

# Hook, Line & Sinker



Cumberland Lakes Newsletter

March 2023

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE P.O.A. PRESIDENT:**

Spring has sprung! Soon we will be talking about how hot it is and wishing it would cool down a bit. Enjoy this weather as much as you can now.

If I have not had a chance to meet you yet, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Michael Perkowski. I am grateful to be serving Cumberland Lakes for the second year in a row as the President of Cumberland Lakes POA. By no means do I single handedly run this community's affairs on my own. I have a Vice President, 5 Board members, a Treasurer, 2 Secretaries, 16 Committee Chairpersons, and countless people that serve on those Committees. What is amazing is that everyone volunteers their time. Yup! That's right! No pay! I would be lying if I said that this all works like a well-oiled machine. Nothing and nobody are perfect despite what I tell my wife about myself. We all work together with the thought and the consideration of serving the community with the hope of making this a place everyone likes to call home.

This year the Board finished updating our communities Bylaws. This is a task that started in 2022. Before then the Bylaws hadn't been amended since 1988. Many things change in 35 years. Every property owner now has a copy of the new Bylaws.

Speaking of change, we have so many new homes constructed in the last two years and many new residents. The community welcomes you and we hope we get to meet all of you soon.

Maybe you like home cooked food. You're welcome to come to one of our monthly potlucks like the one on Memorial Day May 29<sup>th</sup>, or Car Show June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Are games your thing? Every third Wednesday at 6pm is Game Night at the Community Center. All these events are a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

Be on the lookout for our annual Spring Community Center Cleanup that will be coming soon. That's the time folks volunteer their time, come together, and do a Spring cleanup around the Community Center and other areas to make it easier to maintain throughout the year. This is all led by the Beautification Chairperson, Channon Recchia.

If you are cleaning up your property, please keep a watchful eye out for snakes as they will start to emerge as the weather gets warmer. Please be mindful that burning permits are required until May 15th. Be a smart burner. Stay with the fire. Even leaving the fire for a short time could be disastrous. Keep it manageable. Have a water source on hand to extinguish it along with a shovel.

Just a reminder, we have blowers, chain saws, a chipper, and a brush hog for a small rental fee to help your cleanup efforts. Reach out to our Equipment Coordinator, Louie Check for rentals.

Boating season is heating up! Remember, gas motors are not allowed to be run on either of our lakes. You can leave the motor attached but we require you to cover your lower unit with a bag in case there may be any oil leakage. Electric, sail, and paddle are all allowed. ALL watercrafts are required to have a Cumberland Lakes boat sticker. If you need any, please contact me at either [mjperkowski@yahoo.com](mailto:mjperkowski@yahoo.com) or 224-308-2061 and I can help you obtain the stickers you need.

Do you like to fish?? You will need to obtain a fishing license and follow all fishing rules and regulations of Tennessee at <https://www.tn.gov/twra/fishing-regs.html>. Both of our lakes are currently “catch and release” for bass and our sterile grass carp. All other species will follow state creel and length limits. Please check postings at both boat ramps at each lake. We currently have an invasive species of black crappie in our lakes that shouldn't be here. If you catch black crappie, please DO NOT release them back into the water. Never transport any species to other waters as it upsets the balance of food available for all species.

Get outside. Enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. Wonder in all its glory.

Michael Perkowski  
Cumberland Lakes  
P.O.A. President



## **FIREWISE:**

All homes need a “Defensible Space” around them. Remove all dead wood within a 30 foot perimeter around home. Minimize planting material in the area of 0 to 5 feet around home. In the area from 5 feet to 30 feet around home remove all trees that are within 10 feet of each other. With the remaining trees trim all branches from ground level to 10 feet from ground. Areas from 30 feet to 100 feet remove all dead trees, branches and dead wood. Also, remove all ground cover in this particular zone.

***Note: don't be afraid to cross a lot line during this procedure. Several homes in our community have successfully performed this procedure which contributes greatly to the safety of their home and our community.***



## **PARK/LAKES MANAGEMENT & IMPROVEMENT:**

Following a fairly dry summer that saw our lake levels down, after the first good winter rain it was right back to full pool and flowing out of the overflows for both lakes and as of this writing, that is still the case.

On Jan. 30, 2023, our dams were inspected (as required) by TDEC Water Resources from the Cookeville Environmental Field Office. The inspector found both dams and spillways in satisfactory condition and functioning at their required parameters. Both dams were given a Certificate of Approval and Safety for operation according to Safe Dams Act.

After hard rains, we continue to experience siltation in Lazy Lake and it will continue to be monitored. This siltation can be hard on fish, particularly bass to raise their eggs to maturity. For this reason, and due to the very high cost of restocking our lakes with more bass, the CL Board elected to institute catch and release for all bass in our lakes. If you like Bluegill and Crappie, you can still keep and eat them. The Bluegill are plentiful, good fighters and fun to catch. Recently, one of our sons caught 5 Bluegill from our dock in ½ hour.

Although we have not seen/caught many, Black Crappie are an invasive species in our lakes and we ask that if you catch any, please do not release them into the lakes.

The accompanying photo is one of residents with a dandy bass (which was gently handled and released). Although they are not always this big, there are some lurking out there, I assure you. Also, some catfish that one of our residents can attest to, with his broken pole, weigh in at 30 lbs. +. Personally, I'm a fly fisherman and have caught Crappie, Bluegill and Bass on flies I've tied from our lakes.

Good luck!



## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:**

With the recent thefts in our community one theft was on a job site where personnel became a little careless with building materials and tools which signaled to thieves an opportunity for easy financial gain on their part. This particular instance was on a job site but can easily apply to any of us in the community. Beware of what tools or material are “laying around” your property. This is exactly what the thieves look for. In the other instance indications are that the theft was partly due to the home being located in an area where no homes were within close proximity and security was low to nonexistent with valuables visible when the criminal “walked up” to the home. This was very unfortunate, but people need to secure valuables in an obscure location not visible from the criminal view.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL:

The committee approved the following:

- ◆ One boat dock and lot clearing.
- ◆ One lot clearing and fencing.
- ◆ One permission to live in their garage while their home is under construction.
- ◆ One fencing and a shed.

The committee denied one request to install a security light on VEC power pole.

## ACTIVITIES:

**January** - Stained Glass Craft event / 15 neighbors enjoyed an afternoon letting their creativity shine making stained glass sun catchers.

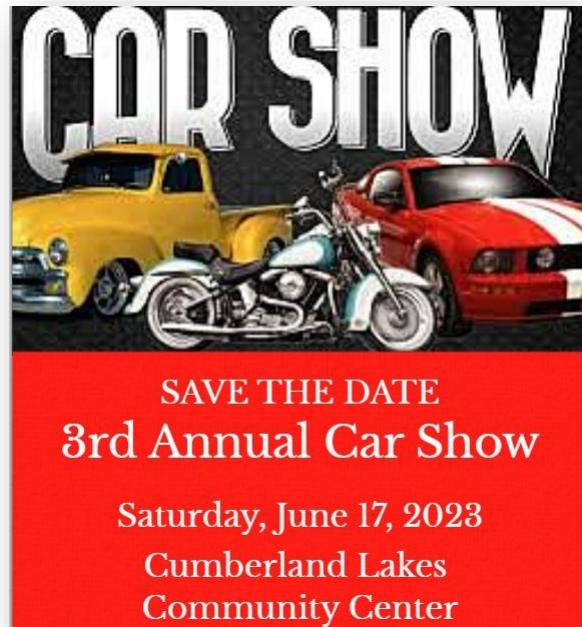


**February** - Super Bowl party / 35 neighbors huddled up to watch the big game. We didn't drop the ball there was tons of food and fun for all.



**March** - 32 neighbors gathered for the Post St. Patrick's Day Potluck. No malarkey or shenanigans, just a great group feeling L U C K Y to live in such a beautiful community! A feast of D E L I C I O U S corned beef, Irish sides and scrumptious desserts were shared!





## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS – WELCOMING:**

The Welcoming Committee was created as a way for new residents to get information about our neighborhood and surrounding community. Many of our new residents are relocating from other states and appreciate the local and state information that we can provide them. It can give them valuable information about our fire wise program and the equipment rental, introduce them to neighbors who have similar interests and invite them to become active in our great community.

If you meet a new resident, please stop and welcome them to our community because I really “brag on our friendliness”!

Anyone wanting to attend a meeting is always welcome.

Did you know that our community Center can be reserved for any community activity or private parties? We have had birthday parties, family reunions, football parties, New Year’s Eve party for teens and even a wedding reception. The events are only limited by your imagination. If you are interested in a reservation, just contact me and I will verify that it is available on the date you request, complete the forms and you can start planning the fun!

Just contact me on any of the above,

Karen Dunn



## **BEAUTIFICATION:**

SPRING...a lovely reminder of how *BEAUTIFUL* change can truly be...!

It is that time of year...

The Annual CUMBERLAND LAKES COMMUNITY CENTER CLEAN-UP

Spring is a time for plans and projects.

We have quite the project planned.

We have been blessed with a beautiful flower garden.

I feel we have a commitment to take care of the area for the resident who originally took her love for flower gardens and graced the community center with such beauty for us to enjoy year-round. Please join me on Saturday May 6th, 2023, at 10:00am to restore and straighten up "Shirley's Garden".

Plans for that day include pulling weeds, raking and leaf blowing, trimming trees and bushes around the center, up by the gate and road.

This is *OUR* community center, and it needs to be tended to, neatened up and maintained. Remember, many hands make for light work...!

Prayers for good weather and a large turnout are encouraged.  
(Possible rain date/completion date TBA if necessary.)

Please bring gardening tools, trimmers, saws, machines and muscles.

P.S. water, soda and a light lunch will be provided

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Beautification Committee.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to: [chanrecc@hotmail.com](mailto:chanrecc@hotmail.com)



## **NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES:**

Fellow CLPOA members,

Your Property Owners' Association 2021 Board of Directors wrote and passed a policy regarding Short Term Rental Restrictions. The 2023 board updated the policy with a grandfather clause and is sending out to all members.

Your webmaster, Jim Biron, has posted the policy on the [www.Cumberlandlakes.net](http://www.Cumberlandlakes.net) website. You will also receive the policy directly through your primary e-mail address listed with the POA or through USPS.

If you have any questions, please contact one of your Board of Directors members. They'll be happy to talk with you.

## It's Puzzling- Flower Quiz (answers below Critter Corner):

1. What is the outermost part of a flower called?
  - A. Sepal
  - B. Petal
  - C. Nectary
2. Saffron, an expensive spice originated from Iran, is derived from which flower?
  - A. Daffodil
  - B. Crocus
  - C. Snowdrop
3. Which of the following flowers can replace onions as a spice in cooking?
  - A. Lilies
  - B. Iris
  - C. Tulips
4. Banana plants are related to which of the following flowers?
  - A. Poppy
  - B. Bird of paradise
  - C. Dahlia
5. The juices of which flower were used to make glue in the past?
  - A. Bluebell flower
  - B. Buttercup
  - C. Rose
6. In the Wizard of Oz, the Wicked Witch poisoned which flower?
  - A. Rose
  - B. Poppy
  - C. Iris
7. When do we should plant flower bulbs so that they can bloom in the spring?
  - A. May or June
  - B. July or August
  - C. September or October
8. Daisies and sunflowers belong to which flower family?
  - A. Composite flowers
  - B. Complicated flowers
  - C. Complex flowers
9. What are tiny flowers in the center of the sunflower's head called?
  - A. Florets
  - B. Florists
  - C. Flores
10. What is the scientific term for flowering plants?
  - A. Heliotrope
  - B. Angiosperm
  - C. Gymnosperm

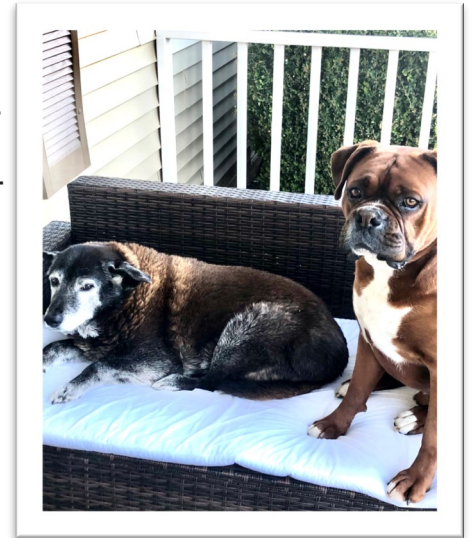




## Fur-babies of CL Spotlight:

### Misty's Boyz

Meet my boyz, my heart, my soul. Maverick Joe is affectionately called the elder statesman as he has earned his wisdom and aristocratic position in the pack through many years of love and service to the family. He has given us 15 yrs. of joy and he is irreplaceable. Sampson Balboa is known as my Tonka truck because he could destroy a junkyard! He has been with us since he was 12 weeks old and most days he is still like raising a toddler! Every morning we start our day with them with coffee, and every afternoon at 5 we end the day together with a beer/Mt.Dew



## Critter Corner: The Opossum



The Virginia (*Didelphis virginiana*) opossum, this species is the only marsupial, referring to the abdominal pouch of females for nursing the underdeveloped offspring, found north of Mexico where it is distributed throughout the eastern portion of the United States, including all of Tennessee, extending into New England.

The Opossum rarely, if ever, pass up a meal, which undoubtedly allows it to exploit a variety of habitat types and situations whether on the ground or in a tree. Though it prefers open forests with a permanent water source, it is equally at home almost anywhere, including agricultural lands and even suburban and urban areas where it is frequently seen along roadways. Known as a solitary wanderer, the opossum seldom remains in a single location for more than a few days. Being primarily active at night, it seeks out cover in the form of brush, hollow trees or logs, or man-made structures by day.

An omnivorous scavenger that consumes invertebrates, fruits and berries, bird eggs, small vertebrates, and carrion.

Peak breeding happens in the second week of February. Gestation is short (12-13 days), after which an average of 9 tiny (less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) young work their way towards the mother's pouch. After 60 days of weaning, the young start to open their eyes and release from the nipples for the first time. At around 80 days, the young begin to control their own body temperature, and leave the protection of their mother after an average of 100 days. Opossum of both sexes breed in the first year following birth.

### Fun Opossum Facts:

- ⇒ It has 50 teeth, more teeth than any other mammal in the United States.
- ⇒ It uses its prehensile tail to carry nesting materials.
- ⇒ Male opossums (like most marsupials) have a two-headed penis.
- ⇒ Opossums are immune to a variety of snake venoms
- ⇒ They can digest almost anything — including carcasses and food waste — without getting sick.
- ⇒ Mama opossums can carry up to 13 babies in their pouch.
- ⇒ Contrary to popular belief, opossums aren't blind at all. They just have terrible eyesight during the day.
- ⇒ Their pupils are always dilated, and as nocturnal animals, an opossum's eyesight improves drastically at night.
- ⇒ Rabies is extremely rare in opossums, possibly due to their lower body temperature compared to other warm-blooded animals.
- ⇒ They are incredibly agile with sharp claws, opposable thumbs on their hind feet, and a prehensile tail.
- ⇒ Possums will growl, hiss, belch and urinate when threatened.
- ⇒ 'Playing Possum' is a defense mechanism intended to confuse its attacker and allow the possum to escape. Many people believe it's a good act, but according to scientists the possum is actually in tonic immobility or thanatosis, and its body enters a catatonic state in response to fear. "Playing possum" isn't an act; it's an involuntary reaction to a threat.

REF: <https://www.tn.gov/twra/wildlife/mammals/medium/virginia-opossum.html>

### Flower Quiz Answers:

1. A. Sepal
2. B. Crocus
3. C. Tulips
4. B. Bird of paradise
5. A. Bluebell flower
6. B. Poppy
7. C. September or October
8. A. Composite flowers
9. A. Florets
10. B. Angiosperm

**Note from the Editor: If you take unique pics, wildlife pics, extraordinary lake shots or others that you would like to see in next quarter's Hook, Line & Sinker Newsletter, please send them to me (dawn.dayton@gmail.com) with a tagline and I will be glad to add them to the next edition.**

**D.**