

F O C L P O I N T

Magazine

Nov 2014 Edition 15



**DRAWDOWN
APPROACHING**

**Community
Efforts**

Mussel Salvage Efforts

**2015
Calendars
in stock!**

FOCL Replants!

*Cover Photo by:
Karen Hawks*

www.focl.org

In cooperation with FOCL and Pulaski County, Appalachian Power Company has requested approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a temporary drawdown of the Claytor Reservoir during November 2014. The purpose of the drawdown is to provide property owners an opportunity to perform shoreline stabilization, cleanup and other maintenance related activities along the shoreline. Permits are required for specific activities, such as shoreline stabilization and dock expansions. Please contact Wayne Alexander at wmalexander@aep.com or at (540) 985-2469 if you have questions about permits.

The 2014 drawdown is scheduled to begin Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 8 am. The reservoir will be lowered one (1) foot per day until it reaches 1843' (for a total of 3 feet) on Saturday morning, November 8, 2014. The reservoir will start refilling on the evening of Sunday, November 16, 2014 with a target date of being back to normal elevation by Wednesday evening, November 19. Water levels may fluctuate between three to four feet down from full pond (1846 feet) during the drawdown periods.

This is where you come in. Mitigation for 2014 includes efforts to increase mussel salvage during the drawdown.

This means we need your help returning mussels to the water if they are stranded along your shoreline during the drawdown. If you see mussels, pick them up and gently toss them 5-10' into the water. **Please complete the postcard included in this newsletter to document your shoreline work as well as mussel salvage efforts and mail the completed card to FOCL.** (Asian clams--pictured to right--are an invasive, non-native species and are not included in the salvage.)

Our salvage program will begin on Saturday November 8th. FOCL, DGIF, AEP, DCR and DEQ will be inviting everyone interested in helping with the salvage to meet for a brief trainings session so everyone understands the program and can communicate effectively with team captains.

Everyone is encouraged to dress appropriately for this event. In case we have inclement weather and also to protect everyone from getting dirty and ruining clothes. Waders are highly recommended as is old pants and/or goulashes to prevent getting stuck in the muddy terrain.



THE PISTOL GRIP MUSSEL (*TRITOGONIA VERUCOSA*) ARE FRESH WATER MUSSELS INHABITING AREAS OF CLAYTOR LAKE AND THE NEW RIVER



THE ASIAN CLAM (*CORBICULLA FLUMINEA*) ARE NOT NATIVE TO CLAYTOR LAKE. THESE CLAMS ARE NOT TO BE SALVAGED IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE POPULATION IN CLAYTOR LAKE.

In an effort to continue Drawdown on Claytor Lake, we need to rely on all of lake residents, visitors, fishermen, and more to provide us with data showing the great work our community is doing to keep these mussels alive. If you see mussels, pick them up and gently toss them 5-10' into the water. **Please complete the postcard you received in this newsletter to document your shoreline work as well as mussel salvage numbers and mail the completed card to FOCL.**



If you need help with mussel salvage or would like to help others with mussel salvage, you can contact Laura Bullard at (540) 392-3055 or sunnyside@psknet.com. **Information sessions about mussels will be held for team leaders on Wednesday, November 5th at 6 pm at the Claytor Lake State Park and for all mussel salvage volunteers on Saturday, November 8th at 9 am at Claytor Lake State Park.** You can find the full drawdown plan on FOCL's website at www.focl.org. You can also call us at (540) 395-FOCL (3625) or email us at info@focl.org.

Please note that the drawdown may be cancelled on short notice if inflows are insufficient to refill the reservoir or if a flood event occurs. The public will be notified via a press release if cancelled.



Fortunately for Claytor Lake and FOCL's Clean Up Program, this year showed only mild fluctuations in lake levels. Our FOCL clean-up crew resumed their work removing debris from Claytor Lake. This year also saw FOCL make an effort to extend our program to the upper part of Claytor Lake past Lowman's Ferry Bridge. These lake-front owners have been without a comprehensive clean up program for many years.

Thanks to the generosity of AEP and the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and its administration, FOCL was able to add a "rake" section to the front of our new main barge. This insures the crew the ability to reach areas not navigable before. The rake section also allows a larger area of workspace for the new excavator.

2014 Clean Up Statistics

205.5 - loads wood debris

510 - bags of trash

1915 - 55 gal. barrels

168 - tires with wheels

2- propane tanks

1 - Freezer / 1 - Water Heater / 1 - Water Ski Jump / 1- Boat House

1 - Automobile Gas Tank

and 26 Docks & Ramps

4,575 Tons of Debris

Clean Up Operations ran over 5,000 man hours of labor at a cost of over \$96,000.00 for 2013, how much will 2014 cost FOCL?

www.focl.org/donate

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FOCL's Environmental Committee has been hard at work this year addressing a number of issues on Claytor Lake. The most pressing is the escalation of siltation coming into Claytor Lake in the upper part from Allisonia down past Lowman's Ferry Bridge. One project the committee has been coordinating with the help of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Appalachian Power Company (AEP), the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), and Pulaski County is establishing a blueprint document that would assist homeowners in applying for dredging permits for their frontage property and dock areas. A document of instruction is now being created that homeowners can follow in order to get acceptance of permits required to perform dredging in their areas and/or

neighborhoods. Dredging is the initial part of this process. It becomes more complicated with the drying of dredge material and its disposal thereafter. This process could take months for any organization or homeowner to comply with DEQ regulations. The siltation in Claytor Lake does contain contaminants and metals, deposited in the lake over many decades and requires testing to insure that it will not have any negative environmental impact if removed from the lake and deposited on land. Twenty-five cubic yards of dredging silt requires less permitting and paperwork than anything greater. The equates to around two dump truck loads of silt. Greater quantities require more permitting and testing for metals and other contaminants which will lengthen the process and raise costs.

Once the document is finished and approved by all agencies and organizations involved, the dredging instructional application will be available to anyone on the lake and easily downloaded from our website at www.focl.org.



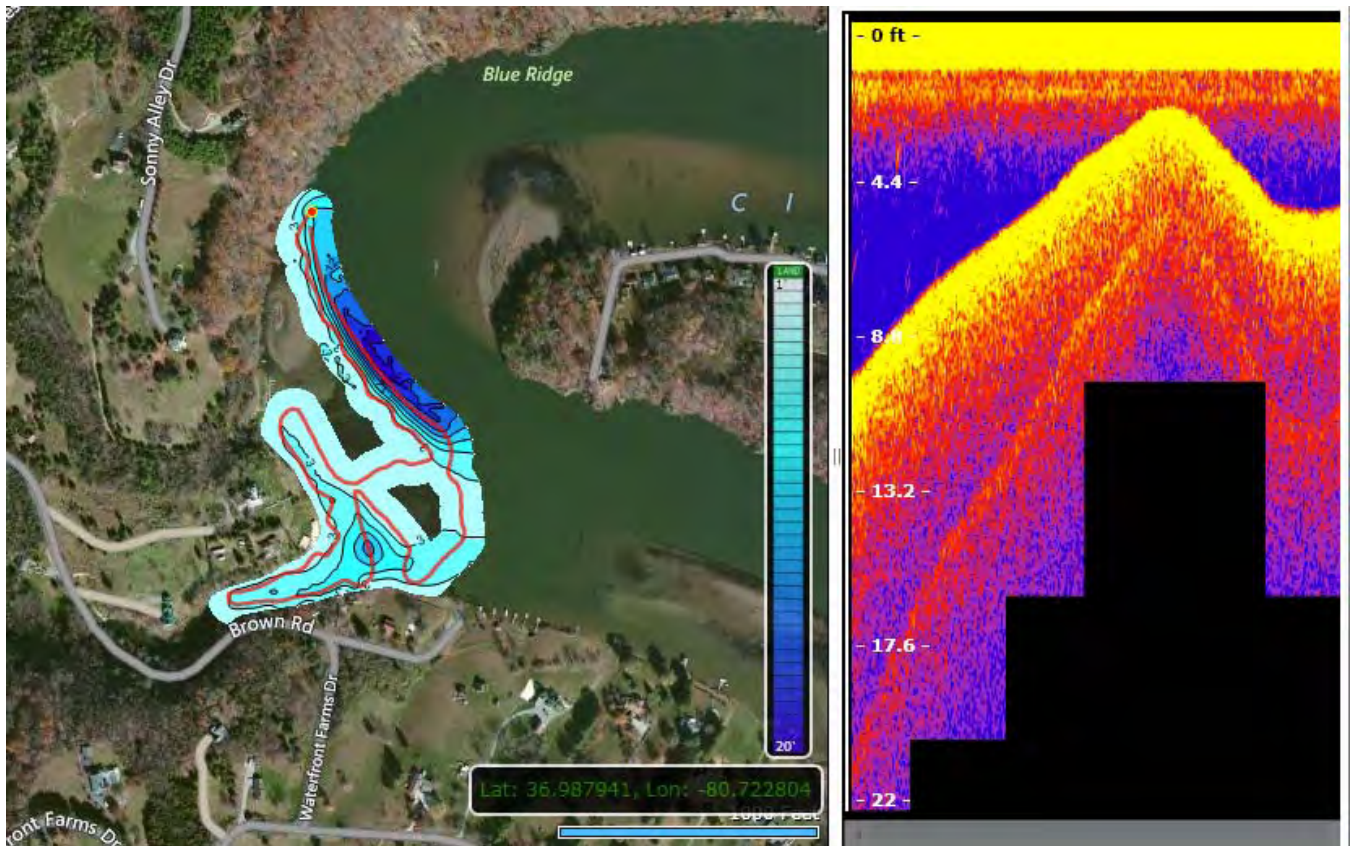
FOCL's 2015 Claytor Lake Calendar

Our latest edition of the widely popular FOCL Claytor Lake Calendar is now available for purchase on our website. Great scenes taken by great folks who live on the lake. Along with dates of our upcoming 2015 events and FOCL meetings.

Grab yours today!

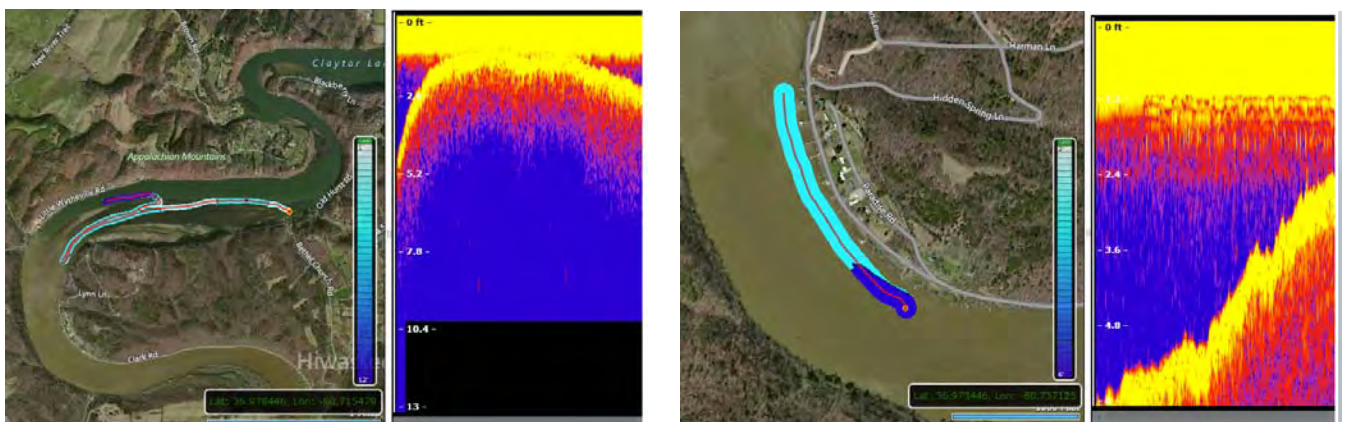
www.focl.org/merchandise

Claytor Lake Sonar Mapping



During 2014 a comprehensive effort by VDGIF, DEQ, DCR, AEP, and FOCL began mapping the bottom of Claytor Lake in an effort to track vegetation growth throughout the lake, especially the growth of hydrilla. This year VDGIF did not recommend the restocking of grass carp in Claytor Lake. This likely will be the case for 2015 as well. With the help of AEP, FOCL purchased two Lowrance sonar systems to use all year to track vegetation growth in previously recorded trouble areas. The Lowrance units are also used to help FOCL, AEP, and Pulaski County to better study the effects of siltation in the upper part of the lake. Complete eradication of hydrilla is impossible and not the goal of FOCL and related agencies. The overall outlook is to control hydrilla in moderate levels so that it does not threaten native vegetation, nor become a navigational issue to boaters. The sonar program, along with traditional methods of ground truthing, will provide everyone with an accurate base of where and what type of vegetation are growing in Claytor Lake. One major benefit of this program is that anyone with a higher-end Lowrance system on their boat can help VDGIF, AEP, and FOCL continue to survey areas and provide more accurate tracking of vegetation.

The sonar program also has become valuable in FOCL's effort to establish an abutment above Lowman's Ferry Bridge so that our clean-up program can extend throughout the upper area of Claytor Lake.



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Spring Splash 2015

FOCL's Events Committee is excited to announce that the Spring Splash 2015 will be held on Sunday May 3rd, 2015, from 4-7pm at the beautiful Rockwood Manor (B&B and Event Center) in Dublin, Virginia.

Business and Corporate Sponsors and donations for both the silent and live auctions are being requested.

For more information, please contact either Buddy Johnston, (540) 320-1128 bjohnsto@radford.edu or Chris Meade, (540) 476-1126 chris.meade1@comcast.net

Help us make this fundraising event for FOCL the best EVER!

The Friends of Claytor Lake - P.O. Box 300 - Dublin, VA 24084 - www.focl.org - (540) 395-FOCL



On July 1, 2014, FOCL, alongside AEP, VDGIF, The Bass Federation, and the Claytor Lake State Park staff started our Native Vegetation Project. This project reintroduces native vegetation of water celery and water willow back to the lake that was choked off by the overwhelming growth of hydrilla over the past few years. With the hydrilla now at a manageable level, it was the perfect time to plant vegetation that not only has a better chance of growth, but is also less susceptible to the hydrilla's hostile takeover.



With helpful advice and tips from Army Corp. of Engineers Lynde Dodd, FOCL purchased and brought in 628 water willows and 148 water celery plants from North Carolina. Also purchased were specialty cages from New Jersey to protect the new plants and allow the vegetation to flourish. This important project will not only provide the shoreline of Claytor Lake with more stabilization, but will also serve as needed aquatic habitat.



Water-willow is a perennial plant that is common along stream and lake margins. The water-willow grows to approximately three feet tall and often forms dense colonies that help stabilize shorelines. The stems do not usually branch and have prominent whitish lines. The leaves are opposite, long and narrowly tapered (up to six inches long and one-half inch wide) with smooth margins and a distinctive whitish midvein. The leaves look very much like those of the willow tree. Water-willow flowers from May through October. The flowers are on long stems originating from the base of the leaves. Flowers are 5-petaled orchid-like (3/4 inch diameter), white with purple/violet streaks on the lower petals. Water-willow can spread from seeds and forms extensive rhizomes by which it forms colonies and spreads rapidly.

Variegated water celery is a colorful, low spreading plant typically planted in water gardens partially submerged at the margins. The colorful, serrated leaflets of the variegated water celery pops with beautiful pink tips! About mid summer, tiny white flowers in umbels bloom. Also known as the flamingo plant or java dropwort, it's a popular favorite for koi ponds since it makes a nutritious snack for hungry mouths. Some gardeners recommend rotating two planters keeping one in the pond for koi and another kept away from koi and allowed to grow back – to maintain a constant supply on hand. Though it is a lovely ornamental plant, the variegated water celery is fast growing so take care in placement and expect plenty of spread. When placed properly, the variegated water celery makes an excellent ground cover and a great choice for bog filters. Plants will grow fastest in wet soil under direct sun.



Close to thirty volunteers from FOCL, AEP, VDGIF, The Bass Federation, and the Claytor Lake State Park staff were on hand for what turned out to be an entire day of planting.



2014 Kid's Fish Day

Every year families visit Camp Powhatan for VDGIF and Pulaski County's Kid's Fish Day. This year was no different as record numbers of kids and parents lined the shores of Camp Powhatan to learn about fishing, the environment, aquatic species, and vegetation. Over 1,100 people attended this year's Kid's Fish Day.

It has grown exponentially every year as parents and kids enjoy outdoor activities.



8th Grade Day with FOCL

On this May 29th, FOCL took Dublin Middle School 8th Graders for an adventure on the water. Assisted by VDGIF Conservation Officer David Peak, the students had fun learning about Claytor Lake, boater safety, and the proper size and wearing of life vests. An learning activity showed the students the length of time it takes trash to decompose in the lake. This helped show the importance of keeping our beautiful lake clean.



2014 Wounded Warrior Fishing Day

The 3rd Annual Wounded Warrior fishing day had wonderful weather on Claytor Lake as veterans and their families came to participate in a fishing tournament and take their families on boat rides on June 22nd. All branches of our Armed Forces were on hand. The event was organized by the VDGIF, the Claytor Lake State Park staff, and the Virginia Wounded Warrior Project. Sponsors of the event included FOCL, Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, Virginia State Police, Region 4 TBF(Bass Federation), Claytor Lake State Park staff, Wal-Mart, VFW Post 776, Volvo, Rorrer Well Drilling, Fenton Well Drilling, Country Kitchen, American Legion 58, Anglers Envy, Preferred Pumps, Boy Scout Troop 48, and Frito Lay. Over 100 veterans and their families came out to enjoy a morning on the water and were treated to lunch catered by Country Kitchen. Gift bags and prizes were awarded.



2015



Our 2015 Calendar is again filled with great lake events for the entire family. Everyone is welcome to attend any and all events.

May 3rd, 2015 - Second Annual Spring Splash

May 9th, 2015 - Pulaski County Kid's Fish Day

June 7th, 2015 - Wounded Warrior Fishing Day

June 13th, 2015 - Claytor Lake Festival

June 27th, 2015 - ALL LAKE CLEAN UP DAY

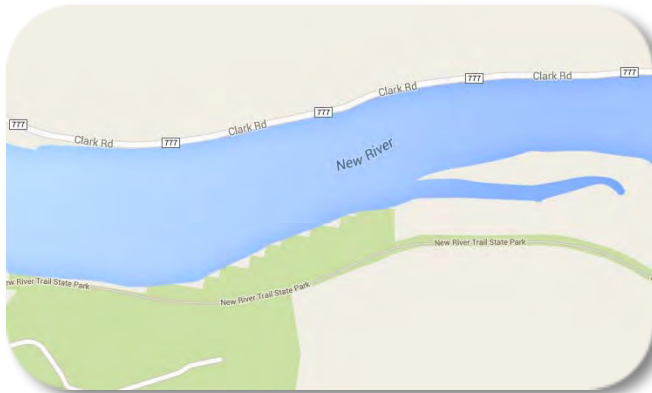
July 18th, 2015 - FOCL Day at MK's Pizzeria

August 15th, 2015 - FOCL Annual Meeting

August 22nd, 2015 - FOCL Fishing Tournament

Some dates and event are tentative and/or not planned yet. FOCL Supporters will be updated as things change or are added for next summer.

Above Bridge Abutment Update:



Clark Road:

Currently FOCL, Appalachian Power, Pulaski County, and VDOT are working together with Virginia Shoreline to being plans of building an abutment along Clark Road. This will allow FOCL's entire clean up equipment to be unloaded and reloaded easily to clean the upper lake. While there will still be challenges, FOCL understands that it is time to begin addressing the debris in the upper part of the lake.

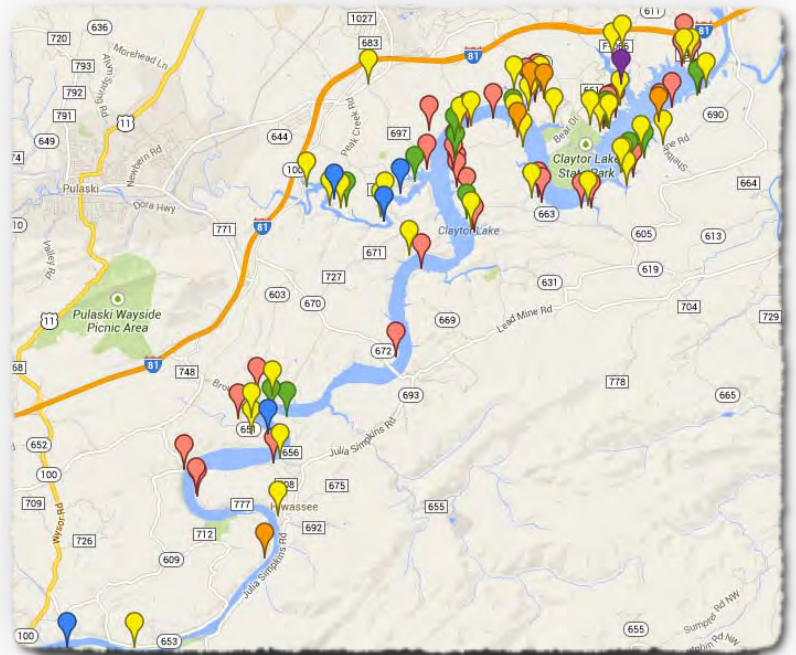
Are you on our map?

The Friends of Claytor Lake are so proud of the stakeholders and recreational lake users that contribute to us each year that we do everything we can to acknowledge and celebrate their contributions to our organization.

Sadly only 7-10% of property owners donate to FOCL each year. With the amount of work that FOCL puts into keeping Claytor Lake such a wonderful recreational destination, we would love to see property owners, boaters, anglers, and more start to help FOCL by making a tax deductible donation each year to keep our projects funded and Claytor Lake beautiful!

HELP OUT NOW!


WWW.FOCL.ORG/DONATE





2014 Business Donations:

Claytor Lake Watersports - Kollmorgen - Peak Shores, Inc. - MK's Gourmet Pizzeria & Shoppe - Lake Country General Store - Lakeview Rentals, LLC - Mallard Point Homeowners Association - Montgomery County Game & Fish Club - Blame it on the Cupcake - Biological Monitoring, Inc. - 3GEN, LLC - CFH Properties - GJR Investments - Price Williams Realty, Inc. - Pulaski Bikes

2014 Individual Donations: (as of October 1, 2014)

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 **Lieutenant - \$275 - \$499** - Ballein, John & Stephanie - Bostic, Ted & Barbara - Brown, John L. - Caldwell, Bob & Polly - Callaway, Tom & Teresa - Cole, Thomas - Dearing-Kelley, Bridget & Brian Dearing - Fintel, William & Connie - Foster, Bud & Jaqueline - Gamett, Daniel & Sally - Greever, Bill & Roxanne - Harvey, George Jr. & Lisa - Hunter, John & Allison - Johnson, John P. & Betty - Johnston, H.S. & Janet - Kiser, Ralph & Shirley - Lineberry, Ben & Sarah - Noftsinger, Mark & Alberta - Osborne, Mary & Richard - Rakes, Kenneth & Kay - Reynolds, Bill & Diane - Ricketts, Kathryn C. & Darrel S. - Roche, Patrick & Kathleen - Shuler, James & Margaret - Walker, Allen Jr. - Wheeler, Ben & Erica - Woodward, John & Jan

 **Ensign - \$125 - \$274** - Agee, Everett & Becky - Armstrong, David & Merilyn - Baird, Don & Treasha - Baker, Sandra & Mark - Balconi, John S. - Balzer, Amy & Pete - Bandolin, Larry & Patti - Bartlett, John & Vicki - Belk, Mary & Ralph - Bierman, Ronald & Victoria - Birch, Jeff & Sandy - Brandau, Scott Dr. - Bullard, Laura - Chrisman, Craig & Anne - Claytor, Preston & Nina - Conner, Banks & Opal - Conner, Bob & Barbara - Conner, Ken & Lou - Conrad, Glen & Mary Ann - Cook, Chuck & Amy - Cook, Shirley - Crabtree, Evelyn - Craft, Tammy - Crews, Edward C. - Cunningham, Clarke & Cindy - Dalton, Phil & Cathy - Danner, Janet or Dee - Davidson, Frances - Dean, Richard H. - Disalvo, Richard & Susan - Dobyons, David & Susan - Downard, Donald & Lynda - Duncan, Paul - Duncan, Andy & Linda - Eifried, Gary & Sharon - Ellett, Juanita & Guy - Erdelyi, Barbara - Ernst, Monica - Fahl, Laurie - Farmer, Michael & Dianne - Fife, Richard & Jenny Garrett - Franz, Jeanine F. - GE Foundation - Graham, Bob & Flo - Grant, Herb & Lynne - Gray, Ken & Jan - Hagerman, Steven & Susan - Hall, Linda & Ronald - Harris, Hilda & Paul - Harrison, John S - Harvey, Brad & Stephanie - Hawley, Jim & Mary - Hayes, Charles & Phyliss - Hedge, Arnold & Dianne - Hoffman, Michael & Carol - Hylton, James M. - Jacobs, Steve - Johnson, Sidney & Barbara - Jones, Shawn & Jennifer - Kessler, David & Anita - King, Donald & Ann - Louthan, Fran & Dick - Mallard Point Townhome Assoc. Inc - Mann, Scott & Becky - Manning, Tommy & Maggie - Mansell, Rick & Carol Pratt - Martin, Larry - Mayberry, MD Barry M - McGee, Henry - Metcalfe, Tom & Sara - Miano, Marc & Sarah Tilson-Miano - Moore, Larry & Mary Ann - Moore, Patrick & Angela - Nash, Violet - Nix, Terry & Wanda - Oakes, Ed & Missy - Peak Shore Inc. - Perkins, Robert & Shirley - Porter, Joe & Ava - Purdue, Michael & Lisa - Quillen, Sherwood - Ragsdale, Cliff & Katherine - Rapp, Steven - Rotanz, Bob & Wendy - Royal, MD Orrren L. - Saal, Fred & Claire - Sarver, Darryl & Kim - Sayers, Maynard & Sharon - Scruggs, Dr. Jackie R. - Shannon, Walter & Helen - Shealor, Duane & Bonnie - Simmons, L.T. - Simpson, Bill & Betty - Skelton, John - St. John, Fred & Santina - Stewart, Charles & Ruth - Stossner, Jeanne - Stutzman, Dr. Warren & Claudia - Sutherland, Wayne & Faye - Sutphin, Kirk L. - Turk, James C. & Barbara - Turman, Dennis - Vandyke, TJ - Wampler, Roland & Barbara - Warlick, H.C. & Anne - Webster, Samuel & Jane Claytor - Weltens, Keith Patrick - Wheeler, William & Margaret - Wilcox, Sanford & Janice - Wilkenson, Thomas & Constance - Wirt, Ralph & Martha.

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