



# The SHORELINE

Volume VIII Issue I

October 1, 2009

## New Officers Elected

### BLACA Officers

- **President**  
Ron Craig  
740-467-3481
- **Vice President**  
Tony Spring  
740-467-3002
- **Secretary**  
Kyle Thorp  
740-644-7663
- **Treasurer**  
Jim Graham  
740-928-4550

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The annual election of Officers and Trustees was held at our September 16th dinner meeting.

**Ron Craig** will become our new President and provide the leadership necessary to move forward with the many projects and challenges that lay ahead. Ron retired from the Air Force as a Command Chief, following service in Southeast Asia as well as Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He is currently a professional pilot for Limited Brands. Ron has served on the Walnut Township Parks and Recreation Board, past President Ohio FDN for Military Support, involved in the Young Astronauts Program, and also active in Fairfield County politics. Ron and his wife Trudy make their home on the south shoreline of Buckeye Lake.

**Kyle Thorp** will assume the duties as Secretary and be responsible for recording and preserving the minutes of our Trustee meetings. Kyle is a 2005 graduate of OSU, majoring in Pre-Law and Political Science. A 3rd generation Buckeye Laker, his grand-

mother still lives in the original family home on Elliott Street in the Village. As a Realtor, Kyle is quickly establishing himself in the local business community.

New Trustees chosen to serve for the next two years include **Lou Maresca**, who will represent the residents of Harbor Hills. Lou retired from a career in retail management with Yale University Bookstore and American Greetings. He and his wife Barbara have lived in Harbor Hills for 8 years.

Following 37 years in the military, **Ron Baker** and his wife Sue, settled in Thornport where he will focus his attention as a Civic Association Trustee. Attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he brings a wealth of leadership skills and structure to our organization.

**Margo Roop** will represent the interests of people in the Honey Creek neighborhoods. No stranger to public service, Margo served the Walnut Heights Civic Association as Treasurer for 6 years and has been involved with the Special Olympics. She also does volunteer work for Mt Carmel East and Dawes Arboretum.

**Jeanne Frear** will concentrate her energies on Walnut Township issues. Her many interests outside of her 23 year nursing

career include membership on 3 boards and many volunteer efforts. A singer, who also plays Mrs. Santa Claus, Jeanne maintains a very active lifestyle. She and her husband, Dan have 9 grandchildren, all of whom love to come to the lake.

**Les Beggs** recently retired from Thomasville Furniture as a marketing rep., moving from Michigan to the West Bank in 2008. His family has lived on Buckeye Lake for more than 30 years. In addition to his love for the lake, Les is also an avid golfer. His wide smile, positive personality and business experience will make him a major asset to the Board of Trustees.

Those re-elected to serve for another 2 years include Treasurer **Jim Graham**, who has served in that role for the past 7 years. In addition, **Dale Wise** will continue as Trustee for the Edgewater Beach area and serve as our Zoning Issues Chair. **Joe Miller** will continue to represent the West Bank and serve as our Parks and Recreation Chair. **George O'Donnel** will continue to represent the Village of Buckeye Lake as well as taking a lead role in the success of Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow.

## 24th Annual Tour of Homes a Success

Sunday, August 9th, was a beautiful day on Buckeye Lake. Bright sun, temperature in the 80s and, at times, gale force winds blowing out of the west. At least that is the way some of the boat captains would have described the afternoon breeze as they attempted to dock their pontoon boats during the 24th annual Tour of Homes.

More than 750 people lined up to be a part of this year's event, but as each of the homeowners said, "You would have hardly known anyone was in the house, let alone that number of people."

The Tour of Homes is a unique attraction for Buckeye Lake with many of our guests returning year after year. You would think that people are hand-picked to be a part of the Tour, as they are the best behaved and mannerly group that one could imagine. Each of them enjoy the homes as well as the boat ride, but the best part is the interaction that takes place between our guests and the many volunteers that give freely of their time to be a part of the Tour.

This year, 31 boat captains along with their 1st mates, donated the use of their pontoon boats for the entire day, to make certain that our guests were transported safely from dock to dock. At times they struggled with the wind, but all in all, everyone had a great time and, most important, a safe afternoon.

More than 30 hostesses welcomed each of our guests to the Tour and explained the highlights of each home, including the many changes that had taken place over the years. They got to hear the oohs and ahhs, as folks made their way through the various houses.

The hardest working group seems to be the 30+ dock workers who aid in docking the boats, as well as, assisting each of our guests board and depart the pontoon boats at each of the docks. This year's wind gave them a few extra challenges, but they somehow managed to get the job done safely and without incident.

The unsung heroes were located at the main dock, this year at the North Shore, and they had the responsibility of selling tickets, securing wrist bands, managing the crowd and parking the many vehicles in a parking lot, much too small for the occasion. It took everyone's best effort [more than 20 volunteers] to make this part of the Tour a success, but like the others, they managed to get the job done and maintain the smiles on the faces of our guests.

Our Corporate Sponsors, each of whom donated \$ 1,000 to BLACA, included, Coconis Furniture and Floor Covering, Guitar Parts Resource, the Landings at Maple Bay and Re/Max Realtors, Joyce Thorp and Kyle Thorp. Their financial commitment to the Civic Association is recognized and very much appreciated.

Donations and contributions were also received from Kroger, the Jabber Shop, Boat Boys, Wal-Mart the Buckeye Lake Beacon, Harbor Hills Country Club and Fisher's Marina.

This year, we were surprised with assistance from two community groups. Several members of the Millersport Football Team gave up their Sunday afternoon to lend a hand where needed and Columbus Firefighters from Fireman's Park were out in force working on the docks, loading and unloading

passengers as well as helping to park cars at the North Shore.

Tour Chair, Janet Bartholow, put in countless hours working with sponsors, homeowners and volunteers to assure a successful Tour. She also selected a tremendous group to provide the leadership necessary to bring together such a large undertaking.

Maria Spring coordinated the hostesses and Jessica Bradley worked with the dock workers. Both Maria and Jessica had large numbers of people to work with at 5 different locations around the lake, so their task was not an easy one, but they each did an outstanding job with their assignments. The registration area was supervised by Julie Clemons and Rick Rife assumed the responsibility for the parking lot and worked with a large crew to make certain that everyone had a safe and secure place to park their vehicles. Bud Springer took charge of the main dock and supervised the initial loading of the boats as well as the departure schedules for each of the many tours that left North Shore.

Words are not sufficient to Thank each of these individuals for making this year's Tour a very successful venture. The countless hours and devotion to duty they each exhibited are priceless!

Next year's event will be the Silver Anniversary of the Tour of Homes. Sunday, August 8th is the date, so mark your calendar now, for you won't want to miss this upcoming special year. If you would like to be a part of the Tour by volunteering your time, boat, home or money, contact any Officer or Trustee of the Civic Association.

# DANGER ! High Levels of You name it Found in Lake

Everyone wants a healthy lake, right? Well, maybe.....

When a Columbus TV news crew comes out and takes a small sample of water at one of the beaches, then does an exposé on the poor quality of our water, are they painting a true picture of our water quality or is this an anomaly that existed only at that spot on that specific day?

It will only take a few stories like these to cause our property values to drop like rocks. If, in fact, they are correct, we need to take immediate action and get the problem corrected. On the other hand, if this is not representative of the overall condition of the lake, action is still required, but not of the emergency category.

Buckeye Lake is over 180 years old and during that time period, has endured the ravages of local development as well as the run-off from the farming community.

For too many years, private septic tanks allowed untreated waste to leach into the lake. Beginning in the mid 50s, public sewers were installed along the North Bank and the process of cleaning up the lake was underway. In the mid 80s, the installation of a pressurized sewer system was installed in all but a few homes on the South Shore and the lake improved at an even faster pace. This past year, the homes along Honey Creek Road began the process of hooking up to a public system, completing the task 50 years after it all began.

Farming practices have improved tremendously over the years and today most farmers in the area use no or low till methods to prepare their fields for planting and

the judicious use of various chemicals on the land have also improved the run-off that eventually gets to the lake.

So, does that mean that our work is done? The lake is as good as it is going to ever get?

Not quite.....

This past year, we began the process of forming Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow [BLT], whose primary focus will be the improvement of the Buckeye Lake Watershed.

The process has begun with the monitoring of the clarity of the water in the streams that feed the lake as well as the water in the lake itself.

Much work has been done with the government agencies that will assist with the overall testing and eventual action that will address the issues that need to be corrected.

Prior to 'correcting' the problem, we need to first identify it as well as the source of any pollutant, whatever it may be. It has been suggested by some that the challenge is the lake itself. Only a program of thorough monitoring and testing will give us the answer we are seeking.

Rest assured that much work is going on behind the scenes to make certain that we have valid information from which to make decisions on how to move forward. Countless hours from many dedicated volunteers are making possible information that is otherwise unavailable.

Those interested in getting more involved in the process need only

identify themselves. There is more than enough work to go around.

Unfortunately, there are many factors influencing the health of our lake and there are an equal number of interested parties with something to say about the issues.

The media wants a juicy story and will go to any lengths to make it sensational. The environmentalists will always find a problem with the environment and stop at nothing to influence any activity in conflict with their interests. The developers have an interest in profit and to that end will do whatever is necessary to see their project through to completion. The farmer has an interest in producing the best crop possible and will take the steps necessary to produce a bumper crop. Property owners want the greenest lawn in the neighborhood and will continue to spread their fertilizers and weed controls to assure a perfect green carpet in front of their home.

As you can see, this is not an easy task. In the end, however, we feel that we can't simply stand back and do nothing. No matter what your perspective or approach, the lake is too valuable an asset to ignore. It is our responsibility as property owners to be involved and do our part in improving the overall condition of the lake and protect it for future generations. To do less would be short-sighted and less than prudent.

We will continue to follow a balanced approach and look for positive outcomes that are in the best interest of the residents that make up the communities around Buckeye Lake.

**BUCKEYE LAKE AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

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**PAID**  
BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 5

The Shoreline is published and distributed quarterly to members of the Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association and elected public officials with an interest in the general welfare of the resident districts around Buckeye Lake in Fairfield, Licking and Perry Counties.

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**000 Big Bands Return to Buckeye Lake**

*Saturday, October 3, 2009*  
*Creative Catering - 925 W Main St, Hebron, Oh*  
*Social Hour 6:00 - Dinner 7:00 - Dance 8:00*  
**Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association**  
*Donation \$ 50 per person*  
 Proceeds to benefit Friends of the Buckeye Lake Library  
 & Buckeye Lake Museum Building Fund

**Tips for Tots**  
**Friday, November 6th**  
**AMVETS # 51 Thornport**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Call 467-3120 to donate**  
**Auction Items and Money**  
**or to Volunteer Your Time**

All proceeds are distributed to needy children in Lakewood, Millersport, Thornville and Glenford School Districts so that they may enjoy a better Christmas.

Thank You for your Support,  
 Bud and Marty Springer  
 PO Box 867  
 Millersport, Oh 43046

*All Donations are Tax Deductible*

**New Membership Application**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$10.<sup>00</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP (\$25.<sup>00</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_