and their ability to provide the most basic of essentials – food and heat. Thanks to your generosity we raised over \$21,000 and immediately provided much-needed relief to local families in dire need. The move continued with a Labor Day "Food 2 Kids" effort that gathered food items and money to support the local program to help ensure children have food for the weekends. For all of this – thank you so much. These efforts really do show the character of our association and its members.

Of course, we had a great time this summer with events ranging from BBQs to bands to bingo to Lakemont University. All of this was topped off by a wonderful series of July 4th activities. This year the Lake Rabun Tour of Homes, with a clever "Riverboat Cruise and Gambling" theme raised a record amount for the Foundation. Many thanks to the countless volunteers whose efforts made all of these events a reality. I encourage all of you to look for some way to involve yourself in LRA activities next year. It's a great way to get to know fellow members and have a lot of fun!

As I begin to enjoy the wonderful rocking chair traditionally given to outgoing presidents, let me say that it has been an honor and privilege to have served as your President. I look forward to seeing you soon and to a great year ahead.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Ron Hinson, Outgoing LRA President

DON'T FORGET! ... the "Pot Luck" Day After Thanksgiving dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Pavilion (Friday, November 26).

President's Message: Community Counts!

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (Luke 12:48)

Giving back to our community is part of who we are.

To that end, our Lake community provided financial support and hundreds of pounds of food for the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia and the Food 2 Kids program in Rabun County. Thanks to all of you for responding to our special appeal to feed the needy both this past summer and during the past terribly cold winter.

We came together as a community and supported the Lakemont/Wiley Volunteer Fire Department and the Lake Rabun Foundation and Scholarship Fund with a very successful Tour of Homes and Rabun Ramble. The lake and surrounding community have truly benefited from the generosity of our residents. As we approach the holiday season and are thinking about giving, remember to shop with the local vendors, restaurants, and farmers.

Your Officers and Trustees are busy planning for the



future with our traditional lake events and activities and new ways we can positively impact the community. We would love to have your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at <u>lisalongino@aol.com</u>.

Lake Rabun is a very special place to so many of us watching the change of seasons is just one event that we all enjoy! Hopefully, this newsletter will find many of you enjoying the lake and the Rabun County community.

Have a wonderful fall and holiday season!

Lisa Longino, LRA President



Waves is a publication of the **The Lake Rabun Association** P.O. Box 490 Lakemont, Georgia 30552

Officers and Trustees 2010-2011

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President - Lisa Longino Vice President - Joe Mims Secretary-Treasurer - Ridley Williams

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* number in parenthesis indicates years of service remaining

LRA Foundation - Buz Stone

Lake Rabun Pavilion -Rick Asbill, Kirk Knous

Whippoorwill Award goes to Penny BurkItt

Every Labor Day meeting our members wait in anticipation for Roses Longino to bestow the Whippoorwill Award. The person that receives this award exemplifies the word "volunteer". The award this year went to Penny Burkitt. Penny works both behind the scenes and out on the front stage. She can always be seen at the Membership meetings selling all the Lake Rabun paraphernalia. Her experience in merchandising has been an invaluable asset for the LRA. She taught us how and what to sell! Penny has worked on the Flea Market and the Tour of Homes and has been an invaluable volunteer for the LRA for many years. Should you ever need any help with a project, call Penny! Thank you, Penny! This is an award well deserved.





LRA Foundation Report

The Foundation is financially healthy, thanks to your generosity. We have 25 students currently on scholarship, and all have expressed gratitude to the people on Lake Rabun for helping them be able to go to college. Please remember the Foundation as part of your year end charitable giving. Also, if you are planning to make or revise your will, please remember the Foundation.

Buz Stone, Director

Lake Rabun Association Boater Safety Recap for 2010

In short, we had a very safe overall 2010 Boating Season!

Boater Safety continues to play such a crucial role in the overall enjoyment of our beautiful Lake Rabun. Multiple times early in 2010 your Boater Safety Committee (Bob Pledger, Wallace Bruce, Michael Crowe and Ridley Williams) discussed ways to positively affect the overall safety of our Lake. A couple of common themes arose from our meetings and discussions with Georgia Power and the DNR — Education and Action.

First, we identified what traditionally is the most problematic and accident-prone event on the Lake-the post July 4th Firework's Show and the frightening boat ride back home. The amount of boat traffic, at night, with no restriction on speed, has led to a scenario that is ripe for disaster. We need look no further back than the post-Firework's ride home of 2009 that almost ended in tragedy if not for the heroic efforts of the Davis family who helped a capsized boat and family from being overrun by oncoming boater traffic. The Boater Safety Committee, working in concert with the DNR and Lakemont/Wiley Fire Department, agreed to take action this year by increasing the Water Patrol for this event and enacting a new "Post-Fireworks Procedure" of following two DNR Patrol Boats at idle speed throughout the entire length of the lake. Additionally, Michael Crowe and the "Fire Boat" brought up the rear of the exodus to insure patrols were both in front of and behind the boats. The results were great. No accidents or incidents! Everyone arrived home safely and in the same amount of time it took in the past. Comments from you have been overwhelmingly positive. This additional patrol, no-wake/idle speed procedure for future July 4th events has been unanimously supported as a "go-forward" plan throughout our Lake Community.

Secondly, the Boater Safety Committee focused on the need for additional Boater Safety education opportunities. This summer we held a Boater Safety Education and Certification Class at the Pavilion on June 5th led by DNR Deputy Chad Chambers. The class covered General Boater Safety rules, regulations and operational tips. Those who stayed the entire time were able to take the Boater Certification Test, and, if passed, were given Certification Status with stickers and a document to prove it. The results were fantastic! We hosted over 42 people with most falling in the 11-16 year-old range. Most of these children stayed and took the test (all passed) and were certified on the spot! It was that easy. The other attendees were simply interested in educating themselves about General Boater Safety or wanted to re-familiarize themselves with the "Do's and Don't's" of safe boating operation. Thanks go to Louie's



on the Lake for donating the pizza for the event and also to Chad Chambers for leading a fun and entertaining class. We plan to hold the class again in early June and will announce the exact date on an email blast and in the next newsletter slated for early spring 2011.

Thirdly, the Committee identified a need to work more closely with the DNR on all of the above educational opportunities but also to increase their presence on the lake. Chad, Derek and Steve were out patrolling the lake on additional days and times throughout the spring and summer with the emphasis on traditional holiday weekends. This gives the DNR additional "educational" opportunities to visit with boaters face-toface. The additional presence resulted in fewer problems and fostered a sense of safety on the lake. It should be noted that all of the DNR staff have been extremely supportive of our endeavors, and they appreciate the LRA's continued commitment to Boater Safety. The LRA, in kind, continues to support the DNR through donating boater equipment and safety gear that the County and State have stopped funding because of budget cuts. Fostering this mutually beneficial relationship between the DNR and LRA will continue to be vitally important as we grow as a lake community both in numbers and in support.

Lastly, the Committee agreed that overall awareness of these endeavors through mailings, emails, postings and "word-of-mouth" communications were all muchneeded components to support all of these agenda items. Your LRA mailed out laminated General Safety "check lists" in the spring to display in your home or boat house for use by family, friends, guests, renters, or anyone else who might access the lake. Additionally, email blasts were sent out before the Boater Safety and Certification Class. Signs were posted at Hall's Boat House two weeks prior as well as mention of the class during the LRA Memorial Day meeting. The July 4th Firework's Show Procedure was also communicated through email blasts, mention at the July 4th LRA meeting and with postings at Hall's. The LRA website contains a dedicated "Boater Safety" tab which includes links to Georgia Power, the DNR, and Go Boat Georgia as an additional source of information. The results of these initiatives have helped create an overall awareness of the importance of Boater Safety which we hope will continue to grow.

Thanks to everyone for making 2010 one of the safest on record at our beautiful Lake Rabun.

> Boater Safety Committee Bob Pledger, Wallace Bruce, Michael Crowe and Ridley Williams

July 4th Celebrated "Lake Rabun Style"

The July 4th weekend captured the true spirit and community of Lake Rabun!

The weekend started with a well attended Golf Tournament on Friday chaired by Joe Mims and David Stromquist.

Bright and early Saturday morning saw the running of the 4th Annual Rabun Ramble Road Race. This event, headed by Sandy and Miles O'Brien, has quickly become a classic part of our July 4th activities. Over 750 participants resulted in \$13,000 being raised for the LRA Foundation.

Over 600 members of the lake community joined in for a Dillard House BBQ and bluegrass music by the Foxfire Boys on Saturday night at our social hub—the Pavilion. Young and old gathered and enjoyed the wonderful evening!

On Sunday morning, the 31st Annual Lake Rabun Wooden Boat Regatta was held. Some of our finest boats participated and, in recognition of the previous 30th anniversary, a special Lake Rabun Burgee designed by Bob Voyles was proudly displayed! The burgee is quickly becoming a lake symbol and will certainly be appearing on many items in the future.

The grand finale of a great weekend was the fireworks show, and boy did we have fireworks! Hundreds watched from boats and docks around the earthen dike as we celebrated our nation's birth. We would be remiss here not to remind everyone about the importance of boating safety, especially as boats returned from the fireworks. The DNR led the exit of the boats and it was a much better experience for everyone! A tragedy was averted several summers ago and we all needed to learn from that experience.

Thanks to all who helped make the July 4th weekend a great time!



Lake Rabun Association

2011 Flea Market News

The 2011 Flea Market will be held Saturday, June 18, 2011. The day event will include: Silent Auction, Bargain Barn, Collector's Corner and the Grill. The evening event will include a Gala as well as the Live Auction.

We are excited about this event as it is our largest fundraiser for the LRA Foundation with proceeds benefiting local scholarships and charities. We are now accepting donations (no appliances, mattresses or clothing). For large items, please contact Kelly Cowan (706-212-0668) for local storage details and Thad Warren (404-237-7203) for Atlanta pickup. Small items may be brought to the Pavilion at the Thanksgiving Covered Dish Dinner on Friday, November 26.

We also want to ask each member to help in some way as this is a huge endeavor and we need your help! Please consider donating artwork, antiques, vacation homes, special tickets to events, gift certificates, and/or volunteer your time to make this event successful. Some new ideas that we are excited to announce are Sponsored Tables for the evening party and Live Auction, a special jewelry area, cocktail and dinner events on the lake, a special wine silent auction item, and we now accept credit cards for payment!

Mark your calendars now for this worthwhile and fun event! Please contact Kelly Cowan (<u>kelly22mac@hotmail.</u> <u>com</u>) or Laura Rhodes (<u>rhodeslaura@bellsouth.net</u>) with questions and/or to volunteer.



2010 Lake Rabun Tour of Homes by Boat

The tour of homes this year was a tremendous success. Held on a glorious day in June, the riverboat themed tour was complete with games and prizes at each of the five terrific and unique homes in the narrows. A silent auction and cocktail event was held the night before the tour and over \$11,000 was raised from the generously donated auction items that included art, private dinners, tickets to the U.S. Open and many other interesting items.

The tour and auction raised \$28,500 after expenses compared to \$15,900 for the tour in 2008. This year's tour was chaired by Michael McGaughey and Craig Kettles and was co-chaired by Jeff and Sherry Cohen who will chair the tour in 2012.

The efforts of the homeowners, auction donors, local restaurants and the over 100 volunteers were appreciated greatly.

PAVILION UPDATE Submitted by Rick Asbill and Kirk Knous, Lake Rabun Pavilion

The Lake Rabun Pavilion has been up and running for several years, and by now I expect that most of our members have had a chance to enjoy it. There is an Operating Agreement between Lake Rabun Association and the North Georgia Community Foundation (NGCF), a charitable foundation based in Gainesville that supports charities in fifteen North Georgia counties, including Rabun. LRA, through an Advisory Board composed of the current Chair, Vice Chair, and President of the Association, together with Kirk Knous and Rick Asbill, coordinate the operations and funding obligations of the Pavilion.

We have contracted with Jan Timms and Nancy Gribble of the Barn Inn to handle marketing, rentals and daily operations of the Pavilion, and they have done a remarkable job. The Pavilion is available for rent to the public, at extremely reasonable rates of \$300 for less than 4 hours and \$700-\$1,000 for all day rentals. Members of the LRA Navy, who donated funds to build the Pavilion, are entitled to discounts ranging from 20%-50%. We had 18 non-LRA rentals in 2010 and 10 for LRA. For 2011, the bookings have been heavy, but a few dates are still available. Many organizations have conducted events, and multiple weddings and family reunions have been held at the Pavilion. For more details, log onto our website at: <u>www.</u> <u>lakerabun.org</u>.

NGCF, which also manages the Lake Rabun Foundation, is in its 25th year, and to celebrate, held most of its Board meetings at various organizations it supports. In August, the meeting was held at the Pavilion, and was followed by boat cruises on the lake. During the meeting, Buz Stone described the Foundation activities: Josh Addis, Manager of the Lake Rabun Hotel, and a former LRA Foundation Scholarship recipient, spoke about the importance of the scholarship to his ability to attend college: and Lisa Longino represented the LRA and described its many activities and efforts to support the Rabun County community. We received rave reviews and many of the NGCF Board members have asked it they can return in 2011.

Thanks to the generosity of several hundred LRA members as well as others in the community, the Pavilion is debt free; has a modest reserve being managed by NGCF for improvements (for example, this year, we added gutters to the rear of the building to help reduce the need to re-stain the doors each year; and last year we added the pavers at the rear of the Pavilion) and has been able to cover all its operating costs through rental income.

The Pavilion has become a focal point for LRA members and others in the community to gather with friends, to make new friends, and to enjoy the beauty of Lake Rabun. Thanks again for your support.

UPDATE: Saving Your Hemlocks

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is wreaking havoc across Georgia, and we're now seeing many large hemlocks dead or dying in Rabun County. Given the rapid pace at which the problem is spreading and the awful damage that's occurring, we urge you to take immediate action to save these magnificent trees.

As a first step, please inspect your hemlocks for signs of infestation. The symptoms include small white fuzzy egg sacs on the underside of the branches at the base of the needles, a drab gray-green color of the tree, and needles becoming sparse. The egg sacs are most prevalent and easily identifiable during March and April as well as June and July. The bad news is that infested hemlocks that are untreated typically die within five to seven years after infestation and the pest has been active in Rabun County since 2003.

The good news is that you can treat and save your trees, and it's an easy and inexpensive process, especially compared to the cost of taking down large dead trees and the potential loss of property value. With our mild climate, hemlock treatment can be done year-round except when the ground is frozen or water-logged, so this fall is a good time to do it. Don't wait until spring as the voracious insects feed all winter.

Most light to moderately infested hemlocks can be treated with a product containing 75% Imidacloprid that is best applied by soil drench or soil injection very close to the tree trunk. It's a mild product containing the same active ingredient as in flea collars, is safe to use near waterways as it only travels about one foot from the application site, and provides residual protection averaging five years. Trees that are very large and/or heavily infested can be treated using a product sold as Safari. It costs more, but it's very effective and fast, usually controlling an infestation in 3 to 8 weeks.

For property owners who can do the work themselves, borrow a soil injector and purchase the generic version of the product, the cost is between \$.18 and \$.54 per trunk diameter inch. For folks who need or prefer a professional to do the work, the cost is still quite reasonable, averaging \$1–\$2 per trunk diameter inch and there are several qualified service providers in this area.

For information on sources that sell the treatment products, lend soil injectors, provide easy-to-follow treatment instructions or a list of qualified local professionals, call the Hemlock Help Line 706-429-8010 or visit the Save Georgia's Hemlocks web site www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org. You may also contact your local LRA "hemlock facilitators" who have been trained by Save Georgia's Hemlocks and are available to visit your property at no charge, inspect your trees, and share information about the hemlock problem and solutions. Their contact information can be found on the Lake Rabun Association web site, www.lakerabun.org, or you may contact Bob Pledger at 706-212-2833 to set up an appointment.

> Submitted by Bob Pledger 706-212-2833

2010 LRA Food Drive . . . will make a difference for 110 needy school children this year.

Our membership has once again proven that miracles can happen. This past Labor Day weekend, with only two weeks' notice, the LRA membership came together and collected over 1,900 pounds of food and over \$3,000 in cash donations to support the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia and the Rabun County School System's "Food 2 Kids" program. The "Food 2 Kids" program is designed primarily to help feed needy FOR elementary school children during weekends throughout the entire school year. Qualified students are identified by Rabun County teachers and school counselors. This program is designed to provide for the nutritional needs of these selected children over weekends until they can return to school on Monday. Sadly, for many of the children, the "Food 2 Kids" "back pack meals" program is their only source of nutrition over the weekend period.

The LRA Board would like to thank all of those members

who participated in the food drive and those who made financial donations.

We would also like to offer a special thanks to Ben McCracken and the Hall's Boat House staff and Rudy Deas for their help in both collecting and transporting the food to the food bank. It is important to remember that, in these challenging times, the needs of these children did not end on Labor Day. For those members interested, a cash donation of \$266 will feed one child on weekends for an entire school year.

If you would like to make a holiday donation to the program, please make your contribution payable to: The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Food 2 Kids Program and

mail to: P.O. Box 48857, Athens, Georgia 30604 OR donate online at: <u>donations@feedbanknega.org</u>.

Please note on your check that you are an LRA member and that you would like for the contribution to be used in the Rabun County school system.

Lake Rabun Association

The West Rabun Property Owners (WRPO) – An Essential Organization

What group seeks "Leadership and Accountability in Rabun County Government"? Has honest, unbiased, and timely information about important issues affecting each of us as Rabun County property owners? The West Rabun Property Owners (WRPO), of course!

In just the past six months, the WRPO has:

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- Assisted Sheriff Frank Andrews in launching Neighborhood Watch
- Interviewed candidates for the Rabun County Commission, and issued voter information about each candidate
- Mailed voter registration information along with sample ballots to every registered voter in Rabun County
- Worked with Rep. Steven Allison to sponsor a bill to allow the Rabun County Tax Assessor to appraise lake lots (instead of our present system of "batch" appraisals by the State of Georgia)

Lakes Rabun, Seed, and Burton and surrounds are part of West Rabun and our support for and membership in the WRPO is of critical importance. Less than five years old, the WRPO was formed by a group of concerned citizens whose seek leadership and accountability in Rabun County Government. In furtherance of this objective, timely, unbiased, and honest information is critical.

Please consider joining the WRPO for just \$12/year. Not only will you get timely information, but a subscription to the WRPO quarterly newsletter. Membership cycles run on the calendar year, so now is the perfect time to send in your check and become a member. Contact Charlie Brundage at 706-782-4043 or <u>rainbows@hemc.net</u> for more information. Send your check to WRPO, PO Box 377, Tiger, Georgia, 30576. You may also call Marlee or Alan Price at 706-782-6360 (alanwprice@yahoo.com) with questions.

Jessica Busbee, John and Martha Ezzard enjoy the day.

Eight Annual LRA Foundation Wine Tasting a Hit!



On Saturday, July 31, 2010, about 50 enthusiastic souls gathered at Tiger Mountain Vineyards for the two "F's"— Fellowship and (Foundation) Fundraising. Now in its 8th year, the wine tasting has become a great part of our summer calendar. This year, in the face of threatening weather, the group persevered and was rewarded with a great afternoon.

Gifts from Goats on the Roof, Crescent Moon Bakery, and Kathy Hamdy-Swink proved very popular with the group. Attendees purchased auction tickets and then "bid" on gift items.

Chris Busbee was back with songs and guitar music, and as always, John and Martha Ezzard were the perfect hosts. Excellent wine, great trimmings, good company — a great afternoon during which we raised almost \$900 for the LRA Foundation.

Next year, we are considering opening up the event to include more merchants and perhaps hosting it in the Pavilion. Stay tuned for more information.



Lakemont University Fall 2010 Report Card

Attendance at Lakemont University has tripled in only 12 months, primarily due to word of mouth from our students. All classes were held at the Pavilion, and began at our new time of 5:00PM. Here are the highlights of the 2010 academic year:

Saturday June 26, 2010 *"Introduction to Fly Fishing"*

Shannon Ward from the Orvis store on Peachtree Rd showed us how to get started fly fishing.

Saturday July 17, 2010 *"Lakemont History 101"*

The entire faculty of our history department: Prof. Dr. Lea Richmond, Prof. Christina Freeman, Prof. George Longino, Prof. Bobby Sheldon, Prof. Winnie Brown and Prof. Helen Dunwody mesmerized attendees with their accounts of the lake before World War II (and before electricity, phones, etc.).

Saturday August 7, 2010 *"Wonders of Nature Around the Lake"*

Professor Buz "The Nature Guy" Stone shared with us many fascinating secrets of our animal neighbors in Rabun County.

What a year! But that was then. The faculty and staff are busily putting together next year's academic offerings and certainly look forward to seeing you on campus next summer.

John King Executive Assistant to the Vice Provost Lakemont University Anno MMIX Ego Reputo Hoc Est A Valde Educational Locus Esse Ad

Lake Rabun Association

Lake Rabun Centennial

As Chairman of the Lake Rabun Association Centennial Celebration Committee ("LRA – CCC"), I want to thank everyone for their tremendous level of interest and great suggestions to the officers and board members of the LRA. As we begin to celebrate the holidays and look into 2011, our LRA - CCC formal committee structure will take better shape as we get up and operating. Those of you who have indicated an interest in serving should feel free to send me an additional email reminding me (yes, I'm over 50 and occasionally forget things if I don't write them down...) of your area of interest. The most critical initial phase of our efforts will be to collect, record and organize oral histories of those older members of our lake community. In addition, we will begin to study the archives the Georgia Power Company has opened up for us, which will help the history of the lake take shape. So keep pulling out those old photos, and talking with the older members of your family, and writing down and recording stories. The holidays is a great time to do this, so be thinking about Lake Rabun as you gather around the Thanksgiving table and celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas.

Mark Your Calendars!

2011 LRA Activities

MAY

Saturday, May 28

Sunday, May 29

JUNE

Friday, June 17 Saturday, June 18 Saturday, June 25

JULY

Saturday, July 2 Saturday, July 2 Saturday, July 16

Saturday, July 23

AUGUST Saturday, August 6

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 3 Saturday, September 3 Sunday, September 4

OCTOBER Saturday, October 30

NOVEMBER Friday, November 25 LRA Trustees Meeting (8 am-noon) LRA General Membership Meeting and Brunch (all day)

Flea Market (all day) Flea Market (all day) Lakemont University at 5 pm Bingo at 7 pm

Rabun Ramble (am only) BBQ & Dancing (Foxfire Boys) Lakemont University at 5 pm Bingo at 7 pm LRA Beach Music Party (6 pm)

Lakemont University at 5 pm Bingo at 7 pm

LRA Trustees Meeting Labor Day BBQ and Dancing LRA General Meeting

Halloween Party

Day After Thanksgiving "Pot Luck" dinner



the photos in this issue. You may contact her at: <u>feathertales@bellsouth.net</u>.

Additional boat parade photos are available at the <u>www.feathertales.com</u> or <u>www.woodboatphotos.com</u>