



Red Bird Report

August 2020

August 1, 2020

August...the HOT month...average temperatures usually go up from the relative cool of July. We have no “special” days in August to provide an excuse for a day off or an extra dip in the lake. Just hot! The closest we come to a special day is seven different ones honoring national parks, or battlefields. The 25th is the 103rd Anniversary of the National Park Service Act.

August 13 is VJ Day, 1945 and the end of the war...WWII that is. At one elementary school, recently, the young teacher was introducing a Vet from that war and said that he fought in World War Eleven. How many of our young people today do not know the history of their country?

I take a moment to step back to July...a very busy month. Your association held its annual meeting, virtually (with the internet, computer screens and phones) and it went very smoothly.

Your new 2020-21 Directors and Officers are:

Don Molitor - President

Robb Turner - Vice President

Pat Roberts - Secretary

Jane Hancock - Treasurer

David Shuford

Jean Merritt

Bobby Weil

Jeff Swain

Mark Patlovich

Patty Probst

Pam Weekes

Ron Wood

Committee Chairpersons

Architectural Review Board - Pat Roberts

Lake & Dam Committee - David Shuford

Safety & Security Committee - Bobby Weil

Roads Committee - Bob Cowan

- Board Liaison - Robb Turner

Grounds Committee - Jean Merritt

- Nature Park Subcommittee - Amy McCarter

Nominating Committee - Patty Probst

Member Services Committee - Pam Weekes

- Technology Subcommittee - Ron Wood

In addition, at the meeting we provided information that the Association is working with **Transylvania County** and the **State of North Carolina** to secure and provide a number of safety features for our lake. These will comprise a series of guidance buoys in the cut to assist boaters in maintaining safe boating practices.

Sunrise on August 1 will be 5:10 am and sunset will be 7:02. At the end of the month, sunrise is scheduled for 5:32 and sunset for 6:27. The Birthstone for the month is PERIDOT for Friendship.

For a Chemist, alcohol is not a Problem...it is a Solution.

And, do you remember Burma Shave?

No matter the price

No matter how new

The best safety device

In a car is YOU!

Be safe—Be well—Wear your Mask—Practice Social Distance

Don Molitor

A Message from the Grounds Committee

In light of the past few weeks and the comments that have appeared on the LTE Homeowners list, we thought it advisable to share the process of how decisions are made. As an LTCA committee, Grounds welcomes your input and interest and will respond through LTCA communication channels. Your extensive support of the Grounds committee effort and endeavor has always been a considerable encouragement.

Projects and plans are shared in the monthly "Red Bird Newsletter", as well as the Annual report. The projects are submitted for a vote, with discussion always welcome for any comments, questions: positive or negative. For instance, the committee submitted their requests to the Board in May, the Board, who are your elected members, first studied them, then approved (or denied) the funding of the plans, after which the description and the actual budget went to the residents for a vote, as well as the request for questions/discussion. This year, two projects were submitted to the residents in the form of a survey, and the outcome of that survey was sent in a letter to all homeowners.

The realization that in a community the size of Lake Toxaway, with the strong diversity and breadth of differing opinions, it will always be a challenge to meet all of the needs. However, the committees take seriously the input received. Purposefully, the Grounds committee is guided by experienced professionals who have a long tradition of excellence in this region (Alex Smith Garden Design). They provide proposals based on substantial knowledge, design talent, and skilled wisdom, and were chosen from three top landscape design companies in the area. Their long-range vision will result in a superior landscape aesthetic for Lake Toxaway Estates for years to come.

From the LTCA Grounds Committee: Leslie Brown, Jean Merritt, Mark Patlovich, Robert Balentine, Rick Mitchell

Architectural Review Board

Your Architectural Review Board would like to help you understand the fee structure that is in place. Please open your Architectural Review Standards [here](#) and go to article 6 on pages 16 - 19.

Fees are necessary in order to compensate the LTCA for costs incurred during the review and construction process. Our fee structure is similar to and competitive with other community comparable nearby associations. There are no fees for small projects, minor landscaping or tree removal unless oversized trucks are required.

Review fees cover costs for review, on-going inspections and documentation.

Impact fees offset wear and tear of our roads and culverts. Larger trucks and equipment do more damage and this is reflected in the fee.

Construction deposits are refundable when the project is complete and closed out.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Lake Lowering Scheduled for Fall/Winter 2020-2021

In Summer 2019, residents were made aware that the Board had scheduled to lower Lake Toxaway after Thanksgiving 2019. Subsequently, residents were informed in November that the scheduled lake lowering had been cancelled to allow for completion of repairs that were necessary to allow for safe operation of the dam's gate valve. The Board and Lake & Dam Committee planned to reschedule the lowering for Fall/Winter 2020-2021.

The Board has a schedule to lower the Lake approximately every five years. This permits maintenance on the dam, the construction and repair of seawalls and docks and other jobs which are facilitated by a lowering of the lake. Based upon the recommendations of Terracon, our engineering consultant which annually inspects the dams on Lake Cardinal and Lake Toxaway, the Board approved a resolution at the July 27th Board meeting to lower Lake Toxaway approximately six feet this year. Lake Cardinal will be lowered approximately 1 to 2 feet. Weather permitting, the lowering will start after Thanksgiving and we anticipate that we can refill the lake in February after necessary inspections have been completed and potential repairs have been made. Should the decision be made to fill the lake earlier, all efforts will be made to provide ample notice to owners and contractors so plans can be made accordingly.

Please note that any work to lake walls, docks, boathouses or any alteration of the lake bottom requires approval by the LTCA Architectural Review Board. Please contact the LTCA office via phone or email for more information.

Updates for Music on the Mountain and LTCA Amenities

Residents were recently notified that the Music on the Mountain event scheduled for August 15th at the Meadows had been cancelled due to the ongoing statewide restrictions on gatherings due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic. Thus far, all Music on the Mountain events have had to be cancelled for this reason. The final Music on the Mountain for 2020 is scheduled for September 12th. Appropriate notification will be sent via email if the decision is made to cancel or postpone the September event.

Additionally, the LTCA owned playgrounds at the Nature Park and the Meadows remain closed in accordance with state restrictions on playgrounds. The pavilions and restrooms at these areas are open for small groups to take a breather after a hike or nice lunch break out in the elements. All LTCA owned hiking trails - at the Nature Park, the Meadows, and the Toxaway River Trail - remain open.



Updates from the Historic Toxaway Foundation

- **LAKE TOXAWAY'S MOST FAMOUS PORCH MAKES OUR STATE MAGAZINE**

The August issue of *Our State* magazine has a familiar face in it: HTF's own board member, John Nichols III. The Nichols' home boasts a lakefront porch that has seen more than a century of change, its story forever tied to the creation, ruination, and rebirth of Lake Toxaway. Read all about it [here](#).

- **LAKE TOXAWAY HOME GARNERS NATIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

The July/August issue of *Veranda* magazine featured a Platt Architecture build of a guest compound on the lake. Check it out [here](#).

- **NEW BLOG SERIES ON LUCY ARMSTRONG MOLTZ**

Many in the area have heard of Lucy Armstrong Moltz – or at least of her namesake *The Miss Lucy*, the lovely wooden tour boat of the Greystone Inn. For more on her story, check out our latest blog series [here](#).

- **SUBSCRIBE TO THE RED FEATHER GUIDE**

Use the form on [this page](#) to subscribe to the Red Feather Guide and you'll get the latest weekly activity around Historic Toxaway delivered right to your inbox!



- **HTF VISITOR CENTER**

The Historic Toxaway Visitor Center is slated to open soon beside the new Mountain Café. Watch for more info, coming soon!



SAFETY

- Some safety issues have been raised about certain behaviors that are both violations and hazardous. First, some of our residents like to take a swim in the lake in the early morning hours. There are also fishermen and others who like to get on the lake in the early morning. One of our lake rules is that boaters must travel at a slow speed until 8 a.m., however the swimmers have reported differently. **Please** be aware that there may be swimmers, paddle boarders, or persons in kayaks or canoes who like to take advantage of the calm water in the morning, and they may be difficult to see. If you are boating before 8 o'clock in the morning, drive slowly!
- Another concern is letting children drive golf carts on the roadways. There have been instances where a young person has turned in front of a moving car that would clearly have the right of way. Under the Lake Toxaway Community Association General Rules and Regulations, it states "*Children under age 14 are not permitted to operate a golf cart on community roads under any circumstances. Children 14 years old and above who do not have valid driver's licenses are not permitted to operate a golf cart on community roads unless accompanied by an adult*". There have been some close calls, and we would like to avoid a tragedy by adhering to the rules.
- One last safety issue is the driving of boats too close to the shoreline, docks, or other watercraft and people. We have daily complaints about boats coming inside of the 75' limit to the shore. This creates not only a danger to persons swimming near a dock, but also causes damage to boats that might get rocked in a boathouse, and damage to seawalls from the wake splashing. Citations are being issued for violations. Please help curb this safety and property damage issue by staying at least 75' from the shoreline.

CELLULAR SERVICE

- We have experienced declination in cellular service reliability, and therefore, many of you have tried to call the Security Officer on Duty and have gotten the voicemail prompt causing frustration and disappointment. There are many areas around the property that have poor or no service reception on the best of conditions, and so we miss some calls. I encourage anyone who needs to call Security to leave a voicemail, and the officer will return the call once he or she gets reception and the message is delivered. In case of an emergency, call 911. We are dispatched by radio by the Transylvania County Communications Center, and the officers have both a mobile radio in the car, and a hand held walkie-talkie.

- Brian Kreigsman, Allied Universal Account Manager