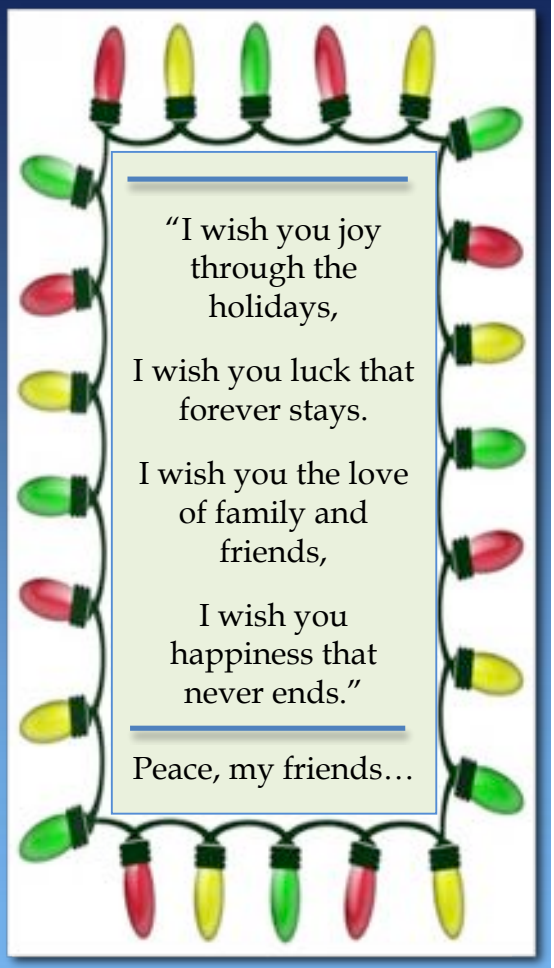
LONG BRANCH LOCAL

Information, Entertainment & Goin's On!

Hope everyone had a truly wonderful holiday season and were able to reconnect with family and friends. May any worries you had in the past year be forgotten as you prepare to make new and amazing memories in 2023!

Mike Casey: mcaseman@aol.com

January 1st, 2023 !



An Old Irish Christmas Wish

Holiday Edition!

Board Talk!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday and a great New Year's Eve!
Here are a few updates and reminders as we move into the New Year!

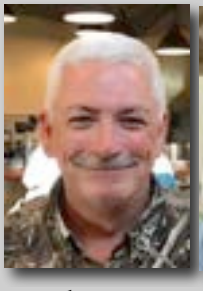
2023 is the sixth year that the current **P**roperty **O**wners **A**ssociation has been in place. We have come a long way! A lot of dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly and given generously to make Long Branch Lakes a sustainable community and to protect the investments of all property owners. We would like to thank all volunteers for their dedication and efforts.

Your Board of Directors has a lot planned for 2023. In late January, you can expect further communication regarding the Protective and Restrictive Covenants, and the recent proposed amendment. Work on the lakes and roads continue as do improvements to our green areas. Several homes are under construction, and we anticipate several more in the coming year.

The General Store, Lakes, Firewise, Equestrian Center, Architectural Landscape Control Committee and Maintenance Committees have worked tirelessly and given generously to make Long Branch Lakes a vibrant community that continues to attract new property owners.

If you have not checked out lblpoa.com do yourself a favor and do so and visit regularly. The website has a wealth of information including a calendar posting of community wide activities. The LBL Facebook page is ever popular with several posts a day. And if you want to contact the BoD, please direct an email to longbranchlakespoa@gmail.com.

Your Board of Directors



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Board Email Address: Longbranchlakespoa@gmail.com
POA Website for forms, docs and information: lblpoa.com

Let The Holiday Journey Begin!

Long Branch has established many fond traditions and events that occur throughout the year but those around the holiday season may just be the best!

The Ornament Exchange!

Many thanks to Kathy Popham for hosting this annual event! Wine tasting and good food were the order of the day and the ornaments were the best ever!

"Ornament Exchange"??
Looks more like an excuse to, uh, do some day drinking…

The Greening Of LBL!

Another time honored tradition around here is to break out those wreaths, bows and swags and decorate gates, bridges and road signs, making the place look pretty darn festive. Thanks to Beth Saunders and her dedicated crew of volunteers!

Giving Back

In 2011, a group of gals living at Long Branch Lakes started getting together to do fun group activities. First - pumpkin carving! A tradition that grew into an annual event held at the barn for many years for all LBL women. The Original LBL gals, as they called themselves, went on to have Easter egg hunts, made pinecone feeders for the birds, Boo Baskets for their neighbors, and initiated “Hags Around Nags,” held weekly for Happy Hour at the barn.

This Holiday Season, the group made, decorated, and filled 40 felt stockings for residents at the Good Samaritan Society at Fairfield Glade. Each unique stocking overflowed with treats, toothbrushes, tissues, reading glasses, snuggly socks, smiley stress balls, and much more. The residents were very thankful for their “gifts from Santa.” (No pictures available due to privacy issues.)

(*Jenn Smith*)

The Giving Never Stops At LBL!

I want to thank everyone who donated toys to the Fire department for Santa's toy shop. We were able to help many parents and grandparents. For many children, this was the only way they would receive any gifts for Christmas. The smiles on their faces were a blessing to all who were there.
I also want to thank everyone who took angels to buy for. We had 54 angels this year from Van Buren County Head Start, Pikeville Head Start and Pikeville Nursing home. Everyone was so pleased to receive their gifts! So as we go into the New Year remember how you were able to bring so much joy into the lives of people who have so little. Again thank you for all the donations. Tom and I wish all of you a Happy New Year and many blessings to come. *(Tom & Fran Clark)*

And What Would We Do Without Our Awesome General Store & Staff Helping To Make The Season Bright!

Thanks For the Amazing Holiday Luncheon!

LBL's First Annual "Pimp Your Ride" Holiday Parade!

The Line Up!

The Snowman Special

Dorn's Family Truckster

The Gatlin Mobile

The Candy Cane Special

The Christmas Storm

Sophie's Choice

Headin' Out

And a Triumphant Return!

Spreading Holiday Cheer Throughout LBL!

Post Parade Celebration!

Creators of the 4 "Best In Show" Rides!

Mr. & Mrs. Claus…awww…..

Just big kids lining up to ask Santa for goodies. Overheard requests: "How 'bout a Christmas Eve snow?", "A happy 2023 for all!", "Hell, I just want some new underwear…"

Ahh Yes,
The Infamous Schoenig Christmas Party!

Christmas Party at the Schoenigs!

Many thanks to Kathy and Bill for hosting yet another Holiday Extravaganza and for making sure the holidays were filled with warmth, joy and a cutthroat gift exchange! If you weren't there, you missed hair-pulling, sneak attacks, thefts, alliances and nefarious behind-the-back shenanigans! Simply heinous behavior…

The Hosts!
Kathy & Bill Schoenig

Settle Back and Share The Fun

Characters Galore!

Smiles All Around!

If It "Takes a Village", We Sure Have A Good One!

Denise & Steve Stratz, Greg & Lilly Levine, Tim & Tammy Getz

A Big LBL Welcome to our newest residents who witnessed the mayhem at the Schoenig Shindig for the first time!

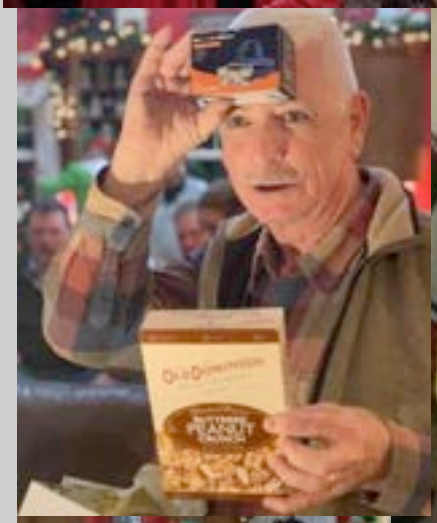
All assured the hosts the events they beheld will not dissuade them from attending future get togethers!

Brave souls…truly brave souls.

Ok, ok, the Levine's have been here off and on for years, but only became full time residents within the past few months. They're lucky we let them stay…

The Gift Exchange

Mayhem? Check. Treachery? Check. Thievery? Check. Strategy? Check. Thought We Were Civilized, Eh?



Yeah, They're Smiling Here...

Until Someone Came For Their Stuff!

Gawd, There's More??

Despite the despicable chicanery, a good time was had by all!

Closing Out LBL's Holiday Festivities With a New Year's Eve Blow Out!

The Hosts!

Many thanks to Paul & Sue for organizing a killer New Year's Eve party complete with food, entertainment and a Photo Booth!

Photo Booth Stars!

Let's Walk Down Memory Lane For a Bit

"Some Summer Memories"

Happy Birthday to Suzanne and Lisa, with Kathy photo bombing as always!

The Fearsome Foursome at the Annual Marine Corps Golf Tourney on Cumberland Mountain

Anniversary Time for the Saunders – Happy 50th!!

A Look Back

The ever faithful summer Kitchen Crew

OK, not summer, but shout out to the Primas' & the Leveque's for always supporting our TN Titans!

Little Memories

Just a Few More...

Little Memories

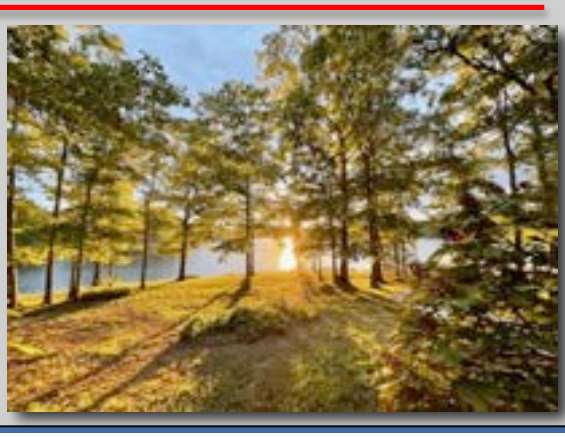
Not only did our Maintenance Department (courtesy of Gene Jamison) refurbish road signs,

but he's now branched out attacking speed limit signs as well!

Dude's got skills!

Good Ol' Wade – King of the Lakes! (AKA "Fish Man") doin' his thing.

Mower Man! Can you identify this masked volunteer who always pitches in?



We'll get back there. In a mere four months, blink of an eye really.

The Ladies of LBL Sure Knew How To Kick It!

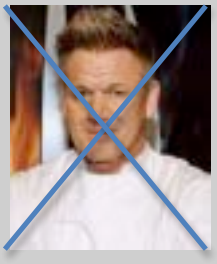
Charlie's Angels ain't got nothin' on OUR gals!

Winin', dinin', laughin' and flyin'

That's the way,
uh huh, uh huh,
they ***like*** it,
uh huh, uh huh!

And Let Us Not Forget The Annual Fantastical Fish Fry!

Superb Chefs! Eat your heart out Gordan Ramsay!



WE have the best!

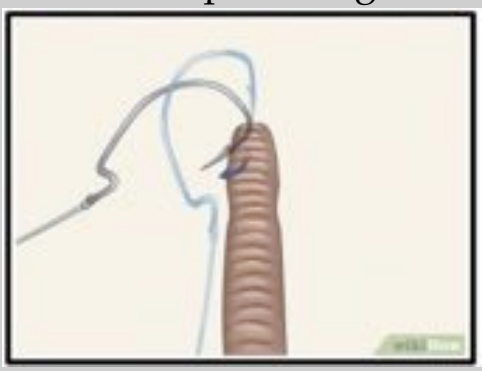
The Founder (Flounder?) and honorary chairman of LBL's Fish Fry, our Mayor, Dick Popham, special award of appreciation in hand!

And Speaking of Fish...
It's Never Too Early
To Start Thinking About the Upcoming Season!

Successful Fishing Techniques for Long Branch Lakes Bass

One of the most common sayings when you are fishing one of the Lakes at Long Branch is "What did you catch them on?" Several of the locals who like to fish, have a few favorites they think are better than the others.

The Popham Rig



The local Mayor of the Lakes (aka Dick Popham) has his favorite. He uses a 6-inch black plastic worm. He fishes it usually trolled slow behind his boat on Long Lake. Rarely does he have a problem catching bass. This picture shows that he only hooks the worm at the head. He uses a straight hook instead of a curved hook. He uses a small split shot above the hook about 6" to 10" to give the rig enough weight to sink while trolling. Dick has probably caught more fish at LBL than all the fishermen combined.

The Wacky Rig

Steve Cochell and I recently used the wacky worm rig at Long Lake. It was very successful in catching bass. You fish it slow, letting the worm sink for a couple of seconds before giving short jerks to reel it in. Many of the strikes happened while the worm was sinking on the initial cast. You do not use a weight. The weight of the worm is enough to cast properly. The weight of the hook and the worm allow the rig to sink at a good rate. As you can see, the wacky rig is a bit different. Steve and I used a 5" green wacky worm made by power bait. You can buy all parts of the wacky worm set up at Amazon. Just ask Steve

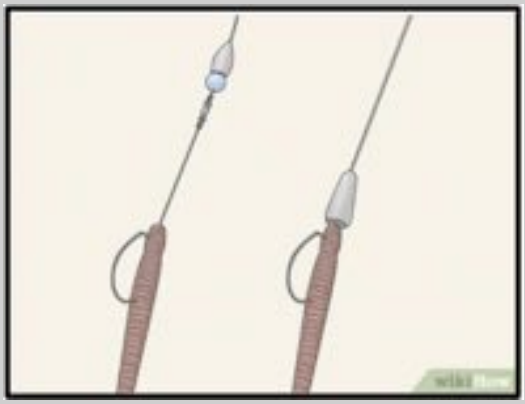
The wacky rig is unusual. Instead of hooking the worm at the head of the worm and having it swim like a snake, the rig uses O-rings to hold the worm on the hook. The worm flaps like a bird or a bat under the water verses gliding through the water like a snake or leach. Piercing the center of your worm with a hook can make it more susceptible to tearing apart, especially after you have hooked a few fish with it. As an alternative, you can slip an O-ring onto the worm and then guide the hook between the O-ring and the worm.

Fishing Tips Continued

To put an O-ring on, buy an O-ring applicator—a device that looks a bit like a pen cut in half— from the same retailer. Feed half of the worm into the device, then slide a pre-loaded O-ring off the end of the device and onto the center of the worm. After that, slide the hook tip under the O-ring to set up your wacky rig.

Add a weed guard, if desired, to protect the hook tip from snagging. Because the tip of the hook is exposed, the standard wacky rig may snag on weeds and other debris. To make it "weedless" use a hook with an attached "weed guard"—a small wire that loops through the hook eye and latches over the hook tip. The weed guard is strong enough to prevent most snags on the hook but will give way when a fish bites the hook.

Texas or Carolina Plastic Worm Rigs



Jon Adkins, one of LBL's top big bass fishermen, uses large 10.5" black and purple plastic worms fished Texas Rig Style. He calls them Black Magic. He fishes the standing timber in deeper water and fishes the rig slow. He uses strong braided line in case the bass tries to wrap up in the timber. The key to getting a large bass is to get him out of the timber as quickly as possible. He also uses a heavy action rod providing more backbone to get the fish out of the water.

For a Texas rig, thread a "bullet sinker"—a metal, bullet-shaped sinker—onto the end of the line before tying on the offset hook with the hooked worm. Once the rig is complete, the bullet sinker should touch or almost touch the top of the plastic worm's head.

The Carolina rig, on the other hand, separates the sinker and the hook. Slide your bullet sinker and a spacer bead onto the main line. Next, tie a barrel swivel onto the end of the line. Tie a 10" – 30" (25–76 cm) leader line onto the other side of the barrel swivel, then tie your hooked worm to the end of the leader line.

Super Flukes

The last time I went fishing with Mark Culbreath at LBL, he used a Zoom super fluke. He caught countless bass that day. I tried one (the super fluke) but could not get it to work for me, so I went back to what I was using before. It just goes to show you that sometimes you can be fishing the same lake, the same boat and the same lure, but only one of you catches fish. That's why they call it fishing instead of catching

Y'all Gittin' This?

Chatterbait Lures

Recently, Todd Rahm had a fruitful day on the lake. He likes to use plastic worms and chatterbait lures. Chatterbaits do what their name says - they make noise and vibrations as they go through the water.

The Chatterbait, aka Bladed Swim Jig, aka Vibrating Jig, is a deadly and extremely popular bass fishing lure. The original Chatterbait was so hot that when it first came out in the late 2000's, they would literally disappear off the shelves as soon as they went up. Fast forward to today and the hype around bladed jigs has cooled off, yet they remain fish catching machines. (Looks like Todd may be running for Mayor next term!)

The Beetle Spin Lure

One of my favorite go to lures that catches just about any type of fish (bass, bluegill and even catfish) is the beetle spin. You usually use smaller line (4-8 lb. test) since this lure is fairly light. You just cast and reel it in at a medium slow rate. It's fairly weedless, and easy to use. No lead weight is necessary unless you want to fish it deeper. Usually you fish this lure in less than 8' of water. They come in multiple sizes from small to large and in a multitude of colors. My favorite colors are black with yellow stripes and orange with black stripes. Green with black strips also works well. Large bluegill also really like this lure.

Submitted by Wade Gatlin, Chair of the Lakes Committee

A Fond Farewell...

There are times when we must say goodbye to residents as they move on because of circumstance, opportunity or any number of reasons.

We've been fortunate to have had a multi year relationship with the Bungard family and we wish them well on their continuing journey.

May luck and peace go with Ashley, Damon and little Barrett in Blacksburg. It's sure been fun watching that little guy grow up here! Check out his journey!