

Annual Meeting

The board has announced the annual meeting will take place on Monday, December 14, at 7:30 pm in the clubhouse. We will be voting for three seats on the board of directors of the Lake Lorman Corporation, one nomination to the board of the Lake Lorman Utility District, and the Lake Lorman annual budget.

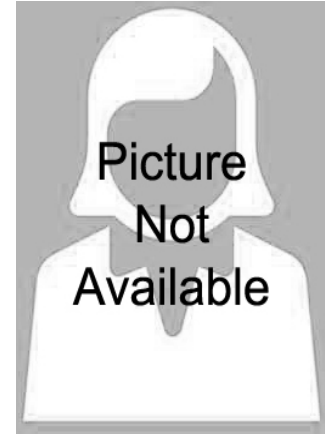
Three candidates have submitted their names for the corporation board and will be listed on the ballot, Myra Hester Cook, Tommy Draughn, and Mandy Robertson. Their profiles were sent out with the official notice sent out by the board in early November. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.



Myra Hester Cook



Tommy Draughn



Mandy Robertson

Don Seagrove will be listed on the ballot for the utility board. The vote is advisory in nature. The Madison County Board of Supervisors makes the actual appointment to the utility board, but the supervisors have always appointed the candidate selected by Lake Lorman residents.

We will also be voting on the budget proposed by the Lake Lorman Corporation board. The 2015 budget approved last year called for expenditures of \$117,495. The proposed budget for 2016 calls for expenditures of \$118,745. The difference is in the allocation of funds. This year road repairs and maintenance accounted for about \$65,000. Next year the major expenditure proposed is \$63,000 for lake maintenance. There is no proposed increase in the annual dues.

Every Vote Counts

We're often encouraged to vote at election time. "Every vote counts." Our supervisor's election last month proves the truth of the adage. The official tally is 2374 votes for incumbent Karl Banks and 2376 votes for challenger David Bishop for the 4th district supervisor seat on the Madison County Board of Supervisors. The vote at our polling place, Twin Lakes Baptist Church, was 178 for Democrat Banks and 274 votes for Republican Bishop.

There are five members on the elections commission, whose job it is to uphold election law and ensure that elections are fair and honest, according to the commission's webpage. The commission voted 3 to 2 to certify David Bishop the winner based on the two vote margin over Banks. Circuit clerk Lee Westbrook said that Supervisor Banks has filed a suit challenging the results. He named the Madison County Board of Election Commissioners and David Bishop as respondents. The complaint alleges "the commission's failure and refusal in its ministerial act of opening and counting the votes of four (4) registered voters and in the commission's failure and refusal to correctly

count and include the votes contained in the twenty seven (27) properly marked affidavit ballots of registered voters that they had previously opened, rather than “restuffing” them back into the opened envelopes, as the commission has done in this instance.”

Mrs. Westbrook said that election law is specific on steps taken to contest election results, although it is not specific regarding what grounds need to be asserted for a challenge. She explained that Banks filed his complaint within the twenty day period. Her step was to turn the complaint over to the Supreme Court, which has appointed Judge Lackey to oversee the case. Westbrook said the law requires that the appointed judge not live in the contested county or a contiguous county. She said the Judge Lackey is a retired judge from the Oxford area.

David Bishop, who was also named in the suit, said his lawyers are in the process of responding to Banks’ complaint. The next step is up to Judge Lackey, Westbrook said.

Notes From The President **“REFLECTIONS”**

For the past 12 months our community has experienced positive change. Beautiful new homes constructed along with remodeling of others has enhanced our community’s property value. Young children and teens are enjoying the recreational opportunities our community provides. We do live in a special venue that is very beautiful with a different picture unfolding from the reflections in the lake water every moment of every day. We see reflections of different colors of trees in the water with the clouds reflecting like a bed of cotton on the waters. The sunrise and sunsets are indescribably beautiful and never the same. The boats sitting on the lake with men, women, children and pets focusing on the natural beauty of our secret homeplace. As the sun sets with unbelievable rays of color may your life be richly blessed because you have chosen this location to enjoy the blessings of life.

Proverbs 29:19 – “As water reflects a face, so a man’s heart reflects the man”
Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Clint Brantley, President of the Board of Directors

The Bird's Eye View By Dale and Sarah Lea Anglin

This month we continue our “Birding 101” course with some of the many field marks used to help identify birds. We discussed general size and shape a few issues ago; these are used to identify birds into major groups. Once the size and shape have given you clues, there may be several species of similar size and shape to choose between--for example a dark-eyed junco, the American goldfinch, and the white-throated sparrow that have recently arrived here for the winter. The use of field marks—patterns, stripes, and other markings that help birds recognize their own species—can be key to identifying a species. This is particularly helpful if you know the general group of birds and have a field guide (or phone app field guide) to thumb through—knowing the marks can help you find the correct bird in your book or on your app. These may be on any part of the body, but two areas to key on for beginners are the head and the wings. The images below (from the “All About Birds” website from Cornell University) demonstrate some of the field marks seen in various birds on the head and wings. Not all birds have all field marks; that’s what makes them so valuable in identifying species!

A few notable field marks are, in the order that we often “see” them first:

Wing bars, a stripe or stripes across (including the number of stripes and

Eye line, a line that runs through the or below it)

Eye brow stripe (also known as a line over the eye

Throat patch

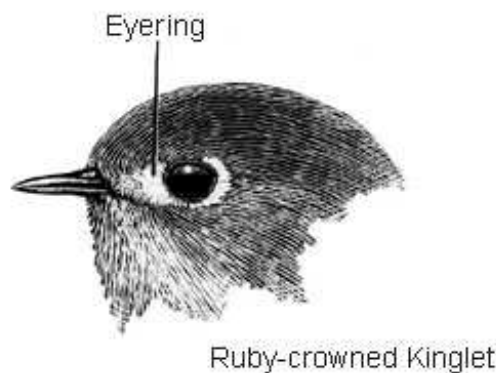
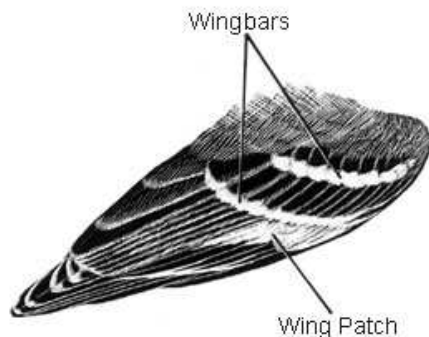
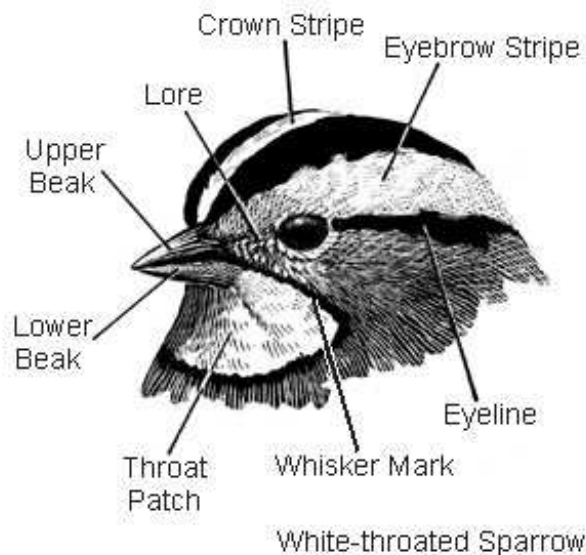
Crown stripe (a stripe on top of the

Eye ring (a ring of color that encircles

the folded wing their color)

eye (not above superciliary), a

head) the eye)



When you observe a bird, look for these marks (or, look for the absence of them!) Below are photos of three of our winter birds and one year-round resident to help you look for field marks. These birds are common at feeders throughout the winter. See what field marks you can find! These are shown in their winter plumages, as you would see them now. Look for them now through spring, and enjoy your winter birding!



Dark-eyed Junco (note the white stripe on the tail! That's another field mark).



White-throated sparrow (look at the diagram above!)



American Goldfinch (hint: look at the wings!)



Carolina wren (our year-round resident). Compare beak shape, wings, and head markings to the Goldfinch and the White-throated sparrow.

Notes from the dirt dauber

This time of year is difficult to come up with an article on gardening so I'll try to do the next best thing... talk about a plant we are so familiar with this time of year.... the holly. *Ilex opaca*, American Holly is also referred to as white holly, prickly holly, Evergreen Holly, Christmas Holly and Yule Holly and in Scandinavia it is known as Christ Thorn. Holly has been connected with Christmas and festivals associated with it for centuries. Its origins can be traced back to Northern Europe and was first celebrated as a plant of great importance by the Pagans. The Druids used it as a ceremonial head wear when they went into the forest.

The holly was a type of offering given to the god Saturn by the Romans during the festival of Saturnalia. All images of Saturn are depicted with him with the holly. At some point the holly became significant to Christians. Part of its symbolic significance is related to the crucifixion of Christ who wore a crown of thorns that caused him to bleed from his head. Thus the look of the holly is similar to the look of Christ's make-shift crown and the red berries symbolize the blood that came forth from Christ during his darkest hours. The holly is, subsequently more of a religious symbol for those who subscribe to this metaphorical depiction of the widely-popular plant.

Dirt dauber hopes this little history of holly gives you a better understanding when using it as a Christmas Wreath (by the way, wreath comes from the Old English word "writhen" which means to writhe or twist).

When should you take down the greenery? It is tradition to take down the decorations after Twelfth Night (January fifth) on Epiphany (January sixth) (dirt dauber's birthday). But during the Middle Ages greenery was often left hanging up until Candlemas (when Christians celebrate Jesus going to the Jewish Temple as a baby) in early February!


From a botanical standpoint the American Holly tree grows from 25 to 60 feet in the warmer parts of its range. It is a slow growing evergreen pyramidal in shape with spiny leaves. The trees are unisexual and the bright berries only occur on the female plant. You must have both a male and



female plant to have berries or at least have the opposite sex growing wild somewhere near by. The male must be the same holly species as the female and bloom at the same time. Berries attract many birds and provide cover for nesting sites. All *Ilex* species may be somewhat toxic to humans if ingested. Sensitivity to a toxin varies with a person's age, weight, physical condition and individual susceptibility. Children are most vulnerable because of their curiosity and small size.

The dirt dauber has two hollies – grown from seeds dropped by birds and graced by fate, one is male and the other female. I am now looking at the beautiful red berries on the tree by my drive even as the mocking bird, which has had a nest in the protected branches of the thorny tree for many years and has raised numerous offspring there, is enjoying a winter feast.

Until next time have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

~ Peace & Love,  **dirt dauber**



Yard of the Month

Cindy Holt awards each month's recipient a \$25 gift certificate from Lowe's. Yard of the Month photographs are taken by **Bill Deveer**.



The October yard of the month belongs to **Karen and Bill Hulett** 365 Lakeshore Drive. The committee is not selecting yards of the month during the winter but will resume in March.



“Hunt for the Hill of Death”

by Dan Dickinson

In **Good Old Boy**, Willie Morris’s classic memoir of growing up in Yazoo City, Mississippi in the late 1940s, there is a curious and evocative incident.

Morris and his teenage friends borrow an old Model A and go out in search of the site of the Battle of Simpkin’s Hill, a Civil War conflict that, at the time of the story (we are told), was all but forgotten. They search high and low and, though people are dimly aware of the conflict, no one knows where the battle took place. Finally they ask a country woman.

“The Old Woman was silent for a moment. ‘What battlefield?’”

They tell her. She goes silent again and then directs them up into some woods. They drive into the forest, cross a rickety bridge, and crest a hill. Then one of the boys points. “Over there!”

“Our eyes followed the direction of the pointing finger. There ... were dozens upon dozens of old graves on the rise ... as far as the eye could see. Most of them were covered with weeds.” They had stumbled upon the “Hill of Death”. They found graves galore, and a broken down memorial. Then they have a picnic lunch amidst the tombstones.

I wondered what became of that lost battlefield; or if it even had existed at all. I decided to find out.

First I searched out the facts as given. We are told in Morris’ story that the Battle of Simpkin’s Hill was a “major skirmish”, and a Confederate Victory that saved Yazoo City from the Yankees. There were at least two problems with the account. First, there was no such battle. Second, Yazoo City quickly fell to Federal forces, with barely a shot fired in anger.

So, did Morris make it all up? I wondered.

Further research pointed me to another famous struggle, the Civil War battle of Champion Hill, fought perhaps forty miles south of Yazoo City between Raymond and Edwards, Mississippi on a sweltering May 16, 1863. Part of Grant’s Vicksburg campaign, Champion Hill featured an attempt by Southern General Pemberton to stop Grant’s army in its tracks before it could besiege Vicksburg.

Pemberton's valiant action failed, costing him 15% of his army and the life of one of his best generals. With nearly 7,000 casualties, Champion Hill was the bloodiest day of conflict in Mississippi's history. Most of those who fell in battle did so in a back and forth contest over the possession of a high ridge – one very like that mentioned in Morris's story. Afterwards, this ridge was called "the Hill of Death."

So there was a "Hill of Death". But *where* was it?



There is no Champion Hill National Battlefield Park. Nor is there any state park, despite the significance of the struggle that took place there. What few battlefield markers exist have been put up by the "Champion Hill Memorial Society". I soon learned that there *was* a marker for the "Hill of Death." What could not be discovered were any instructions on *how* to find it. As I would learn, there's a reason for that.

On a sunny, cool autumn morning we set out to see if we could find the Battlefield where Morris and his friends likely dined some seventy years ago.

The easiest place to discover is the Coker House, a restored plantation that served as a confederate hospital in the conflict. This is on route 467, about midway

between Edwards and Raymond. Outside are some interesting exhibits, although the house itself is not open.

The Coker House served as a Confederate hospital in the last stages of the Battle. It is located on MS 467.

Somewhat harder to locate is the monument marking the death of Confederate General Lloyd Tilghman, killed instantly while guarding the Southern retreat in what, reportedly, was the last shot of the battle. There's no sign pointing out the monument, likely because it is located on private property. It can be found, with difficulty, on the North side of 467, a mile past the Coker House as you head towards Raymond.

There's a majestic statue of Tilghman in the Vicksburg Battlefield National Park. He's actually buried in New York City.

But, what about that "Hill of Death"?

The last signage we could find was along Billy Fields Road, marked the "Fight for the Crossroads" This part of the conflict occurred when Federal forces, sweeping over Champion Hill, seized a small Southern artillery unit in a nasty exchange. Southern forces rallied and drove the Yankees back over the hill. The Yankees returned the favor about a half hour later, when, fighting hand to hand in the hot, dark, and by now smoke-covered forest, the battle got truly gruesome. Watching the struggle on the "Hill of Death" Grant said "While a battle is raging, one can see his enemy mowed down by the thousand, or the ten thousand, with great composure; but after the battle these scenes are distressing, and one is naturally disposed to alleviate the sufferings of an enemy as well as of a friend."





The Crossroads fight was second only to that on the Hill for savagery and casualties.

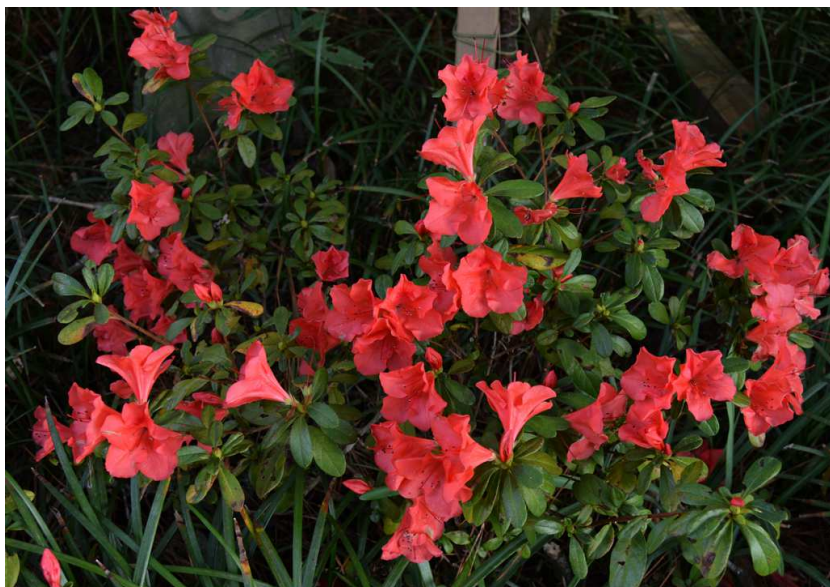
The Crossroads sign provided a hint on the Hill. I followed it.

There was no road, nor any marked path. The property appeared private. And it was hunting season. Not very sensibly, I headed cross country, taking whatever path seemed to head up the rise.

I didn't see any graves, nor was I about to go looking for them. I did see the long views in both directions that Morris had mentioned, so I guessed I was on the Hill of Death. Then, just about to turn back, I spied a steep rise behind me. I clambered to the top and, yes, I found that elusive sign at the top of Champion Hill.

It was the "Hill of Death", likely the spot where Morris and his friends had stood, certainly a place where many thousand brave boys in grey and blue had fallen, so long, long ago. Why the big secret as to its location? I realized then that, first, it was private property. Second, the last thing anyone would want would be grave robbers and souvenir hunters poking around in this area.

There is a move afoot to afford this battle site more protection, either as an extension of the Vicksburg Park or as a commemorative area of its own. Those pushing this effort deserve our applause and support. Whatever side one comes down on regarding the War Between the States, it shaped our history – no more so than here in Mississippi. Those who fought and died here need to be honored and remembered, and their sacrifices need to be understood.



Believe it or Not!

dirt dauber has these Encore Azaleas blooming on December 10, 2015. Anyone else have an anomaly in the Plant Kingdom? Send a picture and date to the Newsletter and we'll publish it.

Fall Decorations

Juan Hernandez explained his wife Lulu is a kindergarten teacher. That's how she came to be good at doing arts and crafts projects, such as the festive orange wreaths that decorated Lake Lorman's gates. Juan has the contract this year with Lake Lorman to maintain both dams, all the gates, the clubhouse area, and right-a-ways on Lakeshore and Westline Dr. Juan said his company, J and L Lawn Care Services, cuts the grass, prunes the brush and bushes, fertilizes with weed and feed, and puts down pine straw mulch. Caring for Lake Lorman property gave Juan's wife Lulu the idea to make the fall wreaths for our gates.

Juan, who started his business in 2001, said in addition to Lake Lorman he does the landscaping for Reunion Farm and Marina. He is available to provide lawn care and landscaping services for individuals. You can reach him at 601-238-5086.



Recently in the News & Congratulations to:



Paul Harris Fellow

The Rotary Club of North Jackson recently celebrated a new Paul Harris Fellow. Club member Judy Lyons honored her Lake Lorman neighbor Woody Holt with the recognition for his activities in support of their neighborhood. A Paul Harris Fellow is awarded after the person contributes \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation uses generous donations to fund projects by Rotarians and their partners in communities around the world. Shown are (from left) Joe Harris, Holt, and Lyons.

Judy Lyons honors **Woody Holt** for his activities in support of Lake Lorman Community.

DAR get new officers

The Annandale Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution held a new officer installation at business meeting recently. JoLynn Vaughn Chapter Chaplain installed Ginny Williams as Recording Secretary and Myra Cook as Treasurer.



Pictured L to R: JoLynn Vaughn-Chaplain, Ginny Williams-Recording Secretary, and Myra Cook-Treasurer.

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Myra Hester Cook (current Lake Lorman Corp. Treasurer) was recently installed Treasurer of The Annandale Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution



Basketball

Mississippi State University basketball coach, Ben Howland, recently spoke to the Rotary Club of Jackson. With his first SEC game coming up, Coach Howland invited all Bulldog fans to come to The Hump for LSU weekend. Coach reports that both individual and team training are yielding "excellent" results. Shown are (from left) Julian Watson, who introduced the program; Coach Howland; and Tom Johnson, president of the club.

Tom Johnson, President of the Rotary Club of Jackson is a Gate 7 Resident and past president of the Lake Lorman Corporation Board of Directors.

Eagle Scout Project

If you've seen the newly renovated playground at Twin Lakes Baptist Church, you've seen **Joseph Williams'** Eagle Scout project. Joseph said he noticed the posts were rotting and it was becoming hazardous for the children. So with the assistance of about a dozen people, including four other Scouts, church members, and some family, Joseph tackled the job, which is one of his last tasks to attaining Eagle Scout status.

The project included removing the old posts and replacing them, cleaning the mold and dirt from the equipment, and cleaning and replacing the mulch to make the playground safe again. Joseph is a ninth grader at Rosa Scott School. He is a member of Troop 169 of the Andrew Jackson Council. **Joe** and **Sherry Williams** are his parents.

Lake Lorman Christmas Party 2015

The Lake Lorman Christmas Pot Luck Dinner was held at the club house December 5. The following are a few snapshots of the evening fun.





A special **Thank You!** to all who worked to make this year's party a success

Save the Dates:

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- **Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting:** Monday, December 14, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Corporation Annual Board Meeting:** Monday, December 14, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.
(Voting for 2016 Board Members & Budget)
- **Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting:** Monday, January 11, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Corporation Board Meeting:** Monday, January 18, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting:** Monday, February 8, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Corporation Board Meeting:** Monday, February 15, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

Be sure to check the [Calendar](#) on the Lake Lorman website for scheduled activities, meetings and events.

Twin Lakes Baptist Church

You Are Invited to Join Us ~ Everyone is Welcome!

Regular Weekly services:

- **Sunday-Bible Study** 9:30 am, **Worship** 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. Children and youth meet at 6:30 pm.
- **Tuesday - Community Men's Bible Study** 6:15 am in church fellowship hall
- **Wednesday, Supper** 5:30 pm and **Bible Study** 6:30 pm. Call church at 601-856-2305 no later than Tuesday morning to make reservation for meal. Cost \$6.00.

Hugh Smith, Pastor (601-259-4567) - ALL ARE INVITED

UPCOMING TWIN LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

- **Sunday, December 13th** -- Sanctuary Choir presents *Breath of Heaven: A Christmas Celebration* -- @ 10:30 am
- **Thursday, December 24th** -- Christmas Eve Service -- @ 5:30 pm

Classifieds:



Babysitting Available: Lake Lorman resident **Reagan Leeper** is available for babysitting young children in the Lake Lorman community. Rates are negotiable depending on services needed.

Please contact **Reagan** at 601-502-4223 or danajwhite@gmail.com.

Pet Sitting Available: Lake Lorman residents **Emma** and **Sarah Elkin** (who live in Gate 7) are available for pet sitting, pet bathing, and pet walking in the Lake Lorman community.

They will also water plants if needed.

Rates are negotiable depending on services needed.

Please contact **Emma or Sarah Elkin** at 601-212-5658 or elkin6@comcast.net.



Classifieds are your opportunity to tell your neighbors about anything you might have for sale or services offered. If you are a Lake Lorman Corporation member in good standing (dues paid, etc.) advertising a personal item (boat, lawnmower, table, etc.) listings are **free** – just send us your listings and remember the **Lake Lorman Community News** publishes approximately bi-monthly.

A **Business Advertisement Price Guide** is available upon request. All advertising fees go toward Lake Lorman Community News expenses.

Contact **Kelley Dickinson** (601-856-7371 kelleydickinson@lakelormanms.com) or **Bill Jones** (601-331-2417 billjones@lakelormanms.com) with suggestions for stories of interest, "Letters to the Editor", school awards, births, weddings, trips, etc.

For additional lake information: <http://www.lakelormanms.com> and on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-MS/Lake-Lorman/309416818289>.

Change Happens: Please let us know of changes to your email or home address lakelormancommunitynews@lakelormanms.com.

The Newsletter staff would like to hear comments from our readers as to what you think of the publication, how we can improve or what type of information, stories, etc. you would like to see. Your comments would be appreciated both positive and negative and your suggestions will help us provide you with more of the information you would like the letter to cover. The newsletter is published independently from the Lake Lorman Board of Directors and uses no funds from the maintenance fee to publish.