



**THUNDERBIRD
PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**



Fall 2019 ISSUE

PO BOX 1263

LAKE SANTEETLAH, NC 28771

OFFICERS 2019 - 2020

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LAKE SANTEETLAH TOWN COUNCIL

Jim Hager, Mayor
Patrick O'Donovan, Finance Officer
Keith Predmore, Vice Mayor
Roger Carlton, Councilman
Mary Williams, Councilwoman

TOWN OF LAKE SANTEETLAH STAFF

Kim Matheson, Town Administrator
Emily Hooper, Town Clerk
Eric Hayes, Public Works Technician
Lamar Williams, Water System Operator

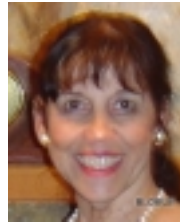
TOWN OF LAKE SANTEETLAH

OFFICE HOURS
8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
(Monday - Friday)

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Mel Greene, Editor
Bette LoBue, Writer
Carolyne Piel, Publisher

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy fall, everyone! Brown leaves are dropping on streets and decks and driveways before their time, cheating us out of the brilliant, beautiful fall that we are so accustomed to in the mountains. The air says it is fall, though, as fluctuating temperatures keep us adding and subtracting clothing layers from dawn to dusk.

What a celebratory year we have had! The Thunderbird Property Owners Association completed fifty years of service to Graham County and the area encompassed by the Town of Lake Santeetlah! "Let them eat cake!" seemed to be the summer mantra, as we celebrated T.P.O.A.'s anniversary at most meetings and events throughout the summer. And, of course, there were the usual birthday celebrations, replete with cake and ice cream, too. Diets start tomorrow!

We had some very interesting speakers at our T.P.O.A. meetings this year. Beth Fields brought us up-to-date on Stecoah Valley Arts Center programs and projects; Kevin Hensley, editor of The Graham Star, discussed his projections of the newspaper in our community; Marshall McClung presented an interesting history of the land that is now the Town of Lake Santeetlah from the creation of the lake to the forming of the town; Mel Greene, forty-eight-year member of T.P.O.A. presented a power point of candid photos, showing past programs and events of our organization. Next season brings more opportunities for interesting speakers. If you have any suggestions for speakers for next year, please let me know.

Thank you everyone for your donations to the Green Elephant Fund for 2019! It was so heartening to receive thank you notes from various recipient organizations, including the children. A total of \$5,375 was donated to worthy organizations by our members. Thank you again for your generosity and for helping us to make a difference in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the anti-litter team for helping to keep our area beautiful! TPOA has just completed twenty-nine years of dedicated service to North Carolina's Adopt-a-Highway program. Members meet at Town Hall once a month during the summer and fall to donate an hour to the cause. Check the bulletin boards for dates. If you remove litter along our private roadways in Lakeside and Thunderbird, your help will be appreciated, as well!

Kudos go to Mel Greene, editor, for thirty-eight years of publishing the T.P.O.A. newsletter! Mel's dedication and expertise have been thoroughly appreciated over the years, and it is with mixed emotions that the T.P.O.A. Board of Directors has accepted his resignation, as of December 31, 2019. Mel has graciously agreed to edit the Winter Issue before shutting down his "printing press". Thank you, Mel, for your dedication over the years.

Thank you to all who worked so diligently on our committees this year. Your time and efforts were so needed and appreciated. And, if you wonder what keeps me going, it is our wonderful Planning Committee. Without you, we could not accomplish all that we do.

I hope everyone has wonderful holidays, filled with bright expectations for the New Year. Be safe, and enjoy everything positive that comes your way!

Sincerely,
Bette LoBue



Mayor's Corner by Jim Hager

The election for Town Council will be held on November 5, 2019. Polls will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. The polling place is Town Hall.

Absentee Ballots are allowed. Request for an absentee ballot must be made on a North Carolina State Absentee Ballot request form. The Graham County Board of Elections office will have them starting at 8:30 a.m. on October 4, 2019, and ending October 29, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. Ballot request forms can be found at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/Forms/NCAbsenteeBallotRequestForm.pdf>

One-stop voting will be held in the Board of Elections Office beginning October 16, 2019, and ending November 2, 2019. One-Stop hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every weekday. The elections office will not be closed for lunch. The office also will be open on Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Patrick O'Donovan and Mary Williams have resigned from the Town Council. The current candidates for Town Council are Roger Carlton, Jim Hager, Craig Keith and Keith Predmore. Diana Simon has agreed to be a "Write in Candidate". Your support for these folks is greatly appreciated.

The Town has been busy preparing Request Proposals for repairs to our aging water system. The four well houses, the filter house, and the pump house need many repairs and upgrades. Repairs to the three holding tanks at the pump house should start in October or early November.

Next year about this time we will be painting the 125,000-gallon storage tank, inside and out. This requires bringing in a temporary or permanent back up tank capable of holding 10,000 gallons. We should have a total cost for repairs by sometime in December. We have also applied for a grant to enable us to G.I.S. map all of our water lines throughout the Town. This grant is at no cost to the Town except for Eric's labor as an in-kind donation.

Please praise our wonderful Town staff for all they do for all of us. They are great!

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Bette LoBue - Bill Piel
Carolyn Piel - Beth Carlton
Joan Henry - Barbara Kruse

DUES ARE OVER-DUE!

Check with Beth Carlton, Treasurer,
if you have not paid.
Remember, Green Elephant donations are optional.

Minutes of TPOA meetings
and recent issues of our Newsletter
are posted on the Town website,
www.townoflakesanteetlah.org.
Click on the TPOA link.

TPOA MEETINGS, 2019

June 10
July 8
August 12
September 9

**THE LAKE SANTEETLAH TOWN COUNCIL MEETS MONTHLY AT TOWN HALL.
TIME AND DATES OF MEETINGS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS**

!!!! NOTICE !!!!

Minutes of TPOA meetings, By-Laws, and recent issues of our Newsletter
are posted on the Town website, www.townoflakesanteetlah.org.
Click on the T.P.O.A. link.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN By Bette LoBue

Hopefully, seasonal neighbors and weekenders had a nice, relaxing summer here on Thunderbird Mountain, and although the full-timers had business-as-usual obligations, many took time off to enjoy the amenities we are privileged to have here on the shores of Lake Santeetlah.

The calendar of social events has been really flavorful this season. Mel Greene organized his popular Dinners-on-the-Town once again, escorting his entourage to such delectable eateries as Tapoco Lodge, Granieri's Italian Restaurant (Andrews), El Pacifico (Robbinsville), and the Fryemont Inn (Bryson City). Among those enjoying dining out over the summer were Beth and Roger Carlton, Bill and Carolyne Piel, Bill Smith, Mary Humphlett, Joan Henry, Dave Hoffman, Barbara and Skip Kruse, Delores and Ralph Mitchell and their daughter, Marianne, and Aura Griffith.

Speaking of eating out, Joan Henry introduced several of us to the Iron Horse in Stecoah. This indoor-outdoor facility featured prime rib, an iron fire pit and a relaxing atmosphere. Enjoying the outdoors on a cool evening were Joan Henry, Dave Hoffman, the Kruses, the Piel, the Carltons, Bill Smith, and Mel Greene. I would say, "thumbs up!" for this casual dining experience.

In keeping with the "eating's always on my mind" theme, Mary Humphlett initiated the ladies' lunch-outs at Tapoco. Among the attendees for these events were Marty Campbell, Anne Hager, Mary Williams, Joan Henry, Linda Eyestone, Becky Wehr, Barbara Kruse, Carolyne Piel, Diana Simon and Myra Almond.

Book Club hostesses Myra Almond, Anne Hager, Linda Eyestone, Beth Carlton, and yours truly led discussions of the novels *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *Love and Ruin*, *The Island of the Sea Women*, *The Storyteller's Secret*, and *An American Marriage*. Grab your reading glasses and check them out!

We would like to offer our condolences to Pam Carvalho of Chalet Village in the loss of her husband, Dennis Carvalho, recently. Dennis was the brother-in-law of Judy Manniere Mathews, also of Chalet Village.

The August boat-party-goers gathered on our beautiful lake and found the perfect cove across from Thunder Island. Guests from Paris, France; England; and Louisville, Kentucky, joined the group for an interesting and fun mix of people.

Taking advantage of a sunny day, several ladies ventured out on the LoBue pontoon boat for a brown bag lunch. Enjoying the relaxing event were Mary Humphlett, Linda Eyestone, Barbara Kruse, Joan Henry, Anne Hager and Carolyne Piel. This most fun outing was suggested by Myra Almond, who had a sneak preview the week before.

It was good to chat with Karen Pittinger recently. She has enjoyed kayaking on our beautiful lake this summer.

Several property owners, who rent out their houses during the season, posted framed courtesy notes in a prominent place. The notes remind guests to observe "No Wake" zones at the marina and near the shoreline, to lower sound levels after 9:00 P.M., to properly dispose of garbage and recycle, to keep their dogs on a leash, and to use the pet stations to dispose of animal waste. Thank you, landlords, for doing your part in keeping life pleasant in the Town of Lake Santeetlah and all AROUND THE MOUNTAIN.

My T.P.O.A. Friends -



What a pleasure it's been, serving as Editor of our TPOA Newsletter for all these years. It's the right time for me to pass the torch so this FALL edition will be my last. As I write this note, I can't help reflecting on my 48 years as a Homeowner and TPOA member here at Lake Santeetlah. It's been an honor to work with 18 different TPOA Presidents through the years and also to serve in that role from 1994-1996. I can honestly say that

some of the best times of life for Judy and me were right here at Thunderbird with you and our other friends who have since passed. Many cherished memories.

A lot has changed through the years but the one constant is the absolute tranquility and majestic beauty of our #1 Ranked Best Lake in America! TPOA is very important to all of us and the Newsletter has kept us connected and informed. It's been a wonderful Summer. Thanks to all of our current Officers, especially President Bette LoBue. Also, a big thanks to our Town Council Members and Town Council Staff for all you do.

See you next Summer. In friendship,
Mel

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. T.P.O.A.!! Mel Greene



Mel Greene was voted "Mr. T.P.O.A." by the Planning Committee for his forty-eight years of dedication and service to the Thunderbird Property Owners Association. Presenting Mel with his official Top Hat is Planning Committee Representative, Joan Henry

J.T.P.O.A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, 2019

Thank you to my wonderful team who worked so hard to make this a successful season:

Carolyn Piel, for hours on the computer, dealing with by-laws, minutes and more;

Beth Carlton, for keeping the budget and checkbooks in balance;

Bill Piel, for tying up the loose ends on TPOA business, speakers, and projects;

Skip and Barbara Kruse, for spearheading the litter pick-up, organizing boat parties, and generally taking up the slack;

Joan Henry, for her expeditious, forward-thinking and successful social planning, as well as her contagious enthusiasm;

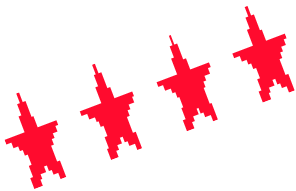
Roger Carlton, for sharing his parliamentary expertise in the shaping of the by-law revisions;

Mel Greene, for organizing the Dinners-on-the-Town and for dedicating thirty-eight years to formatting and editing the Newsletter;

And

To all of our contributing members for their support of T.P.O.A. and its projects and activities this year! **THANK YOU FOR MAKING POSITIVE THINGS HAPPEN!**

Bette LoBue



2019 Green Elephant Supporters \$5,375 Updated as of October 1st

Alizadeh, Diana and Aaron
 Allmond, Bob and Myra
 Bacorn, Lisa
 Blalock, Bunky and Janice
 Boland, Mark and Dawn
 Bradley, Family
 Brickell, Tom and Janet
 Bridgers, Sue Ellen
 Burgess, Doug and Betty
 Burgess, Eleanor
 Campbell, Bill and Marti
 Carlton, Roger and Beth
 Case, James and Lucia
 Colt, Michael and Jacqueline
 Connor, Greg and Frances
 Crisp, Marilynn and Paul
 Danforth, Mike and Stephanie
 Davidson, Dean and Marie
 DeBolt, Dina and Mark
 Degarmo, Kenneth Jeannine
 Devaney, Laurie and Dan
 Doler, Thomas R.
 Donnell, Mike and Susan
 Duncan, David and Susan
 Eyestone, Dick and Linda
 Gilliland, Joan
 Goodson, Ava and Mike
 Greene, Mel

Grier, Christine
 Griffith, Aura
 Gross, Connie and Jack
 Hager, Jim and Anne
 Han, Gwang
 Harper, Dr. and Mrs. Robert
 Heath, Cynthia
 Henry, Joan
 Hill, Vernon, Jr. and Julie
 Hipp, Hannah and S.B. Brown
 Hoelscher, Tim
 Humphlett, Mary
 Hutsell, Dean and Linda
 Keith, Craig and Kelly
 Keith, Pam
 Kelman, Ervin and Jane
 Kirson, Joel
 Kruse, Skip and Barbara
 Lane, Gary and Martha
 LoBue, Bette
 MacInnes, Brian and Suzy
 Madden, Steve and Barbara
 Malinowski, Jack and Debbie
 Malm, Diane
 Mandler, Robert and Julie
 Mathews, Charles and Judy
 McArthur, John and Polly

McCown, Shelley
 Minski, Jose
 Mitchell, Ralph and Delores
 Modica, Marc and Andrea
 Munn, Bill and Carolyn
 O'Donovan, Patrick and Lisa
 O'Keefe, Janice
 Oweida, Steven and Patricia
 Owens, Andy and Sue
 Pavuk, Joseph
 Piel, Carolyne and Bill
 Pittinger, Karen and Jim
 Predmore, Keith
 Prettyman, Bill and Joy
 Rakestraw, Danny and Sharon
 Roemer, Mary
 Ryan, Kevin and June
 Sawicki, Ted and Sherry
 Shope, Conley and Carolyn
 Simon, Diana and Joe
 Slagle, Rick and Jill
 Smith, Bill
 Swanson, Suzanne
 Weale, Richard and Dixie
 Wehr, Becky and Bob
 Williams, Mary
 Williams-Bahr, Maxine
 Zeunen, Ron and Matt



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GREEN ELEPHANT FUND!

Money donated to our 2019 Green Elephant Fund will benefi

Graham County charities.

**SEVENTY PERCENT OF OUR MEMBERS DONATED \$5,375
TO THE GREEN ELEPHANT FUND! THANK YOU, T.P.O.A.!**

2019 GREEN ELEPHANT DONATIONS

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Graham County Rescue Squad

Graham County Knights Pantry

Graham County Caregivers

Graham County Special Olympics

Graham County Library

Graham County Historical Society

Manna Food Bank

Meals on Wheels

Stecoah Valley Center

Valley River Humane Society

Meadow Branch Volunteer Fire Department

Partners of Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness

Neighbors That Like To Eat Out



Ladies Lunch - Tapoco Lodge July 26



Topco lodge July 23



El Pacefeco Aug 13



Fryemont Inn Aug 27



Granier's Aug 24



Iron Horse Sept 28

CELEBRATING TPOA

ON ITS



**WE SALUTE THE MEN & WOMEN
SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES
THEY ARE IN OUR
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

