

# Lake Lorman Community Newsletter

January/March 2025



The image contains two event posters. The left poster is for an "Easter Egg Hunt" hosted by the Lake Lorman Ladies Club on April 6th from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. It features a colorful border, a bunny, and a sign that says "Happy Easter". The right poster is for a "Bunny Hunt" boat ride on Lake Lorman from Friday, March 28 to Saturday, April 6. It features a blue background with colorful Easter eggs and five bunnies of different colors (green, pink, blue, orange, purple). The text on the right poster includes: "LAKE LORMAN BOAT RIDE", "Bunny Hunt", "FRIDAY, MARCH 28 - SATURDAY, APRIL 6", "Take your boat on a ride around the big lake and see if you can spot all 5 Easter Bunnies!", "From the comfort of your boat you might see one hiding in the bushes, behind a tree, relaxing on a dock, fishing or waiting on the eagle to land.", "What do you win if you find all 5 bunnies? The 'JOY' of belonging to a beautiful lake community!!", and "HAPPY EASTER FROM THE LAKE LORMAN LADIES CLUB".

## Utility Board Changes



Long-time Lake Lorman Utility Board member Mary Ann Sones recently retired from the LLUD board. She will continue to serve as commissioner for the Southwest Madison Fire Protection District. Mary Ann was appointed by the Madison County Board of Supervisors in 2006 to fill the unexpired term of Al Davis. Mary Ann said she also assumed Al's position as treasurer for what she thought was going to be a short-term appointment, but she continued in that position for eighteen years.

I asked Mary Ann about the changes she has seen in that time. "The two most significant changes in the district would be the construction of the high-rise water tank which was completed in 2008 and the construction of the Southwest Madison County fire station at the corner of Coker and Lake Cavalier roads. I would be quick to point out that it is because of the late Don Seagrove that those two accomplishments were made. Although the fire station was not built by the utility district, the board was heavily involved in its initiation and construction. Numerous monitoring systems have been added as well as electronic water meters."

She retired from Hinds Community College in 2004, serving as the Dean of the Nursing/Allied Health Center in South Jackson. Mary Ann worked at Hinds for over 34 years, starting out as chairperson of the Dental Assisting Program and ending up as dean.

Mary Ann said she has been a member of Twin Lakes Baptist Church since she moved to Lake Lorman in 1982, when she married Buddy Sones, who died in 2018. "I have loved being a part of the church. I currently am the (amateur) organist and teach an adult Sunday school class."

I asked Mary Ann about her experience serving on the LLUD. "Because of my involvement with the utility district, I gained a lot of knowledge about our community, learned a whole lot about providing water and sewer services, and gained a lot of new friends. It was enjoyable because it was a cohesive board and I enjoyed serving as a volunteer on the board."

"Being a resident of this community and getting to know many neighbors through the board affiliation and fellowshiping and worshipping with members at Twin Lakes Baptist Church has certainly enhanced my life," she concluded. "Lake Lorman is a lovely village filled with warm and hospitable residents."

## **Meet our new Fire Chief**

Our Southwest Madison County Fire Department has a new chief as of last month. Tim Prater who has been a volunteer with the department for five years was named its chief in February. Chief Prater was nominated by Chief Ben Hawthorne and then appointed by the Madison County Fire Board.

Chief Prater said both his parents were volunteer firemen so he grew up around volunteer emergency services and has had a long time interest in the area. He served in the Army for 23 years and retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He explained that his experience as an artillery officer gave him much experience in management of high risk, stressful situations and in training and leading people in high-risk, high-pressure situations. This experience taught him to focus on keeping people safe and training them to be safe.

In addition to serving as our chief, Tim teaches two courses at Clinton High School. The first is the second year in law and public safety, which instructs students in the careers in fire, policing, and emergency services. He also serves as an adjunct professor with Hinds Community College. In that capacity he teaches Clinton High School students basic EMT.

Tim said the Southwest Madison department is in good shape.

He hopes to move forward by enlisting more volunteers to help shorten the response time. He pointed out that people do not need to have experience either with firefighting or medical services. "We meet twice a month, the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 pm where people are trained in basic firefighting and emergency services. Then there are classes available to get them more comfortable to help their neighbors," he explained. Tim added that most of the department's calls are on the medical rescue side rather than actual fires. So many of the volunteers get training as paramedics and advanced EMTs. Tim and his wife Marty have been married 31 years and have two children. Their daughter Katy is an emergency room nurse and also volunteers with the Southwest Madison fire department, "Being an ER nurse, she helps out a lot," he said proudly. Tim enjoys the outdoors and traveling.



*Southwest Madison County Fire Department Chief Tim Prater*

## **Road Trust Update**

*By Kelley Dickinson*

First a brief history lesson. After several years of complaints about the roads, the board in 2016 developed a comprehensive plan to tackle the situation.

An earlier five year plan had been developed but not funded and there were never sufficient funds in the annual budgets to do more than patch problem areas. So roads and drains were repaired on an as needed basis with what funds were available. But as the board explained in 2016 in the first page of the

Trust Agreement, “We believe that the wiser, more logical, and better way to preserve our roads, streets, and drainage is to set up a projected comprehensive plan and schedule to conduct this work in an orderly and efficient manner supported by Trust money....We cannot depend on our regular Budget to fund this Ten Year Schedule, so the Board recommends that for ten years, beginning in 2017, we have a Special Added Assessment applicable to each and every lot in Lake Lorman Subdivision, Little Lake, and Big Lake, \$200 for each lot for each year ....to be held in trust at Bank First in a Special Trust Account devoted specifically, and exclusively to funding these projects shown on the Map and Plan, and no other purpose.”

Attorney Bill Cox drew up the “Trust Agreement for Specific/Street/Road Drainage and Maintenance at Lake Lorman”. This agreement was voted on and passed at the December 2016 Annual Meeting and filed with Madison County. The full Trust agreement, including the schedule of work to be done, and map of the work can also be found at the Lake Lorman website under covenants.

Recently Phase IV of the project was completed by AdCamp with the repaving of Northshore Drive and Lakeshore Drive from Lorman Lane to the west end of the street. That cost \$121,223. After AdCamp is paid, Carter Clarke, our former treasurer, reports there will be \$65,424 remaining in the Trust account at BankFirst.

**The last phase of the project involves Westline Drive and Westline Road. Carter said he expects that work to be completed by September of 2025.**



### The Bird's Eye View

by

Dale & Sarah Lea Anglin

Spring, 2025

Disclaimer: SL has retired. She's taken to reading “sciency” articles and was compelled to put a little of that into this particular newsletter article...she promises to return to status quo if she's allowed to wax scientific here.

We've been watching the winter migrants for a few months, and are now waiting until they depart for cooler summer temperatures. One of our favorites, the White-Throated Sparrow, with its song “Oh, Oh Canada, Canada, Canada, Canada” has been dining at our feeding station all winter, singing its song, and generally scratching around in the gardens looking particularly cute. It really does migrate to Canada, by the way. We've been pointing out the males and females, watching their behaviors, confident (as we've written in these articles many times!) of our gender identifications because of the “obvious” sexual dimorphism. If you start hearing Charlie Brown's teacher here (“Whah whah, whah whah”), stay with us...that just means you can tell the girls from the boys by their plumage. The boys were the white-striped, more aggressive birds, the girls, tan-striped, less aggressive. But wait!!! WE WERE WRONG...(and so was Audubon, and pretty much all the rest of the bird world, until recently). WHAT??? The February 18 Scientific American article by Donna Maney, “The Bird that Broke the Binary” outlines it all, with plenty of “Whah whah, whah whah” that had SL so excited she couldn't sleep.



Hot off the scientific presses (“Whah whah, whah whah”), with words like “Z/W chromosome” (“Whah whah, whah whah”) and “Supergene” (“Whah whah, whah whah”), it turns out that not only were we wrong in our gender identification half the time, but the dimorphism is actually a 4-way street (?? would you call it quatriformism??). Before you start thinking that means there are four genders...it does not. It means that the way the bird looks (its “morph”) and its gender are not related. About half the white-striped birds are female, and about half the tan-striped birds are male, and the white morph is more aggressive than the tan morph. Even more interesting,



white morphs almost always mate with tan morphs, and vice-versa. Here's the part you may actually like: we suggest you take an early summer trip to Canada, search out some breeding pairs of White-Throated Sparrows, record which morph is building the nest and sitting on the eggs, and then report back to us. You can then definitively tell us, "YOU WERE WRONG!!" Once stated, we can have a cup of tea and discuss Z/W chromosomes, supergenes, mate selection, and the implications therein. Whah whah, Whah whah!



Notes from the **dirt dauber** Its not wise to fool Mother Nature... it's even worse when she fools you. For the last two years she has been a real Witch! The freeze two years ago followed by a very dry summer really did a job on many yards here on the lake... including mine... plus this year's "deep freeze December" followed up with



punch two. Even some old Pine trees stunned by the cold and followed by the drought just couldn't make it... not to mention the younger ones. At least two of the lake's power outages recently were caused by these trees losing limbs or



falling on power lines. I hope that those homeowners who have such trees on their property will have them removed before more damages can occur.


Let us hope Mother Nature is through with her mad spell and gives us a beautiful spring. That being said... the daffodils (Narcissus) have been particularly beautiful all around the lake this year. These flowers are one of the best "pass alongs" we can grow but with a little planning they can be even more showy.



First... snap some photos... prep for the following spring by taking pictures of where they are blooming this year. Inevitably, next fall, when you begin to add more daffodils, transplant a bush, or install some perennials, you're going to know where the flowers are so you don't plant in the middle of them and disturb them.

Important to note: don't cut back your daffodils prematurely... Even after blooming the plants are not through collecting the energy they need to flower next year. Wait until they are fully gold and brown and melted on the ground before removing the stems and foliage.

Personal Note: My paternal grandmother, who loved flowers, called Narcissus (daffodils) – Jonquils. I asked her why one time and she said: “daffodil is not a pretty enough name for such a pretty flower and I’m not going to call them the name of a boy who killed himself.” Old folks are funny and now I am one. All daffodils are Narcissus but all Narcissus are not daffodils.

Till later ~ Peace,  **dirt dauber**

*The last 12 to 18 months have been very stressful on the trees in our neighborhood. Many of our Lake Lorman neighbors have gone to great expense to clear up the dead trees and debris caused by the last drought. Please take the time during your Spring cleaning to help with our neighborhood's effort to get ready for Summer season. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.*

## HISTORY Surrounds Us!

### “Our Arsenal of Democracy”

By Dan Dickinson

“The whole purpose of your President,” FDR declared, “is to keep you out of war.”

On December 29, 1940, as the storm clouds of World War II gathered over the U.S., President Franklin Roosevelt addressed the nation in one of his celebrated “Fireside Chats.”



To stop the war from arriving on US shores, Roosevelt asserted, America must become “the Arsenal of Democracy.” We must rearm to be secure against attack. And, though he didn’t say it, Roosevelt also wanted to make sure weapons would be available to nations such as Britain and China, that were already fighting the Axis powers.

After the address, U.S. war production accelerated dramatically. We built aircraft carriers, planes and tanks. Hundreds of thousands of young men registered in America’s first peacetime military draft. All this occurred a year before the Japanese attacked Pear Harbor.

If war came, we’d need munitions to fight. The US quickly constructed a constellation of ammo plants. They became a key to the Allied victory. One of the biggest of them all was located right here in Flora. It was our arsenal of democracy.



The “Mississippi Ordnance Plant,” as related in local historian Presley Posey’s *The Flora Book*, started in 1940. Triplett’s Restaurant (now a local law firm) became a planning office. General Tire Company took over management of the project. The site was located in what was then called Vernon and now is Kearney Park. In 1941, 2,500 acres of land were acquired. Eventually, the project expanded to 9,133 acres. To ensure that the ammo plant would have all the space it needed, some antebellum houses were demolished. Owners jacked up and moved the historic Sedgewood Plantation to prevent its destruction.



The Base Headquarters building located in front of the Base Chapel and behind Fire Station #1. Note the very tall 125' flag pole.

The munitions plant rose rapidly. There were a host of facilities, mostly designed to produce explosive charges for heavy artillery and howitzers. Crews dug concrete underground bunkers to store the munitions. These still exist. You can see them if you drive up rural Virllilia Road. Today, companies use them for storage.

As war needs changed, the military used the site as an explosives training facility. It gives a sense of the scope of this operation when it's understood that the facility had 11.5 miles of railroad spurs operating on site and a weekly payroll of \$100,000 – big money in the rural south in 1942!

Most of all, though, the Mississippi Ordnance Plant needed people. People to build the facilities, formulate the explosives, pack the bags, store the explosives, and train military personnel in their use. Also required were truckers, nurses, accountants, and officers. Overall, 1,900 people worked to construct the plant – and 5,000 to staff it, including a WAC detachment. Flora hosted the same number of employees as today's Nissan Assembly facility.



Navy Lt. Johnny Carson

Most of the employees were from Madison, Yazoo, and Hinds counties. Others came from all over. Navy Lt. Johnny Carson, later of TV fame, did training at Millsaps College, and also worked at Mississippi Ordnance.

People said he was funny. Famed science fiction writer Cyril Kornbluth helped formulate the bombs. Flora had a big lodging house for workers. Kearney Park boasted a huge swimming pool built for the soldiers. Near Kearney Park were houses for officers and their wives, complete with an attached golf course. It is now the charming Memorial Drive neighborhood. The *Mississippi Ordnance Observer* newspaper kept people in the know about what was happening at the plant.

In the brief few years of its construction and operation, Mississippi Ordnance produced nearly a million pounds of howlitzer ammo, and, likely, an equal amount for artillery guns. Thousands of soldiers were trained in how to handle explosives. Flora was gearing up for even more production when, in early August 1945, the biggest bomb of all hit Hiroshima. Operations at Flora ceased on August 15.

Mississippi Ordnance went into a sad, half-life after that. For a few years soldiers continued to be trained there. Many of the old buildings became part of Kearney Industrial park. Now, eighty years later, what's left to see are a few abandoned buildings, the bunkers, and a circle of homes on Memorial Drive – though few will know what their original purpose was.



Yet, Mississippi Ordnance was a big success. It made a vital contribution to winning the war. It showed what a small, rural state could do, despite such problems as poverty and segregation, to pull together to achieve a common goal.



At the Big Three Conference in Tehran during World War II, Soviet Dictator Josef Stalin rose at dinner to propose a toast to Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. "To American production," Stalin declared, "without which, this war would be lost."

We won the war, and our local arsenal of democracy was an important part of that.



### Beth's Pear Honey

Ingredients:  
 12 cups ground pears (peeled and cored)\*  
 12 cups sugar\*\*  
 large can crushed pineapple w/juice  
 2 oranges ground (peels and all)

Cook pears and sugar 35-40 minutes (turns a honey color)  
 Add orange & cook 5-10 minutes longer  
 Add pineapple & bring back to a boil  
 Ladle into hot/sanitized jars  
 Seal in jars

\*Use a food chopper for pears and oranges; finely chopped but not pureed.

\*\*Recipe may be cut proportionally... 12 cups is a lot to handle at one time.

(Stored in a cool, dark place can be kept up to two years in most cases)

It's spring and everywhere you look the plants are waking with buds and bloom. Before you know it the pears will be ripe and ready for picking. If you can beat the deer to them, you might want to try your hand at this easy recipe for Pear Honey. It's mighty good on a biscuit in the morning with breakfast or any number of other uses... let your taste buds and imagination run wild.

It's an old family recipe that begs to be shared and not lost to the passage of time and cooks no longer cooking.



## Around the Lake



*Carson and Morgan*

Carson Dean is a proud new homeowner of 192 Lorman Lane. We are so happy that Carson chose to stay and invest in our beloved neighborhood!

He is doing a fabulous job renovating the Sanders' home.



It's amazing what a little imagination and elbow grease can do. Along with the help of his incredibly talented parents.

*Carson, after growing up here, you have decided to stay. What led to this?*

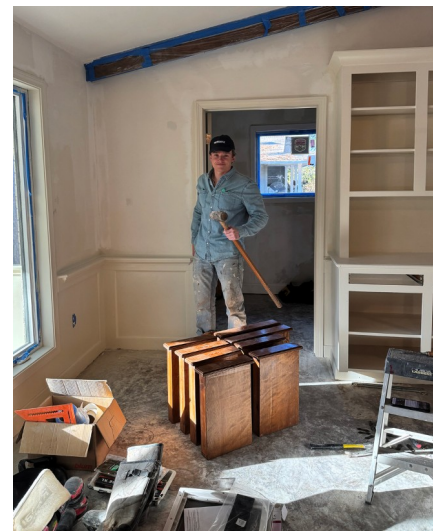
The lake is a great community of people and it's unlike any other neighborhood in the area. I was raised here and want to raise a family here as well-it's a great place for that. It's also nice to be close to your parents for the food!

*For those who don't know you, tell us a little about yourself. Job, pets, hobbies?*

My parents are long time Lake Lorman residents, Beth and Richard Dean. I attended MRA and studied at MSU where I received a BS in Construction Science. I've worked in the commercial furniture industry as a salesman for 5 years now. My hobbies include playing golf at Annandale Golf Club, spending time with my German Shepherds, Kaiser and Stella, playing the guitar and the drums, and working on the house over the past year! I attend Twin Lakes Baptist Church. My girlfriend, Morgan, has been a great helping hand. If I'm not doing any of those activities, I'm likely working on my next project.



*Before start of renovations*







*It would seem Kaiser and Stella approve*

## SCHEDULED EVENTS:



- **Lake Lorman Annual Maintenance Fee Due:** April 1
- **Lake Lorman Eggstravaganza:** Saturday, April 12
- **Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting:** Monday, April 14 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Corporation Board Meeting:** Monday, April 21 – 6:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Annual Fish Fry and Music:** Saturday, April 26
- **Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting:** Monday, May 12 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Corporation Board Meeting:** Monday, May 19 – 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- Life Groups** 9:15 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.



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  
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