

Woodland Lake Improvement Association NEWSLETTER

Island Getaway

On a balmy afternoon in November, a loose gathering of local talent assembles on the island. With late afternoon sunlight filtering through the remaining autumn leaf show, sweet lyrics and the pure sound of acoustic guitars and soft percussion spread out across the lake. While temperatures remain unseasonably warm, we are blessed with more time to enjoy the best of the season. No better way than an afternoon of socializing and musical entertainment on the island.

As yet un-named (The Woodland Lake Band? Wannabees? Otterbees?) the band consists of **Gil Callaway, Carl Daniel, Lance Martin, Brooke** and **Jerry Plunk** with guest artist **Brian Street**. Since band-naming can be a bit contentious, we wish you the best of luck on that one! Perhaps choose names from a hatful? Anyway, they come together semi-regularly to make music and hone their "chops" (musical skills). Ever improving, this pod of talent always entertains. Surely Prime-Time can't be far off! For now, though, they're ours to love and support; a unique product of this wonderful place we're all quite privileged to call home. After all, who gets to say they can escape to an island for an afternoon of live music?



Lance, Brian, Brooke and Carl

About the Talent

It surely bears mentioning that **Carl Daniel** carries on a family "legacy", if you will, since his dad, the late Leroy Daniel, was a published song writer, singer and musician. Leroy could claim to have rubbed shoulders with the likes of Johnny Cash and others of his "day".

Brooke and **Jerry**, along with uber talent **Doug Petty** have been guest members of the Area 61 Band that plays the Lion's Club most Friday nights. That group has a large lineup of highly disciplined musicians doing well rehearsed, true-to-the-original rock music covers. Ya' gotta have skills to hang with that bunch!

Brian could easily have a second job gigging local clubs covering singer/song-writer tunes if he wanted. He's got the look and the talent for it. I bet there's an original tune or two lurking in that clever mind of his!

No folk acoustic group is complete without a harmonica. Think of all the great tunes out there from the likes of Billy Joel, Neil Young, Bob Dylan to name a few. **Gil** adds that extra touch as he blows soulfully through the reeds on tunes that welcome his lift and others that feature the instrument.



Gil and Jerry

Wintertime Crappie Fishing

(By Doug Petty)

When most people think about crappie fishing around Woodland Lake, they typically focus only on the springtime spawning season. However, these anglers are missing out on some of the most productive and consistent times to harvest these delicious fish. Once the surface water temps start to dip in the fall, the crappie will head to the fallen treetops to start feeding in preparation for the cold winter months. During this time, the crappie are only interested in feeding, as opposed to the spring when their main goal is trying to spawn. Crappie do not like sudden springtime changes in conditions, such as influxes of heavy rains, creating muddy water, or a rapid drop in water temperature. In the fall and winter, crappie are much less affected by these changes.



The author and some winter fishing.



"bottom technique"



"curly tail jig"

Until the surface temperatures drop below 45 degrees, loads of fish can be caught in the fallen treetops on weedless curly-tail jigs or using live minnows between 6 to 10 feet deep. Once the water temps drop below 45 degrees, most of the crappie will migrate to deeper water (15 feet or more) where a "bottom technique" can be used. This involves using two 1/8-ounce jigs, spaced about 2-feet apart and tipped with live minnows. Drop the jigs to the bottom and reel up until the lower jig is just off the bottom. Slow troll (less than 1 mph) until you feel the distinctive "TAP" on the line and you've got 'em! So bundle up, grab a bucket of minnows and be prepared for some exciting wintertime crappie fishing. Good luck and we look forward to the fish fry!

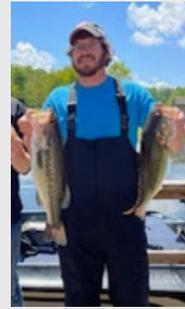
A Word from Lake Management

Reminder of the requirements for guests on the lake:

- **Must be in the lot owner's boat or kayak**
- **Guest must possess a lake pass when unaccompanied by the lot owner**
- **If your guest is fishing from a kayak, it must have a sticker on each side and the lot number.**

Suggestion: Write the lot number on kayaks with permanent marker.

*We all want our guest to enjoy themselves as much as we do on the lake, so make sure they are in compliance before sending them out there to be questioned by the lake patrol. Any **guest found fishing, outside of compliance** with the bylaws, will be **asked to leave.***



*Lance Martin, WLIA Director ,
Lake Management*

Events

Spring Lake Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday March 23rd at 9am.
We hope to have breakfast before dispersing for trash pickup.

The Fish Fry has not been scheduled but is in the works. Date to be announced. Any anglers interested in planning a fishing contest on behalf of the Lake membership would be welcome. Fishing proceeds go to the Spring Fish Fry.

Sunshine Commitee

The Sunshine Committee was busy again the last few months delivering welcome packets to new members of the Association. Those packets contain some helpful information about our community. If you are a new neighbor and haven't received a packet, please contact one of the committee members who will deliver one to you. Most information can be found on the Association's website - but isn't it nice to have a new neighbor extend a welcome greeting to you in person? Do you have a milestone to celebrate, a condolence to share? Let us know! We were also busy extending sympathy, or concern to members for an illness, or bereavement. And a few of our members are recovering nicely from surgeries!! We're available to run small errands should a member be temporarily housebound. If you know of a member who is ill, bereaved, or celebrating a milestone event please contact the Association Board or one of the committee members below so we can send a card or other appropriate acknowledgment as needed. Also, we'd love to have you join our committee - we're always looking for fresh ideas from new faces!

Sunshine Committee Members

*Sheila Deese – 901-484-2940
Elaine White - 901-833-4975
Sandra Stafford - 662-275-3122
Shirley Harris - 870-995-1715
Brenda Magill - 662-459-7840
Brian Street - 901-461-4698
Sarah Anderson (Parsons) - 813-312-4286
Ed and Pat Miller 901-340-7974
Connie Williams 901-634-7739
Jessica Clowney - 901-483-5551
Terese Kelley 901-619-4775*

Don't forget to spread a little sunshine to your neighbors and friends.

AROUND the LAKE

NEWSWORTHY *info and SHOUT-OUTS for Special members*

--Lake-Patrol on Winter Hiatus

Our thanks to our paid Lake Patrol, Chris Christian, and other volunteer Lake-Patrollers. We look forward to your return on March 1st, 2024. WLIA has resumed the lake security patrols. There will be twice daily patrols during the months of March through October. The shortened schedule coincides with the naturally occurring decline in fishing interest during winter months, with the added benefit of a decrease in Association expenses.

Of course, the lack of active lake patrol from November through February does not mean a “free for all” on the lake. Remember we’re all owners. We can, and should, within reason, protect access to our lake. It is private property, held in common by the membership.

--Removal of Most Designated Limb-Pickup Locations

Desoto County has decided to remove most of the “designated limb pickup” locations from the Woodland Lake Subdivision.

NOTE: This does not affect the county’s normal leaf, limb, and non-household trash roadside pickup available in front of your own property.

Clearly, many individuals were taking full advantage of the County’s un-witting support of otherwise illegal dumping. Everything from construction debris (usually) to household garbage could be found at these sites. The County’s tolerance was being abused. WLIA felt, as did County Supervisor Lee Caldwell, that it was time for a new direction. New signage has been installed, at several of the old designated locations, warning violators of the \$500 fine for illegal dumping.

The Association and the County did agree to leave two “limb pickup only” areas available to the membership. Area 7 is for limbs brought by boat to the area beside the dock at Area 7. Area 8 is for owners without any useful curbside space for large debris. Look for the County’s signage for guidance or call **Environmental Services, 662-469-8152** with any questions and for curbside pickup of large debris. They will send a truck. Your regular garbage service does not collect any debris not in the hopper.



--Shout-Outs

There are *artisans* among us! **Clif Dees** was recently recognized in a feature article by the Desoto Times, a local newspaper with broad distribution. Clif is known in the neighborhood for his attractive and imaginative creations. He shows us that stained glass isn’t just for windows. His displays include mobiles, ornaments and a variety of objects designed to catch and project colorful sunlight. Though new to the hobby, Clif has developed skills that are in decline. He tells us he has no interest in a second “career” as a restorer but has selected certain projects of interest for preservation.

For caring enough to learn a declining skill and for donating your time to the preservation of stained glass artifacts, you deserve a *shout-out Clif!*

--Shout-Outs -- (cont'd)

Also given feature article status, **John Lauzon** appears on the pages of the Desoto times for his own artistry. Purposefully elusive, John's impish personality shines through his carvings and remarkable mind bending puzzle creations. Hard to pigeon-hole John. His work is always amazingly artistic. A true artist, he only answers to inspiration. But, being John, he's also drawn to projects that create a mental challenge.



As a self-taught wood carver John found a niche he prefers: faces. He has learned to apply his talents only to natural wood elements that “speak” to him. This allows the carving to flow effortlessly as the vision takes shape. His talent is so attuned that his creations appear intended by the natural order of things. That visage is *supposed* to be exactly there on that very piece.

While John enjoys the pensive look of the wood sculptor, he actually prefers the reactions he gets from his maddening visual puzzles. He sometimes gives a tour of his shop with the giddy delight of a kid impressing the “adults” with mind bending objects that defy logic. All while he weaves a semi-authentic story of dubious information ultimately explaining nothing! Never have I ever been promised so little yet received so much! Alas, a magician never tells!

For being a wizard in your own right, **John**, you deserve a *shout-out!*

*We know there is other talent out there . Email us at:
info@woodland-lake.com and tell us who it is and
what they do, we'll give em a “a shout-out”.*

We're Grateful

There are those members of our community who go above and beyond. Rest assured many of us know someone who fits this description. They help make us a strong and functioning community. Know someone who fits that description? Let us know and we'll give 'em a *shout--out!*

Encore, Encore

Please enjoy the following article reprinted here from an earlier edition of the News Letter

Snake Pit

PLAIN-BELLIED WATER SNAKE *(Nerodia Erythrogaster)*

Information courtesy of Mike Foshée

The second water snake that we will cover is the plain-bellied water snake, also identified as the yellow-bellied water snake.

Identifiers for this snake will be it's black coloring, with a yellow belly. Juveniles have distinct lighter lines across their backs, with "tornado" markings on their sides, which fade as they age. As with other water snake species, the dark labial lines through their mouths are also present.

Although a water snake, the plain-bellied seems to be a little more terrestrial than other water snake species. So, you may encounter this one on the water, or near your home.

This snake prefers cold blooded prey, which includes fish and amphibians, such as crawfish, salamanders, and frogs.

As with all other snakes, the plain-bellied water snake is not aggressive, and will not chase you.

