



waves

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FALL / WINTER 2021

Hello Lake Rabun friends!

I picked the wrong year to be President! But it actually turned out very well. Thanks to the last-minute lifting of CDC restrictions, we were able to have our Memorial Day meetings and dance in person. We were then able to have all of our usual parties, programs and events until the resurgence in August. Forrest Kennedy and Hannah Salwen brought us a very fun new event, "Smoke on the Mountain", and Forrest saved the day by hosting a really wonderful Labor Day boathouse concert. It turned out to be a surprisingly full and fun summer. Thanks to all of you who made it happen.

Throughout these difficult times, Lake Rabun has remained as beautiful as ever. We are all so fortunate to have this wonderful place to enjoy with our families and friends. Our good stewardship of the lake and surroundings, and our generous support of the Rabun County community are things we can all be proud of.

As I approach the end of my term as President, I reflect over the difficulties we have all faced in dealing with the Covid situation. I am grateful for the friendship and support of the other officers as we struggled to make some tough decisions. Unless you have served, you cannot know how much time is required in these positions. But the payoff is enormous, as we enjoy the rewards of giving back to the LRA, and making many new friends.

I hope and believe that by next summer our lives will be back to normal. Events are already planned and the bands are booked, thanks to our upcoming President, Dick Newkirk. We have a very strong organization and we are a resilient bunch. The best is yet to come! It's been an honor for me to serve as your President. Thank you!

-Dick Simms





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.

2022 Officers and Trustees

Officers

Dick Newkirk.....President
pres@lakerabun.org
Connie Thompson.....Vice President
vp@lakerabun.org
Pat Hickey.....Secretary
sectr@lakerabun.org
Anita Pittman.....CFO
anita.pittman@cpa.com

Trustees

Richard Simms.....Chairman
Victoria Anderson (1)
Neal Creech (3)
Keith Davidson (3)
Marchie Hepner (2)
Lori Hughs (1)
Forrest Kennedy (1)
Rob King (2)
Maurice Rosenbaum (3)
Hannah Salwen (2)
Oakley Sutherland (2)
Taylor Schweiger (1)
Mary Shannon Scott (1)
Ryan Simmons (2)
Susie Tillis (1)
Mary Turner Troutman (3)
Peter Watt (3)
Jerry Wethington (2)
() 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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P.O. Box 490
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Regarding our collective social engagement, one would have to acknowledge that 2021 was an improvement over 2020. Here is to hoping that 2022 will see a more "normal" return to all of our activities.

The Executive Committee ("EC"), comprised of the Secretary, CFO, VP, President, and Chairman (immediate past President) held regular Zoom calls throughout the winter and spring trying to figure out what the heck we could be able to safely do in terms of our social gatherings. Our four music/band contracts had all carried over from the previous year to perform or not in 2021 as we were obligated to honor our commitments as long as the bands were willing to perform.

The EC had unanimously agreed that decisions concerning live gatherings should at a bare minimum comply with both Georgia and CDC recommendations for in-person large gatherings. We also were very fortunate to have two physicians on the trustee team and Dr. Julie Taylor (CDC retired) providing their input. As such we were ready to put the Memorial Day band Moxie on the boat church boathouse until the CDC issued new guidelines based on vaccination status in mid-May.

With restrictions revised and at least an anecdotal/informed guess at the number of lake residents who were vaccinated, the LRA was pleased to host most of this year's schedule, including dinners for the 4th and the Beach Party, in-person at the Pavilion as planned. With the unfortunate spike in cases in late August and strong recommendations from our health care providers, we decided to cancel the Labor Day dance while providing the music from a boathouse. Many thanks to the Kennedys for their quick mobilization and generosity in allowing us to stage the show.

Looking back, there were many positive comments on Moxie at Memorial Day and NitroGrass at the July 4th party. We will look forward to having those bands back next year along with the Swingin' Medallions and Atlanta R&G. Connie Thompson, who will be handling next year's events, would like to hear from anyone who has comments or suggestions for 2022. One thing that has come up for the 4th of July is a return to a more picnic type menu as opposed to a full buffet with hot dishes.

I will take a moment to thank Willy Bitter of "Willys" for getting his truck and staff up here on fairly short notice for our Beach Party. The

food was great and Willy (of Ugly Dog Cove) always gives the LRA preferential service and preferential pricing!

I also appreciate the generous volunteer spirit that permeates our Lakemont/Lake Rabun Community. No matter the event, there are always volunteers. Mike Swink, in particular, just shows up to help set up and tear down and do whatever needs to be done. Sunday afternoon at 5PM for Labor Day he is at the Kennedys ready to schlep the band equipment. The volunteers and organizers of this year's Smoke on the Mountain auction fall into this category...to all of you thanks so much!

As a reminder, the Home Tour will return in 2022. Volunteers are needed and there will be more information on next year's event forthcoming. Dirk Brown dirkbga@bellsouth.net and Tim Burns timb10pop@yahoo.com are co-directors of the event and can be contacted as listed.

As the incoming LRA President for 2022, I would like to at least start a process for addressing the environmental concerns which face Lake Rabun. Uncontrolled sediment and silt influx into the lake can cause water quality issues, as well as increase viable areas for nuisance plant growth. Lake Rabun has clean water but it is not nearly as clean as it was 25 years ago. As areas of the lake get shallower, more areas become exposed to sunlight, which facilitates the growth of algae and the dreaded parrot feather. Additionally, sediment deposits can alter the flow of water and reduce water depths, which becomes problematic for both navigation and recreational use.

I know that this community is compelled to leave this lake as good or better than it was when we got here, and I look forward to starting a dialogue on how we can ensure that our children and our children's children will have the same opportunity to enjoy this incredible resource that we have had.

Looking forward to a less stressful off-season than last year, new challenges in 2022, and actively soliciting thoughts, concerns, and suggestions as to how we can make a good thing even better.

I remain sincerely yours,

Dick Newkirk

2021 LRA WHIPPOORWILL AWARD WINNER

Dr. Helen Funk McSwain's family came to Lake Rabun in the 1930's and it is here where her heart and soul are happiest. Wonderful childhood memories include being a very young boat driver, taking her Grandmother and her cocktail sipping friends around the lake every evening, watching them point to beautiful homes along the shore as fascinating stories about old and new Lake Families emerged. Fifty years later those tales and her own passion for lake history propelled her to dedicate long hours as one of the Lake Rabun Centennial Book volunteers. Her unwavering dedication to help preserve Lake Rabun for generations to come, combined with her low-key willingness to dive-in and whole heartedly serve, is why Helen McSwain is honored as the 2021 Lake Rabun Association's Whippoorwill Award winner.

"Among all her big contributions to our lake community, the far most impressive contribution was being part of the leadership team that produced the Lake Rabun Centennial book and DVD. Helen was responsible for introducing the book publisher, Laurie Shock, to the Centennial Committee. With her love of the history and family, she volunteered to be responsible for collecting the wealth of old photos from many of the old families around the lake. She tackled this job with such enthusiasm and passion. She wanted to obtain as many pictures as possible, so she purchased scanning equipment at her own expense and traveled to people's houses to scan their photographs, so they did not need to let go of their precious photos. She was relentless in her pursuit of the lake's visual history, picked the music for the videos, and on her own time taught herself to use Photoshop. She improved the quality of many of the old photos she had scanned so we could use them. She also learned to colorize them. Helen took a great deal of pride in researching many of the old Lake Rabun families, including Rutherford, Lipscomb, Hodgson and Witham. Helen is the one that figured out that Laura Jacquelin Rutherford Lipscomb was called Lamar of "Ms. Lamar's Hill" and who Lamar Alley was named for. Helen turned over a lot of interesting information that made the DVD and book that much more fascinating to watch and read." — Bob Voyles, August 2021

Helen retired from her OB-GYN practice, after delivering 4000 babies, including a few who enjoy life on Lake Rabun. Helen has served on the LRA Board of Trustees, coordinated the clean-up of Minnehaha Falls trail, has been a member of the Lake Rabun photo team, volunteers as a boat Captain in the Lake Rabun Tour of Homes Navy, and is actively paddling with the Lake Rabun Kayakers aka "Yakkers". She painted a beautiful group portrait of the Yakkers with proceeds donated to the LWVFD fireboat fund. Currently Helen's helps her six grandchildren create their own wonderful lake memories during their summer Belle-camp, Belle being the name her grandchildren call her. Upon retiring from her practice, she's become a highly regarded artist: recently written her memoir and transforms photos into beautiful oil paintings.

Helen's delighted to have been awarded this honor, one that was also bestowed on her late father, Dr. Jim Funk in 2004. When asked about her love for Lake Rabun, Helen quoted



photo by Cherry Kinnunen

one stanza of William Butler Yeats "The Lake Isle of Innisfree", a favorite poem:

I will arise and go now, for always night and day

I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Submitted by KA Hamdy-Swink, 9.21.21

ALL LAKE RABUN STORE ITEMS

Caps, Polos, Stickers, & Lots More!

Are now available at



at Alley's ol' store
EAT • SHOPPE • STAY

8476 Old 441 S
Lakemont, Georgia 30552

LAKE RABUN FOUNDATION NEWS

2021 has been another busy year for your Lake Rabun Foundation. Notable highlights include—

- 43 Rabun County students currently receiving LRA college scholarship assistance

- \$115,000 sent to colleges on behalf of LRA college scholars

- LRA scholarships increased to \$3,000 each year for 4 years beginning with 2021 class

- Grants to Rabun charitable and educational organizations budgeted at \$100,000 for 2021

- Lake Rabun Foundation and Lake Rabun Scholarship Fund received major bequests from the estate of Christina Freeman

- Lake Rabun Foundation makes larger grants to FAITH, Foxfire, Rabun Habitat, A Place of Hope North Georgia, Rabun County EMS, Rabun Dental Clinic and the Mountain Branch of the NE Georgia Food Bank

- Lake Rabun Foundation makes grants to the principals of the four Rabun County schools providing discretionary funds to assist students with immediate needs

JIM AND FLORRIE FUNK ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to Helen Funk McSwain, Florrie Funk and Allie Funk for establishing an endowed scholarship in memory of their parents.

PLANNED GIFTS

Many will be consulting their tax and estate planning attorneys in the coming months. This is the ideal time to include the Lake Rabun Foundation in your estate plans. Planned gifts will provide for the viability of the Lake Rabun Foundation for future years. Please contact Greg Rhodes or the North Georgia Community Foundation for information.

RABUN RAMBLE provides support to the Foundation for the 15th year! Thanks again to Sandy Strong and her team for organizing this always popular, healthy event over the July 4th Holiday.



SMOKE On the Mountain

Two younger LRA members, Forrest Kennedy and Hannah Salwen, took the initiative to create a new fundraising event to benefit the Lake Rabun Foundation. The result was a most enjoyable evening featuring great food, music and fellowship. Thirteen volunteer chefs provided an assortment of delicious barbeque. More than \$35,000 was raised in support of the Foundation.

LAKE RABUN FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Thanks to the LRA members who have served as trustees of the Lake Rabun Foundation. The trustees have met several times a year to provide council and leadership for the Foundation. This is an active, engaged group with a broad range of interests and talents. Thanks to Ron Hinson, Associate Director; Buz Stone, Director Emeritus; Rick Asbill, Board Chair; Pat Clay, Dick Newkirk, Anita Pittman, Anne Pledger, Larry Prince (deceased), Greg Rhodes, Leckie Stack, Bob Voyles and Thad Warren. Each year the Chair of the LRA Trustees serves a one-year term. Please contact me or any of the trustees if you have questions or suggestions.

Steve Raeber

ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of the Lake Rabun Foundation's annual budget. Your gift to the Annual Fund sends a clear message in support of the mission of the Foundation in providing scholarship assistance and charitable grants in Rabun County - especially in these challenging times. Donations can be made on the LRA website by clicking the donation button in the Foundation section. Thank you for your support.



Planned Gifts

Please consider including the Lake Rabun Foundation in your estate plans. There are a variety of ways this can be structured with your attorney and the North Georgia Community Foundation. Planned gifts will provide for the viability of the Lake Rabun Foundation for future years. Please contact Greg Rhodes (ggrhodes@equivalinc.com) with questions.

LAKE RABUN FOUNDATION NEWS

AN UPDATE FROM ONE OF OUR CONNECTION FAMILIES:

Tom and I had the most delightful day yesterday in Atlanta with Katie Cox, our scholarship student. Katie is beginning her junior year in the fall at Wagner College in New York as a performing arts major.

We invited Katie to join us at the City Springs Theatre for lunch and the matinee of *Into the Woods*. The lovely coincidence is that Katie is auditioning for *Cinderella* in the play at her university and was so excited to learn from the performance.

We feel so fortunate to participate in Katie's university experience. She is a joy to us.

It is a pleasure to be a part of this program.

Sincerely,
Sandy and Tom
Gay

STUDENTS @ SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Thanks to the generosity of an LRA member, 17 scholarship students were able to attend the recent LRA fundraiser "Smoke on the Mountain". Many of them were able to visit with their Connection families while enjoying the delicious food and even buck dancing with our own Anne Pledger. We're grateful for this generous donation which allowed our students to attend this fun event.

Thank you all so much for awarding me the Lake Rabun Scholarship. I am so grateful to the LRA's assistance in giving me the opportunity to attend Rhodes College knowing that my sister, Carling, received the same scholarship, and seeing her success and love for her mentor gives me much to look forward to and be grateful for. Receiving this scholarship also means a lot to me because of my close ties and appreciation close to Lake Rabun. Thank you all so much!
-Sincerely,
Isabella Caro

2021 BUZ STONE AWARD

The Buz Stone Award was created in 2012 to honor Buz 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, Robert & Anita Pittman, and Denny Webb.

At the Memorial Day Meeting Clay and Al Battle were awarded the 2021 Buz Stone "Lake Rabun Cares" Award.

For many years both Clay and Al have contributed to the Lakemont community by doing the behind-the-scenes support work. This talented couple has built the infrastructure for LRA events. They established the wi-fi connections, provided payment processing and sold tickets. Simply, they quietly figure out how to get things done.

Both have been wonderful LRA representatives in the community. For 5 years Clay served as Treasurer and active board member of FAITH. She was recognized in 2018 with the FAITH Helping Hand Award. She continues to assist FAITH in many ways. FAITH's executive director, Caroline Wallis said "Without Clay, FAITH would not be where it is today".



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) has benefited from Al's involvement for many years. He, too, has been a board member and served as Treasurer for several years. He continues to lend support for this impactful organization. Al has been an active volunteer for the Save Georgia Hemlock's program. He has been involved with the Lakemont Wiley Volunteer Fire Department. In recognition of his many hours of work, Fire Station # 4 made Al an honorary member of the department.

Clay and Al have been longtime supporters of the LRA Scholarship program. Joy Wilson, a scholarship student, wrote, "I absolutely love Clay and Al. They are so genuine, kind and intelligent".

Clay and Al have requested the \$2500 grant for the Buz Stone Award be split between FAITH and CASA.

RABUN RAMBLE ROAD RACE



The 16th Annual Rabun Ramble Road Race will be held on Saturday, July 2, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. starting at the Lake Rabun Pavilion. If you're new to the lake, the race is a 5K/10K out and back race run along Lake Rabun Road on Saturday morning of July 4 weekend every year. We average around 750 walkers/runners, all ages, all levels of ability. If you're a

serious runner, there are awards for every age group and if you're a walker, you'll be in good company with over half of the race group walking each year. We even welcome strollers and pups on leash as this is a family affair after all!

We unveil a new logo each year which is featured on your well-earned race shirt. It's a real badge of honor, you'll see friends wearing their shirts year round and they're just plain FUN. We even have water, bananas and granola bars afterwards too! All race proceeds go to the Lake Rabun Foundation.

We're pleased to announce that Mary Shannon Scott will be joining Sandy this year in preparation to take over the Ramble reins in 2023. Mary Shannon has volunteered at the Ramble for years (thanks Mary Shannon!) and we know you'll love her energy and "can do" approach to everything. If you're interested in volunteering, let us know!

Now that you have the Ramble on your calendar, keep those running shoes by the door and get out there walking (or running) today. It's never too early to take care of your health (and aim for a medal too)!

See you at the race!

Sandy and Mary Shannon

Sandyobrien1@mac.com • Msrscott24@gmail.com

www.rabunramble.com • Follow us on Facebook!



CPR/AED CLASS



BOATER SAFETY

We have expanded our focus from simply wake oriented issues to total lake safety and emphasizing education and awareness - it will be a continual process with many aspects. We will continue with our existing wake initiatives which are positively developing. We essentially have 3 major initiatives:

1. State Wake Legislative Change - The existing state laws allow boats to come too close to boathouses, swimmers, paddle boarders, etc and allow very heavy boats which create large wakes under certain situations. We have approached our state legislators who have indicated they will sponsor a bill to better define the issues and establish reasonable distance limits and conditions which should limit the negative effects of high wakes. We solicit member input on their thoughts about this issue.

2. More Georgia Power (GPC) Involvement - We are in active discussions with senior management of GPC to identify and address mutual safety issues on our lake, along with Lake Burton. We have placed wake oriented signs around the lake and are investigating buoys and other safety devices. We are also discussing how we can work together to better address the wake issues outside of legislative change and better educate boat operators on safety issues. These discussions continue.

3. Education - We have instituted the Rabun Reminders on our e-blasts which highlight various safety issues. We have developed 2 separate lake safety handouts to deal with boat safety-one is a laminated handout dealing with general boat safety issues to be delivered to each boathouse and another that is a smaller version of the large wake issue signs around the lake. Unfortunately, due to printer backlog, we have decided to release these early next spring. We are looking into various social media approaches and focused classes in wake boat operation.

Your Lake Safety Committee - Wallace Bruce, Robert Pittman, Thad Warren, Neal Creech and Maurice Rosenbaum have accomplished a great deal so far and will continue to explore ways to maximize your safety. A special thanks to Trustee Bob Tritt for his dedicated efforts in regards to GPC involvement. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns do not hesitate to contact me or any member of your committee.

- Ruddy Deas

LAKEMONT U ALUMNI NEWS

On behalf of Chancellor Buz Stone, and the faculty and staff of LU, I'd like to express gratitude to our alumni for an excellent turnout at both programs in 2021. And many thanks to professors Kevin Salwen and Peter Stoddard, for engaging reviews of their recent books on the Olympic Park bombing and Lewis Grizzard, respectively.

Lakemont University is the only school in the state that encourages its students to bring beer, wine, food, children, neighbors, and pets to class. It is no wonder both US News and the Princeton Review have ranked LU among the leading institutions of higher learning in south Rabun county for 14 consecutive years.

We look forward to the 2022 summer semester, and would love your suggestions for topics. You can contact us at LakemontUniv@gmail.com.

John King, GED
Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Lakemont University
"Un lieu très éducatif"



DRAWDOWN SCHEDULE

October 25, 2021	Starts down gradually from Normal (1687.5-88.0 elevation)
November 5, 2021	10' feet down (1677.6 elevation)
December 24, 2021	Begins Refilling
December 31, 2021	Normal Pool (1687.5-88.0)

To receive a construction permit for new structures or for maintenance of existing structures, a construction application must be submitted to Georgia Power for approval. Applications must be reviewed and approved by Georgia Power before starting construction. These applications can be found on our website at www.georgiapower.com. During the drawdown, fluctuations in the level of the lake may occur daily due to generation, rainfall, or other events. Therefore, equipment should not be left unattended.

If you have any questions regarding the drawdown or if we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call the Georgia Power office at 706-746-1450.



Minnehaha Trail cleanup



Memorial Day meeting



photo by Kathy Hamby-Swink



Hannah Salwen and Forrest Kennedy

NEW LAKE RABUN MAP



We are working on a new, updated Lake Rabun wall map, using the lot numbers from our most recently updated membership data. Please go to the LRA website to confirm that your lot number is correct.

- Go to lakerabun.org and login with your username and password
- Your user name is your email address. If you don't know your password,
- Click "Lost Your Password" and you will receive instructions to reset it.

Of course, it is important that your lot number be correct on the new map, and this is one thing that cannot be edited on the website. If you find that your lot number is not correct, please contact one of the following to get it corrected.

Richard Simms paceslaker@gmail.com

John Williams jmhwilliams@comcast.net

Michele Persons mpersons25@gmail.com

If your lot number is not correct on the website, it will not be correct on the new map. We hope to have the map ready for the 2022 Memorial Day meeting.

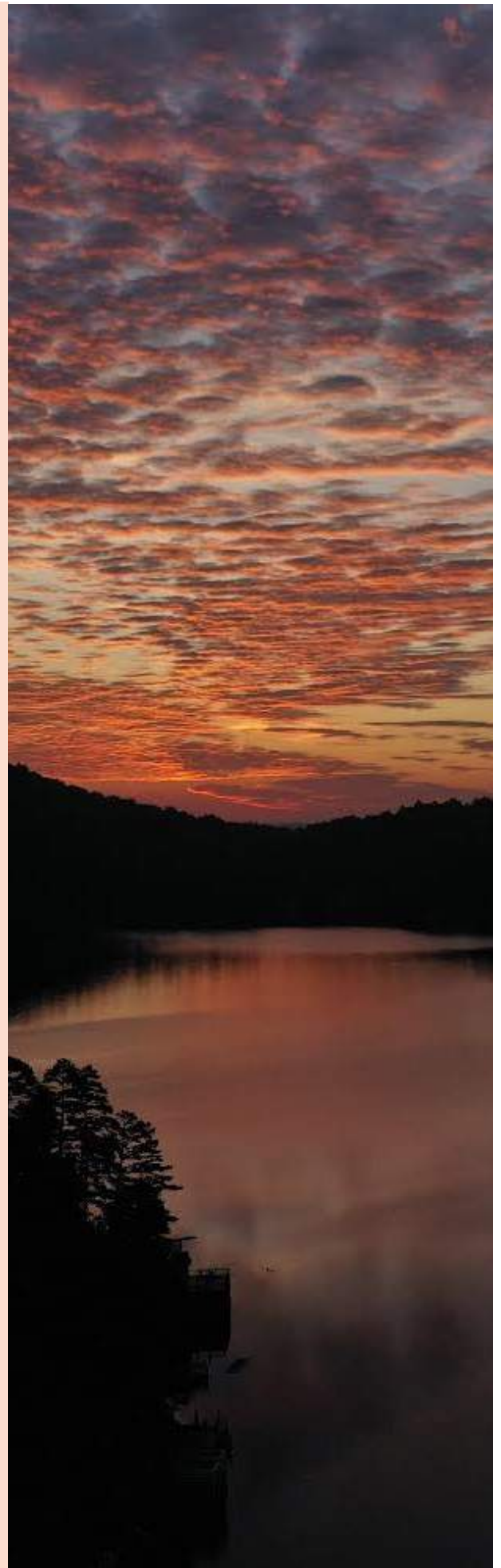




Lake Rabun Association

Calendar of Events 2022

May 28, 2022	LRA Board of Trustees Meeting	9:00–11:00AM
May 28, 2022	Dance Party (Moxie)	7:00–11:00PM
May 29, 2022	LRA General Membership Meeting	10:00AM–12:00PM
June 3, 2022	LRA Clean Up Day	9:00AM–2:00PM
June 4, 2022	Boater Safety	9:00–11:00AM
June 4, 2022	Lakemont U	5:00–6:30PM
June 4, 2022	Bingo	7:00–9:00PM
June 11, 2022	CPR/AED Class	9:00–11:00AM
June 17, 2022	Tour of Homes Volunteer Party	TBD
June 18, 2022	Tour of Homes	9:00AM–3:00PM
July 2, 2022	Rabun Ramble	7:30AM
July 2, 2022	BBQ & Bluegrass (Nitrograss)	6:00–10:00PM
July 3, 2022	Wooden Boat Parade	10:30AM–12:30PM
July 3, 2022	Fireworks	9:15–9:45PM
July 4, 2022	LRA Golf Tournament	7:30AM–2:00PM
July 23, 2022	Lakemont U	5:00–6:30PM
July 23, 2022	Bingo	7:00–9:00PM
July 30, 2022	Beach Music Party (Swingin' Medallions)	7:00–11:00PM
August 13, 2022	Lakemont U	5:00–6:30PM
August 13, 2022	Bingo	7:00–9:00PM
September 3, 2022	Trustee Meeting	9:00–11:00AM
September 4, 2022	LRA General Membership Meeting	10:00AM–12:00PM
September 4, 2022	Dance Party (Atlanta Rhythm & Groove)	7:00–11:00PM
September 9, 2022	LRA Clean Up Day TBD	9:00AM–2:00 PM



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