

LAKE LORMAN COMMUNITY NEWS

November/December 2016

“It’s Been a Pleasure”



That’s how **John Grace** characterized his 50 years at Lake Lorman. John and his wife **Shirley** recently reminisced with me about their time at the lake as they prepare to move to their next stage of their lives at Beau Ridge in Ridgeland. John bought a cabin in 1965, but didn’t move here until 1968.

“We drove and we drove and we drove,” explained Shirley about the first time John brought her to his home on the lake. Lake Lorman was so far away from the center of town, “No one knew where we were.” It’s always been our secret, Shirley added, but not any longer. And they were gravel roads at the time, John pointed out. There were actual gates at the entrances which were kept locked and residents had to use keys. That ended about 1970. Shirley said there also wasn’t any trash pick-up when she first moved here in 1971, when she and John were married. John also mentioned that the streets originally were unnamed until Robert Wright, a postal worker who lived on the north side of the lake toward the dam, gave the streets their names. Until the mid- 1990s our mailing address was Jackson and that was our post office.

John, who turns 95 this month, served on the board several times in the 1960s and 1970s. He said one of the board’s first moves was to create a sewage system and everyone had to sign an easement. John said it took a private act by the legislature to create the Lake Lorman

Utility District. He also negotiated the purchase of the five acres we use for our sewage lagoon. John has often attended board meetings over the years and shared his experience and knowledge of the lake's history.

Another big change the couple has noted is the increase in property values. "Of course, the property isn't worth anything," John observed wryly. "It's the lake that makes it so valuable." He noted that the corporation bought the whole lake in the 1960s from M.A. Lewis for \$26,000. Shirley added, "It's the neighbors and community that keep people wanting to come out here... You can just feel the family."

Shirley, 79, has just completed a bout with cancer this week. She said the way neighbors have stepped up with prayers, food, offers of help and rides is what makes this such a special community. She hopes newcomers embrace that spirit. "I feel very fortunate to have had the care, love, and prayers of so many. I never felt I was going through this alone." Always optimistic and upbeat, Shirley said she sees great improvements in the neighborhood. She singled out the people on the beautification committee for working on the landscaping, upgrading the clubhouse, and holding social events which bring the community together. Shirley herself was honored by the board several years ago with a plaque and a living tree for all that she had done over the years. Shirley had kept the clubhouse clean, helped with landscaping the gates, pitched in with the social gatherings, and picked up trash in the neighborhood.

John and Shirley said many of their best memories are of their life at the lake, especially with their children and grandchildren, swimming in the lake with them, and jumping off a rope tied to a tree branch over the lake. John commented, "I've been happy. We've had good fellowship and a good community. We've made lifetime friends." Earl Hankins had been visiting that morning and had just left on his ATV. John mentioned visiting and spending time with Kelly Jones, who recently passed, and Kelly's wife Beth, who died several years ago. "We've made a lot of memories," Shirley said. "That's what you carry with you." She added, "My only regret is leaving the community."

I asked John if he had any advice for the community. "There needs to be a load limit on the roads." He said there was a limit at one time and signs were posted with the limit at each gate. Shirley added that with stones so much in use in construction now, the trucks carry very heavy loads. John said builders have insurance policies and they have to follow our rules if they want to build in our neighborhood.

"No cooking!" was Shirley's enthusiastic response when asked about their new life at Beau Ridge, an independent living facility. John said they are moving into a two bedroom unit, which are all sold out now, although there are still some one bedroom units available. Shirley said they already have several friends living there and she has felt at home the several times she has eaten lunch in the dining room. There are many activities available, such as exercise class, Bible study, and games. "Maybe I can do some good there. God is putting me there now," she commented. Shirley pointed out they'll be free to come and go as they please and expect to get back to visit friends and neighbors at the lake. "We're not leaving the country." "It seems like a holiday living out here all the time. We've been very fortunate," Shirley summed up. "It's been a pleasure," said John.

Annual Meeting

Lot owners are encouraged to attend the annual meeting at the clubhouse on **December 12th at 7:00 p.m.** We'll be voting for three new board members to replace Clint Brantley, Kelsey Daniel, and Karen de Kock, whose terms expire this month. Two candidates, Rebecca Broom and Kathy Warren, have announced their intention to run and their names will be on the ballot. Nominations will be taken from the floor. **Myra Hester Cook, Tommy Draughn, and Mandy Robertson** will be returning to the board.

My name is **Rebecca Broom** and I am asking you to vote for me this December to serve on the upcoming Lake Lorman Board of Directors. I hope to use my experience from serving on other neighborhood boards (President Tidewater Homeowners Association and also Reunion's Architectural Review board) to continue with the hard work of our current board.

I am an Interior Designer by trade, currently working in the new construction housing industry around the Madison area. I am thankful to have been a part of several remodels and new construction jobs at Lake Lorman.

I live in Gate 7 with my Husband Danny and 2 Basset Hounds Deuce and Stryker. My Mother, Ruth Dement also lives in an adjoining apartment to our house. We have enjoyed being a part of Lake Lorman for 4 years.



Hello, my name is **Kathy Warren**. I live in Gate 7 203 Lakeshore Drive. I am asking for your vote on the upcoming Lake Lorman homeowner's Board of Directors. My husband Mark and I own ERA Real Estate Professionals with offices in Ridgeland and Brandon.

We have been residents of Lake Lorman for eight years. We were asked to come list a home here and upon arrival, opened the gates to the back yard saw the beautiful lake and said, this is the place for us.

I have been very passionate about keeping our wonderful neighborhood looking as nice as possible. I helped form the Beautification Committee and have been active with cleanup as well as fundraisers.



Being in real estate I am very aware of things our neighborhood should do in the way of keeping our property values up and a desirable neighborhood with a solid reputation. I feel like I would do a very good job to make this happen. Thank you, Kathy Warren

Jimmie King is running for reelection to the **Lake Lorman Utility District** board. Jimmie said he moved to the lake shortly after retired from the state employment security commission in 1991. He has served on the LLUD board since 1992. Asked why he was running for reelection Jimmie said he enjoys being on the board and wants to give a little time back to the community. Unlike board members of the Lake Lorman Corporation who are elected directly by lot owners at the annual meeting, LLUD board members are actually appointed by the Madison County Board of Supervisors. However, it is customary for the supervisors to select the candidate chosen by the Lake Lorman voters. As with the Corporation candidates, nominations for the LLUD will also be taken from the floor at the meeting.

The annual budget must also be approved by the lake membership. Next year's proposed spending is \$118,455.

Finally, we will also be voting on the proposal to establish a **trust fund for the repair of our roads**. The plan calls for increasing lot dues by \$200 each year for the next ten years. The work will be overseen by a three person oversight committee that will report to the board and the money raised by the special assessment will only be used for roads. The board answered questions from neighbors at its August board meeting. To read the questions and answers go to the LakeLormanMs.com website and click on Minutes at the right hand side and go to the [August minutes](#).

Clubhouse Work Completed

The board announced at the November meeting that the various projects this fall at the clubhouse have been completed.

In October Karen de Kock reported that Jason Ramsey has repaired the seawall at the clubhouse and laid sod in the grassy area.



He also removed some rotten wood and made a dry creek bed in front of the clubhouse where there had been drainage problems.

Tommy Draughn announced Jason had finished building the new dock and piers at the clubhouse. Karen also mentioned he had pressure washed and resealed the deck and installed new gutters. In a phone interview Clint thanked Mike and Janis Clark for donating a new American flag and he added that the defective light at the flagpole has been replaced. Clint said the repairs at the clubhouse were overdue and the improvements look great.



New Zealand Connection

When news of the earthquake and possible tsunami in New Zealand broke recently, several neighbors had more than a passing interest in the natural disaster 7,000 miles away. Three of our Lake Lorman families have children living in the island nation, which is actually composed of two main islands about 1300 miles to the east of Australia.

Taylor Eubanks has been living in Hastings, on the north island, for two years. She is employed as director of pastoral care for international students at the Eastern Institute of Technology in New Zealand's wine country. Her mother **Peggy**, who lives on Moss Ridge, explained the job is not religious in our sense. Taylor provides assistance to international students living in a foreign country. Peggy said she hopes to make the 15 hour flight after Christmas or in the spring.



Taylor answered the following questions for us by email:

What do you like about NZ? *New Zealand is absolutely beautiful, probably the most beautiful place I have ever been. But outside of the stunning scenery, there is also a high standard of living, and the way of life is less stressful. There seems to be a real focus in New Zealand on the quality of life, which means that you should focus as much on your friends, family, and interests apart from work. Additionally, affordable subsidized healthcare, accident compensation, and various other support structures mean that everything seems less stressful. But I really should re-emphasise how gorgeous it is here. I have lived right by the sea ocean for almost two years, and I still get that feeling of awe every morning when I go outside.*

What activities do you enjoy in NZ? *I do lots of hiking and road trips to other parts of the country. I live in Hawke's Bay, so we do lots of winery tours as well! I cannot forget the food- so much dining out at these really amazing restaurants.*

What are some of the differences between living in New Zealand and Mississippi? *It is*

way less hot/humid, but the sun is out to get you here! (You cannot forget sunscreen!) The Pacific Ocean (particularly the portion of it around my section of NZ) is a stunning turquoise colour on most days, and there are hills and mountains in the backdrop, so it is very different visually. But I think a lot of the differences actually come down to policies from the government level-New Zealand has an abundance of social programmes to make life easier for everyone, and all of the policies are structured to ensure everyone is able to obtain a certain standard of living, but it is done at graduated levels, so you are never worse off for earning more. I've been impressed with healthcare here; as a Permanent Resident, I have access to the universal healthcare system, and it is cheaper than what I had with insurance that I paid for in the US. Also, you don't tip here at restaurants (unless it is really nice ones) because the servers are making over NZ\$15 (US\$10.80-ed.) per hour, so a tip is not seen as necessary. Even when you do tip it would be under 10% of the bill.

All of that said, I do all of my shopping in the US (or overseas in other countries) because it is so much more affordable to buy clothes and things outside of New Zealand. It is getting a bit better with online shopping opening up with delivery to NZ, but it is still way better shopping in America! Also, the groceries are way cheaper in America- I am always shocked when I visit home at how cheap everything is by comparison. (I also have a tendency to order all of the appetizers on menus because they seem so cheap! There is also a lot more selection in America/Mississippi-when you go to the store, you can choose between multiple versions of the same item, but here there may be one or two options, but it just isn't the same. There are heaps more differences, but I could be writing all day!



Conor Dickinson and his family have been living in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city for a year and a half. His son Levi was born there last summer and so is a "Kiwi", as New Zealanders are called after their national bird. Conor is a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. State Department. Conor's parents, **Dan** and **Kelley Dickinson**, live in Gate 7. Renowned for its rugged and diverse beautiful terrain and world class hiking, Conor and his dad traversed one of the major trekking routes earlier this year and are planning another hike next year. Conor is also

taking advantage of his time in the region to travel to other South Pacific countries, including Australia, Tonga, Fiji, and Samoa. Here are Conor's answers to my questions:

What do you like about living in New Zealand? *The natural beauty, safety, cleanliness, and laid back vibe.*

What activities do you enjoy in NZ? *"Tramping" in the national parks, swimming at the ocean, and going to restaurants in Auckland.*

What are some of the differences between living in New Zealand and Mississippi?

There are actually a number of similarities. Both are pretty and peaceful, and the people like

sports and outdoor activities like boating and fishing. Auckland is much more international and cosmopolitan than any city in Mississippi.

Thomas French has been attending the National Outdoor Leadership School on the south island. His parents are **Miller** and **Kay French** on Lorman Lane. “He absolutely loves it!” Kay commented. The students, who earn college credit, backpack throughout the mountain ranges in remote areas of the South Alps, as the mountains on the south island are called, as well as do some sea kayaking. Kay said she has only talked to Thomas a couple of times since he arrived. Because he is spending in time in the outback he does not have regular access to cell phones or computers for skyping or email, she explained. So Thomas was not able to answer my questions like Taylor and Conor were. Thomas is extending his stay in New Zealand for another six months. He will be participating in WWOOF when his term at the outdoor leadership school ends this month. WWOOF is a program that operates around the world, Kay said. It enables participants to experience hands-on educational and cultural activities while living and working with local families raising crops and animals on organic farms.



Kay and Miller expect to visit Thomas and his older brother Norman in February. Norman will be joining Thomas next month and the brothers will spend two months working on the WWOOF farms and traveling around the country together. Kay said the boys also plan on doing some kayaking together, which is something they used to do at Lake Lorman.

HISTORY Surrounds Us!

“Our Forgotten Embassy”

By Dan Dickinson



Ours is a quiet state. But for the conflicts of the Civil Rights period and the Civil War, we tend to think of Mississippi as a place far removed from the main line currents of change and conflict. Yet it was not always so.

Earlier in its history, Mississippi sat poised at the apex of Empire, as France, Spain, England, the rapidly expanding United States and various Indian tribes contended for its rich lands and, most especially, that great river that gave this state its name. Long forgotten battles were fought in these lands throughout the colonial period as each of the great powers sought to sway the various Indian tribes to their side in that “great game” for the control of North America. Increasingly, the new American Republic became the dominant power, brushing first England, then Spain, and finally France aside. But there were still the Indians to deal with; they had the

idea that the land we call Mississippi happened to be theirs. In our state two tribes predominated: the Chickasaws, who lived in the far north, and the powerful Choctaw, who dominated from around Starkville almost down to the coast. Unlike Alabama's fierce Creeks and Florida's Seminoles, who often were at odds with the U.S. Government, the Choctaw had been a friendly power to the United States from its creation. One chief correctly pointed out, "No Choctaw arrow has ever flown at an American." How to deal with them?

Mississippi became part of the United States in 1783 thanks to the Treaty of Paris that concluded the Revolution. Yet with but a few mostly French settlers in Natchez and our coast still in Spanish hands, Mississippi was out of sight and out of mind. That changed when the great increase in river trade down the Ohio and the Mississippi and into both Natchez and New Orleans necessitated the building of a wilderness road between Natchez and Nashville since, in those days before steam power, while it was easy enough to float down to New Orleans it was impossible to float back up. A good thought, to be sure. But how would the Choctaw feel about it? Most of the route ran directly through the Choctaw heartland. Negotiators were sent, and in 1801 the always obliging Choctaw agreed to have the road pass through their land. Yet with that canny sense of business that the Choctaw often displayed in their dealings with the Great White Father, they made one proviso. They got to control the lodgings along the way.

Soon travelers were making their way up the forest trail. To the positive, the Choctaws were doing a thriving business at the various inns – called "stands" – that they opened along the way. On the other hand, anarchy reigned as various gangs of desperadoes preyed on both travelers and Indians along the route, sometimes even posing as Christian Missionaries. In particular, Samuel Mason operated an especially vicious gang in the "Livingston Hills" – the area around the intersections of routes 463 and 22. Territorial Governor Claiborne offered a reward for Mason "Dead or Alive." One Wiley Harpe took up the challenge and, in an act of spectacular treachery, invited Mason to dinner, got him drunk, and then cut his head off to deliver to Claiborne! Alas, Claiborne recognized Harpe as a wanted murderer, so he was executed instead of rewarded. Learning of all this, President Jefferson decided that something had to be done to enforce authority and bring proper order to what was already called the Natchez Trace.



Silas Dinsmore served as agent to the Choctaw 1805 - 1815

Once again the Choctaw were invited to a Pow Wow. In 1805 it was decided that the Embassy to the Choctaw nations, which has previously been at Washington, near Natchez, should be moved right up to the Choctaw border. Moreover, a new agent would be sought.

The new agency was built on the Trace, about five miles south of our lakes. In 1807 an agent was appointed and, given the importance of the Choctaw to Washington's plans for the territory, an impressive choice was made.

Silas Dinsmore was a New Hampshire native, a graduate of Dartmouth, and a nephew of Thomas McKean, a signer of the Declaration. After a stint teaching Greek and Logic to young ladies – a pioneering enterprise in those days – Dinsmore was summoned to Philadelphia by President Washington and sent out as Agent to the Cherokee. Following successful service there, he was appointed by President Adams as

purser on the first U.S. naval expedition to the Mediterranean, sent to deliver tribute to the Barbary Pirates. Jefferson, knowing a good man when he saw one, appointed Dinsmore to the Choctaw post.

As agent, really as an ambassador, Dinsmore had several duties. First, he had to build the agency itself. He did so on land at the intersection of what is now Old Agency Road and Highland Colony. Most assume, seeing the modest signpost on the Natchez trace, that the agency must have been a humble hut, similar to restored “stands” that one can find along the Wilderness Highway. Actually, that wasn’t so. The agency, of which almost nothing remains, was an impressive two story brick building, in its day the finest structure between Natchez and Nashville.

At the agency, Dinsmore’s most important duty was issuing passports allowing people to transit the Choctaw lands. By the 1805 treaty, no one could enter the Choctaw Territory without a pass signed by Dinsmore. Anyone who violated this proviso was subject to capture by the Indians. The Choctaw were not allowed to harm intruders, but they were encouraged to take them back to the Agency for expulsion from the Territory. Indians who returned trespassers were paid \$10 a head – good money in 1807.

Another duty was keeping unwanted settlers off Choctaw lands. This was a difficult and, as it would turn out, impossible task as Americans were already moving into the territory from Georgia and the Carolinas. Following the War of 1812, what had been a trickle turned into a flood. As might be expected, the Choctaw were not happy with the continued invasion on their lands, and Dinsmore conducted many negotiations with such prominent chiefs as Pushmataha to keep the peace. The Agency also took a lead in managing local affairs. Hinds County was created at a meeting in the building in 1821.



Chief Pushmataha fought with the Americans in the War of 1812.

The Agency also had a “civilizing” mission that gives the lie to the idea that the early American government had an anti-Native policy. Dinsmore hired both weaving and agricultural experts to teach the Choctaw how to grow products such as cotton and weave them into cloth that could be used and sold. The Agency also employed a doctor who was available to care for any sick travelers or Choctaw who could make it to the outpost.

Most were impressed with the way in which Dinsmore performed his duties. One who wasn’t was the imperious and often irritable Andy Jackson. In 1811, due to a problem with slaves escaping from plantations and running off to join the Choctaw, Dinsmore began insisting that anyone moving slaves along the Trace carry documentation showing ownership. Jackson at that time happened to be moving a group of slaves up the Trace. When the General arrived at the Agency, Dinsmore requested the proper papers. Jackson refused to produce them, and then threatened to kill Dinsmore and burn down the Agency! The dispute was patched over, but Jackson began a vendetta against Dinsmore, and succeeded in getting him fired four years later.

In 1812, war broke out between the US and England. The conflict would make Jackson a national hero, would guarantee the survival of the US as a regional power, and would lead to the destruction of the Choctaw. Just before the conflict began Tecumseh, the charismatic

Shawnee leader, traveled from Ohio to the South, preaching war to drive the white man back across the Appalachians. The Creeks signed up for the doomed conflict. The Choctaw, under Chief Pushmataha, sided with the U.S. Pushmataha and his braves fought with Jackson in crushing the Creek confederacy. The Chief may or may not have been at the Battle of New Orleans; accounts vary. If he expected gratitude from Jackson, whom the Choctaw called "Sharp Knife", he was to be disappointed.

At the Treaty of Doak's Stand in 1820, Jackson insisted on the cession of much of the Choctaws' lands in exchange for territory in Oklahoma. A disapproving Dinsmore attended. Pushmataha, holding a poor hand, nevertheless pushed for land in Arkansas as well, which he got. A later treaty at Dancing Rabbit Creek (1830) took almost all of what remained of the Choctaw homeland. The bulk of the Choctaw migrated west to their new territories. A few stayed behind, and constitute what remains of the Choctaw nation in our state.

Feeling that even these terms weren't being honored, Pushmataha, in his US Army uniform, traveled to Washington to visit with President Adams, who he felt would deal fairly with his tribe. The President did meet with the Chief, and progress was made. Unfortunately, Pushmataha caught the croupe and died in the Capitol City on Christmas Eve, 1824. Knowing his end was near, the leader of the Choctaw told the President's representatives that his service to the U.S. merited a military funeral with full honors. This was granted, and the Choctaw's greatest Chief was buried in the U.S. Congressional Cemetery, alongside such other luminaries as Vice President Elbridge Gerry, Civil War photographer Mathew Brady, and J. Edgar Hoover. You can visit his monument today.



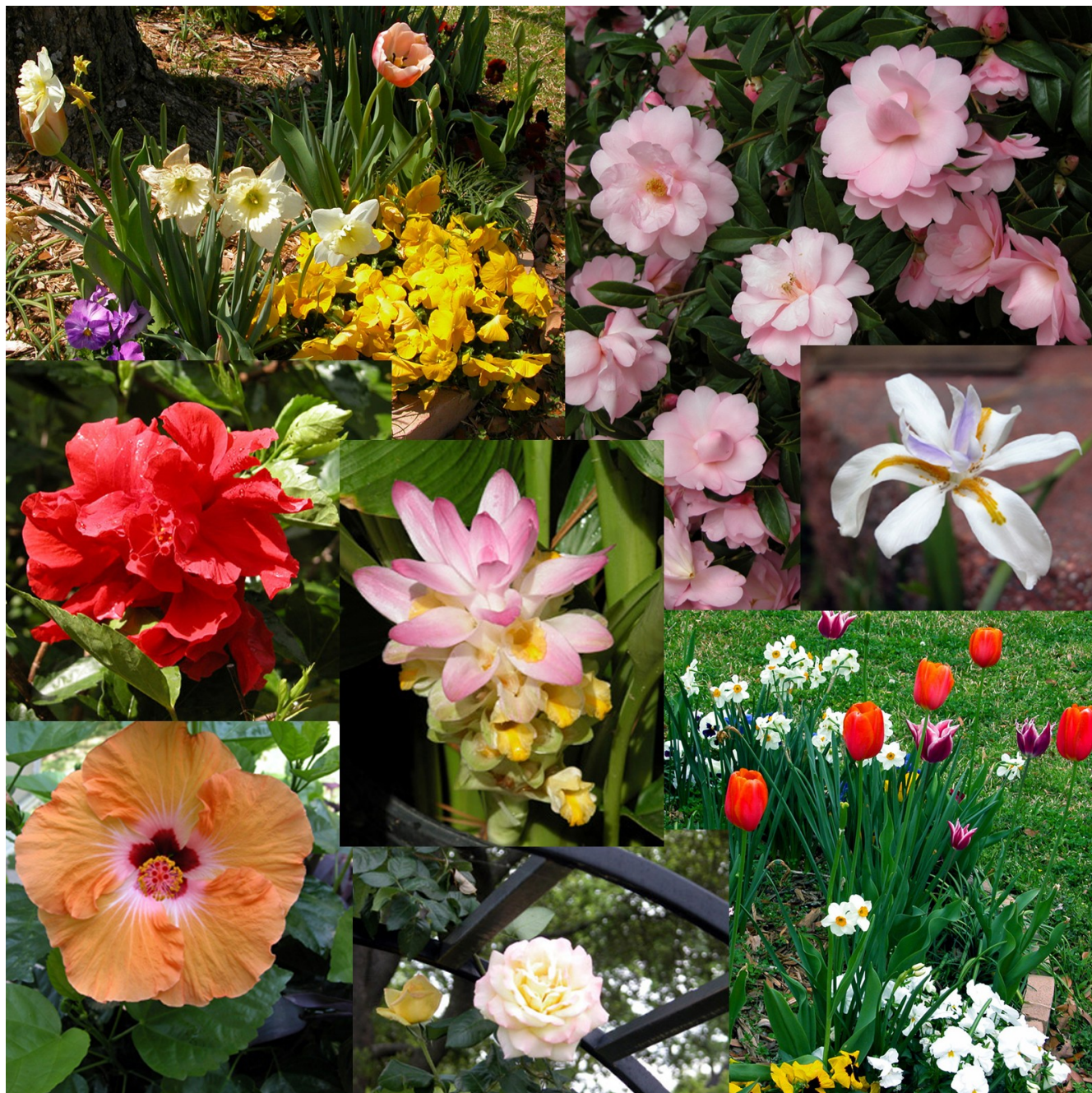
Chief Pushmataha is buried in Washington's Congressional Cemetery

What with the removal of the Choctaw, an impressive embassy was no longer needed. The Agency closed up shop in 1821. Its few remaining functions were moved to Ward's Stand up the road. The building passed through numerous hands. Finally, it decayed and collapsed. An archeological dig a decade or so ago confirmed that it indeed had been a large brick structure. It may have even had three stories. But apart from some broken utensils, little was left. But for a couple of historic signs, the main monument to the memory of the Agency is the Ridgeland neighborhood that bears the name of its most famous Agent. How many people who live in Dinsmore know why their community has that name?

Yet if the Agency is long gone, its works live on. The Agency did provide a patina of order and civilization to our frontier state. It helped to settle our region, assured that laws were obeyed, and began the process of creating the counties which assure us effective self-government today. And if the Choctaws didn't always receive fair treatment from the likes of men such as Jackson, Dinsmore did what he could to assure that those who treated the Choctaw egregiously were punished, that Indian lands were respected, and that services that might prove helpful to the tribe were provided. It was likely because of men like him that the Choctaw Chief felt he could go to Washington and find justice. Beyond all of that, in a dangerous time, when conflict between Americans and Indians often degenerated into bitter wars, men like Pushmataha and Dinsmore had the good judgment to keep the peace. That is their greatest benediction.

Notes from the

 **dirt dauber**



It's been fun sharing a bit of nature with you over the last few years. May your gardens overflow with beauty and may that beauty bring an abundance of joy to you and your neighbors. Hope you enjoy these memories of flowers from our yard over the years. Spring is just around the corner... Maybe I'll see you out in the yard.

Peace and Love,

 **dirt dauber**

“Swan Song”

The Bird’s Eye View

By Dale and Sarah Lea Anglin

December, 2016

Finale, the final chapter. As we bid adieu to our reader(s?) in this our final installment of ***The Bird’s Eye View***, we again look with gratitude to the natural beauty of the place which is Lake Lorman. Year after year, the seasons bring us a treasure of birds to admire, respect, and protect. Many of these are drawn to our community by our lakes, and remain even at the edge of their published habitats because of the lakes. The birds are afforded protection because the lakes are surrounded by woodlands. The presence of the mixed deciduous forest around the lakes provides a rich diversity of trees and shrubs for habitat; the combination of bodies of water and woodlands is a bird lover’s paradise. Varied habitats attract such a variety of species that it is difficult to consider them all in one sitting.

As we write this, dark-eyed juncos and white-throated sparrows have arrived for the winter and are foraging on our deck, alongside northern cardinals, chickadees, titmice, and wrens. We know that when our winter residents leave, spring and summer residents will arrive in their stunning plumages: indigo buntings, prothonotary warblers, summer tanagers, and Baltimore orioles. The flute-like song of the wood thrush will return, just as the yellow-bellied sapsuckers depart. And so it goes. It is our hope that these words have provided a starting point for anyone interested to begin his or her own investigations of the stunning beauty of the natural habitat that surrounds us.

Swan Song is a term used colloquially which (of course!) refers to a cold-weather bird we’ll never see at the Lake. Why, then, write about swans, aside from the obvious use of the phrase “Swan Song”, which implies the end of an event, a life, or in this case, a bi-monthly article about birds and birding here at Lake Lorman? As it turns out, some of the large birds we do see at the lake are occasionally mistaken to be swans. The American White Pelicans, which arrive often in January and stay for a few weeks, are, like swans, a large, white bird (the large orange bill, however, is a giveaway that these are pelicans!). The white ibis, which nests at the lake, is also a large white bird; its body is much more slender and its yellow bill much longer than that of a swan.

There are in North America three species of swans, all of whom reside in colder climates: The Trumpeter Swan (shown here), The Tundra Swan, and the Mute Swan. As it turns out, we can thank Plato and/or Socrates for the term “Swan Song”; Plato recorded Socrates as stating that (and we paraphrase here) “swans sing but never as beautifully as before they die.” Aristotle in his *History of Animals* perpetuated the myth that swans are “musical, and sing chiefly before they die.” We’re not certain what potion these guys were drinking when they made these statements, but as it turns out, no species of swan sings when it dies. To make matters more confusing, mute swans are anything but mute. All swans sing.



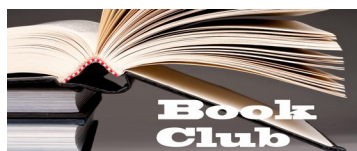
That is, all swans sing unless, of course, a particular swan is born without a voice. The finest example of this comes from E.B. White's children's novel, "The Trumpet of the Swan", in which Louis (a trumpeter swan) is born without a voice and overcomes this by learning to play the trumpet. He travels many places with his trumpet...a must read for children and adults who love them! More swans in literature, you ask? Robert McCammon authored a 1987 post-apocalyptic novel that won the Bram Stoker Award, which neither of us has read and from what we can tell, should probably not be read aloud to a child. It is, however, a New York Times bestseller and if that's your genre, go for it. After all, it has a Swan in the title.

Cicero wrote: "Death darkens his eyes and unplumes his wings, Yet the sweetest song is the last he sings: Like so, my Love, that when death shall come, Swan-like and sweet it may waft thee home." Thanks again for perpetuating the myth, dude. Nice poetry, however. Henrich Heine wrote: "The swan, like the soul of the poet, By the dull world is ill understood." Thanks, Henrich; you nailed it! Clearly, we do not understand swans (we will reserve comment on whether poets as persons are ill-understood, but we suspect this is also accurate).

We leave you with two other swans: one of the cool places we've visited on our travels is Port Townsend, Washington, where we stayed in a quaint little hotel called "The Swan Hotel". Appropriately (or mythically), it is at the northeastern point of the Olympic Peninsula... at the end of town. We highly recommend it. Finally, initially unappreciated, Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" is one of the most popular of all ballets. So when you take a little time away from your birdwatching adventures, follow the swans: read a little, dance a little, travel a little, and why not go ahead and perpetuate the myth of the *Swan Song*. Just because a myth isn't true doesn't mean it doesn't have value. Adieu.

Election Results

Our voting precinct, Twin Lakes Baptist Church, is almost an exact mirror of Madison County at large as far as the presidential voting went last month. Our precinct gave 615 of the 1082 votes cast here to Donald Trump. That is 56.8%. County wide Mr. Trump received 56.75%. Hillary Clinton received 440 of the votes cast at Twin Lakes. That is 40.6%. In Madison County as a whole Mrs. Clinton received 40.8% of the 49,802 votes cast in the county. Libertarian party candidate Gary Johnson received 18 votes in our precinct (1.66 %) and 842 votes in our county (1.69%). Four other parties split the remaining votes.



Lake Lorman Book Club

A Lake Lorman Book Club is in the organizational stage, according to its founders Kathy Warren and Janis Clark. Janis said the book club was Kathy's idea, but she jumped at the chance to get involved. "I love to read," Kathy explained, "and thought it would be fun to get together and meet more neighbors." Janis commented, "Anything we can do to bring the community together is worthwhile".

The club, open to all Lake Lorman neighbors, men and women, has received permission to meet at the clubhouse. Meetings will start early next year. The group expects to meet on Wednesday or possibly Friday mornings, once a month.

Janis said they plan to read a wide variety of books. They have obtained a reading list from a book club in Memphis and they are open to suggestions from members. The date and time of the first meeting will be announced in NextDoor.

Save the Dates:

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- [Lake Lorman Christmas Potluck](#) Sat, Dec 3, 6:30 PM
- Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2016 – **6:00** p.m.
- Lake Lorman Corporation Annual Board Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2016 – **7:30** p.m.
- Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.
- Lake Lorman Corporation Board Meeting: Monday, January 16, 2017 – 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 Christmas Celebration Schedule – All Are Welcome!

- Sunday, December 11th @ 10:30 am: Sanctuary Choir presents: *"Come Let Us Adore"*
- Sunday, December 18th @ 10:30 am: International Missions Day - Guest Speakers, Robert & Margaret Fortenberry (missionaries from Africa)
- Saturday, December 24th @ 5:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
- Sunday, December 25th @ 10:30 am: Christmas Day Worship Service (No Bible study or other activities on that day)

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, starting again September 1; 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

Newsletter Announcement

Bill Jones, Glenn Sanford, and I (Kelley Dickinson) have been publishing the Lake Lorman Community Newsletter since 2010. As a new board is about to be elected and a new year starts, it's time for us to pass the torch to other would-be writers and editors.

Dale and Sarah Lea Anglin, our resident bird watchers, and photographer Bill deVeer have been very generous with their time and talents. We are grateful for the contribution they have made. Thanks are also due to Bill Cox and Dan Dickinson who have contributed a wide variety of interesting articles over the past several years. Finally, we want to thank our neighbors and friends who have encouraged and supported us for the past six years.

Classifieds:

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.



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.

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 LakeLormanNews@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.

And finally, just a few thoughts to ponder as we start a new year from three Mississippi Legends...

