



HOOK LINE & SINKER

CUMBERLAND LAKES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014

FROM THE DESK OF THE P.O.A. PRESIDENT *Robert Connors*

Again another year has passed and the holidays are here. As with many parts of the country we have already experienced winter conditions with cold temperatures and several snowfalls... rather unusual for our area even in late November.

I would like to acknowledge a member of our Board of Directors, Ron Seiss, who will be stepping down this next year after many years of service on the Board. He will, however, continue to serve the community through the handling of our Lake Management and Critter Control, and we thank him for all his dedication and hard work.

I would also like to thank the other committee chairmen and their members who give countless hours to manage the various areas in our community. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Betsy Hess

The annual Christmas Party at the Community Center is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00. Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring a dish to share which complements the main course. Contact Betsy Hess at 839-6518 or Cindy Carty (ccseawolf@gmail.com) at 839-6640 by Wednesday, December 10th to let us know what you are bringing.

PLEASE PLAN TO HELP DECORATE THE CENTER ON FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 12th AT 9:00 am.

As always, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year!



FIREWISE

Tom Torbleau

Recently I had the privilege of attending a seminar presented by the Tennessee Division of Forestry in cooperation with the National Fire Prevention Association. The main topic of the seminar was Improving Access for Wildland Firefighters. One of the points brought out was the failure of many rural communities to provide proper access to their community through access roads, signage and water supply. In many rural forested areas it was noted that roads and driveways were not wide enough for commercial fire fighting vehicles. With respect to our community there seems to be a lack of proper width for these vehicles which require a minimum of 12 feet. If a vehicle cannot reach a home, the job of a firefighter becomes extremely difficult if they have to bring equipment to the site by hand.

Another point brought out was the lack of proper signage identifying homes. Contrary to popular opinion, GPS is lacking in accuracy in many rural areas. Nothing could be more frightening than seeing and/or hearing an emergency vehicle driving on by the location of a homeowner needing help. Homes need identification through the use of signs with contrasting numbers visible from 5 feet in either direction. This is accomplished with reflective green signs that have white numbers 3 to 4 inches in height and ½ inch wide independently mounted on a separate post so the numbers are visible from both directions of the road. The sign should also be mounted approximately 3 to 4 feet above ground level and be free from brush and landscaping accents. Currently, many home improvement stores carry these kits which cost about \$12.00 each and in some instances two kits may be required for adequate display. This is a small price to pay for quick response of emergency personnel.



ACTIVITIES

Future Pre-planned Cumberland Lakes Community Center Social Events, open to all Cumberland Lakes residents includes: **Our Annual Christmas/Holiday Dinner – December 13, 2014 5:30 PM.** Primary Host is Betsy Hess. Voluntary requests for Holiday Decorating will be forthcoming.

LABOR DAY BBQ PICNIC – September 1, 2014: Our Cumberland Lake Residents enjoyed a delightful day in and around our Community Center for this year's Labor Day BBQ/Picnic. Our official website, http://www.cumberlandlakes.net/Calendar_of_Events.html continues to provide many candid shots of neighbors enjoying the yummy home-cooked 'sides & desserts', along with just relaxing and having fun!

The recurring voluntary effort makes this type of event seamless and deserves a **huge** thank you.



LAKE MANAGEMENT

Ron Seiss

Both Cumberland Lake and Lazy Lake remain above full pool due to the excessive amount of rainfall received in October (10.6 inches). The amount of rain received has completely flushed the murky waters of dog days (August/September) and has returned the lakes to their nearly crystal clear state.

Two years ago 100 triploid (grass eaters) carp were released in Cumberland Lakes to reduce the under-water vegetation. The carp appear to have the growth under control. Further evaluation will occur in April 2015 to determine if additional carp are required.

Fishing regulations remain the same for the calendar year 2015.

Critter Control

There are no "critter issues" at this time

Cindy Carty

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - WELCOMING Betsy Hess

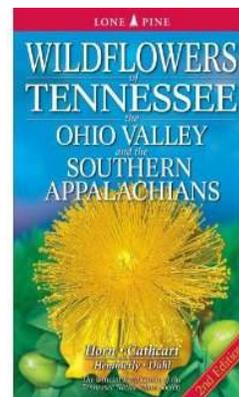
Our committee officially welcomed Connie and Jim Lanigan at 284 North Lake Trail in late August, on a very stormy afternoon. Jim grew up in Des Moines, Iowa. Connie grew up in Evansville, Indiana. They lived the last twenty-two years in Atlantic Beach near Jacksonville, Florida. Jim had spent 7 ½ years as a Russian linguist in the U.S. Air Force Security System in northern Japan during Vietnam. Connie rescues little dogs.

NATURE NOTES

Bill Hess

I'm sure that I've mentioned in the past about how fortunate we are to be living in the woods, on the Cumberland Plateau and in Tennessee. You need to be aware that we are somewhat isolated here and if you're here, it has to be a conscientious decision on your part. This area is a part of the eastern deciduous forest, composed of primarily oaks, maples, Lindens, dogwoods, ashes, hickorys, tuliptrees, beech, and from years ago the American Chestnut. You have to like this type of environment.

The checklist of Tennessee plants that I have indicates almost 2,800 different kinds of vascular plants here, of which about 2,300 of them are natives. The Cumberland Plateau is a part of the Appalachian Mountain Range that extends from southern New York down as far south as northern Alabama. The Plateau has a rich flora and fauna, and from the flora perspective it is one of the richest areas in plant diversity east of the Mississippi River. The Plateau has an elevation range from about 1,500 feet to about 3,500 feet; here we live at about 2,100 feet elevation. Our diversity is the result of the cliffs around the edges of the Plateau, steep gorges, ravines, poorly drained areas and higher elevations. A good book about wildflowers in Tennessee is Wildflowers of Tennessee the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians by the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is available on Amazon.com for about \$22.



I also look up on the internet plants listed in the University of Tennessee Herbarium (<http://www.http://tenn.bio.utk.edu/>). You can use either scientific names or common names, but it helps to know some of the technical names. They have county distributions and photographs of the plants. I've recently looked up about Tennessee orchids recorded from Cumberland County on their database, and that number is 24 species. These are collection records and it is possible that a particular species may no longer occur in Cumberland County or that there could be some others that occur here, but are not officially recorded. I have seen several species here as I've wandered in the woods, but the most evident and spectacular species is the Pink Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). It is relatively common at our Nature Park but is considered endangered in Tennessee. I'm sure that I mentioned it before but one should not attempt to transplant any orchid. Almost all orchids **do not survive** transplanting and, for orchids in Tennessee, it's against the law. In the spring and summer our Nature Park is a jewel.





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Tom Torbleau

Home security systems are designed to scare off intruders and alert the homeowner about them and/or fire. Just because a system operates flawlessly day-after-day and year-after-year does not mean the system is in perfect operating order. Recently I had a failure in my system after flawless operation for 10 years. My security company was called and checked several things that I never realized needed service. They checked the quality of my back-up battery, replaced a circuit board that had failed and installed a system upgrade to enhance my system. Also, they cleaned all of my smoke detectors which I never realized regularly get clogged with dust impeding the sensor from sensing smoke, especially in a home with forced heat and air. Usually the contractor who installs your system or a representative from the system manufacturer should be called for periodic service.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Reggie Almond

As I start putting this report together 3 inches of snow sits on the ground; this is an indicator the community construction will slow. I took over as Chair of the AECC in October this year. During my short tenure we have had a few members drop off the AECC member list due to their busy schedules. I would like to thank them and the standing members for their time and efforts on the AECC committee. I want to emphasize to all the residents in our community there are openings for an AECC committee member and your presence will be welcomed.

During this past year the AECC has received numerous requests for construction in our community which include New Home construction and minor outdoor projects including house-decks, lake docks and tree removal. I want to remind all community residents it is their responsibility to fill out the proper work request forms from the web site, and turn them in for approval. If you have any questions the [AECC forms, rules and regulations](#)

FROM THE EDITOR

Judi Connors

If at any time you prefer to receive a mailed copy of the Newsletter, or you no longer need a mailed copy, please call me at 931-839-7252 or email me at newslettereditor@cumberlandlakes.net . The Community Center office is no longer open: however, the phone is monitored and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the Newsletter this past year and wish you all a very happy holiday season!



BEAUTIFICATION

Betsy Hess

Bill and I got back November 8th from a twenty-four day trip. As I write this on November 11th I have little to report. Bill and his volunteers will soon be planting the two big redbuds on the islands near Route 62.

Appreciation goes to our committee of Judi Connors, Elaine Jimenez, Betsy and Bill Hess, Shirley Seiss and Janine Torbleau for its work this year. We can always use more on our committee.

We are all getting older!!

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