



# LBCA

August 2009

## Newsletter

### President's Comments

As the new president of the LBCA, I am looking forward to serving and representing you and your association for the next year. Many of the recent achievements of the LBCA have been attained under the leadership of our immediate past president, Jim Higdon. We are truly grateful for all of his hard work. I very much appreciate the board, including the past presidents, for their help with our most recent projects: the LBCA 2009 Tour of Homes and the 18th Annual LBCA Golf Tournament. Our new board members and new officers have already shown their dedication to the LBCA through their continued efforts to make these projects successful.

Let me introduce you to our new officers and directors . . . Our new officers are: Linda Dixon, President; Charlie Boyd, Vice-President; Tom Downs, Treasurer; Becky Callahan, Secretary; and Jim Higdon, Immediate Past President. I feel certain that these officers will be an asset to our membership in the coming term. Our new board members are Judy Falletti, Gail Cook,

and Robin Murray. These ladies have always stepped forward to offer assistance and advice in LBCA sponsored projects and events. These board members and officers are your representatives and will continue to serve and be available to you as we continue to strive for improved water quality and water safety on Lake Burton. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Georgia Power Company as we strive together to meet these goals.

In closing, I would like to say that I am excited and anxious to serve as your president and I thank everyone for their support. Also, when you get a chance, please say a big thank-you to my "administrative assistant," also known as my husband, Mr. Sam Dixon. I would never have taken this on without his encouragement and support. Keep both oars in the water . . . and enjoy the rest of the summer!

*Linda Dixon*  
Linda Dixon

*In Memory Of*  
**Mason Whitney**  
*LBCA President, 1973~1977*

### 2009 LBCA Tour of Homes

The 2009 LBCA Tour of Homes was another very successful event sponsored by our association. The success of any home tour is dependant on the homes that are made available. This year, special thanks go to Gordon and Donna Brady, Cyndae Arrendale, Wayne and Cathie NeSmith, and Mark Swiecichowski for generously putting their homes on our tour. Success is also dependant on volunteers – many, many

volunteers. We give our thanks to all the boat drivers, house sitters, and support staff. The water, ice, and van were donated by Springer Mountain Farms. The golf cart was provided by Barrett Funeral Home. A special thank-you also needs to go to Linda Dixon and Janis Stapleton, co-chairpersons. As always, the funds raised from this year's tour will be divided among the fire stations serving the Lake Burton community.



## LBCA Children's Prescription Fund

In the spring of 2009 the LBCA board of directors voted to establish a new fund to help Rabun County children obtain needed prescription drugs. The fund's purpose is to help children whose families find themselves in a temporary situation where they cannot afford their children's medicine. The fund is administered by Mike Addington of Clayton Pharmacy. According to Mike, the fund has

already proved to be a "lifesaver" for a number of Rabun County children. Below is a list of LBCA members who generously contributed to the fund. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to this fund, send a check, of any amount, made out to "LBCA Foundation" to: LBCA Children's Prescription Fund, P.O. Box 1988, Clayton, GA 30525.



- |                                |                              |                             |                           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adair, Sheryl                  | Doster, Raymond & Elizabeth  | LeBlanc, Tim and Van        | Redding, Randall & Tena   |
| Alexander, Jack & Ann          | Douglas, Christine           | Leslie, Herb & Ferris       | Reeves, Paul & Doris      |
| Anderson, Harry & Sallye       | Douglas, Malcolm             | Levin, Jay & Deb            | Rhoad, Hal & Page         |
| Annexstad, Al & Cathy          | Drexler, Joe & Renee         | Lindsey, Gray & Jana        | Rittenhouse, Jim & Jean   |
| Asselinn, Tom & Willene        | Earneest, Bill & Eve         | Line, Robin & Mary          | Ronemus, Andy & Tracie    |
| Bache, Doris                   | Edwards, Joe & Pat           | Lipsitch, Ian & Susan       | Ross, Jack & Pat          |
| Bacon, David & Carolyn         | Elliott, Mike & Minna        | Logan, Charlie & Mildred    | Sadler, Phil              |
| Balloun, Jim & Julie           | Entrekin, Herb & Gail        | Lynch, Ken & Peggy          | Sams, Ed & Sharyn         |
| Bankoff, Joe & Lisa            | Fair, C.B. & Debbie          | Madren, Ken & Phyllis       | Sanders, Glory            |
| Barber, Allan & LaVerne        | Fisch, Bill & Robie          | Mark's Marine               | Saperstein, Jan & Lynn    |
| Barber, Gladys                 | Foege, Bill & Paula          | Marshall, Mike & Carol      | Schonberg, Erik & Ann     |
| Barnes, Hugh & Melissa         | Frazier, Jim                 | Martin, Hannah              | Schultz, Bob & Margaret   |
| Barnett, Jim & Julie           | Fuller, Jack & Peyton        | McCullough, Steve & Heather | Shepherd, Jim & Susan     |
| Barton, Chandler & Pat         | Funk, Wesley & Becky         | McMahan, Bob & Judy         | Simms, Steve & Nancy      |
| Baxter, Robert & Diane         | Gaston, Harling & Linda      | Melton, Eston & Peggy       | Sims, Benny & Deavie      |
| Bohler, Bob & Ann              | Gignilliat, Bill             | Meluskey, Ben & Nancy       | Sirmons, Gary & Brenda    |
| Bomar, Bill & Jan              | Godfrey, Spencer & Mary Anne | Merrill, Bruce & Anne       | Slay, George & Sally      |
| Britt, W.H. & Paulette         | Goggin, Sam & Mike           | Minor, Don & Pat            | Smith, Bill & Early       |
| Brooker, Ann                   | Graivier, Miles & Kathy      | Mitchell, Jay & Lynn        | Smith, Meme               |
| Brown, Ken and Carol           | Groggon, Jeremy & Christiane | Mori, Jean & Betty          | Smith, Roger & Martha     |
| Browning, Billy & Sandy        | & Marc                       | Moseley, Charlie & Brenda   | Smith, Stan & Brenda      |
| Brundage, Charlie & Barbara    | Hagy, Chris & Mary           | Mueller, Jack & Corliss     | Spence, Lawson & Mimi     |
| Burgess, Steadman              | Hansen, Roger & Marian       | Nash, Claire                | Stanton, Bill & Nancy     |
| Burson, Ken & Lee              | Hardy, Charles & Lee         | Neighbors, Alex & Jackie    | Stark, Bill & Sallie      |
| Callahan, Tom & Becky          | Haterick, Fred & Doris       | Nielsen, Walt & Kay         | Suddes, Jim & Denise      |
| Candib, Maureen                | Hawkins, Rex & Edith         | Nunn, Sam & Colleen         | Thomas, Don & Sana        |
| Carson, Jim & Anne             | Hays, Spurgeon & Judy        | O'Kelley, Joe & Jill        | Thompson, Harry & Eleanor |
| Chambers, Donn & Carole        | Higdon, Jim & Carol          | O'Leary, Bob & Gail         | Tucker, Richard & Peggy   |
| Chastain, Ricky & Betsy        | Holmes, Jim & Manning        | O'Neill, Lucia              | Uulton, Tom & Valerie     |
| Coble, Marilyn                 | Hopkins, Pat & Ann           | Parker, Bill                | Vaughan, Dave & Vi        |
| Cochran, Lynn                  | Howard, Larry & Carolyn      | Parrott, Laine              | Vaughan, Larry & Sarah    |
| Coffman, Peter & Mary Virginia | Hunter, Bob & Becky          | Patrick, Robert & Jacquie   | Walters, Mike & Joan      |
| Collins, Ron & Jeannie         | Hutchinson, Jim & Mickey     | Patton, Earl & Mary         | Walton, Bette             |
| Corley, Harold & Allene        | Inglis, Pete & Ruth          | Phenix, Rees & Frances      | Wargo, Joe & Lisa         |
| Cowhig, Bob & Lynn             | Inman, Betty Ann             | Pickett, George & Elizabeth | Webster, Jim & Beth       |
| Croft, Ed & Susan              | Irvin, T & Gail              | Pierce, Wilds & Belle       | Williams, Frank & Sue     |
| Davidson, Chip and Donna       | King, Sam & Betty            | Pomeroy, Peter & Jenny      | Willis, Gene & Marcia     |
| DeBra, Don & Dee               | Klaer, Kenneth & Marie       | Porter, Derek & Kendall     | Wood, Barry & Sandra      |
| Deitrich, Wayne & Suzanne      | Koets, Ryland & Elizabeth    | Pugmire, Richard & Lynn     | Wray, Jack & Gail         |
| Dickerson, Neal & Martha       | Laczynski, Mike & Kim        | Raber, Steve & Karen        | YMCA                      |
| DiCristina, Frank & Brenda     | LBCA                         | Rado, Bruce & Andrea        |                           |
| Donalson, Brant & Carolyn      | Leake, Nolan & Pat           | Ratcliff, David & Cecelia   |                           |



## Waterfall Files For Bankruptcy

On July 17, 2009, Lake Burton Development, LLC (the developer of Waterfall County Club) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Federal Court in Georgia. As many of you know, the LBCA has a signed agreement with the development company and other parties to inspect the Waterfall property for violations of the Federal Clean Water Act.

The LBCA is named as a creditor in the bankruptcy filings. The LBCA board of directors, on the advice of our current counsel, voted to hire a bankruptcy lawyer to represent and protect our interests. We will keep our membership informed as more information becomes available.



## Dues Increase – Why?

The LBCA board of directors voted in May to raise the association's dues for 2010 from \$75 to \$125. There are several reasons for this decision:

First, the board of directors wanted to wait until we achieved the lowering of our fire departments' ratings by the ISO. The good news that our rating was lowered from 9 to 5 will save most of our members hundreds — if not thousands — of dollars a year. In the last three years, the LBCA has spent over \$94,000 to help equip the three volunteer fire stations that serve Lake Burton. To maintain this ISO rating, the LBCA will need to continue to support our stations. Because of the recent economic downturn, our principle fundraising events (the LBCA Tour of Homes and the LBCA Golf Tournament) have netted fewer funds for the fire departments. This increase in dues will help us replace the lower proceeds received from these events.

Second, water quality is a main concern for most of our members. Our board of

directors anticipates that the association will need to increase our expenditures on water testing. (See the update to our water quality survey on the last page of this newsletter).

Third, most of our members are concerned about safety — safety on the water and the safety of our homes. To meet these concerns, the LBCA is helping to pay for additional DNR patrols on the lake. This expense will help offset lowered coverage caused by state cutbacks. We are also hoping to add 24 additional dry hydrant pipes for better fire coverage. Each dry hydrant costs approximately \$2,000.

Finally, the costs for postage and for printing our newsletters, flyers, and the LBCA Membership Directory, for our present membership of 980, have all undergone considerable increase.

In summary: for such a small additional investment, we feel certain that our members are truly getting a large return.



## Golfers “Chip In” For Fire Stations

The 18th Annual LBCA Golf Tournament was held on July 31st. The weather added to the “excitement” as rain soaked the 73 players, but that did not dampen their enthusiasm. As always, the funds raised will go to the benefit of the three fire stations serving Lake Burton. The current economic slowdown took its toll on the amount of sponsorship

monies raised; therefore, we are very appreciative of the generous donors who did support our event. (See the list of donors below.) Special thanks go out to Bruce Merrill and Mike Walters, tournament co-chairmen, and to J.T. Williams, who donated the use of the Kingwood golf course.

### Major Sponsors

Fulcrum Ventures  
Mountain Patrol  
Harry Norman Realty, Julie Barnett  
Merry & Don Faulk  
Ann & Bruce Merrill  
James Suddes  
Margaret & Terry Stent  
Joan & Mike Walters

### Sponsors

Community Printing & Design  
Massage Envy  
Norton Dixon Insurance, Sam Dixon

Paces Properties  
Strategic Stewardship, Lee Penland  
Frank Bachelder  
Becky and Tom Callahan  
Jill & Bill Dahlberg  
Carol & Jim Higdon

### Patrons

Deal's Appliance Service  
Habersham Hardware  
HEMC  
Mountain Heritage Bank  
Rabun County Bank  
Southeastern Design

Tugalo Gas Company  
H&E Automotive  
Nancy & R.J. Burrell  
Anne & James Carson  
Mary Ella & Charles Chastain  
Betty & Samuel King  
Nancy & Ben Meluskey  
Brenda & Charles Mosely  
Jackie & Alex Neighbors  
Gail & Robert O'Leary  
Janice & Jim Stapleton

Lake Burton Civic Association  
lbca@lbca.net  
www.lbca.net  
706-782-4904  
Post Office Box 1988  
Clayton, GA 30525-0050



## Water Quality Follow Up

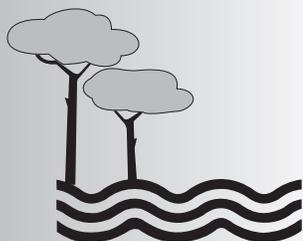
Several months ago, LBCA members were asked to complete a survey seeking input regarding changes in water quality, the impact of continued residential development on water quality, and the willingness of LBCA members to contribute to a program of water quality testing. The response was phenomenal — we received far more respondents than the typical survey — and it became obvious that water quality is an issue of utmost importance to LBCA members. We would like to update our last report on the survey results with the following three items:

First, the survey failed to mention that Georgia Power Company has for many years operated a rigorous and routine program of water quality testing on Lake Burton and throughout the Tallulah River watershed without finding major areas of concern — other than the sedimentation

issues that resulted from highway construction and golf course construction and maintenance which have since been remedied.

Second, the issue of perceived water quality deterioration has been referred to the Water Quality Task Force of the Tallulah River Watershed Protection Committee for further study. That group is midstream in its evaluation of water quality measures in the watershed. Accordingly, an evaluative report will be included in an upcoming newsletter.

Third, if we find there is a need for additional testing or testing for substances previously not analyzed, the LBCA is prepared to conduct such tests. As always, the LBCA will do whatever is necessary to preserve the quality of life on Lake Burton.



## Burton Buzz

- ☑ We are always happy and encouraged when we receive letters or e-mails from our members. Two concerns seem to be mentioned the most: “quality of life” and “safety”. We feel that “quality of life” on the lake starts with water quality. As you have already seen, the board of directors has clean, clear water as one of its top priorities. “Safety” is the other area of concern. As you have read, we are already helping to improve safe boating and we will be adding more dry hydrants for increased fire safety.
- ☑ Another letter asked “When are the Recycling Centers open?”. Charlie Mountain center is open 7 days a week from 7 AM to 7 PM. The Laurel Lodge center is open Fridays from noon to 7 PM, Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM to 7 PM and Monday from 7 AM to noon.
- ☑ We also have received many letters and calls concerning noise – particularly from fireworks at night. Basically, Rabun County does not have a noise ordinance – but it does have a nuisance ordinance. If you have a problem, first talk to your neighbor and explain your complaint. Oftentimes it is the owner’s children or renters causing the disturbance. If this approach does not work, talk to Mountain Patrol. Finally, call the Sheriff’s office and lodge a complaint. The new sheriff, Frank Andrews, knows how to handle these situations in a nice but firm manner. For those of you who are shooting fireworks, please be considerate. Many families have young children or grandchildren that go to bed “early”. Please shoot your fireworks before 10 PM – the exception being July 4th and/or the night of the Lake Burton Fireworks.
- ☑ All LBCA members should by now be aware that ISO has lowered our fire insurance rating (in most cases, from 9 to 5). The lower rating took effect August 1, 2009. If your rating was lowered, you must notify your insurance company with the good news. (Good news for you!). The lower rating could mean a savings of 30% or more. We will need to continue to support our fire stations in the future to maintain our lower rating.
- ☑ Georgia Power Company is again sponsoring the annual Lake Burton Cleanup – which was postponed from this spring. This important event will take place on Friday, October 9th starting at 8:45 AM at the Murray Cove boat ramp. If you have a boat, bring it. You may also wish to bring gloves and “trash pickers”. Garbage bags and refreshments will be supplied. You may call the GPC land office at 706-782-4014 if you have questions.
- ☑ Voting reminder: elections will be here sooner than you think. Register to vote NOW.
- ☑ Remember, this is your newsletter! Please let us know your concerns – what you like or don’t like. Any and all feedback is most helpful. E-mail the Burton Buzz at [buzz@lbca.net](mailto:buzz@lbca.net).

