



# waves

FALL / WINTER 2020

Photo By John Williams

## President's Message: LRA Depends on our Volunteers

Despite 2020 being a most unusual year, it was still a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the President of the Lake Rabun Association. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Lake Rabun scene looked a lot different. We were not able to have any in person activities – home tour, band parties, dinners, bingo, Lakemont University, or General Membership meetings. We all missed our “gatherings” as we call these on Lake Rabun. However, Lake Rabun was busy all spring and summer with families and extended families here for time together. I have been coming here since 1999 and have never seen so many boats on the lake with many regular weekends as crowded as holiday weekends. We were able to have our traditional July 4th fireworks and wooden boat parade. Boat Church services also continued. There were pop up concerts on boat houses, boat happy hours on the lake with small groups of friends, and the Yackers kept kayaking, properly social distanced of course. Folks figured out how to have “Lake Rabun Gatherings” and many of these will become new traditions for family, friends and neighbors.

There are several people who deserve our recognition and gratitude:

- John Williams, our Chair emeritus, who went beyond the call of duty to get our wonderful new LRA Website developed and released in October. When you see John, please say, “thank you”.
- Sandy Strong, retiring LRA Chair and Rabun Ramble founder, produced a successful virtual 2020 Rabun Ramble.
- Ruddy Deas, our 2020 Vice Chair and 2021 Chair, and Wallace Bruce, a long time Lake resident, were able to form a partnership with the Lake Burton Civic Association and the Seed Lake Association to fund a study of the wakes and waves generated by boating and water sports activities. Ruddy also leads our partnership with the Forest Service to maintain the Minnehaha Falls Trail.
- Steve Raeber, Chair of the Lake Rabun Foundation, and its Trustees for all they did to help Rabun County non-profits address Covid-19 needs.
- Michael Crowe, our Boating Safety Committee Chair, who works hard every year so that we have a safe summer on

the lake including a safe July 4th fireworks event.

- Chris Dunn who has taken on the leadership of the renewed partnership with the County to keep Lake Rabun Road beautiful.
- Julie Taylor and Cindy Taylor organized the 2020 Tour of Homes and were ready to proceed but had to cancel due to COVID.
- Penny Marshall who runs the Lake Rabun Store.
- Our Trustees and all Committee members who help make our community what it is. Special thanks go to our 2020 retiring Trustees: Anne Breedlove, Henry Newkirk, Ken Nix, Jim Roberson, Kevin Salwen, and John Taylor. And welcome to our 2021 Trustee Class: Oakley Sutherland, Marchie Hepner, Hannah Salwen, Rob King and Jerry Wethington.
- Our Officers, especially Anita Pittman, CFO.

We have many new neighbors on the lake who have not had the opportunity to meet folks at our events or get involved this summer. So, here are my suggestions for our new neighbors:

- Become an LRA member if you are not already one.
- Volunteer. That is how everyone you see listed above started. That is how I got to know people and ended up having the privilege to be a trustee and then an officer. Every event you see on the calendar is a volunteer opportunity.
- Attend the parties and the general membership meetings.
- If you see a need and have an idea, run with it. In 2007, Sandy Strong decided that Lake Rabun needed its own Peachtree Road Race and we have had the Rabun Ramble ever since.

So let's look forward to 2021. We will clean up the lake. We will eat, drink and dance to the music of the bands at the Pavilion. We will celebrate with our wonderful scholarship students at a General Membership meeting. We will play bingo, and do all those things that define what being at Lake Rabun means to us all.

David Tatum, 2020 LRA President



*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.*

## 2021 Officers and Trustees

### Officers

Richard Simms .....President  
pres@lakerabun.org

Dick Newkirk .....Vice President  
vp@lakerabun.org

Judy Cathey ..... Secretary  
sectr@lakerabun.org

Anita Pittman ..... CFO  
anita.pittman@cpa.com

### Trustees

Ruddy Deas .....Chairman

Jill Bernhardt (2)

David Dupuy (1)

Marchie Hepner (3)

Lorie Hughes (2)

Pat Hickey (1)

Lisa Hoffman (1)

Forrest Kennedy (2)

Rob King (3)

Jay Morgan (1)

Hannah Salwen (3)

Oakley Sutherland (3)

Taylor Schweiger (2)

Mary Shannon Scott (2)

Ryan Simmons (3)

Clay Snelling (1)

Susie Tillis (2)

Robert Tritt (1)

Laura West (1)

Richard Wethington (3)

( ) 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

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

# Membership Renewal 2021

Thank you for your continued support of the Lake Rabun Association! Annual dues of \$250 afford wonderful member benefits, including:

- 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 in the many LRA events with friends and neighbors. After a quiet summer of social distancing, we look forward to all our traditional activities in 2021 from Memorial Day's Summer Kickoff to July 4th Fireworks 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.

While event ticket sales cover 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.

Please renew your membership for 2021 today. Dues can be securely paid via credit card at lakerabun.org. Please note that the IRS rules provide that contributions, gifts or dues to the Lake Rabun Association are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

**We appreciate your membership!**



At the 2019 Labor Day Membership meeting, the LRA recognized David Dyer and expressed gratitude to him for all he does in support of our events at the Pavilion. We have had this plaque made and will have it installed in an appropriate place at the Pavilion for our 2021 Memorial Day General Membership Meeting. Thanks again David for all you have done for the LRA over the years.

## Boating Safety Reminders

**On behalf of the Boating Safety Committee, thanks to everyone for a safe summer on the lake. Keep the following in mind this winter:**

- Be aware of debris floating in the main channels of the lake due to no boat traffic at this time 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, etc.) so they won't be blown in the lake and present hazards to other boaters.



**Many LRA members expressed concerns during the summer lake activities:**

- Boats and jet skis coming too close to skiers and boathouses.
- Large wakes on the lake damaging shorelines as well as boats in boathouses, so please respect your lake neighbors and other boaters and keep your distance.
- Pay attention to the 100' rule.

**Please remind your houseguests and visitors of these rules. The next Boating Safety Class will be held on June 5th, 2021.**

Michael Crowe  
Boating Safety Committee Chair

## LAURA RHODES RECEIVES WHIPPOORWILL AWARD

From the time Laura joined the LRA she has been an enthusiastic participant in almost every LRA activity. She has generously volunteered her time, energy, and many talents in support of the Lake Rabun Association. Laura quickly went from being a volunteer to being a leader. Not once, but twice, she joined with Kelly Cowan to chair two successful flea markets and auctions. These flea market fundraisers each raised more money for the Lake Rabun Foundation than any event up to that time.

After serving as an engaged LRA trustee for three years, Laura was asked to join the LRA officer/leadership rotation. During her tenure, she had the added challenge of serving as vice president during the Centennial Year Celebration in 2015. She was also responsible for creating and editing the Lake Rabun Centennial map that was published in 2015. As LRA President, Laura will be remembered for her attention to detail and for being one of the best organized leaders of the LRA.

Not one to rest, Laura turned her attention to the LRF scholarship program. She and Greg volunteered to become the "Connection Family" for two LRA scholarship students. They poured themselves into those relationships, providing a great support team for the two students.



Photo by Anne Pledger

Two years ago, Laura was asked to head the LRF Connections program and became a member of the scholarship interview committee. Her kindness and empathy are evident during the student interviews, and she works diligently to match each student with just the "right" LRA family.

Laura loves the lake and continues to participate in all things Lake Rabun. As she and Greg became full-time Lake Rabun residents, they also became active members of the Rabun Community. Laura coordinates the Lakemont Book Club and is a member of the Mountain Ivy Garden Club in Clayton. She and Greg are active members of Rabun

Gap Presbyterian Church. They can be found volunteering at the church's food distribution outreach program. Greg is a member of the church's music ministry and Laura is on the Building Committee helping with the design and construction of a new sanctuary.

Laura is recognized as a friend, leader, and mentor. Her resume meets all the criteria as someone "who has demonstrated her love for Lake Rabun through many years of service to, and involvement in, lake activities, showing a spirit of volunteerism." We are proud to recognize Laura Rhodes as the Whippoorwill Award Winner for 2020.

## DENNY WEBB RECIPIENT OF BUZ STONE AWARD

*The Buz Stone Award was created in 2012 to honor Buz Stone for guiding the Lake Rabun Foundation for 25 years. The Buz Stone "Lake Rabun Cares" Award is presented each year to an LRA member "Who reflects the spirit of Buz Stone and the goodwill of the Lake Rabun Association in serving the welfare of Rabun County." The Award carries with it a \$2500 grant for scholarships or a charity selected by the recipient.*

*Past recipients include many notable LRA members: Buz Stone, David & Barbara Cantrell, Charles & Jacqueline Groover, Dorothy Ann King, Joe Hamilton, Kirk & Kathy Knous, Leckie Stack, and Robert & Anita Pittman.*

The 2020 Buz Stone Award was presented to Denny Webb. For many years, Denny has quietly served as Lake Rabun's ambassador to the political leaders in Rabun County. Over 35 years, some of his roles have been in an "official" capacity, while other times, he has simply been a liaison or "goodwill ambassador" for our lake community. He has always had the trust and respect of Rabun elected officials.

Denny worked closely with Joe Hamilton in establishing the 100 Club of Rabun County. Their efforts established a fund to assist first responders and their families should they be injured or killed while on duty. Today, Denny oversees the 100



Club and continues to provide aid when needed.

For more than 10 years, Denny utilized his legal background in volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Over the years, Denny assisted more than 30 children in their quest for a safe and stable life. He also served on the board of Northeast Georgia CASA.

Denny has certainly represented the LRA well in serving the welfare of Rabun County. He has requested that the \$2,500 grant be split between the 100 Club of Rabun County and Northeast Georgia CASA.

# Lake Rabun Foundation Report

Due to the impact of the pandemic in Rabun County this year, the Lake Rabun Foundation has been more focused on our Community Outreach grants. In response to increased requests for assistance, Foundation grants for the first 9 months of this year are 50% ahead of our annual giving in past years. Rabun County Family Connections (RCFC) has been the single largest beneficiary. RCFC is the go-to source for emergency assistance to families for necessities such as food, rent, utilities and medicine. All recipients are screened and approved based on need.

The Foundation has also made direct grants to local charities such as FAITH, Rabun Christian Food Ministry, and the Mountain Branch of the Food Bank. These organizations have experienced significant increases in requests for help. Grants have also been made to a number of local churches to help with their food and assistance programs.

We continue to monitor conditions closely. With cold weather and the holidays approaching, we know there will be more requests for assistance. Thanks to the generosity of our Lake Rabun family, the Foundation will continue to have an impact in the Rabun community.

Thank You for your support!

Steve Raeber

## Cathey Scholarship

Thanks to Judy and Tex Cathey for their generosity in establishing an Endowed Scholarship in their names.

## ANNUAL FUND-Why not 100%

As we all know, there were no Lake Rabun social or fundraising activities this summer. So much planning had gone into a much-anticipated Tour of Homes, which had to be canceled. This means that other than the "virtual Ramble", there has been no event income to support the Lake Rabun Foundation. As a result, the 2020 Annual Fund takes on much greater importance. This year the Foundation needs the support of each Lake Rabun family. Regardless of the amount, I hope that every LRA member-100%- will step up to support the Foundation. Perhaps you would consider redirecting the funds you would have allocated to tickets for the Home Tour to an annual fund contribution.

Keep in mind, that unlike other scholarships in Rabun County, our LRA scholarships are for \$10,000 over four years. Thus, the Lake Rabun Foundation has multi-year obligations to provide support for our 43 LRA scholars.

Fortunately, the Foundation has a financial cushion, but the simple economics of increased scholarships and grants, combined with the loss of a major source of income, is not a healthy formula.

Checks should be payable to: NGCF-Lake Rabun Fund

Mail to: Lake Rabun Foundation  
P.O. Box 114  
Lakemont, GA 30525

For on-line giving:

[www.NGCF.org/donate](http://www.NGCF.org/donate)  
type- Lake Rabun Fund

I am most grateful for the continued generosity of the many LRA members who have enabled the Lake Rabun Foundation to impact lives in Rabun County.

Steve Raeber

*From Angie Addington,  
Guidance Counselor, RCHS*

Hi everyone! I just want to reach out to each of you and thank you so much for taking time to help our students in Rabun County. What a joy it is to be able to work with people that truly care about our students. Thank you for taking time in setting up schedules and trying to figure this all out- Zoom conferences, putting together all the paperwork, reaching out to everyone and meeting with our students. This is a difficult time for everyone, and I so appreciate your kindness and willingness to help our students during this crazy pandemic. It brings much comfort in a time of uncertainty to know how kind and appreciative everyone has been to this senior class. THANK YOU AGAIN LAKE RABUN ASSOCIATION!!

Much Love, Angie

Lake Rabun Association,  
Thank you for the generous grant of \$2,000.- This gift is truly appreciated. I've been here four years and the community generosity is quite overwhelming! It's donors like your organization that makes Rabun County a wonderful place to live and work.  
10/18/2020  
James Brim  
Director, Mountain Branch  
Food Bank of Northeast Georgia

Dear Mr. Raeber,  
Thank you for the donation from the Lake Rabun Fund. We know families are struggling + these funds will help them tremendously.  
Love Love  
Laurie Lane



**THE NEW LRA WEBSITE IS LIVE!** First and foremost, we want to recognize Veanne and Tim Smith. Veanne and Tim built our legacy site over 7 years ago. On a volunteer basis, they maintained and customized the web site meeting the many needs of the LRA. Hats off to the Smiths for the countless hours they spent dedicated to our community!

We hope everyone has taken the time to tour the new site. The new BLOG function allows for timely communication with our members. You now have the ability to enter multiple email addresses in your profile. This will ensure that all family members are included in our email distributions. Also, each member has a link to Google Maps included in their profile, which will allow you to quickly locate your fellow members on the lake. You will see more details on The Foundation and ways to contribute. The 2021 event calendar is posted as well. There is much more! Log on and click around.

As with any new endeavor, there will be issues. Please contact [admin@lakerabun.org](mailto:admin@lakerabun.org) if you encounter any problems.

John Williams & Anita Pittman

## KEEP LAKE RABUN ROAD BEAUTIFUL



### GOAL:

Keep the stretch of road from the Seed Dam to the triangle/Terrora Circle free of litter.

### HOW?

Sign up to be responsible for a section of the road (6.3 miles in total).

### YOUR OBLIGATION?

Promise to walk the section on average once per month over the period you choose when you sign up. Anything else? Yes. Take a selfie of whatever you collect each time you walk the route and post it to the Lake Rabun Facebook page!

### RECOMMENDATIONS?

Purchase a grabber tool to pick up items without touching them! (recommend the 48" length available on Amazon).

### HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Select the SECTION and the Quarter you want when you sign up. Please add your full name, phone number and email where you can be contacted. Save your sign up and you're finished!

Keep Lake Rabun Road Beautiful is part of the Keep Rabun County Beautiful program.

Feel free to call me with questions or suggestions,

Chris Dunn  
404-434-2688

## WAKE AND WAVE STUDY



The 2018 LRA Member Survey revealed that two-thirds of the respondents were concerned about either major or minor shoreline erosion and/or structural damage as a result of waves or wakes produced by boats. Additionally, the LRA Executive Committee and the LRA Boating Safety Committee members have received a steadily increasing number of comments expressing concern about the same issues. So, the LRA Boating Safety Committee recommended, and the LRA Executive Committee approved an engineering study of the incremental effects of various wake and wave sizes on navigation/recreational safety, shoreline and seawalls, plus dock and boat house structures. A highly qualified specialized water engineering consulting firm was engaged to perform a two stage study that included the following:

1. A literature survey of other studies and actions taken elsewhere.
2. Actual on-site measurements of wake and wave activity under various specific conditions on Lake Rabun.

The Lake Burton Civic Association and the Seed Lake Association were contacted regarding the study and have enthusiastically partnered with the LRA to share the cost of the study and to be involved in all future related activities.

Both stages of the study have been completed recently. A large amount of data and information have been collected and are being analyzed presently. Once the analysis is completed, a determination will be made concerning any further field study work that is necessary. A full report is expected later this fall. If any LRA member has any questions or would like to comment, please contact either Ruddy Deas or Wallace Bruce.





# LAKE RABUN STORE



at Allzy's ol' store

[www.lakerabun.org](http://www.lakerabun.org)



Burgee Nylon Boat and Boathouse 2 sided flags \$100

## APPAREL:

Men's Burgee Polos \$60

Men's Burgee Varsity Sweatshirts \$50

Men's Burgee Cashmere Vests (Were \$70) \$30

Ladies Burgee Fleece Vests \$40

Ladies Long Slv T-Shirts "On Lake Time" \$20

"Lake Rabun" Embroidered Caps \$10

## MISC:

Burgee Stickers \$5

Burgee Coffee Mugs \$12

Burgee Insulated Canvas Totes \$25

Burgee Embroidered Cotton Face Masks \$8

"Lake Rabun" Insulated Wine Mugs w/lid \$20

"Lake Rabun" Mexican Car Tag Plaques \$40





Lake Rabun Association

# Calendar of Events 2021

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Pavilion.

Friday, May 28	Memorial Day party/dance featuring the music of Moxie
Saturday, May 29	LRA Board of Trustees Meeting Lakemont-Wiley Volunteer Fire Department
Sunday, May 30	General Membership Meeting
Saturday, June 5	Boater Safety class Lakemont University Bingo
Friday, June 11	LRA Lake Cleanup Day at Hall's
Saturday, June 12	CPR / AED class
Friday, July 2	Golf Tournament at the Orchard Golf & Country Club
Saturday, July 3	Rabun Ramble Fireworks on the lake
Sunday, July 4	Annual Wooden Boat Parade BBQ / Bluegrass
Saturday, July 17	Lakemont University at the Pavilion Bingo
Saturday, July 24	Beach Party featuring the music of the Swingin' Medallions
Saturday, August 7	Lakemont University Bingo
Saturday, Sept. 4	LRA Board of Trustees Meeting Lakemont-Wiley Volunteer Fire Department
Sunday, Sept. 5	General Membership meeting Labor Day Party featuring the music of Atlanta Rhythm & Groove
Friday, Sept. 10	LRA Lake Cleanup Day at Hall's

**\*Dates, times and events are subject to change,  
so refer to [www.lakerabun.org](http://www.lakerabun.org) for updates**



Photo by Dick Simms