



LWPOA

LAKE WEDOWEE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 55 * Wedowee, Alabama 36278

Working to ensure Lake Wedowee is a safe, clean and pleasant place to be
lakewedweepoa.com



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009

MEMBERSHIP LETTER FROM THE LWPOA BOARD

Dear Lake Wedowee Property Owner:

Lake Wedowee Property Owners' Association was incorporated in April 1997 to enhance, improve and protect the quality of Lake Wedowee. In the past twelve years, the Association has worked tirelessly to meet those ideals.

Also working closely with the Upper Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership Committee, we stay informed of events that are of concern to all of us. We have several LWPOA members serving on this committee. With the relicensing of Lake Martin downstream and the building of the reservoir in Georgia upstream, it is imperative that the Lake Wedowee Property Owners' Association remain a strong organization in order to protect the interests of all lake property owners. The Lake Wedowee Property Owners' Association not only stays informed of these two events but also works in conjunction with UTCWPC to void any possible adverse impact either action may have on Lake Wedowee. Our quarterly meetings, newsletters and the website (www.lakewedweepoa.com) are informative and will keep you up-to-date on issues important to all who have chosen this beautiful lake as a place of residence or a weekend getaway. We need every property owner to be a part of this organization. If you wish to become involved, we have a committee for you to join as well. Our committees are:

- Membership – Our goal is to attain 1100 members this year.
- Water Testing – Keeps our water pure and safe. Water quality was upgraded from fish/recreation to whole body contact because of the work of this committee.
- Lake Cleanup – Keeps our shorelines clean and organizes an annual cleanup week each fall.
- Marine Radio – Concerned with safety and can summon help immediately, if needed.
- Kids Fishing Day – A day to allow every child 16 and under an opportunity to fish, have lunch and win prizes.
- Publicity – Responsible for the Newsletter and website.

As you can see, this organization is involved in the community and is vital to keeping Lake Wedowee's integrity to the highest of standards. We hope you will seriously consider becoming a member and select an area to serve to help insure that the Property Owners' Association continues to be a strong voice in protecting our investments.

Thank You,

Lake Wedowee Property Owners' Association

Have A Happy Spring Everyone!

L.W.P.O.A. BOARD

Gary Cockrell
Chairperson
256-363-1255
Garycockrell@centurytel.net

John Triplett
Vice-Chairperson
256-357-0602
jorobtrip@gmail.com

Jack Duncan
Treasurer
256-357-4248
duncan160@live.com

Rhonda Barton
256-357-4050
Rhonda.chimneycove@gmail.com

Janice Flournoy
256-357-4865
Janice2005@centurytel.net

Oliver Kitchens
oliver@oliverkitchens.com

Thomas Langley
256-357-2685

Bob May
256-357-2656
bmay767er@hotmail.com

Ira Parsons
256-363-1510
irapar@centurytel.net

John Triplett
256-357-0602
jorobtrip@gmail.com

Judy Haley, Secretary
256-357-0165

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

John Triplett
Membership
256-357-0602
jorobtrip@gmail.com

Jack Duncan
Water Testing
256-357-4248
duncan160@live.com

Ira Parsons
Publicity
256-363-1510
irapar@centurytel.net

Sheila Smith
Lake Cleanup
256-357-4700 or 256-396-5093

Bob May
Lake Cleanup
256-357-2656
bmay767er@hotmail.com

Dave Clark
Marine Radio
256-357-4272

Ray Mansfield
Kids Fishing Day
256-357-2863

Thomas Langley
Kids Fishing Day
256-357-2685

SPRINGTIME ON LAKE WEDOWEE

By

Don C. East

Lake Wedowee lies at the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains chain. The southern Appalachian ecosystem is the most diverse in the nation and consequently has the most beautiful wildflower blooms and varied array of wildlife to be found anywhere on this planet. This article will concentrate on the spring wildflower bloom, with some mention of the wildlife.

The annual show put on by the Lake Wedowee wildflowers and hardwood tree foliage comes in two acts – spring and fall. The spring act is the most publicized and has the widest variety of blooms. This article will discuss the spring wildflower bloom in its proper chronological order. The fall bloom will be covered in a later article in this publication. The spring color show occurs from very late in February until the end of May. However, the peak bloom times may vary as much as 7-10 days from year to year depending upon the exact nature of the weather pattern for that particular year.

Most of us do not consider the forest trees when we think of a spring wildflower bloom. However, these larger members of the species provide the backdrop, or the canvas if you will, for the spring wildflower show. The conifers (the various species of pine and cedar) are evergreens and thus maintain their green color all year.

Interspersed with and forming corridors around the conifers are the numerous varieties of hardwoods or deciduous trees. Unlike the conifers, these deciduous trees shed their leaves each year in the Fall and produce some of the first color each spring with their fresh leaves emerging. The emergence of the hardwood leaves is not a random event, but instead is a very predictable chronological sequence. The first color to dot the gray, barren woodlands in mid March is the fresh mint green color of the Poplar and Beech trees as they leaf out. At the same time, the dark red color of the Maples will be seen. All three of these tree types can be found primarily in the lower areas (hollows) around streams. The next hardwoods to leaf out are the Red Oak family (Northern Red Oak, Southern Red Oak, Shumard Oak, Cherry Bark Oak, etc.). The leaves will start to appear on these in the first week of April. Then, by the second week in April, the White Oak family (White Oak, Post Oak, Water Oak, Swamp White Oak, etc.) will begin to leaf out. By this time, those with allergy problems will be the best indicator for the remainder of us that Spring is in the air. The last of the hardwoods to leaf out are the Hickories (Pignut, Shellnut, Shag Bark, etc.). These will leaf out around the third week in April. All these hardwoods will initially have a mint green color to the leaves, followed by a darker green color as more chlorophyll forms. Now that the backdrop or canvas has been provided by the conifers and deciduous trees, it is time for the wildflowers to make their grand entrance and be splashed on nature's canvas.

The earliest significant wildflower color around the lake is the Serviceberry during the last week in February or the first week in March. The Serviceberry is a shrub-size plant that is normally found on the east and south slopes of the hills around the lake. The Serviceberry bloom is a white to very light pink color. These blooms eventually produce a red fruit that looks like miniature apples and make a great jelly. Unfortunately, the birds and squirrels also like the Serviceberries, so it is rare to find enough of the ripe fruit to make jelly. At this same time, the Red Buckeye begins to put on green leaves. These are easy to spot as they are the first green leaves on low forest floor plants to appear in the early spring.

By the second week in March, the Serviceberry is in full bloom. Around this time, several of our local feathered friends let us know that spring is right around the corner. The Barred Owl gives out its loud eight-count hoots, along with the Wild Turkey

Continued on next page

Spring time in Wedowee continued

gobblers, Screech Owls and Whippoorwills starting their vocal antics. The Pileated Woodpeckers join in with their loud drumming on dead trees and power poles, signaling for a mate. Another bird you may catch a glimpse of in the spring is the Common Loon. Although the Loon is primarily a northern resident, it migrates to the Atlantic and Caribbean waters to spend the Winters feeding offshore. During the migration north in the spring these beautiful and unusual birds often stop over for a rest and some feeding on Lake Wedowee. The extra large head and beak give the loon's identity away. If you get close to one of these on the lake, it will usually dive and resurface 100 yards or so away.

The next color we find on the lake is during the third week in March. The Red Buckeye puts on brownish-red blooms that are found as clusters at the ends of the branches. The Buckeye blooms eventually produce leathery capsules containing one to six large seeds that fall to the ground in mid-September. These slick, chestnut-like seeds are often carried in the pockets of us locals as good luck charms. Warning – these seeds can be poisonous if eaten. When I was growing up, we crushed these nuts and the roots of the Red Buckeye plant and used the material to put in streams to catch fish. The material from the pulverized roots and fruit would paralyze the fish gills and they would come to the top so they could be scooped up with a net. Crushed immature (green) Black Walnuts will have the same effect on fish. The pinkish-red blooms of the Red Bud Tree (or Judas Tree) also come out at this same time. These blooms are edible if you are out on a hike and want a snack. Rounding out the color during the third week in March is the white of the Wild Plum bloom. If you like Asparagus, now is the time to search for the Fiddlehead Ferns along the small springs and branches that feed into the lake. After these have reached about a foot or so in height, they are easy to snap off at ground level, peel off the thin outer skin and steam with butter and lemon as you would Asparagus.

With the last week in March comes the first blooms of the Dogwood and Honeysuckle (Pinxter Flower). Their earliest blooms will normally be on the south-facing slopes of the lake. These white and pink flowers respectively join the Red Buds, which are now in full bloom. The yellowish-green blooms of the Sassafras trees also pop out at this time and the Yellow Jasmine (Carolina Jasmine) vines also began their long blooming cycle. If you want something to take the edge off the long Winter Blahs, dig up two or three small Sassafras bushes and take the roots home for a good washing. Then scrape the reddish colored skin of the roots with a knife, put the shavings in a pot of water and boil for around 30 minutes or so. Now strain it through a cloth and serve with lemon. By now the Trilliums have emerged on the forest floor. These come in many varieties with different color blooms – white, yellow, red and purple. The May Apple plants will also be coming up through the hardwood leaves around this time. Both the Trilliums and May Apple plants are usually found in low lying dense hardwood areas.

By the first week in April, the Dogwood and Honeysuckle blooms are becoming widespread. The Wild Cherry trees also come into full bloom around this time. However, their pale white blooms are easy to miss because they are mixed in with the pale green leaves coming out at the same time. This is also the week for the blooms of the Wild Irises, Bird Foot Violets and Paw Paws to awaken from their Winter sleep. The rare Alabama Azaleas also begin to put on their white bloom at this time. Like the Honeysuckle, the Alabama Azaleas put on their flowers first, followed later by the leaves. These are usually found along creeks flowing into Lake Wedowee, such as Fox Creek, Triplett, Ketchepedrakee, and Mad Indian. The fireflies, or “Lightning Bugs” as we Southerners call them, also start their night time show during this time of the year.

Tragically, it is this time of the season that many of the avid outdoor people living on the lake begin to show signs of extreme stress. This stress is an early symptom of what has been dubbed the “Lake Widower Syndrome.” This serious psychological disorder occurs from about the third week in March through the second week in April. It is believed to be brought on by a unique combination of events found only on Lake Wedowee. These events are: the gobbling of the love-crazed Wild Turkey, the frantic biting of the spawning Crappie, and the bursting colors of the magnificent lake wildflowers and foliage. A person with the Lake Wedowee Syndrome becomes mentally strained with the difficult decision to: (a) pick up the shotgun, (b) grab the fishing poles, or (c) run out the door with the camera. Because of the extreme difficulty of this decision, the individual often scurries to the nearest corner of the room, assumes the fetal position and sucks their thumb until they can make the difficult choice of which activity to engage in. Such mental stress can lead to paranoid schizophrenia or manic depression. The only certain cure is to take a couple of weeks off work and engage in all three activities.

The second week in April is probably the “showiest” period of the spring wildflower bloom, when the Dogwood and Honeysuckle flowers are usually at their peak. The Violets, Irises and other small wildflowers are joined by the pink of the Wild Phlox. The Butterfly Peas blue blooms are also found on vines this time of the season, usually in the edges of pine forests. At this time, the colorful Summer and Scarlet Tanager birds, along with the Hummingbirds return from their winter grounds to find a mate and build their nests. This is also the time to look for the Polk Salad plant to start coming up. It can be found anywhere the earth has been disturbed or where lightning has struck. A mess of these tender leaves (not over 4-5 inches long, boiled in water (changed twice) and some green onions mixed in for the last boiling are a great meal. Its traditional to cleanse the blood and internal organs after a long winter.

Spring Time in Wedowee continued

By the third week in April, the Dogwood and Honeysuckle are past their peak, but the white of the Grant's Gray Beard (Grandsir Graybeard) and the Blackberries very adequately replace them in our lake color extravaganza. The blooming of the Blackberries also brings about the last cold snap of the year, known in these parts as "Blackberry Winter." Even if you don't see them, you will certainly smell the chocolate-brown blooms of the Sweet Shrubs at this time of the year. The Sweet Shrubs are found in colonies usually on the south or east sides of slopes dropping off to the lake. The white blooms of the May Apples will also start to show around this time.

The last week in April heralds the first red, white and pink blooms of the Mountain Laurel and Rhododendrons. Although the Rhododendrons are scarce around the lake except in some deep hollows, the Mountain Laurel is perhaps the most widespread wildflower on the lake. The red and yellow trumpet-shaped flowers of the Cross Vine also show up and by now the Grant's Gray Beard and Sweet Shrubs are in full bloom.

The first week in May brings on the white blooms of the Sweet Azaleas (Smooth Azalea) and the orange to red bloom of the Flame Azalea. Unlike the Honeysuckle and Alabama Azalea, these Azaleas put on their leaves first, followed by the blooms. The semi-rare Sweet Azalea can be found on several streams such as Fox, Triplett, Ketchepedrakee and other Creeks flowing into the lake. The rare Flame Azalea is even harder to find, but there are a couple of colonies near the lake. I can't tell you where these rare flowers are, because it's a secret and if I did tell you, I would have to kill you! Although located a few miles from the lake, a convenient place to view these magnificent flowers from your car, is atop Mount Cheaha. There is a large colony of these colorful plants on either side of the road between the Stone Tower turnoff and the Bald Rock Turnoff. These Flame Azaleas normally peak during the 5-10 May period. This is also the time for the blooming of the unusual Strawberry Bush. These are not rare, but somewhat difficult to find unless you have an experienced eye for wildflowers. They can be found on higher ground, in either pine or hardwood forests and can be differentiated from other small shrubs at some distance by their greenish colored stems.

The second week in May brings the Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron and Azalea show to an end, but also brings out the first of the Oak Leaf Hydrangea's white blooms. By the third week in May, these beautiful flowers are close to full bloom, and the Fire Pinks are also beginning to show off their color. By the last week in May, the Oak Leaf Hydrangea and Fire Pink blooms come to a peak. This is also the time to find the huge white blooms of the Umbrella Magnolia tree. These are smaller trees that grow in the deep hollows near small branches or springs feeding into the lake. Another rare wildflower blooming at this time is the Turks Cap Lillies. These orange and black flowers grow in colonies in a few areas around the lake. The bright yellow blooms of the Tickseed Sunflowers can also be found in fields or open areas under power lines at this time of the year. These blooms signal the beginning of the end of the Spring color show.

The Butterfly Weed and Button Bush are about the last of the Lake Wedowee spring flowers to bloom. The beautiful orange Butter Fly Weed is normally found in open areas, such as power line right-of ways and on roadsides. The Button Bush, with its white blooms, is rare, but a few of these can be found on the lake near the junction of the Little and Big Tallapoosa Rivers, just north of the highway #48 bridge and alongside creeks flowing into the lake. By now all the hardwoods have fully leafed out and the American Cuckoo birds (called Rain Crows by the locals) have arrived from their winter grounds to compete with the Tangiers for their share of the hardwood leaf caterpillars. Officially, summer comes during the third week in June, closing out the first act of the Lake Wedowee wildflower and foliage show. The second act will come with the fall wildflower show.

Don C. East is a Clay County native and a retired Naval Flight Officer. He is the owner and operator of The Creeks Tree farms in Clay and Randolph Counties. He resides on Lake Wedowee and is a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines. His latest work "A Historical Analysis of The Creek Indian Hillabee Villages and Personal Reflections of the Landscape and People of Clay County, Alabama" is available now on Books-A-Million, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, or an autographed copy can be order direct from him at 981 County Road 2811, Lineville, Al. 36266 at \$27.00 for the soft back version and \$35.00 for the hard cover version (includes shipping).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Be more involved with LWPOA

We need your help on our committees!

Please contact a board member and let us know your interests

LWPOA-RECENT NEW MEMBERS

East, Don creekstreefarms2@yahoo.com
981 County Road 2811
Lineville, AL 36266 Same
256-396-2694

Flanagan, Brian & Leanne atlantaflan@hotmail.com
1023 Queensgate Dr 91 Overlook Dr
Smyrna, GA 30082 Lineville, AL 36266
770-375-7296

Lewis, Thomas & Angie tnlewis@comcast.net
1085 Woodruff Plantation 543 Brookwater Way
Parkway Wedowee, AL 36278
Marietta, GA 30067 256-357-2401
770-859-9071

Rawlins, Charlie & Candi Charliemrawlins@aol.co
5749 Brookstone Dr. 238 Williams Dr.
Acworth, GA 30101 Lineville, AL 36266
770-425-8440 404-372-9994

Waldman, Randy & Patti RMWALDMAN58
707 Braidwood Ridge NW Lot 29 &30
Acworth, GA 30101 YLH & T Property
770-514-9233 County Rd. 2401
Wedowee, AL 36278

Worship On The Water (WOW) will begin its' second year Sunday MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END

WOW is a non-denominational ministry which invites you to come and listen to the WORD. Each Sunday through Labor Day a different Minister will come and deliver an inspiring message.

Come in your boat, car, jet ski, golf cart or whatever.

We are located at Lakeside Marina amongst the pines. Our service begins promptly at 9 a.m. and lasts for approximately forty- five minutes. Please come see us, enjoy the music and fellowship with your neighbors on the Lake. Come as you are!

Worship On The Water will continue each Sunday from Memorial Day week- end to Labor Day week-end.



RANDOLPH COUNTY RECYCLE PROGRAM

The Randolph County Commission has approved the establishment of a recycle program committee to set up and administer a recycle program for Randolph County. Appointments to the committee are being completed at this time. Sheila Fincher is the Chairperson. Anyone who desires to be a part of this needed effort for Randolph County, please contact Sheila @256-449-6149

**MANDATORY
STYROFOAM REMOVAL**

**All beaded Styrofoam must be
removed from the lakebed by
January 1, 2010**

**A permit is required, but no permit fee will be
charged for replacement of floatation only.**

**Alabama Power Company
Shoreline Management**

**If you have any questions please
contact Sheila Smith Corp. Real Estate
Office 256-396-5093**

Newsletter Graphics by Marlene Parsons

Treasurers Report

Checking Account Totals: \$13,507.64

As each of you know the only source of income for the LWPOA is the annual membership dues paid by each active member. Upon taking this job as treasurer of the LWPOA, I was unaware of the high number of members who do not renew their membership each year. This number has ranged from 100-120 over the previous years. It is the goal of the LWPOA Board to keep this number below 25 for the 2009 year. It is my belief that the major reason for failure to renew membership is that people just forget. For that reason I will use this space in the Quarterly Newsletter to include a friendly reminder that renewal memberships are due. The programs of the LWPOA are focused to achieve two major goals. The first is water quality and lake levels. The water quality monitoring that is done from old 431 bridge to the dam is an example. Presently, we do not have monitors on the Big River. Other examples are the partnerships with Alabama Water Watch and the Upper Tallapoosa Water Shed Committee. The presence of LWPOA members at the Lake Martin licensing renewal process has insured that Lake Wedowee shareholder interest will be a part of the operating license starting in 2013 for Lake Martin. Charles (Sut) Smith is an active supporter of this effort. The other major focus is community involvement. Examples of this are the Kid's Fishing Day and the LWPOA partnership with last summer's ski event. Other examples are the donations made to various Randolph County Organizations. Your membership dues provide the LWPOA with the opportunity to participate in all of these successful programs for Lake Wedowee and Randolph County. I urge each of you to remain an active member and supporter of your LWPOA.

Jack Duncan
Treasurer

**LWPOA-Kids Fishing Day set for Saturday
May 16, 2009**

The Annual Kids Fishing Day will be held Saturday May 16, 2009 at Terry and Lois Wiley's pond near Wedowee.

The event is free for any child under 16 years old and will start at 7:00 am and end at 12 noon (CST). Catfish will be purchased and placed in the pond by the LWPOA. Throughout the morning, drawings will be held for items donated by LWPOA, Alabama Power, Walmart and others. Casting contests will be held for kids starting about 10:00 that morning. Also a prize for the biggest fish caught by 9:00 will be presented.

Hotdogs and kool-aid will be furnished for lunch and will be cooked by Sheriff Fuller, Judge Pat Whaley and Tax Assessor Josh Burns.

Admission is FREE; just show up for the event. You can get information and directions from the following merchants : Lake Wedowee Bait & Tackle in Wedowee, WM Grocery Store in Wedowee, Pop's Landing in Wedowee, Benefield's Grocery in Woodland and Wal-Mart in Roanoke.

Participants should bring their own rod and reel, bait(bait will be provided if needed) and stringer or bucket.

Directions: Travel south from Wedowee on 431 for 1.2 miles, turn right (just past the Citgo service station) onto Co. Rd. 15. The event will be 1/2 mile from Hwy. 431. Just follow the signs to the pond.

Volunteers are very necessary for the event. We need people to clean up the lake area, help with landing fish (need 10 or 13 people for this), help serve food, registering kids to fish, help with casting contest, etc.

Please contact Ray Mansfield at 256-343-1441 or email at rcema4@yahoo.com or Thomas Langley at 256-357-2685 or email at thomas34@centurytel.net if you will be able to assist on May 16th.

Ray Mansfield
Kids Fishing Day Chairman



Habitat for Humanity is now in the fund raising stage for the next Habitat house to be built in Randolph County.

We plan to accomplish this through an "Apostles Build" which in this case means that many different churches, businesses, organizations and individuals will be asked to donate \$1500 to \$2000.

Land has been donated near Wedowee by an anonymous donor.

Please call soon with the good news that you or your church, business or organization will make a pledge.

Stephanie Roberts 256-357-0207
Steve Brown (TCCHFH) 706-837-0702

Or mail your check to:
P.O. Box 327, LaGrange, Georgia 30241
(put "Randolph County" in the memo space)

It is a great privilege to be, as "God" says on the Habitat tee shirt, "Planning my work...working my plan."

Smaller donations are also welcome!



We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.