

# *Hook, Line & Sinker*



Cumberland Lakes Newsletter, Monterey, TN

Spring 2026 Edition

## **Editor's note:**

I apologize for this edition of the HL&S being a bit tardy. Sometimes life just gets in the way...

There's been an exciting change to the content of the HL&S – **contributions from our CL neighbors!** From dazzling photos (Chris Benson, Connie McDonald and Lauren Greber) to The Critter Corner (outstanding job Suzanne Pitcher), Nosh Nook (YUM Laura Brady) and It's Puzzling (Fun ones Wendy Perkowski). I'm truly grateful for such thoughtful contributions.



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

What gorgeous hot, cold, and rainy weather we are having! Walking our roads over the last few years has been such a treat to see all the changes our seasons bring! We walked in a light snow earlier this year and rain recently as well!

But, enough about the weather! One of our great neighbors just hosted a beautiful Spring potluck. Your Activities committee hosted a wonderful Memorial Day potluck too! There have been several additional events as well. We have a lunch & learn coming up in June you should consider. Remember to always check our community Facebook page for updates on all things Cumberland Lakes!

Your Board of Directors has been working tirelessly on many great things for you! We have put several things in place to help with the deficit in our Reserves, all without raising your dues....well, for now at least! It's been 4 years since we last raised your dues and everything else has skyrocketed around us. The expenses to keep Cumberland Lakes a wonderful, and safe, place to live continue to climb. We are working on even more ideas at this time to counteract the rising costs.

One of the things that helps tremendously to make our community wonderful is all the volunteers! We have so many, more than people realize. Please remember to always say thank you to each and every one of them. Always! Wave when you see them, smile as they catch your eye, and offer a helping hand when needed.

If you have any thoughts, questions, or concerns, please never hesitate to reach out. You can hit the Contact Us button on our website, email me directly at [keepyourwitz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keepyourwitz@sbcglobal.net), or you can call/text me at (661) 313-5470. I'm a tad OCD, so I'll get back to you as quick as can be. But, after dinner, that's my quiet time with the hubster.....I may ignore you til the next day! I'm sure you understand.

Mike, the hubster, and I have been here for 4 years and we love it tremendously. I hope you all do too!

**Lauren Greber**  
Cumberland Lakes  
P.O.A. President



## **FIREWISE:**

For those of you that have not seen the Drought Report we are experiencing a "rain deficit" of about 12 inches. When you stop and think about it that is a lot of rain to accumulate to bring us out of our drought situation especially when we maybe receive about 1 to 2 inches a week. At this rate it will take several days of maybe 1 to 2 inches of rain to even make a dent in the drought status.



## PARK/LAKES MANAGEMENT & IMPROVEMENT:

*Chairperson: Ron Steacy*  
*Committee Member Bill Clarke*

May brought exciting news for our Lakes.

As has been discussed for many months, the weeds in the main lake and lesser weed problems on the smaller lakes are about to be tackled. Last month we had a free lake assessment from Gregg Upchurch of the University of TN extension office in Crossville. He gave us several good suggestions on weed control and also referred us to another county's Fish biologist, Creig, who does fish shocking and evaluation. Upon a five-member committee request and a board vote, it was agreed to pay the fee for a fish shock and health evaluation from UT Extension office. This was done 5.20.26 and they also had time to do Lazy Lake.

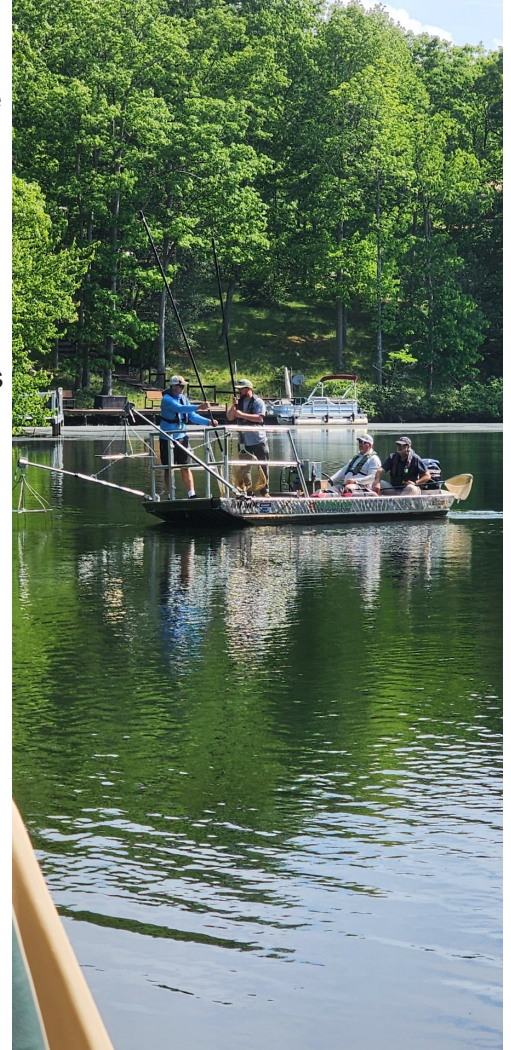
A full report with suggestions for both weed control and fish stocking, as well as a committee request to move forward on these suggestions, was presented at the last board meeting.

In short, as we expected, our bass population is low and they are undernourished and in part, feeding on themselves. The main feed source for them, is bluegill. Our bluegill population is average by itself but not enough. Lazy Lake exhibited the same concerns with underweight bass of a minority less than 12".

On other business, many trees were removed from easements of property owners who do not live here as well as clearing the spillways at Lazy Lake. Thank you Mike Greber for taking care of this. Mike G and Bill Clark also did some work around the community center to get ready for the Memorial day Party.

Some dam maintenance was done and more extensive weed control and small items from the dam inspection will be done between now and the fall.

As of now there is no change to our parks.



## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:**

Recently NBC aired a segment on a show called Investigative TV about a disturbing trend in the south called "Land Title Fraud or Deed Fraud". The basic concept of this illegal concept is a criminal County Register of Deeds to illegally gain ownership of a landowner's property. As the system stands today the county is not required to verify the validity of the form request with the name on the existing deed. The time required to process this false document can take several weeks and the victim landowner is never notified until they go to sell their property and a title search is performed. Recently the Crossville Chronicle had published an article submitted by Trey Kerley from the Register of Deeds, whereby a property owner can sign up for a new free service offered by the Register of Deeds. The consumer creates an account with this land recording notification program. Once a transaction is registered the customer receives a text notification about a request to record a change against the property or notify the customer about a possible fraud alert against the property. The Register of Deeds is offering this service free through the My Land Alert System and is completely safe and free to residents of Cumberland County. To enable the program a customer creates a profile at MyLandAlert.com. Click on "Register" in the upper left corner, agree to the terms and then agree to the terms. Next you would enter some profile information including email address and phone number. Once completed, a confirmation email will be sent to verify the number. If anyone has a problem signing up for the service, they are encouraged to contact the office of Register of Deeds at 931-484-5559, or visit the office at 2 North Main St. Suite 204 Crossville. This system provides an additional convenient way for property owners to stay informed about changes or documents affecting their real estate records. The system is an "alert only" system and does not report fraudulent activity to police or legal authorities.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL:**

Since my last report, we've had several building packages complete the exterior phase of construction; it should be here noted that the AECC monitors/inspects the exterior phase of construction only and does not monitor and interior work or landscaping, unless grounds around building site have become an eyesore, are not graded to finish, have trash about, etc. At the time of this writing, we've approved three new building packages, which puts the total of active building home projects at 11.

Also, since the last report, another home owner has incurred a fine for an unattended fire while clearing their lot(\$500). This is yet another example of the owners being well aware of the rules/regs about fires in order to protect our community, and apparently had conveyed the same to the contractor in charge of clearing, slash burning on their lot. The problem and ultimately the pronouncement of the fine resulted when the contractor lit a huge slash fire and then left for some time to go to dinner. The fire which was started ahead of an incoming storm was being fanned by high winds associated with the front moving in and embers from the fire were seen catching in the tops of trees and blowing over to houses on the next street over. When the AECC was made aware of the violation, two of the committee members went to the lot to monitor the fire until the contractor returned from his dinner trip. To hopefully remedy this problem, the AECC will look into having an extra signature line added to its rules/regs/firewise disclosure statement where not only the owners but also the contractor doing the clearing/burning has to sign off; then when a fine is levied, everyone was given ample notice/warning about the consequences.

The AECC serves at the pleasure of the POA Board and has the responsibility of not only vetting potential home projects and work projects, but also the enforcement of the rules and regulations designed and written to protect our property values, safety, natural beauty of the area and our way of life here.

If you are considering moving to our area, building, or investing in property, please take the time to read/review our C&R's (covenants & restrictions), our Bylaws and the AECC rules and regulations, and if you have questions or concerns, use the "contact us" tab on our website.

*Wayne Benson, AECC Chairman*

## ACTIVITIES:

On Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup>, some of our residents gathered at the community center to learn how to make snow globes. Everyone had fun and shared breakfast food and let their creativity flow.



On Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated St Patrick's Day in Cumberland Lakes hosted by Mike and Suzanne Pitcher. The food was delicious and the company was even better. Thank you to all who attended



On Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Julie Check hosted a flower making class at the community center. It was fun time learning how to make flowers from coffee filters, air fryer and cupcake liners and napkins. Like in nature, all of the ladies creations were different and beautiful. Thank you Julie! And cannot forget to acknowledge Louie for being a wonderful assistant!



On Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> a few neighbors gathered to learn how to make pasta. Farfalle pasta to be specific! Thank you to Pasta di Mona for the class and thank you to Lauren Greber & Kathleen Steacy for putting this event together.



On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Spring Community Potluck hosted by Beth and Norm Carlson was beautiful and in full bloom with a joyful evening of food, fun, and all things spring. Norm had the space decked out in adorable floral and garden-inspired décor.



Neighbors came together on Memorial Day for the community potluck! Everyone enjoyed the tender pulled pork, classic hot dogs, and savory shredded chicken, surrounded by a table of delicious, creative side dishes. The homemade cookies were- poof gone — truly irresistible. The buffet wouldn't be complete without the flag themed cake.

All were grateful for good food, warm company, and neighbors who make every holiday special. Thankful for the men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice to afford us the freedom and safety we appreciate today.



**NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES:**

Pets should not become a nuisance to your neighbors or the community. Domestic pets are subject to community standards regarding sight, sound, and smell. Although we live in an isolated community, the Association follows all state leash laws (TCA 44-8-408), requiring dogs to be on a leash or otherwise physically restrained when off the owners property.

Discuss all complaints directly with the homeowner before getting the local sheriff involved.

The Cumberland Lakes community believes in respect for animals and to that notion:

The Association prohibits the tethering, fastening, chaining, tying, or restraining any pet outside to any doghouse, tree, fence, outbuilding, or other stationary object with the exception that a person may temporarily tether a pet “no longer than it is necessary for the person to complete a temporary task.”

The Association prohibits the keeping of any animal on any unoccupied property whether caged or tethered.

**Special Notice**

**Mark your calendar for 6/25 at 6:30PM to meet Joel Blackburn | Assistant District Forester  
Cumberland District Fire Operations Division of Forestry  
Thanks to Tom Torbleau, Firewise Chairperson, for arranging!**

**The Furbabies of Cumberland Lakes –**

Will be back next edition



**Beautification Committee**

Will be back next edition



## Critter Corner:

### The Ringtail: The Masked Acrobat of the Night



Move over raccoons — there’s another masked bandit prowling the night, and this one could probably win a gold medal in gymnastics. Meet the ringtail, a furry little nighttime acrobat with giant eyes, oversized ears, and a striped tail that looks like it borrowed its fashion sense from a candy cane.

Despite its raccoon-like appearance, the ringtail is actually its own unique little character. About the size of a house cat, this secretive mammal spends most of its life scampering through rocky canyons, desert cliffs, forests, and old barns across the southwestern United States and parts of Mexico. Most people never see one be-

cause ringtails prefer the nightlife. While humans are asleep and raccoons are raiding trash cans, ringtails are leaping from ledge to ledge like tiny ninja gymnasts.

And leap they do.

Ringtails are famous for their incredible climbing abilities. Their ankles can rotate nearly 180 degrees, allowing them to climb straight down trees or rocky cliffs headfirst — something that would send most creatures into a panic. They can squeeze into tiny cracks, bounce between narrow canyon walls, and balance effortlessly with the help of their long striped tail. Watching a ringtail climb is like watching nature’s version of parkour.

But don’t let the athletic talent fool you. Ringtails also have a mischievous side.

Back in the Old West, miners and settlers sometimes kept ringtails around cabins because they were excellent mousers. In fact, they earned the nickname “miner’s cat,” even though they aren’t cats at all. Unlike cats, however, ringtails never really signed up for domesticated life. They tolerated humans mainly because cabins came with free rodents.



When it comes to dinner, ringtails aren’t picky eaters. They’ll snack on insects, mice, lizards, berries, fruits, and even the occasional bird. Basically, if it fits in their mouth and can’t outrun them, it’s fair game. Their enormous eyes aren’t just adorable — they’re perfect for nighttime hunting. Those eyes gather every bit of moonlight possible, helping ringtails move silently through the darkness like tiny woodland spies. Add in sensitive ears and sharp claws, and you have one seriously efficient nighttime hunter.

Even their tail deserves attention. The ringtail’s fluffy striped tail can be nearly as long as its body and acts like a built-in balancing pole. It also makes them look twice as fancy as they probably need to be. Perhaps the funniest thing about ringtails is how little attention they get compared to other wild animals. Bears get documentaries. Wolves get movies. Raccoons get caught on security cameras stealing pet food. Meanwhile, ringtails quietly perform Olympic-level gymnastics in the desert and ask for absolutely no recognition whatsoever.

Honestly, they deserve better public relations.

So the next time you’re outside on a quiet evening in the Southwest, keep an eye on the rocks, trees, and fences. If you spot a pair of glowing eyes and a striped tail slipping through the shadows, you may have just encountered one of North America’s most charming hidden celebrities — the incredible ringtail.

## Nosh Nook:

### **Chicken Kabobs**

(recipe contribution from Laura Brady)

#### Ingredients:

1 ½-2lbs boneless, skinless thighs (Cut into half inch strips 2-4 inches in length – easier to fold and slide on skewers. Holds together better during cooking process)

3 tablespoons olive oil

3 tablespoons lemon juice (fresh squeezed)

3 cloves of garlic (minced)

1 teaspoons paprika – ½ teaspoon cumin

1 teaspoons dried oregano – ½ teaspoon black pepper

1 teaspoon salt

Optional veggies: bell peppers, red onion, zucchini, cherry tomatoes or use your imagination.

#### Instructions:

1. Make marinade in a bowl (mix olive oil, lemon juice, garlic and spices).

2. Marinate chicken – add chicken and toss well. Cover tightly and refrigerate for at least 2 hours (overnight is preferred).

3. Assemble kabobs on skewers alternating meat and veggies

4. Cook @ 425 degree oven about 20-25 minutes turning at about 12 minutes. (meat temp 165 degrees).

ENJOY!



#### **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](mailto:dawn.dayton@gmail.com)) with a tagline and I will be glad to add them to the next edition. D.

#### Submission requirements

No images of written copy

Should be in Word document













Any images must be in .jpeg or .png file type.

**It's Puzzling:**

Object Find

# I SPY SPRING



- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 11  | 11  | 12  | 16  | 11  | 15  |
| 12  | 13  | 15  | 12  | 11  | 10  |

# IT'S SPRINGTIME!

*Everything starts to come back to life in the Spring! From the birth of baby animals to the blooming of vegetation to the rebirth and revitalization of just about everything.*

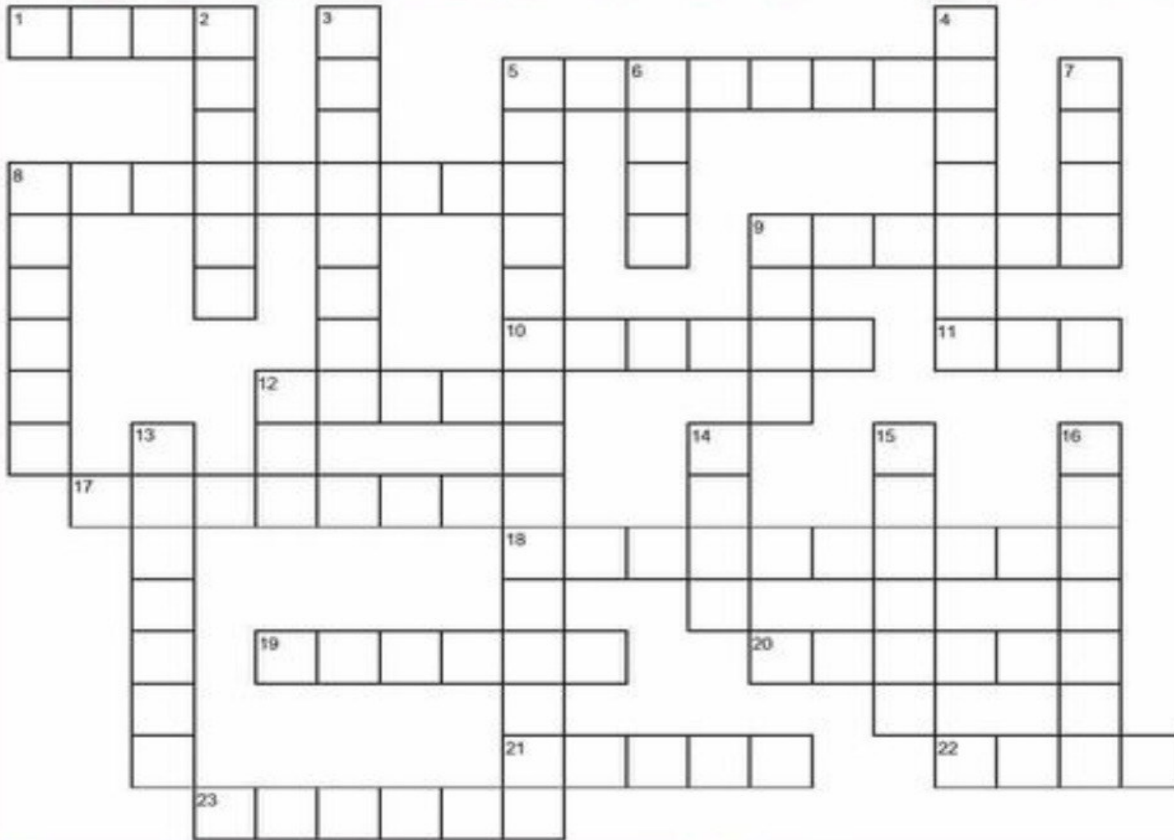
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GARDENING  
GRASS  
GREENERY  
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KITE  
NESTING  
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SEEDLING  
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F	E	R	T	I	L	I	Z	E	S	F	R	E	S	H	N	E	S	S

SPROUT  
SUNSHINE  
TULIPS  
VERNAL  
VIBRANT  
WARMTH



## crossword puzzle



**WORD BANK:**  
 APRIL FOOLS  
 BEES  
 BLOOM  
 BLUE  
 BREEZE  
 BUTTERFLY  
 CHICKS  
 CLOUDS  
 DAFFODIL  
 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
 EASTER  
 FLOWERS  
 FROG  
 GARDEN  
 GRASS  
 KITE  
 LADYBUGS  
 MARCH  
 MAY  
 NEST  
 PASTELS  
 PICNIC  
 PUDDLE  
 RAIN  
 RAINBOW  
 SUN  
 UMBRELLA

### ACROSS:

1. Toy that flies in the wind, attached to a string.
5. Yellow spring flower.
8. Winged insect that emerges from a chrysalis.
9. A gentle wind.
10. A place where people grow flowers or vegetables.
11. Star that provides light and warmth.
12. The first month of spring.
17. Lucky red beetles with black dots.
18. Holiday when people pull pranks and make jokes.
19. A meal you have outside on the grass.
20. Small pool of water.
21. A green lawn covering.
22. Home for birds.
23. A name for baby birds.

### DOWN:

2. A spring holiday when you might hunt for eggs.
3. Item that shelters you from the rain.
4. Plants with petals.
5. What it's called when the clocks "spring forward".
6. It's what a tadpole turns into when it grows up.
7. The color of the sky.
8. Another name for flowers.
9. Insects that pollinate flowers and make honey.
12. Spring month containing Mother's Day.
13. Multi-colored arc caused when light is refracted through water droplets.
14. When water droplets fall from the sky.
15. Sometimes these hide the sun.
16. Colors that are soft and muted.