

Outgoing President: 2016 – The Next 100 Years

We have had another wonderful summer at the lake. All of our events were well attended with lots of good food, dancing, and fellowship with our friends and neighbors. Both of our fundraisers were successful, with hundreds of volunteers for both the sold-out Tour of Homes and the 10th running of the Rabun Ramble. Checks totaling \$59,000 were presented to the Foundation at the Labor Day meeting which help support our ongoing scholarship program and 30+ local charities in Rabun County. Lakemont University continues to keep us educated, as we explore interesting topics in this neck of the woods. Bingo keeps the younger generation (and some older ones) coming back for treasured prizes and old-fashioned fun. Other dedicated volunteers return every year to help clean up our lake and shoreline, keep our hemlocks healthy, educate young and old on boat safety, and work behind the scenes on our website, membership, merchandise sales, and many other facets of our organization that help make all of this rewarding and enjoyable. Even boat church had record attendance this year!

One of our accomplishments behind the scenes this year was to begin an LRA archiving project where letters, meeting minutes, newsletters, documents, financial records and photos were scanned and stored electronically (no more boxes being passed around) for future reference and safekeeping as we move into our next one hundred years on the lake. As I was going through boxes of papers from years ago and reading various documents, it was obvious that the same commitment and passion that the volunteers shared and demonstrated is true today. It's amazing and a blessing that we have such a strong community of folks that truly care about this slice of heaven in north Georgia and will do just about anything to protect the past, present and future of Lakemont.

Lake Rabun is magical to me. It's my refuge and sense of peace from the madness and drama of city life. It forces me to slow down and appreciate the beauty, fresh air, and simpler lifestyle in these mountains. Nature speaks to me in ways that I've never experienced before, having lived in the city all of my life. I'm so fortunate to have this place that keeps me sane and balanced, and I hope many of you feel the same way.

It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President this year. This organization is unique and my life has been enriched as a result of working with so many special and "real" people. I have learned more about human nature, gained wisdom and made many friends. Thank you Trustees, volunteers, and lake members – you have made this job pleasant and rewarding, and you've helped me become a better person in many ways. I look forward to serving you as Vice Chairman and will see you on the water again next spring. In the meantime, may you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday season.

> Laura Rhodes Outgoing President

Whippoorwill awarded to Steve Raeber at the Labor Day meeting



The Whippoorwill Award is given each year to an LRA member who has demonstrated his/her devotion to Lake Rabun by years of service to our lake community. From the time he arrived on Lake Rabun's shores in the mid-1980s, Steve has been actively involved in every activity and fundraiser, serving on the LRA Board, volunteering for various events, you name it, he was there. Always quietly volunteering and serving, Steve epitomizes what a Whippoorwill is. Now, as the Director of the Lake Rabun Foundation, we will undoubtedly see the Fund grow and see more being done in the Rabun community through his watchful and caring eye. Congratulations, Steve Raeber!

If you would like to nominate a member of the LRA for this award for 2017, go to the LRA website and click on Whippoorwill and you will see the nomination form. Or call Buz Stone or Carol Raeber with your nomination.



Lake Rabun Association, Inc. (LRA) is a nonprofit, social welfare organization dedicated to nurturing the beauty, serenity and quality of life on and around Lake Rabun.

Officers and Trustees 2017

Officers
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President	John Williams pres@lakerabun.org
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() Years left to serve

LRA Foundation

Steve Raeber Executive Director Ron Hinson Associate Director Buz Stone......Director Emeritus

Lake Rabun Pavilion Co-Chairs

Rick Asbill - Finance Kirk Knous - Operations

Waves is a publication of the

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

President's Message

I want everyone to know what an honor it is to be your President in 2017. My heart has been at the lake for most of my 53 years and I hope to serve you as well as the great people that have preceded me. The past two years in the officer rotation have given me great insight into what a wonderful community we have. The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well on Lake Rabun and I want to thank all those who enthusiastically gave of themselves to enrich the experience of our community in 2016.

A special thanks to those who organized and volunteered for the Tour of Homes and the 10th running of the Rabun Ramble. These fundraisers are so important to the Foundation as they seek out those individuals and organizations in Rabun County that truly have needs. Community outreach is so important in this day and age and everything that we as a community can do to contribute goes a long way.

2016 was highlighted by some great musical events. We quickly found that we needed more dance floor and fewer tables. What a great site to see – all ages, from toddlers to grandmothers, out on the dance floor till the band sent them home. Please remember that these events are meant to be one of the fun benefits of your membership in the LRA. Over the years we have looked to enhance these experiences and will continue to do so. So, please do not hesitate to reach out with any suggestions you may have.

Our focus in the New Year will be the continued safety and enjoyment of our wonderful mountain community. Our event schedule will once again appeal to ages young and old and our fundraisers this year will be highlighted by a new spin on a Lake Rabun tradition – The Market at Lake Rabun.

Safety continues to be a prime focus of your officers and trustees. Our little lake offers challenges that are not seen on other waters. I encourage all to adhere to the Golden Rule as you go out on the lake in 2017. Courtesy on the water goes a long way.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday season. I look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

John Williams, LRA President

www.lakerabun.org



The Fred Stewart "Shangri-La" Award

The Fred Stewart Award was created in 2001 as a memorial to Fred Stewart, the founder of Mountain Patrol, in recognition of his decades of service committed to improving the safety and well-being of the Lakemont community that he referred to as *Shangri-La*.

Periodically, the award is presented to recognize an individual who has performed extraordinarily selfless acts beyond the call of duty for the benefit of others to protect the well being of the members of the Lake Rabun community. Several recent recipients include Dr. Joe Mims, the Bill Davis family, and Ben McCracken.

This year the Fred Stewart Award was presented to Michael Crowe in recognition of his planning and foresight regarding problem areas on the lake after the 4th of July fireworks. When a boat was swamped and began sinking in the Big Basin, the rescue squad was nearby. The quick action of Michael and other volunteers who extended their hands in the darkness, prevented an accident from becoming a tragedy when they rescued the Stern family from the water.

Other volunteers present that evening were John Murray, Matthew Harbin, Tate Nichols, Graycyn Rogers and McCord Johnson. Two DNR officers, Chad Chambers and Joe Hill, plus two Sheriff's deputies, Darrin Smith and Tony Parrish, also participated in the rescue. We are blessed to have these volunteers who make an impact on our community.

Lake Rabun Fire Protection Services Update & Capital Campaign

LWVFD Fireboat Back in Service

The Lakemont-Wiley Volunteer Fire Department fireboat is back in service with a repaired outboard engine due to the joint efforts of Station 4 Captain John Murray and Ben Mc-Cracken at Rabun Boathouse. Ben was able to secure the necessary replacement powerhead for this 21 year-old engine and get it installed in record time. He also prescribed a rigorous engine break-in schedule, which was followed and completed by our Station 4 firefighters.

New Fireboat Capital Campaign

Thanks to those LRA members who have already stepped up and sent their contributions to NGCF to help with the funding necessary to purchase a new fireboat with compliant pump capacity. We have received \$18,800 as of October 30 in the Lakemont Wiley Volunteer Fire Department Capital Campaign Fund. We are also told to expect an additional \$5,000 in the near future and have a pledge for an additional \$4,500 contingent upon this Campaign raising enough funds to move forward with the purchase of a fireboat. To do that, we must meet our target goal of \$120,000. As year-end nears, please consider sending your tax deductible contributions.

In addition to soliciting contributions from our LRA members, we need your help to identify Lake Rabun residents who are not LRA members. We would like to include them in this effort since they will also benefit from this initiative. You can help by providing their names and home mailing addresses and/or email addresses so information can be sent to them, or you can direct them to visit our website at www.lakerabun.org to learn about this lake-wide need and campaign. The website has the overview information on the home page and there is a link which provides the information. These can be copied and printed for hand delivery to your non-LRA member neighbors. Please think about your lake neighbors and send us a list of those who are not members.

We are also making contact with other stakeholders such as Rabun County, Georgia Power Company, insurance companies and other potential fund sources to solicit their financial support. If you have knowledge of possible fund sources, please provide their names and contact information.

Simultaneously, Capt. Murray is currently working with other County Fire Services officials to gain their support and to develop the specifications for the properly outfitted new fireboat which will meet our lake needs.

Enhanced Fire Protection for Upper End of Lake

Early stage discussion is also underway regarding a way to expand and enhance fire protection services for the upper end of the lake. We are looking at various properties but we could use your help. Are you aware of suitable property for a potential site for a new fire station in this area? Eligible properties need road access for the fire truck or a combination of both road and lake access. Should a combination site be found and selected, it could house the existing fireboat and a pump-compliant fire truck which could qualify the area it serves for the improved ISO rating of 5.

Help us help you and your neighbors!

• Let us know who your non-LRA lake resident neighbors are and how to contact them.

• Give some thought to possible available sites for a new fire station and provide that information to us.

• Send your contributions now to support the purchase of a new compliant fireboat. Delivery can be as much as six months after an order is placed.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the North Georgia Community Founda-

tion, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, are deductible for federal and state income tax purposes as charitable contributions to the extent allowed by law. Checks should be made payable to:

North Georgia Community Foundation with LWVFD Capital Fund written on the memo line.

Contributions should be **mailed to**: North Georgia Community Foundation 615 F Oak Street, Suite 1300 Gainesville, GA 30501

Neighbor information and possible site information should be provided to:

Bob Pledger, 49 Pinto Lane, Lakemont, GA 30552

706-212-2833, bobpledger@windstream.net



Net proceeds go to the Lake Rabun Fund and the Lakemont-Wiley Volunteer Fire Department Capital Fund.

LAKE RABUN FOUNDATION NEWS



Buz Stone (L) and Steve Raeber (R) present Joe Hamilton (C) with a check to the 100 Club of Rabun County, his designated choice for the Buz Stone Award.

Buz Stone Award Presented to JOE HAMILTON

Long-time LRA member Joe Hamilton was the 2016 recipient of the Buz Stone "Lake Rabun Cares" Award. This award recognizes an LRA member who "reflects the spirit of Buz Stone and the goodwill of the LRA in serving the welfare of Rabun County".

For many years, Joe Hamilton was "the face" of Lake Rabun in the Rabun community. Joe was a founding member and generous supporter of Rabun's animal shelter. He led the effort to obtain major grants for the Lakemont Wiley Volunteer Fire Department. In 1998, Joe established the 100 Club of Rabun County. This effort established a fund to assist families of law enforcement officers, firefighters and other first responders who may have been killed or injured in the line of duty.

Joe's leadership and tireless effort led to the building of the recycling center on 441 near Tallulah Falls – still referred to as "The Joe".

Joe requested that the \$2,500 grant associated with this award be directed to The 100 Club of Rabun County.



lake Rabun → 1915 SOCIETY ↔

Join the

and help endow the Lake Rabun Foundation through a Planned Gift

Lake Rabun Foundation P.O. Box 114 Lakemont, Georgia 30552

1915 SOCIETY

Please consider the Lake Rabun Foundation in your estate plans. Please contact Ron Hinson if you have made arrangements to include the Foundation in your plans.

PAYING IT FORWARD

For the past several years, the Lake Rabun Foundation Annual Fund has received a check for \$500 or more from 2001 Scholarship recipient, Sam Wilson. This is also accompanied by a matching grant from his company. When thanked for his generosity, Sam says he appreciated the assistance he received and wants to "pay it forward".

NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to Amy and Jerry Wethington for recently establishing The Wethington Family Scholarship Fund.



Do you have your Lake Rabun Centennial Map?

One copy of this map is free for each LRA member family. You can purchase additional copies for \$10 each. Besides listing all the members in 2015, it showcases historic photos. An additional feature of this map is that the Fire Station is marked with a red circle and all Fire Department standpipes are marked with a red triangle.

If you have not received your copy of this map, contact Bob or Anne Pledger to make arrangements to pick it up. [49 Pinto Lane (Lake Rabun Road to Kings Row to Pinto Lane), 706-212-2833, pledgerrw@windstream.net]

2017 Membership Dues

Thanks to each of you who support the Lake Rabun Association and all that it offers. Annual dues of \$250 afford great member benefits, which include the following and more:

 Support of LRA preservation and conservation programs like Boater Safety, fire protection services, Lake Clean Up days, hemlock treatment and archiving our rich history

• Participation with your friends and neighbors throughout the year from Memorial Day's Summer Kickoff to July 4th Fireworks and Wooden Boat Parade to the Beach Music and Labor Day band parties – and don't forget Bingo and Lakemont University

• Outreach to improve lives in the broader Rabun County community via the Lake Rabun Foundation - as volunteers, leaders and/or donors.

Ticket sales cover only a portion of the cost of our LRA activities. Your membership dues cover the rest, such as event entertainment, pavilion rental, fireworks, newsletters, Clayton Tribune subscriptions and liability insurance.

We hope that you will renew your membership for 2017 **NOW** and that you will encourage your neighbors and friends to participate actively in the many opportunities the Association provides. You should have already received an invoice for 2017 dues. Prompt payment reduces the administrative burden for the LRA, so thanks to those who have already paid. Please note that the IRS rules provide that contributions, gifts or dues to the Lake Rabun Association are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Reminders from Georgia Power

Due to extreme drought conditions this fall, Georgia Power has cancelled the scheduled drawdown for Lake Rabun in November. Plans are to reschedule the drawdown for November 2017. If construction plans or repairs have already been approved for 2016, the permits will be renewed at the next scheduled drawdown.

As a reminder, leased property owners are not allowed to rent their homes on VRBO or through any other rental source as this is a violation of the Georgia Power lease. Homeowners are given 30 days to remove the rental listing. Please contact Cheryl Parker (706-754-7972) with any questions or concerns.



"The Market at Lake Rabun 2017" is going to be the biggest ever!

We are so excited and know you will be, too when you look on www.lakerabun.org under the icon "The Market at Lake Rabun"!

There is something for everyone this year - from Live and Silent Auctions, to a Fabulous Wine and Cheese Party, a 100 Boston Butt cookoff, Jewelry Store, Pre-Sale of certain items, Raffle for a Rowing Scull, Rustic Table Fantasy, Trips and Unique Experiences for the whole family!!

So go to the website and Read All About The Market at Lake Rabun!

Our Committee Chairs and Members are listed on the website and are eager for you to sign up as a volunteer.

Donate to the cause with your talents, time, and treasures! Be creative!!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, June 17, 2017

We'll see you there!

Betsy Bairstow Morse, Chairperson 404-245-5343

The Market at Lake Rabun

A Fundraiser for the Benefit of the Lake Rabun Fund of North Georgia Community Foundation, inc. Sponsored by Lake Rabun Association, inc.

June 17, 2017 Lake Rabun Pavilion

Each summer the Lake Rabun Association holds a major fund-

raiser to raise money for the Lake Rabun Foundation so it can

Continue the Tradition of Giving Back to Rabun County. The

Market was started in 1981 and is the oldest and largest fund-

Silent & Live Auctions

Gift Certificates

Jewebry Store

Boston Butt Sale

Rustic Table Fantasy

Chick-Fil-A Lunch Wagon

Spíríts Pull

Pre-Sale

Flea Market

Raffle

Wine and Cheese Party

Sponsorships

Community Outreach:

In 2016 the Lake Rabun Foundation contributed to more than 30 local educational and charitable organizations. The Foundation has contributed more than \$1.4 million to scholarship assistance and outreach in Rabun County.

raiser on Lake Rabun.

Scholarships

The Lake Rabun Foundation also provides

Currently, 136 Rabun County college-bound students have been

awarded scholarship assistance

Net proceeds of this event will go to the Lake Rabun Fund and the Lakemont Wiley Volunteer Fire Department Capita und which are donor advised funds of the North Georgia Community Foundation, Inc. (Tax ID # 58-1610318), a tax exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to NGCF funds are deductible as charitable contributions for federal and state income tax purposes to the ktent allowed by law.



financial assistance to Rabun students attending North Georgia Technical College.

• In 2016-17, the Lake Rabun Foundation will fund over \$60,000 for Rabun County college students.

> LRA Scholars don't just receive financial aid; they "connect" with LRA members and each one has a mentor.

> > Together we change lives.







Rabun Ramble Road Race Saturday, July 2, 2016

As the kickoff event of the July 4th weekend celebration, the Rabun Ramble has become a tradition for many, and hopefully a medal for a few. One cancer patient, whose family and friends had run the Ramble for years, wanted to beat the disease that was attacking him and run with his family at the end of his treatment. The three goals that he made for himself as he fought that tough battle were to be at Lake Rabun for the Fourth, to jump off the family diving board and finally, to run the Rabun Ramble and win a medal. This amazing young man completed the race and won third place in his age division, with his family cheering him as he walked up and received his medal. Many may have wondered why they were cheering so loudly for a third place finish, but this young man had set his goals and met every single one of them. What an honor it was for us at the Rabun Ramble to hear that we could offer him a light at the end of that tunnel.

The Rabun Ramble is a 5K/10K race that starts at the Lake Rabun Pavilion at 7:30 a.m. on the Saturday of the Fourth of July weekend. We have families who have run together for years, friends who fly in from thousands of miles away to continue a holiday tradition, and numerous individuals who are running to qualify for marathons later in the year. But simply for some of our runners who love our race so much, it's a goal to do better: A goal to do better in your race time than last year, a goal maybe just to WALK a race for the first time or a goal to embrace and celebrate life with those that we love. And of course, you get one of our t-shirts that everyone loves at the end!

Behind the scenes are numerous volunteers who work hard to make sure our race for over 700 runners goes off without a hitch. This year, we had over 30 sponsors who truly made the race happen and helped make this the second highest fundraiser for the Lake Rabun Foundation. We couldn't do the Rabun Ramble without all of these important people from our community. Cheers for our volunteers and sponsors!

Our race proceeds go to the Lake Rabun Fund of the North Georgia Community Foundation. We're proud to announce this year, our 10th running, we raised \$18,000.

This fall is the perfect time to lace up your shoes and start walking OR running in preparation for the Rabun Ramble. For more information, go to www.RabunRamble.com.

See you next summer! Sandy O'Brien



Christmas/Holiday Book Special!

For those of you who have purchased and are enjoying our award-winning book, *Lake Rabun – Georgia's Lake Como – A Centennial History of Lakemont*, we are offering an unbelievable special for you to pick up *additional* copies to use as gifts this upcoming holiday season.

Through December 31st, we are offering at reduced prices: the *Standard Edition* will be \$75 (originally \$85) and any additional books purchased during this timeframe will be only \$50 each. The *Limited Edition* will drop to \$110 (from the original price of \$140), with any additional copies at the super low price of \$85. These discounts apply only to new books purchased, cannot be combined with any previous purchase, and extend *only until December 31, 2016.* As an additional bonus, all books will include our very special DVD on the Centennial!

We have crossed the threshold of covering all our expenses for the book, so **100% of your purchases** *goes directly to the Lake Rabun Fund*. Check www.lakerabun.org for a list of places and ways to buy the books (and DVDs).

Tour of Homes Results



The 2016 Lake Rabun Tour of Homes was a huge success, once again breaking previous years' records with net proceeds of \$41,000 to the Lake Rabun Fund. Many thanks to the 325+ volunteers who made this event happen, to all our donors and sponsors, and especially to the homeowners who so generously opened their homes for the tour.



Improvements to Minnehaha Trail

The local Forest Service office is interested in working with the LRA to improve the trail to Minnehaha Falls. Since this trail is widely used, there is a lot of work to be done to rehabilitate and make the trail safer and more enjoyable. This winter, they will work on the off-trail areas and signage. In the spring, the steps need to be rebuilt and the trail itself needs improvement to help define it as a walkable trail. Both the Forest Service and the LRA are asking for volunteers to help with this community project in the spring. Please contact Helen McSwain (mcswainh@ bellsouth.net) if you'd like to help. Stay tuned for more details after the first of the year.



Join us as we wind up the 2016 slate of LRA activities with our annual Day After Thanksgiving Gathering & Potluck Dinner.

Plan now to join your lake family and friends at Glen-Ella Springs Inn as we kick off the holiday season.

Bring your family, house guests, friends, potluck dish and your choice of beverage. The fun starts at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 25, 2016. Please register in advance at www.lakerabun.org so we can plan to accommodate everyone. See you there!

And don't forget the Pigeon Mountain Hike on Friday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. to rev up your appetites. Meet at the Georgia Power gate located on Brandon Mill Road near Keller Lane. Family, friends and pets welcome.







Boating Safety Reminders

Another season has come to a close. We had one major accident involving boats operating in an unsafe manner in congested water at the conclusion of the fireworks show. Fortunately, no one was injured; however, a boat operating at idle speed was swamped and went to the bottom of the lake. Thanks to the Rabun County Search and Rescue team, firefighters and DNR personnel on duty for their quick responses and actions.

Your Boating Safety Committee (BSC) is committed to ongoing education and community outreach to further Boat Safety / Lake Safety and Emergency Services. The BSC is working to address all of the concerns that have been expressed this year.

The primary concerns from the summer lake activity were:

• Jet skis coming too close to skiers and boathouses.

• Large wakes from larger, heavier boats when "plowing" or surfing individuals which damage boathouses and shorelines.

• Boats traveling above idle speed within 100 feet of boathouses.

During the fall, winter, and early spring the following reminders may be helpful:

• Be aware of debris floating in the main channels of the lake due to little or no boat traffic during these times of the year.

• Disconnect the battery cables on your boats to reduce potential fire hazards while boats are winterized.

• Secure all recreational equipment (paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, dock furniture, etc.) to avoid such items being blown into the lake and presenting hazards to other boaters.

• During this time of the year, it is also a good time to act on the recommendation of the fire department, search and rescue and EMS to order 911 address signage for your boathouse, residence or driveway so it can be installed before next summer. No matter what the situation, these signs will help them find you to render help much faster, day or night.

The next Boating Safety class is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 10, 2017. This class is for all ages, adults and kids. Many of us need refreshers, some new lake residents need to learn more about our lake, and new boat drivers and jet ski operators need to understand the rules of the water. Mark your calendars so you can join us.

We wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a great rest of this year.

Michael Crowe Boating Safety Committee

Lake Rabun Association





Lake Rabun Association

Calendar of Events 2017

Saturday, May 27th	Trustees Meeting at the Pavilion (9:00 a.m.) Memorial Day Party (7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)
Sunday, May 28th	General Membership Meeting at the Pavilion (10:00 a.m.)
Friday, June 2nd	Lake Clean-up Day at Hall's (9:00 a.m.)
Saturday, June 10th	Boater Safety Class at the Pavilion (9:00 a.m.) Lakemont University at the Pavilion (5:00 p.m.) Bingo at the Pavilion (7:00 p.m.)
Saturday, June 17th	The Market at Lake Rabun at the Pavilion
Friday, June 30th	Golf Tournament at The Orchard Golf & Country Club (TBD)
Saturday, July 1st	Rabun Ramble (7:30 a.m.) The Dillard House BBQ Dinner & The Foxfire Boys Band (6:00-11:00 p.m.) at the Pavilion
Sunday, July 2nd	Annual Wooden Boat Parade beginning at the Big Basin (10:30 a.m.) Annual Pass in Review at the Clayton UMC Boathouse (10:00 a.m.) Fireworks on the lake - dusk
Saturday, July 15th	Lakemont University at the Pavilion (5:00 p.m.) Bingo at the Pavilion (7:00 p.m.)
Saturday, July 22nd	Willy's Dinner and Beach Party at the Pavilion (6:00 p.m11:00 p.m.)
Saturday, August 12th	Lakemont University at the Pavilion (5:00 p.m.) Bingo at the Pavilion (7:00 p.m.)
Saturday, September 2nd	Trustees Meeting at the Pavilion (9:00 a.m.)
Sunday, September 3rd	General Membership Meeting at the Pavilion (10:00 a.m.) Labor Day Dinner & Band party at the Pavilion (6:00 p.m11:00 p.m.)
Friday, September 15th	Lake Clean-up Day at Hall's (9:00 a.m.)
Friday, November 24th	Pigeon Mountain Hike (1:30 p.m.) Day after Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at Glen- Ella Springs Pavilion (6:00 p.m.)

*Dates, times and events subject to change (refer to www.lakerabun.org for updates).