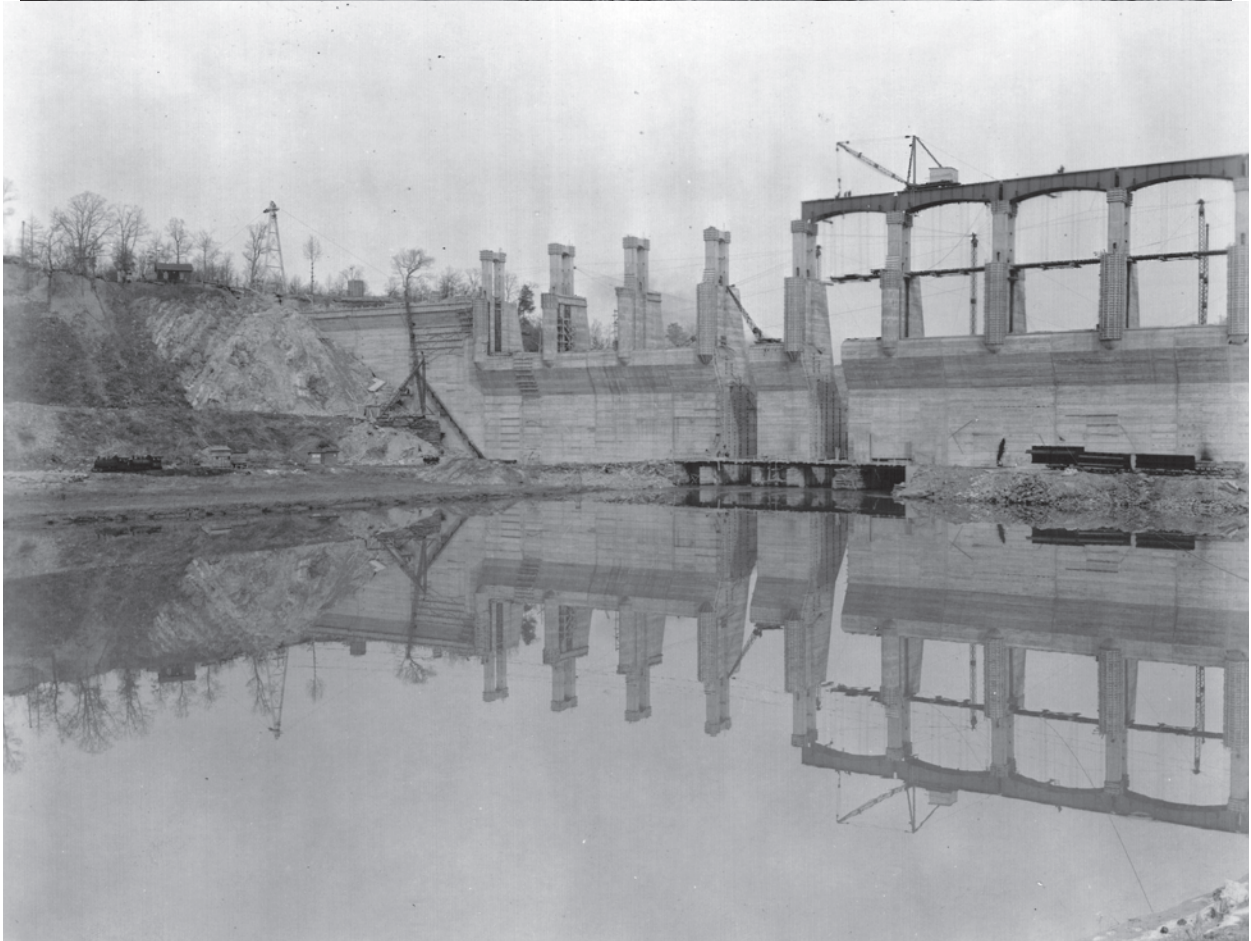
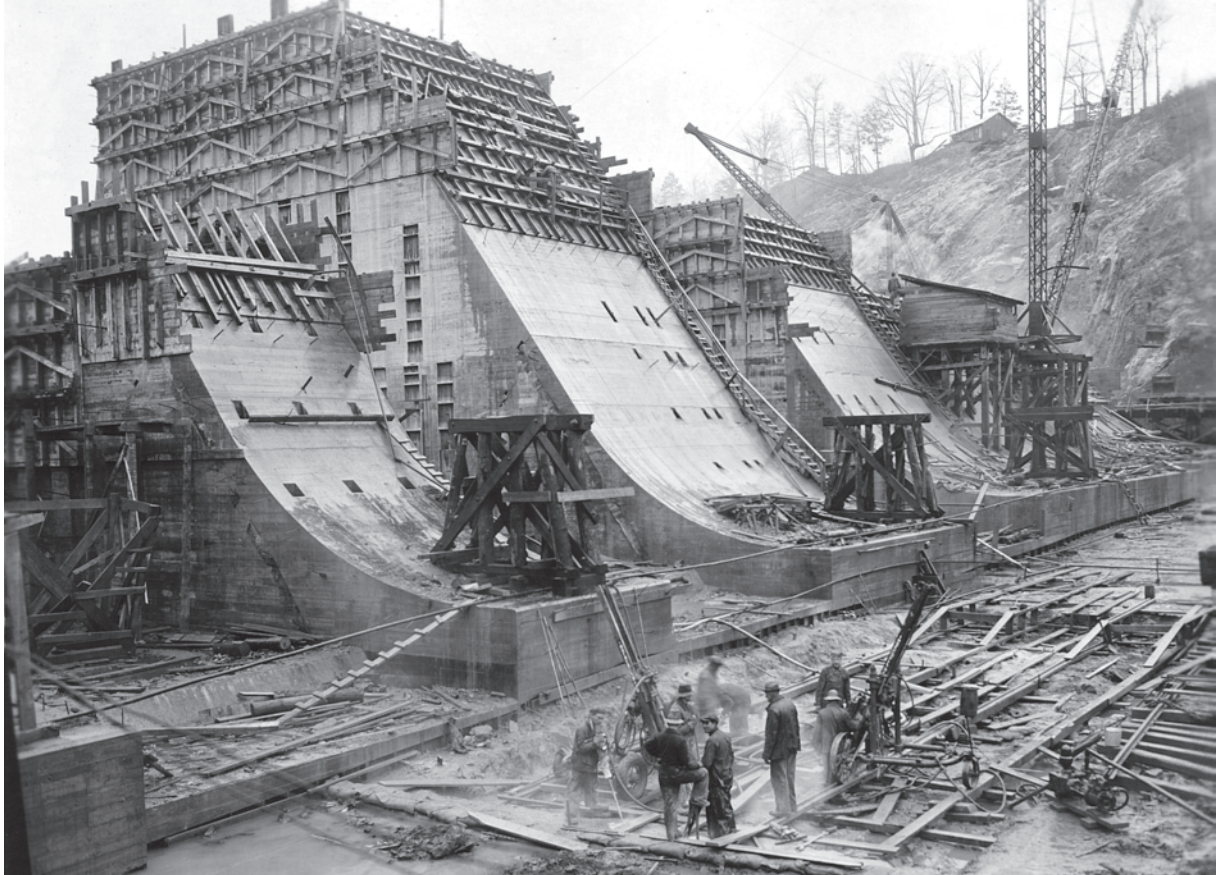




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# 70 drums being pulled from lake and Peak Creek

By WAYNE QUESENBERRY  
Staff Writer

Most of the drums washed into Peak Creek and Claytor Lake by recent flooding are expected to be removed today by efforts of the Virginia Department of Emergency Services and the Pulaski County Office of Emergency Services.

According to local emergency services coordinator Stan Crigger, 40 such drums are aboard a barge with 30 more expected to be loaded by evening.

"We may have missed some. Some are totally submerged," Crigger stated.

With the help of a water witch surface dredger donated

to the county by Appalachian Power Company, Crigger and his crew began clean up Monday. The dredger, he said, is okay for removing the drums but is not the answer to extensive clean up of the waterways.

The contents of the barrels are another problem. Some are full and others are half full of unknown substances. Where the containers originated is not known but some of the debris is believed to have come from North Carolina.

"We're overpacking the drums if they are leaking. We're taking precautions if we think they might contain ha-

Please see DRUMS, page 2



Staff photo by Dee Ann Lindsey

Debris in the coves and along the shoreline of Claytor Lake is target of clean up effort

## Drums

Continued from page 1

zardous materials," Crigger remarked.

While recovery of the drums is the main concern, other debris in the lake and its tributaries remains a problem. Trees, logs, bottles, needles, syringes and trash clog the shoreline.

"We pushed some of the big trees in the channels out of the main channel. We slid a lot of the trees out," he added.

Crigger noted the task is complicated by snakes and the debris. He said the crew killed a copperhead yesterday and had to wade carefully through the glass, needles and syringes.

"It's a pretty tough job. I've never seen such a mess," he said.

Additional ways of cleaning the lake and streams are being studied. One possibility being explored is a volunteer effort by groups and individuals.

"We've got a lot of volunteers. People have shown a lot of interest in the cleanup. We're considering the possibility of this. We need to have APCO as a partner," he commented.

Claytor Lake State Park Manager Richard Johnson envisions a massive clean up using dump trucks, cranes, recycling bins, grinders for the logs and hundreds of volunteers.

"It will take a lot more than a few people to do it. It's not something a few people can do. It's not something that can be done in a day. There is a lot of concern from the people. They realize it's not somebody else's problem. It's everybody's job," Johnson stated.

He also noted that people don't have to have boats to help with the cleaning. Much of the debris in the coves and shorelines, he said, can be reached without a boat.

Few boaters have been willing to brave the debris-covered water since heavy rain flooded the area earlier this month.

In a called meeting Monday afternoon the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors adopted an emergency declaration seeking federal and state assistance to cover flood damages.

## Debris clogs Peak Creek

By DEE ANN LINDSEY  
Assistant Editor

Take a boat ride with Bob Conrad of Conrad Brothers Marine and he can show you where people like to boat and ski on Peak Creek and where others like to camp.

Unlike the shallow waters that flow through the town of Pulaski, the lower end of the creek is at least 100 feet deep in some areas.

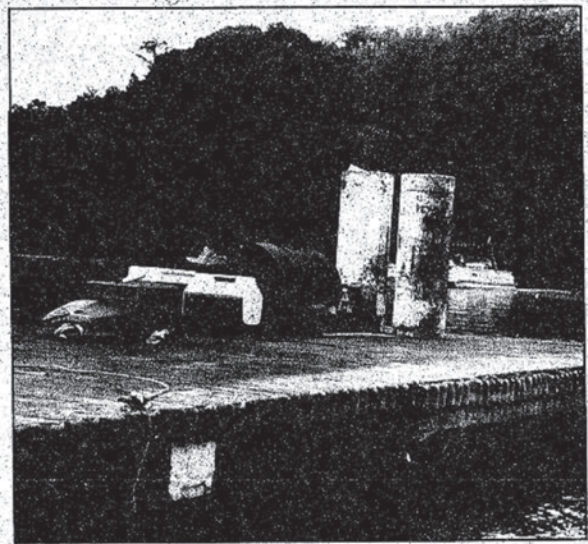
However, activity on the creek has been almost at a standstill since flooding hit the area and along with the high waters came debris and trash out of North Carolina.

Monday there were only a few boaters willing to risk their crafts in the debris covered waters of Peak Creek and Claytor lake.

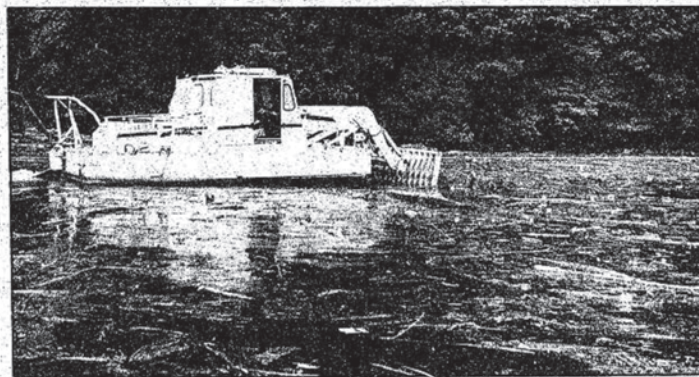
Pulaski County through its Emergency Services Office began clean up efforts Monday supervised by Emergency Services Director Stan Crigger.

Crigger is most concerned about the barrels in the water. Where they were originally floating about a foot out of the water and could be easily seen

Please see CREEK, page 2



Barge carries supplies for cleanup crew and three drums pulled from the water



Staff photo by Dee Ann Lindsey

Pulaski County continues to use the boat donated by APCO to clean up Claytor Lake and Peak Creek

## County seeks federal aid for flooding

By WAYNE QUESENBERRY  
Staff Report

For the second time in three months Pulaski County is seeking state and federal assistance because of flood damage. In a called meeting Monday afternoon the board of supervisors adopted an emergency declaration.

Heavy rains on June 4 caused creeks and streams to overflow their banks, covering fields, roads and bridges. They

also prompted the evacuation of several families in parts of the county and town.

According to Pulaski County Coordinator of Emergency Services Stan Crigger, hardest hit areas of the county were Little Creek Road near Cloyd's Mountain, Parrott and Allsonia.

Twelve families living in a mobile home park on Little Creek Road and Route 100 were evacuated. At least five vehicles in that area sustained

water damage.

Some flooding in the Parrott area was caused as the Claytor Lake dam flood gates discharged water.

In the Town of Pulaski, areas along Dora Highway, Lotter Bottom and Kersey Bottom were flooded. Several families were evacuated.

"I don't know if we'll get federal assistance this time. I doubt it," he told the board of supervisors yesterday.

Crigger also reported on the

removal of debris from Claytor Lake. He said drums — some empty and others nearly full — in the water are a major concern.

"The drums are our first priority," he stated. Officials are concerned about what might be in the drums since the contents are unknown.

With the help of a water witch surface dredger donated by Appalachian Power Com-

Please see AID, page 2

## Aid

Continued from page 1

pany, the county has begun removing the barrels from the water.

"The boat is not going to clean up Claytor Lake...It's not going to solve our problems," Crigger remarked.

Supervisor Ira S. "Pete" Crawford asked, "What will it take to do a volunteer clean up of the lake?"

Crawford suggested adopting the lake for a cleaning project in a similar manner to the Adopt A Highway program.

It also was suggested that several agencies be contacted — most notably APCO — about

a Claytor Lake cleaning project.

In the meantime some residents along the lake and other bodies of water are burning trees, logs, limbs and other wood washed ashore by floodwaters.

Pulaski County was among 24 counties and cities approved last month for federal disaster assistance through a declaration from President George Bush.

Hivassess and Allsonia were hit hard by flooding April 21 and 22. Three bridges in that area, several roads and homes were damaged.



## Lake cleanup to provide wood for heat this winter

Staff Report

Friends of Claytor Lake and other volunteers will be cleaning up of the lake coves Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clean-up will be of special benefit to those who burn wood for heat during winter.

During the day, drift wood from the lake will be offered free to people as fuel for wood stoves and fireplaces. It should be noted that drift wood needs to dry out for two to three weeks before being burned.

By giving away the wood to those who will burn it, Assistant

Photo courtesy of FOCL

FOCL volunteers gather driftwood during a recent lake cleanup

Please see LAKE, page 2

# Board okays FOCL request

By DEE ANN LINDSEY  
Assistant Editor

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors has approved a request by the Friends of Claytor Lake for \$5,590 to monitor water quality. But the board would also like the organization to approach American Electric Power Co. for a contribution since it actually owns the water that makes up the lake.

The lake is the source of drinking water for Pulaski County.

According to James K. Palmer, FOCL representative and project manager, it will be a volunteer and public education effort modeled after a program on Smith Mountain Lake.

Key features of the proposed program are public involvement and accurate water quality monitoring, said Palmer.

Volunteer lake residents, users and student interns will take samples of lake water bi-weekly during the summer from 12 selected sites.

Each of the 72 samples will be analyzed for content of chlorophyll and phosphorus. Excessive algal growth, an indicator of lake degradation, is a primary cause of undesirable water properties such as turbidity, off-colors and off-odors, according to Palmer.

The volunteer monitors will also measure the water clarity at each site via the Secchi Disk Method; this is a measure of the depth at which a standard disk is no longer visible when lowered into the lake.

"Water clarity is decreased by both algae and suspended particles," said Palmer.

All chemical analyses will be carried out at Ferrum College using the procedures developed at Smith Mountain Lake. Professionals from the college will train the volunteers on how to take samples.

It was noted the project would cost substantially more if all services by the project manager, volunteers and consultants were charged at the market rates for these services.

By utilizing volunteers, some \$2,550 will be saved. There are additional savings because volunteers will not charge for the

use of their boats in the sampling process on Claytor Lake.

FOCL is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of Claytor Lake.

**CLAYTOR LAKE CLEAN UP:** Friends of Claytor Lake. Participate in the trash collection at Claytor Lake on May 22, 1993 and bring a trash bag full to Harry's Point Campground and receive a free Coca Cola compliments of Harry's Point Campground.

## Clean Up CORNER

Contact Line: 980-7762

The Friends of Claytor Lake is sponsoring the following projects: Lake Debris Clean-up. Since its inception, the clean-up of debris in Claytor Lake has been a concern and have sponsored clean-up days by encouraging the public to participate. This past year, this group worked in collaboration with the County Board of Supervisors and county agencies on this goal. By the end of summer, over 350 tons of debris had been removed from the lake. During the coming summer, they hope to improve this effort and continue to work with Pulaski County, as well as the general public in cleaning the trash from the lake.

Boating safety—another concern of the Friends of Claytor Lake—have offered boater safety courses and have placed three safety buoys on shoals that have been dangerous to boaters. Three board members who are qualified and accredited to teach boating knowledge and safety courses will be giving a course the coming spring at the New River Community College. They have just received a grant to assist in getting equipment to continue these courses.

The group also initiated a program to measure the water quality at Claytor Lake. At regular intervals, water samples were taken at selected sites throughout the summer months and sent to laboratories for analysis as to acidity, substances, phosphates, bacteria, odor, etc., which have shown in earlier studies to be key indicators of lake water quality.

The Friends of Claytor Lake began as an ad hoc committee of the Clean Community Council in late 1992. Present board members are, Mike Spraker, president; J. Dean Jackson, president-elect; William Cunningham, treasurer; Judy Furr, secretary; Charles Cook, board of supervisors representative; Mike Thacker (American Electric Power); Gary Buckner, Joe Calkins, Tim Farley, Jim Kelly, Marti McCallister, Ron Powers and Bettye Steger.

The group's board of directors meet at Conrad Brothers Marina on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in the summer months). The public is invited and their comments are encouraged. For more information call Dean Jackson (980-1575) or Judy Furr (639-4864).

## FOCL seeking more funds

By DEE ANN LINDSEY  
Assistant Editor

**PULASKI**—For fiscal 1997-98, the Friends of Claytor Lake are seeking \$29,985, from the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors to continue its lake cleanup efforts and water quality monitoring.

While the request is an increase from last year, FOCL members believe they'll be able to remove twice the amount of debris from the lake.

Ron Powers and Jim Palmer, both with FOCL, also reported that tests show the water quality of Claytor Lake is equal to that of Smith Mountain Lake.

"It appears Claytor Lake's water quality is declining more slowly than Smith Mountain Lake's, based on the fact that Claytor Lake is a considerably older lake, filled in 1943, and has the identical water quality to the younger Smith Mountain Lake, filled in 1965," said Palmer.

"The bad news is that Claytor Lake is an aging lake with some undesirable water properties such as lower clarity and some green discoloration, resulting from excessive alga populations," said Palmer, who advised that the water quality needs to be monitored several more years to note any year to year trends in water quality.

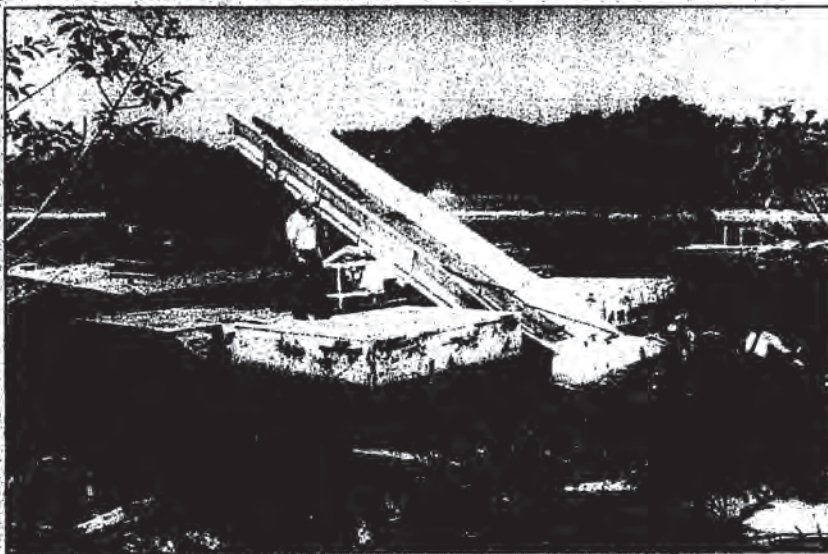
Last year, \$5,085 was spent on water quality testing.

During 1996, FOCL used a labor-intensive method to remove debris from the lake and was able to collect 450 tons of debris.

This year, FOCL plans to remove 800 tons of debris due to increased efficiency that will require an equipment investment of two platforms, bulkheads, conveyor, johnboat, and the use of deputies to guard inmate labor.

FOCL made its presentation to the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors Monday night. Supervisor Jerry White asked that FOCL approach American Electric Power to share in some of the expense.

However, the FOCL request will be considered during the budget process for the county which gets underway in April.



A conveyor owned by American Electric Power has speeded FOCL's most recent cleanup effort on Claytor Lake

## FOCL finishes second year of Claytor cleanup

By G. LYLE TEFFT  
Staff Writer

**PULASKI**—After completing the second year of an ongoing cleanup effort at the lake, the Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL) hope to use this winter to fine tune that effort and to seek participation of additional county residents and lake users in the organization's activities.

FOCL, which now has about a dozen active members, was formed eight years ago after Hurricane Hugo swung through the area clogging the lake with storm debris—and calling atten-

tion to a ironic problem. "No one was dealing with cleaning the lake. The only thing that was getting done was by private property owners," claimed Ron Powers, a member of FOCL's board of directors. "A group of citizens gathered together, held a series of public meetings and then organized themselves and elected a board."

The result of that initiative was an organization seeking to bring together all the "stakeholders" in the lake—from lakeside property owners to

Please see FOCL, page A7



The old FOCL cleanup method at Claytor Lake involved hard work on the part of Pulaski County Jail inmates

## FOCL

Continued from page A1

sportsmen to government officials—to address issues affecting it. Ultimately, Powers noted, stakeholders in the lake include every citizen of Pulaski County.

"The lake is the largest single physical and environmental feature of the county," he said, "and it is a major revenue producer."

As time went on, Powers said, the focus of the organization expanded from cleaning up the lake to dealing with all issues associated with the sustainability of the lake. As part of its efforts, FOCL is currently engaged in a water quality monitoring efforts involving period sampling from a dozen different sites on the lake. In addition, it offers boater safety courses a couple of times a year, an activity supported by grant funds.

But the clean up of the lake has been the most visible—and most involved—of the organization's undertakings. That effort went into high gear last year with the support of the county's board of supervisors.

"We went to the board of supervisors with a plan to use inmate labor and mesger technology in a labor-intensive way to clean the lake," Powers explained.

The clean up initiative involved the use of U.S. army surplus pontoons originally intended to support a pontoon bridge. The pontoons—essentially open barges—would be towed into a cove, and inmates from the Pulaski County Jail would physically load wood waste and other debris into the pontoons. Then the pontoons would be towed to a dock where they would be unloaded by hand and the waste placed in a roll-off dumpster. The county paid the salary of the deputy required to guard the inmates, a cost of about \$15,000, and also handled transportation of the debris for disposal.

Using this method, FOCL removed 450 tons of debris during the summer of 1996. However, it was realized at that time a more efficient method was needed. "We needed a mechanical system where we only had to load the debris once," Powers said.

That system came about with the help of American Electric Power, which operates the

Claytor Lake Dam. AEP provided a conveyor capable of lifting debris from water level up to the height of a roll-off trash container. Using volunteer labor with some welding help from local construction firms, FOCL constructed floating platforms capable of supporting the conveyor and a roll-off container. After those platforms were towed to a clean-up site, inmates could simply toss debris onto the conveyor which emptied into a roll-off container on a second platform. Once the container is full the platform is towed to a dock at Conrad Brothers Marine, where it is lifted off the platform by crane and loaded onto a truck.

"The inmates handle the debris only once, and it goes up the conveyor and into the roll-off," Powers said. "Operating with one roll-off most of the summer we were able to clean up over 800 tons of debris this year."

"I think it's been a good example of what you can accomplish with volunteers and public resources, if they can be coordinated," said County Administrator Joseph Morgan.

As part of the clean-up process, trash is separated out from wood debris; trash is bagged and sent to the landfill while wood debris is stockpiled at one of several sites to be burned or allowed to decompose naturally.

Cost of the operation, supported by the board of supervisors, is approximately \$30,000 a season. The value of inmate labor is estimated at over \$42,000.

"They are good people and hard workers," Powers said of the inmates who have made the project possible. He also praised the efforts of county officials including Morgan and Emergency Services Coordinator Stan Crigger, as well as former Sheriff Ralph Dobbins, Sheriff Jim Davis and the sheriff's department. Other key players, he said, include Dean Jackson at Conrad Brothers.

In addition, Powers cited the contributions of Charles Cook, a member of the county board of supervisors. "He has been very active in FOCL over the past two years and has been instrumental in helping us devise this approach," he said.

While downplaying his own contributions, Cook praised those involved in FOCL and the

lake cleanup effort.

"It's a loss of a talking and more of a doing organization," he noted. "They're not looking for anybody to pat them on the back for anything, they're just wanting to do what they can for the lake."

Also praising FOCL's work was Michael Thacker, reservoir manager for AEP and AEP's liaison to the group.

"I was very impressed with their operation," he said. "They made very good use of limited material and manpower. We support the Friends of Claytor Lake and think their work to clean the lake, improvement of water quality and the quality of life around the lake are to be commended."

While this year's cleanup effort experienced some unanticipated difficulties earlier this month when one of the floating platforms sank, it is anticipated that can be recovered and the incident shouldn't set back next year's effort.

Over the winter, FOCL plans to review and fine tune the clean-up operation, and also to reach out to stakeholders. "The winter will be spent in reorganizing the board to allow more participation from stakeholders and to appeal to those stakeholders," he said. "Without their support we cannot address the sustainability issue."

For those interested in becoming involved in those efforts, the next meeting of the group is scheduled on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. at Conrad Brothers Marine on Route 100.



## FOCL Fall Classic

September 16, 2017

The second FOCL Fall Classic Bass Tournament got underway on a foggy September Saturday morning. 173 boats took place in the tournament boasting over \$100,000 in prize money. A late start due to foggy conditions added additional drama to the tournament as early boats had to wait for safe conditions. It didn't deter anyone from coming in with plenty of Bass for the weigh-in.

### Tournament Results:

- First Place: Chris & Ben Eades
- Second Place: Perry Marvin & Cantley Kraft
- Third Place: Roger & Eli Pope
- Fourth Place: Steven Coleman & Aaron Falwell
- Fifth Place: Don & Mark Southern
- Sixth Place: Glenn Gardner & Stephen Collins
- Seventh Place: Gary Lintecum & Trenton Davis
- Eighth Place: Keith & Ben Chrisley
- Ninth Place: Thomas Wooten & James Cassaday
- Tenth Place: Larry Price & Todd Irwin

- Big Large Mouth: Donnie Hawks
- Big Small Mouth: Perry Marvin & Cantley Kraft

- First Place Youth: Eli Pope
- Second Place Youth: Ethan Orey
- Third Place Youth: Brody Musser
- Fourth Place Youth: Landon Mills
- Fifth Place Youth: Trey Price & Tyler Rasnake

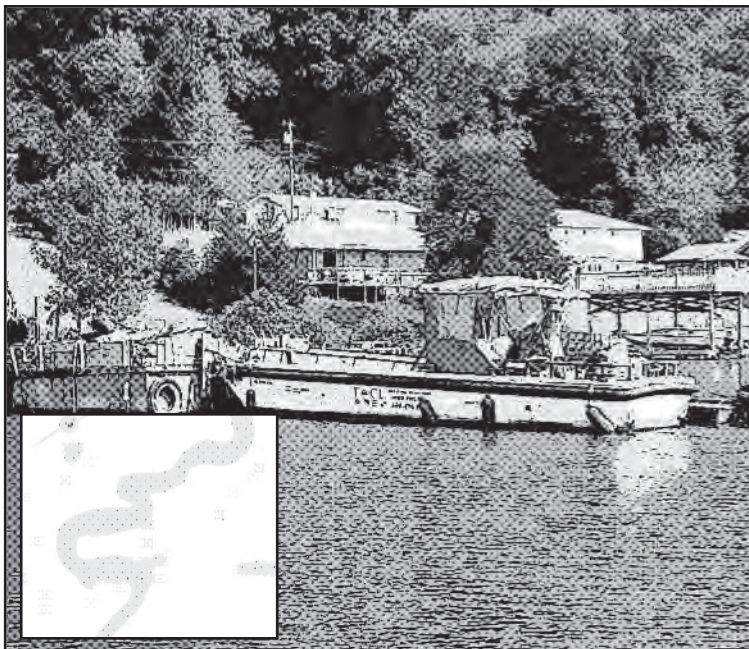

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 Read The County Calendar  
 Every Day in the  
 Lifestyles Section of  
 The Southwest Times



## 25 Years of FOCL History

In 1992, The Friends of Claytor Lake was formed in response to a flood, in which Peak Creek ran red, and resulting debris causing hazards for weeks. It is AMAZING to think that this volunteer group decided that they could “fix” these debris and water quality problems! We owe these people a HUGE debt of gratitude as they set the bar REALLY HIGH! This past spring, The Friends of Claytor Lake held its 25th Anniversary Gala to celebrate all that has been accomplished over the years and since 1994 when the organization was formed. FOCL brought back former Presidents of the organization as well as other key people that have continued to support FOCL and all its projects and programs on Claytor Lake.



## Southern Hospitality

After years of work and planning, The Friends of Claytor Lake finally were able to launch our clean up program above Lowman’s Ferry bridge. With a lot of planning still ahead, FOCL hopes the work in future years above Lowman’s Ferry Bridge will alleviate a good portion of debris fields downstream. While “clean up” is FOCL is “known” for, there are many other ongoing projects that support our mission. A few of these are Christmas for the Fishes, Mussel Salvage, Water Quality monitoring, Hydrilla education and management, Shoreline Management, Kid’s Fishing Day, 8th Grade Day, Veteran’s Fishing Day, Water Safety Programs, Fish Habitat, and much more. You can always see all the information about FOCL’s activities on [www.focl.org](http://www.focl.org).









## 5 Ft Drawdown is Back!!

This spring during the Technical Advisory Committee, The Friends of Claytor Lake successfully lobbied AEP and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to allow a 5 foot drawdown this year. This year’s drawdown will start on Nov 6th at 1 foot per day until it is down 5 feet on Nov 11. The 5 foot drawdown is scheduled to continue until the evening of November 19 when the lake will start refilling. A volunteer mussel salvage event will be held Nov 11. Please contact Laura Bullard at 540-392-3055 or [sunnyside@psknet.com](mailto:sunnyside@psknet.com) if you would like to participate. Again, as part of this drawdown, FOCL will need everyone’s help by filling out the enclosed drawdown card to let us know the number of mussels salvaged, and the repairs, new construction, or clean up of your shoreline. In order to insure future drawdowns, this data is absolutely CRUCIAL.

# Become a Supporter Today!

## Support the Claytor Lake Environment

- \_\_\_ Admiral Level - \$5,000 and Up 
- \_\_\_ Captain Level - \$1,000 to \$4,999 
- \_\_\_ Commander Level - \$525 to \$999 
- \_\_\_ Lieutenant Level - \$275 to \$524 
- \_\_\_ Ensign Level - \$125 to \$274 
- \_\_\_ Crew Level - \$50 to \$124 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_ DOBs: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up to FOCL Alerts (must have cell #)

Lake Living Status: Full Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part Time \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Renter \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

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