

Logan Martin Homes Edition

LAKE SIDE

Living

October 2014

Heart-Pounding Excitement

No time like
present for
top-water fishing

Blackwater Beautiful
Salvaged wood
to rustic furniture

October Contents



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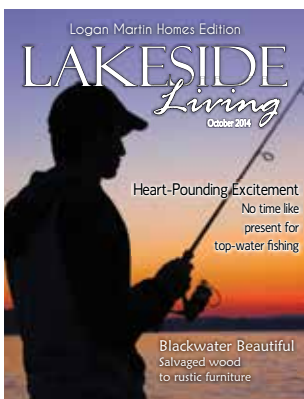
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On the cover: A crisp autumn morning and a rod-and-reel in hand makes you appreciate the true beauty of Logan Martin Lake. Photo by Charles Johnson

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Logan Martin Homes Edition
LAKESIDE
Living

*Covering life along
Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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HOOK, LINE & SINKER

CALENDAR KEY

Fishing Condition: This is the overall rating for the whole day, based upon our formula:

Best ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor ■

Best Time: This column lists the best time of the day when, according to our formula, fish will be biting: **MORNING**; **EVENING**.

Fishing License Refreshers

- Remember that Alabama recreational licenses now expire on Aug. 31 annually.
- Alabama residents can fish from the bank in their county of residence with hook and line (live bait only) without purchasing a license. Residents must be able to provide reasonable proof of residency while fishing.
- Alabama residents 65 years of age and over are exempt from purchasing licenses for hunting, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, state duck stamp and wildlife management area, but you must have Alabama driver's license or proof of permanent residence and age. (Does not include non-resident landowners.)

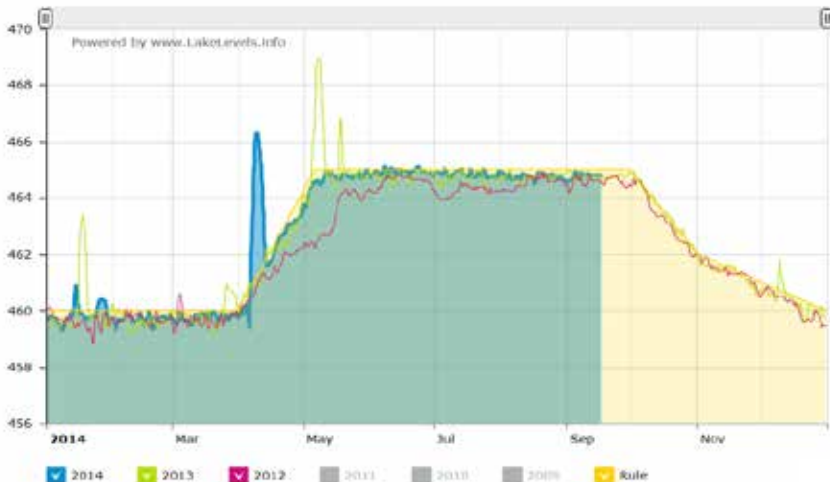
Information from Outdoor Alabama.
www.outdooralabama.com

Boating Tip

U.S. Coast Guard Regulation Title 33, Chapter I, Part 175, Subpart B says you must have USCG approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) on your recreational boat. How many and what type PFDs you'll need depends on the number of people on board, the size of your boat, and the kind of boating you do. If your boat is 16 feet or longer, you must have one of any of these wearable PFDs for each person on board plus at least one throwable device (Type IV PFD):

- Off-Shore Life Jacket (Type I PFD),
- Near-Shore Buoyant Vest (Type II PFD),
- Flotation Aid (Type III PFD),
- Special Use Device (Type V PFD),

For example, if there are four people on your 16-foot boat, you must have at least five PFDs -- four wearable PFDs and one throwable device.



October 2014

Oct 01, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Oct 02, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Oct 03, 2014	GOOD	Morning
Oct 04, 2014	GOOD	Morning
Oct 05, 2014	BEST	Morning
Oct 06, 2014	BEST	Morning
Oct 07, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Oct 08, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Oct 09, 2014	GOOD	Evening
Oct 10, 2014	GOOD	Evening
Oct 11, 2014	GOOD	Evening
Oct 12, 2014	POOR	Evening
Oct 13, 2014	POOR	Evening
Oct 14, 2014	BEST	Evening
Oct 15, 2014	BEST	Morning
Oct 16, 2014	POOR	Morning
Oct 17, 2014	POOR	Morning
Oct 18, 2014	POOR	Morning
Oct 19, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Oct 20, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Oct 21, 2014	POOR	Morning
Oct 22, 2014	POOR	Morning
Oct 23, 2014	POOR	Evening
Oct 24, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Oct 25, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Oct 26, 2014	POOR	Evening
Oct 27, 2014	POOR	Evening
Oct 28, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Oct 29, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Oct 30, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Oct 31, 2014	GOOD	Morning

Information from the Farmers' Almanac.

Lake Levels

Full Pool: 465 Feet
Winter Pool: 460 Feet
Flood Pool: 467 Feet

This graph and information come from the LakesOnline.com website.
For up-to-date lake levels, log on to <http://www.loganmartin.info/Level/>.

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Save
\$95

Reg. \$195
w/vest

\$99⁹⁵

Save
\$100

Reg. \$250
Wool Blend

\$149⁹⁵

Save
\$40

Reg. \$155
w/vest

\$114⁹⁵

Save
\$40

Blazer
Reg. \$100

\$59⁹⁵

Sale

Dress Shirts

\$17⁹⁵

Sale

Dress Pants

\$26⁹⁵

Sale

Dress Pants.....

Haggar
Savanne

Sug. \$65

\$34⁹⁵

Sale

Dress Pants.....

Van
Heusen

L.S.
Sug. \$40

\$21⁹⁵

Sale

Jean Shirts Knit.....

Reg. \$18

\$9⁹⁵

Sale

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Reg. \$24.95

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Community Calendar

2014 Pumpkin Palooza - The St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church will hold its annual fund raiser to benefit various church outreach programs through 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31. Visitors will find all over the church grounds pumpkins of every size, shape and price for sale to meet all their Halloween and fall seasonal decorating needs. Inside the Parish House there will also be home décor items, books, antiques, furniture, collectibles and jewelry for sale as well as previously loved dolls that have been beautifully restored for people of all ages and need loving homes. Located at 3702 Mays Bend Road in Pell City (at the intersection of Alabama Highway 34 and Mays Bend Road), the Pumpkin Palooza will open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. For more information call 205-884-0877.



Saturday, Oct. 4

Sycamore Arts and Crafts Festival and Antique Car Show

Family fun is on tap from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with arts, crafts and old cars alongside Alabama 21 in the area between Sycamore Federal Credit Union and Dollar General in Sycamore.

Breakfast fundraiser

A Southern style breakfast will be held at Stemley Volunteer Fire Department, 7-10 a.m. Located off Stemley Bridge Road on Alabama 34 at 125 Rock Church Road, across from The Shack BBQ.

Thursday, Oct. 16, Oct. 18, Oct. 19, Oct. 25 and Oct. 26 "Duck Hunter Shoots Angel"

The Pell City Players will present a comedy about redemption and a second chance, all set in a south Alabama swamp (after all, what better place is there to find redemption?) The Oct. 16, Oct. 18 and Oct. 25 performances will start at 7 p.m. while the Oct. 19 and Oct. 26 performances will start at 2 p.m. Individual tickets will be \$22.50 and \$15 for children under 8, students and seniors over 62. To order tickets visit the www.pellcitycenter.com or call 205-338-1974.

Saturday, Oct. 18-Sunday, Oct. 19

Geico 500 Race Weekend

The Talladega Superspeedway will host its annual fall race schedule with the Camping World Truck Series Fred's 250 Powered by Coca-Cola set for Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and the Sprint Cup Series Geico 500 set for Sunday at 1 p.m. The Sunday race will be the sixth in NASCAR's 10-race playoff to determine this year's Sprint Cup champion. For more information or to buy tickets, call 1-877-GO2-DEGA or visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Fifth Annual Big Springs 5K

This run through historic downtown Springville will be hosted by the Springville Chamber of Commerce to benefit the Springville Fire Department. Registration will begin at 7 a.m. with a 5k race scheduled to start at 8 a.m. and 1-mile Fun Run at 9 a.m. You can also register online at www.runsignup.com. For more information email chamber@springvillealabama.org.

Friday, Oct. 24

4th Fridays Downtown

The Pell City Chamber of Commerce continues its March through December tradition of offering up live music, food, fun and games for the entire family in downtown Pell City. The event will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and admission is free. For vendors, a \$10 fee will be charged, city fees may apply and application must be on file with the Pell City Chamber. For more details contact the Chamber office at 205-338-3377.

Saturday, Oct. 25

Haunted Trail Ride & Festival

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department will host a Haunted Trail Ride and Festival at Lincoln Park Sports Complex, 1584 Holly Hills Road, from 7 to 11 p.m. to promote National Night Out and domestic violence awareness. There will be a trail ride, games, movie, concessions, cake walk, trunk or treat, bouncy house, and Sparky from the Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department.

Saturday, Nov. 1

Fall Frenzy

This benefit to raise money for the Pell City School System is presented by The Pruitt & Richardson Foundation and will include plenty of fun for the whole family. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lakeside Park. Scheduled activities will include an 8 a.m. 5k/Fun Run with registration from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. (the school represented by the most runners will receive \$250 and winners of the adult and youth divisions will earn \$250 to be donated to the school or organization of their choice); a car show from noon to 6 p.m. open to all cars, trucks and motorcycles, both classic and modern (awards for the top 25 in show); music by the Iron City Pickers and Chase Davidson; carnival rides; pony rides and a petting zoo; food vendors and a ton of other free activities for the children. For more information, visit pcfallfrenzy.com or www.facebook.com/fallfrenzy. Businesses interested in being a sponsor are asked to call Bill Pruitt at 205-227-8369 or email him at bill@prlawfirm.com.

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'Shabby Chic'

Paramedic turned furniture maker
making his mark with old, reclaimed wood

Mark Russell uses
reclaimed wood for a
'weathered, salty feel' to
his furniture creations.

Story by CHRIS NORWOOD
Photos by BOB CRISP

Settling down at the lake can be an occasion for fresh starts and new beginnings. Examples abound, including recent relocators Mark Russell, who in the past year has gone from paramedic to furniture maker.

Russell is a Jasper native who met a Texas girl and moved to the Lone Star State to let her be closer to her

family. They arrived in Texas in 2006 and stayed for seven years, until, Russell said, "I wanted to reconnect with my family. We made the decision about two years ago, and moved back here in July."

Russell briefly returned to his vocation as a paramedic in Alabama, but things didn't work out as well.



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At left:
Silver kitchen cabinet handles grace the ends of many of the benches created by Blackwater Salvage.

Below: A rustic table balances the formal look of an Oriental rug.



“My wife and I were buying furniture, and I decided that I would try and build a table myself,” he explained. “I built a dining room table in the garage. Then I put it online, and got a good response. It’s really been a blessing to me.”

What began as a single dining room table is now blossoming into Blackwater Salvage. Blackwater, he says, comes from the name of the farm his father bought in the 1980s. The salvage part comes from

his frequent use of older, reclaimed wood for that “weathered, salty feel.”

That particular feel is perfect for the rustic, farmhouse look that Russell is going for in his creations. “I’ve done some log furniture, but mostly what I’m doing I guess you could say is ‘shabby chic.’”

He has worked with hardwoods, pine and antique barn wood up to 250 years old, and has made tables, benches, chairs and outdoor furniture from them. “You



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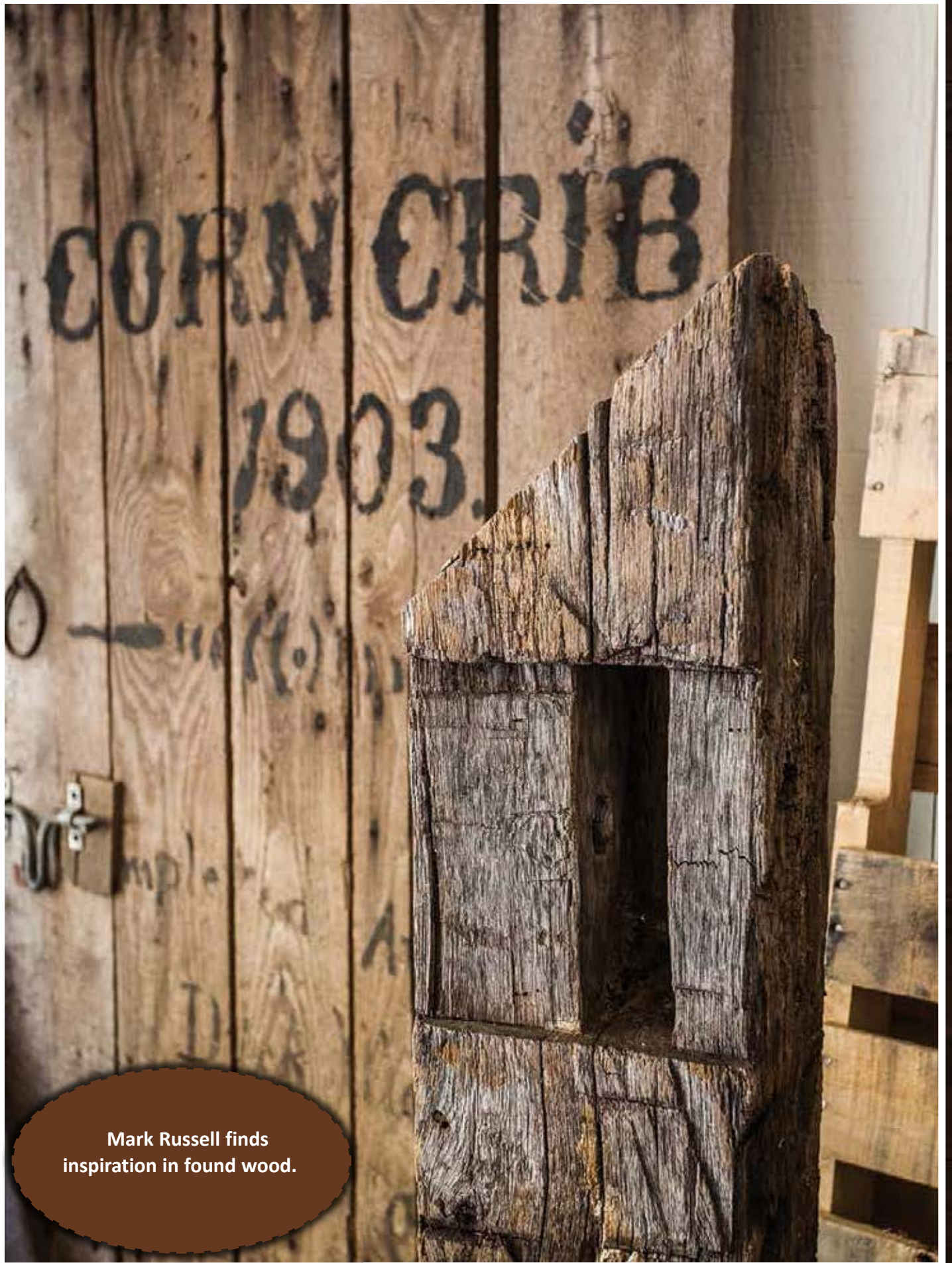
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Mark Russell finds
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Jasper native
Mark Russell has gone from
paramedic in Texas to furniture
builder in Alabama.



just have to get the right seal, the proper stain and the right weather proofing to deal with the Alabama climate," he said.

He had always had a background in what he called "minor carpentry," but has only recently decided to take up building furniture. "I got some books, went online, and studied the craft with a friend who was working in his garage, too. We found our strengths and weaknesses, and just went from there."

When building that first table and the benches to go around it, he came up with the idea of using silver kitchen cabinet handles on the end. His wife and others loved that touch, and he has used it again many times.

Russell keeps a portfolio of some of his best work, but one of his favorites so far is a table called Ulysees,

named in honor of the 18th President of the United States, Ulysees S. Grant.

"We used wood as old as the Constitution," he said. "It's a farm table with a white base, a walnut top and benches around it. I've already sold it, but I've still got the pictures."

Most of the pieces he hasn't sold remain on display at his house on Dry Creek Road, which has become something of a showplace. And he has no problem with folks dropping by to see what he's got.

Blackwater Salvage doesn't have its own website just yet, but you can also browse around on Facebook, on Craig's List and at online garage sales.

Russell can be reached at 205-338-6811. [☎](#)

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helping **VETERANS**

Local groups proud to share fun on the lake with those who have served



Story by LEW GILLILAND
Photos submitted by Jerry Woods

Jerry Woods is painfully aware that not all stories of those who served in defense of our nation have a happy ending, but over the last year, he's put together a program to bring some joy to the lives of those who did make it back.

Woods, owner of Woods Surfside Marina in Cropwell for the last nine years, leads a group of volunteers who take area veterans out for a day on Lake Logan Martin. Many of the veterans, both men and women, are from the World War II, Korea and Vietnam generations.

"I started it as a get-out program, honestly," said Woods, who grew up in Georgia and is a veteran himself after serving seven years in the Army National Guard. "Some of them like to fish, some of them just like to get out to see the area, and some of them grew up in the area before it was even a lake."

Volunteers provide a fun time on Logan Martin Lake for men and women who have fought for the American flag.

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Claude Wadsworth, one of the veterans who participated in the day on the lake program, noticed the marina's blue bird houses needed repairs, so he built the marina two new ones. Shown (from left) are Diana Woods, Wadsworth and Jerry Woods.

I thought I should do something to help those who made it back home, and I'm a veteran myself, and it was just something to say 'thank you for what you've done.'

-Jerry Woods

Woods, who is on the board for Logan Martin Lakefest, said the first event unfolded in 2013 in conjunction with the festival. Woods has coordinated all the events with the Col. Robert L. Howard Veterans Home in Pell City.

"I lost a brother in Vietnam in 1968," Woods said. "I thought I should do something to help those who made it back home, and I'm a veteran myself, and it was just something to say 'thank you for what you've done.'"

Woods has already coordinated five or six days on the lake for veterans and is planning another for this month.

He said the volunteers use pontoon boats. Some may be reserved for veterans who want to fish, while others are for those who just want to enjoy the scenery.

Woods said the day normally begins with the volunteers taking veterans out about 9 a.m. Participants return to shore at noon for lunch, and boats go back out again after lunch for veterans who want to spend more time on the lake.

Woods said the events were a group effort.

"I have some great volunteers who come help me," he said.

The volunteers included Don Issac, Jeff and Dawn Lovell, Norman Bryant, Howard Cunningham, Jim

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Veterans relax on a pontoon boat cruise on Logan Martin Lake.

Just to see them smile and know that they're having a good time and that we had the capability to provide that ... it just warms your heart.

-Jeff Lovell



Wilson, Buddy Thomas and Scotty Layfield. Thomas and Layfield do all the cooking.

"I guess there's really several reasons," Thomas said of why he participates. "One, I'm a veteran myself. Two, I live at the marina. I live at the trailer park at the marina with my partner and we think very highly of Jerry."

Thomas, who served in the Navy, said he and his

partner look for ways to get involved. He said they volunteer at the Christian Love Pantry in Pell City and also help out at the Pell City Center.

"We like to cook, and the primary thing we do when Jerry has one of these functions is cook for them," Thomas said. "We're close to all the guys at the marina, and so about once a month we cook for them. So when Jerry put this thing together, he asked if we would cook

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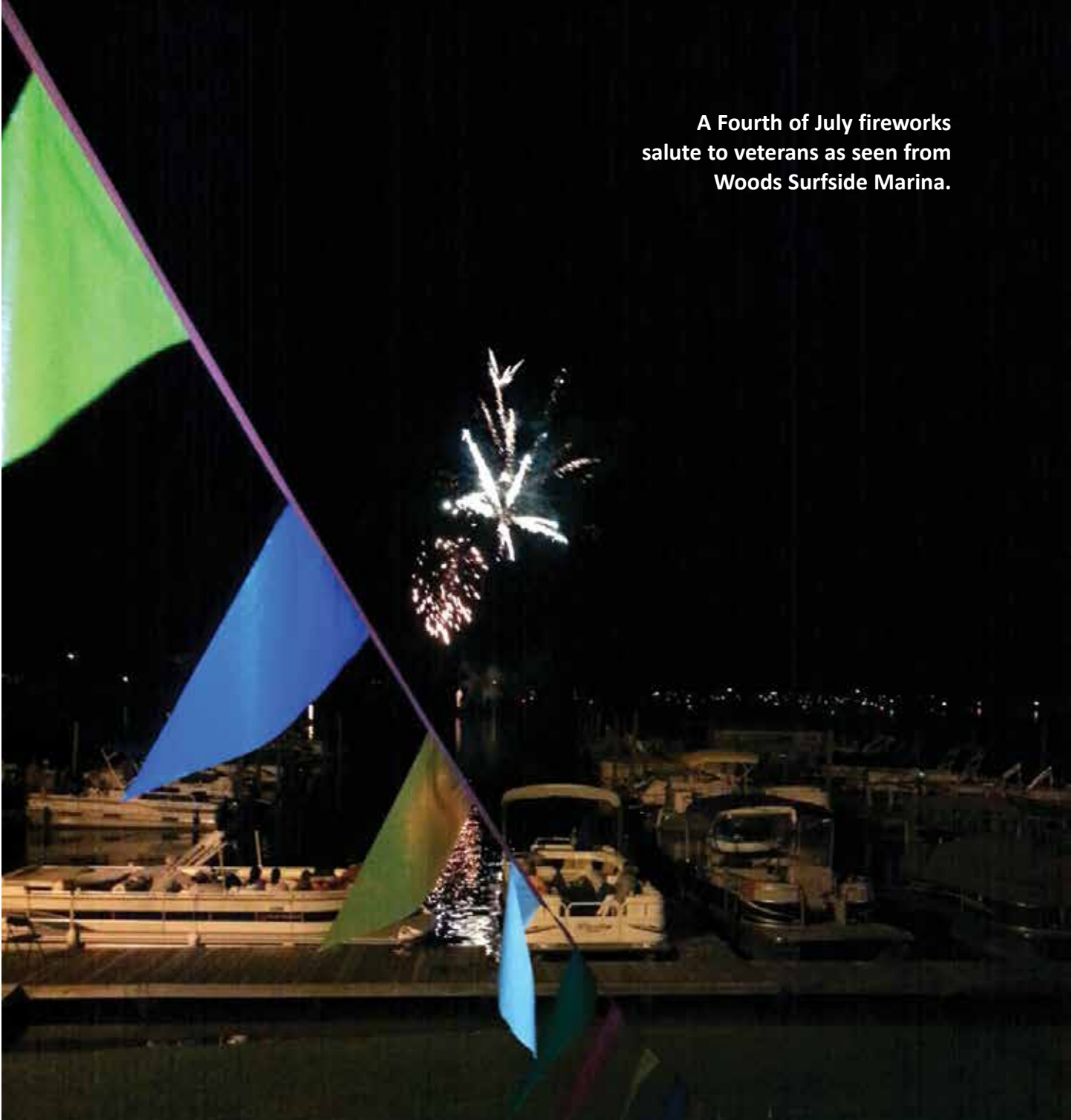
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A Fourth of July fireworks salute to veterans as seen from Woods Surfside Marina.


and we did, and the veterans were real appreciative. When Jerry asked me again this year, we were tickled to death.”

Jeff Lovell said for he and his wife, participating is about the responsibility to give back.

“I am a retired veteran and my wife is a retired veteran,” he said. “We’re very grateful for our service. We know it wouldn’t have been possible for us to serve if it wasn’t for those who served before us.

“We both feel when God blesses you, it’s your responsibility to give back. When he blesses us, he expects us to bless others. We’re both retired and so we have the capability to spend time with them.”

Lovell said seeing the veterans enjoy themselves is rewarding.

“Just to see them smile and know that they’re having a good time and that we had the capability to provide that ... it just warms your heart.” 

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At 75-years old, Jane Schroeder's life is golden.

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For over a year, Always There's Amelia Gibson has nurtured a special relationship with Mrs. Schroeder that transcends helping maintain her home and preparing her meals. They have become friends. In fact, when Mrs. Schroeder takes her two walks per day, she carries her cane in one hand and Amelia on the other. Jen says, "We can't imagine having anyone else care for her."

Like many adult children of aging parents, Jen has a busy personal life, which presents challenges in her ability to offer constant attention to her mother. Always There offers Jen a solution - call it a silver lining - to that cloudy issue. My mother is not always easy to deal with. I tried other companies in the area, and Always There has been by far the best. In particular their Care Management services have been a huge help with planning and decision-making. I couldn't be more pleased with their dependability and service."

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Shorelines

Alabama Power announces new website, app

STAFF REPORT

Alabama Power's new "Shorelines" lakes website and app provides customers and those who enjoy the outdoors new ways to learn about their lakes and conditions.

The Shorelines platform includes a smartphone app, website, mobile site, personalized email communication, social media and a blog, featuring stories and updates from the utility's lakes, according to an Alabama Power press release.

Through these channels, customers will be able to access lake levels, generation schedules and lifestyle features specific to the lake or lakes they prefer.

The website can be accessed at APCShorelines.com and the app, titled "Shorelines," can be downloaded in the Apple App Store.

Highlights include:

Website – APCShorelines.com features custom web pages for each reservoir with current water levels, generation schedules, weather conditions and interactive maps. The site connects the lake community through a blog of updates, stories, photos and videos about each lake.

Shorelines app – The Shorelines app is available for download in the Apple App Store. Users will be able to access lake levels, points of interest, fishing spots and blog content from their cellphone and tablet devices. Users can also subscribe to daily alerts from the app.

Social media – Shorelines will use social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, to share information and connect with the lake audience. Visitors can access these separately or

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through the website for up-to-the-minute information about Alabama Power reservoirs.

Email alert system – Users can subscribe to daily emails communicating lake levels, generation schedules, news and updates from their preferred lakes. The new email system will also deliver the most recent blog content to each user based on their lake preferences.


For years, the lakes information pages on the Alabama Power website have been among the most visited, as customers and shoreline neighbors have a vested interest in what is happening on the utility's lakes.

"This is a valuable tool for the people who live on or visit our lakes," said Matt Bowden, Alabama Power vice president of environmental affairs. "The mobile-friendly site and app provide instant access to lake information for people on the lake or those thinking about driving down for the weekend. This is a big leap forward in providing information people want in today's on-the-go world."

In addition to providing customers and the lake audience with a new platform for information, this

digital system will help Alabama Power learn more about its customers and how to better serve them.

"We live in a time where our customers have more choices for news and entertainment, where we can no longer rely solely on traditional media to reach them," said John Hudson, Alabama Power vice president of public relations and charitable giving. "This platform enables us to provide customers with information in a variety of ways, using new technology to reach them."

Alabama Power manages 11 reservoirs and 14 hydroelectric dams on the Coosa, Tallapoosa and Black. 

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An advertisement for Tranquil Massage Therapies. At the top is a logo with a water drop icon and the text "TRANQUIL Massage Therapies". Below the logo, it lists "Services Offered:" followed by a bulleted list: "•Swedish / Deep Tissue Massage", "•Prenatal / Pregnancy Massage", "•Neuromuscular Massage", and "•Infrared Sauna". The address is "3440 Martin St S, Suite 14" and "Across from Coosa Valley Elementary on Hwy 231". It is "Open Monday / Friday / Saturday" and the "Phone: 205.884.6000". At the bottom, it says "Web: www.TranquilDaySpa.biz", "Facebook: Tranquil Massage Therapies", and "Margie Sanford, Owner, LMT, NMT". The background of the ad is a serene image of a small potted plant on a rock in a body of water under a blue sky.

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ELEPHANTS' NEST

Robinsons' sky-high lake home especially shines when it's time for Crimson Tide football

Story by ELSIE HODNETT
Photos by BOB CRISP

Although it's a hike to reach the water, the condo-style view from up high creates a beautiful blend of green and blue.

"The view is what attracted us to this house," said Becky Robinson. "It's about 98 steps down to the lake,

so we don't go down every day, but we do look at the lake every day. We have a better view from up on high."

In 2002, Becky and her husband, John, were drawn to lake life when they purchased a house on Lay Lake.

"I was the principal at B.B. Comer Memorial



Elementary School and John was commuting to Birmingham,” she said. “We enjoyed pontooning and entertaining our friends. Our jobs brought us back to north Talladega County when I became the principal of Munford Elementary and John went to work at Alabama Specialty Products in Munford.”

The couple sold the house on Lay Lake, but always wanted another lake home.

“Our good friends, Leland and Cathy Fuller, bought the house two doors down from us in Lakefront Estates in 2010,” she said. “We passed by the house many times visiting them and saw the ‘For Sale’ sign.”

One day, when John and the couple’s daughter, Emily, were visiting the Fullers, there was an open house for the one that kept catching their eye.

“They came home telling me all about the features they liked in the house, so I made sure I was at the next open house,” she said. “I fell in love with the view and the open concept, so we started making plans to buy.”

The couple purchased the house in 2011, and Becky decorated the house with an elephant theme.

“My best friend, Martha White, left me her elephant collection of more than 100 elephants when she passed away





Located 98 steps up from Logan Martin Lake, John and Becky Robinson's lake home features beautiful views from every room.



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Friends and relatives get a warm welcome at John and Becky Robinson's place.

11 years ago," she said. "I also have two nature paintings by Barry Nehr, who did nature murals at Munford Elementary."

The basement was unfinished with red brick and gray paint.

"It didn't start out to be an Alabama room, but I really wanted red furniture," John said. "It evolved into the Alabama football room, and now I call it my Alabama Man Cave."

Creating the "Man Cave" took about six weeks .

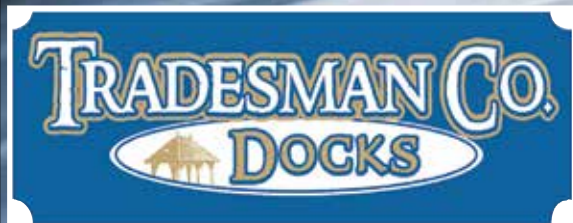
"We hired part-time contractors and John assisted," Becky said.

The basement features red leather couches with houndstooth chairs.

"We added a bathroom so it would be functional for entertaining," she said. "We built a bar with a



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The Robinson lake home is full of elephants: Becky Robinson inherited a collection of more than 100 elephant-themed items when her friend, Martha White, died 11 years ago.

small cafe nook. There are two TVs so we can watch Alabama play and have a second one if there is an Auburn fan.”

Two high bar tables offer additional seating with a gorgeous view of the lake, which has year-round water.

“We finished everything just before football season started,” she said. “We’ve hosted two games so far, with about 10 to 12 people each week, and sometimes we watch the games with the Fullers. Everyone has been very complimentary about our new football room.”

Becky said the Crimson Tide runs in the family. Their son, Andy, graduated from the University of Alabama. Andy and his wife, Mary, live in Atlanta.

Emily attended the University of Alabama but finished her degree at Jacksonville State University. She is now attending Auburn University for her master’s and is engaged to Chad Milam, of Sylacauga, an Auburn fan.


“We have a framed photo of Emily with Coach Nick Saban,” Becky said. “I think John likes that picture more

than Emily does.”

Becky completed her doctorate in education leadership five years ago, but remains a lifelong learner.

“I’m a part-time academic specialist for CLAS, the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, in eight schools in Talladega and Calhoun counties,” she said. I wanted to study journalism when I was in college, but there wasn’t a good program nearby so I graduated with a degree in English. I wouldn’t trade it for the world, but am really glad to be a freelance writer for The Daily Home newspaper.”

Although the Robinsons’ main house is outside Talladega on the Ironaton Road, they plan to retire to the lake.

“Our two dogs, Roz and Millie, enjoy the lake,” she said. “We really feel we have a great view from up high and can see and enjoy the lake view more because of that.” 



Chad Milam is the token Auburn fan at the Robinson home. From left are Milam and his fiancée, Emily Robinson, and her parents, Becky and John Robinson.



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Top-Water Time

Fishing for bass on top-water is as exciting as viewing the fall colors

Story and Photos by
CHARLES JOHNSON

Whispers of steam spiral skyward in the early morning light. The water's mirror-like surface reflects the fall colors. A great blue heron wades along the shoreline in search of a minnow for breakfast. An angler watches with his breath held as the ripples fade from around a fresh-cast lure near the weed line edge. Then comes the big strike...

Logan Martin Lake is one of the top bass lakes in the

country for top-water angling. With the thousands of coves and pockets along its 275 miles of shoreline, there are plenty of locations for anglers to cast a bait ... and during the autumn months anglers have one lure in mind when on the lake, a top-water.

Top-water baits vary in size, shape and color, but one factor all have in common is they produce ferocious, heart-stopping strikes. Many bass anglers only consider

Contrary to what you might think,
bass will strike top-water lures
like this Zara Spook even as the
calendar turns towards autumn and
water temperatures begin to cool.



fishing top-water baits in late spring to early summer. However, on the cool, still mornings of autumn, a top-water bait is the prime choice.

WHEN TO FISH TOP-WATERS

Largemouth and spotted bass are plentiful throughout the waters of Logan Martin, and the species do not discriminate in their affinity for an easy meal from

the surface. Top-water lures simulate a wounded or struggling baitfish, and in an instant a bass reacts.

“I’ll fish a top-water bait throughout the day when it is overcast,” said 2014 Bassmaster Classic champion Randy Howell of Springville. “If the day turns to a bluebird sunny sky, I’ll put the top-water down.”

Howell says on some lakes top-water lures can be more effective in catching bass than other baits. Even on

Fishing pros like Randy Howell from Springville will tell you that bass of all sizes can be caught on top-water lures during the autumn months.



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bright blue days, if bass begin schooling, he will cast a top-water lure. When bass move back into shallow water they are more likely to strike at a lure on the surface.

Logan Martin has a lot of shad as forage and Howell says he can usually catch better quality fish here. One advantage of fishing top-water lures is that an angler can cover a large swath of water effectively as bass will move in from a longer distance to strike at a top-water bait.

Sometimes schooling bass are not breaking the water's surface, but they are still around in the area. At times there may be sporadic surface activity to clue in the angler the bass are continuing to feed. Tournament anglers want to take every opportunity to put bass in the live-well and a top-water bait can help.

After a while the action slows and the fish may have gone deeper or moved altogether. There comes a time when as angler you have to decide when to put down the top-water bait and change lures.

"If I go 30 minutes to an hour without a strike, I will put the top-water bait down," Howell said.

LURES AND CONDITIONS

There are many different types of top-water baits on the market. Howell prefers the Livingston Lures Pro

Sizzle. This is cigar shaped bait that makes it easy to do the "walk-the-dog" type retrieve. Also, with a slight twitch of the wrist, the lure will walk side-to-side with little forward motion.

"A lot of anglers will fish this type of lure with strong jerks," said Howell. "But, a little twitch of the wrist barely moves the bait in the water."

Howell said the slow twitch works great around cover like stumps and brush tops. The slight lure motion gets the attention of the bass to pull them away from the cover. In more open water situations and when bass are actively schooling, Howell will use a faster twitch retrieve.

On popper style top-water baits, Howell likes to have a feather or hackle tied on the rear hook. The extra weight from the feathered hook forces the bait to sit tail down in the water. He feels this allows him to control the bait in a more subtle motion without moving the lure a great distance forward in the water.

Water clarity has an effect on how bass approach and strike top-water lures. Generally clear water conditions are better suited for surface lures as the bass are homing in on the lure from sight and sound. Even the minimal action of a top-water bait is producing sound waves in

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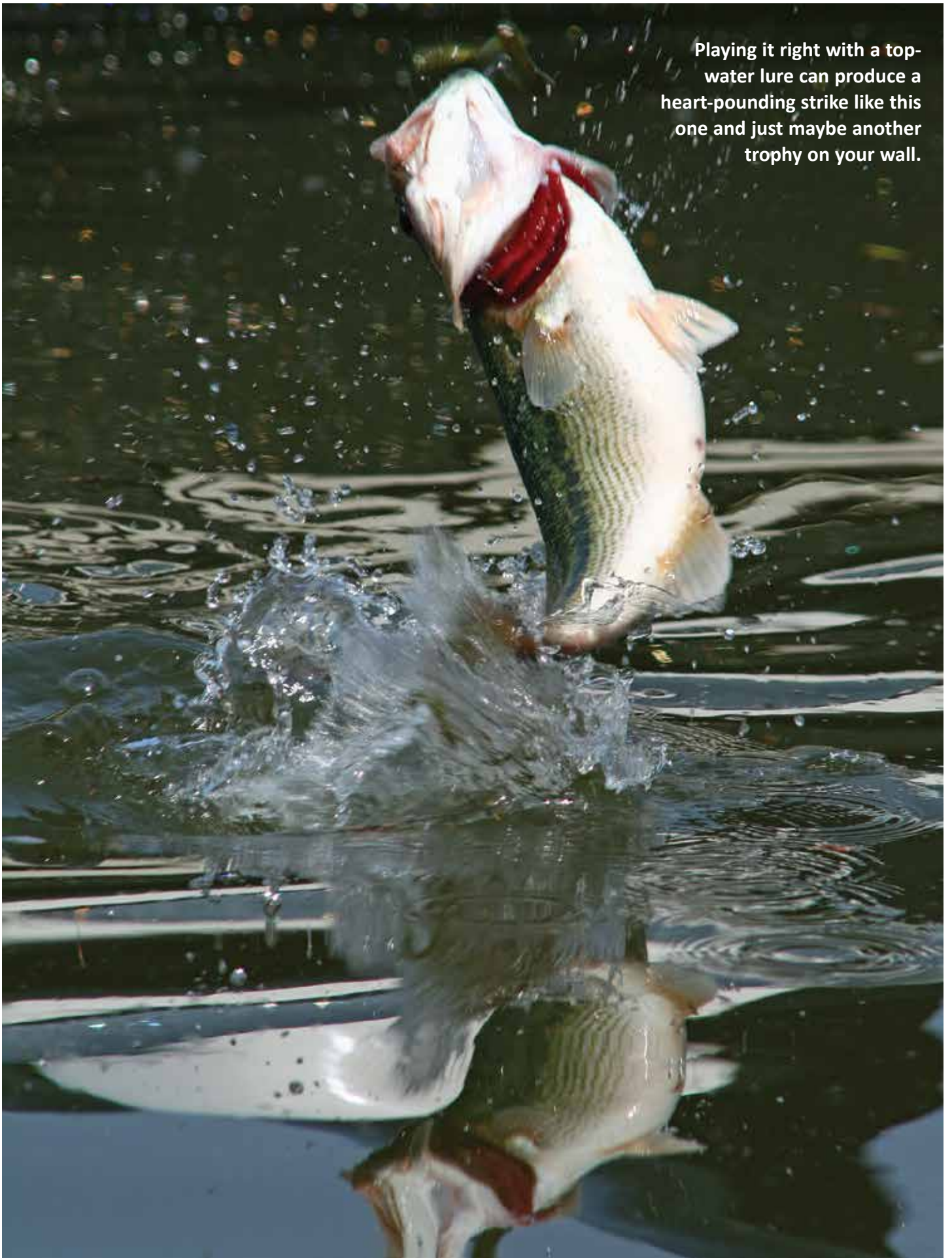
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Playing it right with a top-water lure can produce a heart-pounding strike like this one and just maybe another trophy on your wall.



the water. This is especially true on very still days when the water surface is slick.

On days when the water is a little choppy Howell will change to a larger top-water lure. The bigger bait will have a wider profile and will make more noise on top. Some anglers may not choose to fish a top-water lure in choppy water, but, if the fish are there they will still strike. Anglers will need to experiment to see what the fish want on certain days and conditions.

TOP GEAR

There are special rods specifically designed for fishing top-water lures. Howell prefers a 7-foot, 2-inch Daiwa Tatula casting rod. Seated on the rod is a Daiwa Tatula 100R bait-casting reel with a high speed retrieve. Spooled on the reel is Samurai braided line. The setup gives Howell plenty of rod action and reel speed to control bass on top-water lures after he sets the hook.

One of the most critical elements in fishing top-water baits is setting the hook. Many anglers jerk too hard and too quick, pulling the lure away from the fish. When a bass strikes a top-water bait, there should be a moment of hesitation before attempting to set the hook.

Another factor Howell notes about some anglers when they are fishing top-water baits is not making a long enough cast. If you're casting to schooling fish, a shorter cast will work. However, in open water areas where baitfish are present, anglers need to make as long a cast as possible.

"If you have a long rod with a long handle you can make a really long cast with a top-water lure," said Howell. "You'll get more strikes on longer casts."

That is the importance of the braided line. It has no stretch, so setting the hook on a cross-country cast will not be a problem. The smaller diameter of the braided line also assists in making those super-long casts. Also, braided line is abrasive resistant, which helps anglers pull bass out of cover without fear of breaking the line.

As the weather begins to cool moving into the fall, top-water fishing should be hot. Look for bass schooling along river points and at the mouths of pockets and coves, and be warned...one explosive strike on a surface lure can cause your heart to skip a beat and have you hooked on top-water fishing forever. **LE**

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HALLOWEEN *Recipes*

Sticky Black BAT Wings



Bat Wings with black food coloring added, these “bat” wings look really gross, but taste absolutely wonderful. Based on a recipe for 5-spice chicken wings, they’re moist, crisp, and full of flavor. They’re also baked instead of fried, making these tasty little Halloween finger foods healthier than you might think. If you make these as snacks for a Halloween party, be sure to make plenty -- they go fast.

Also, be sure to use food coloring paste instead of liquid to avoid a bitter aftertaste. Serves 10 as a Halloween party food, or 4-5 as a main meal.

Ingredients: 4 lbs. chicken wings

Marinade/Sauce:	2 tbsp. brown sugar
4 tbsp. soy sauce	2 tbsp. white wine vinegar
4 tbsp. black bean sauce	4 cloves garlic, finely minced
2/3 C. ketchup	1/2 tsp. Chinese five-spice powder
4 tbsp. honey	2 tbsp. sesame oil
2 tsp. hot sauce, or to taste	Coloring: Black, blue, and green paste food coloring, as needed

Instructions:

1. Combine marinade ingredients in a small mixing bowl.
2. Add black, blue, and green paste food coloring as needed to make a dark black sauce.
3. Place cleaned wings in a large ziplock bag. Pour marinade over.
4. Marinate wings 3-24 hours. Longer is tastier, of course.
5. Remove wings from fridge, line a large baking sheet with heavy-duty foil, and preheat oven to 325 degrees F.
6. Remove “bat wings” from marinade and bake one hour, till cooked through. Baste occasionally with marinade. Finish under broiler for extra crispness, if desired.

Haunted Hooting Owl Pretzels

Who-oo dare eat this menacing owl? Everyone! Though they look especially spooky, these chocolate-dipped pretzels are a hoot to make.



To make, follow these steps:

1. Dip large pretzels in melted confectioner’s coating. Place the pretzels on waxed paper.
2. As the coating sets, sprinkle with coarse black decorating sugar. Press a black jelly bean onto the twist of each pretzel for the nose, and small pieces of licorice candy onto the base of the pretzels for the talons.
3. Separate a sandwich cookie and press the halves onto the pretzel for eyes.
4. Ice white candy pieces and press onto each cookie eye, then add chocolate chips to them for pupils.
5. Use black licorice twists as eyebrows.

Open-Face Bird Sandwiches

Heading off for trick-or-treating? Fuel up with these hearty sandwiches costumed as featherbrained birds.



To make, follow these steps:

1. Spoon two hot marinara-sauced meatballs on top of half of a split, toasted roll.
2. Roll two small pieces of cream cheese into balls. Gently press a cream cheese ball onto the front of each meatball, making eyes.
3. Cut pitted ripe black olives into small pieces; press into the front of each cream cheese ball as a pupil.
4. Cut orange and/or yellow sweet peppers into pieces; arrange on meatballs as beaks and eyebrows.
5. Arrange julienne carrots and/or chives on sandwiches to resemble feathers.

From The Readers Eye...

Every picture tells a story. What's yours?



1



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4



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- 1. A group of cousins enjoying the weekend on Logan Martin Lake.
 - 2. Ryleigh Haynes, just a swingin'.
 - 3. Doug Bailey shows off his afternoon catch, all caught on his favorite Green Pumpkin Zoom worm.
 - 4. Colton and Lilli are taking a break from canoeing and watching the ducks.
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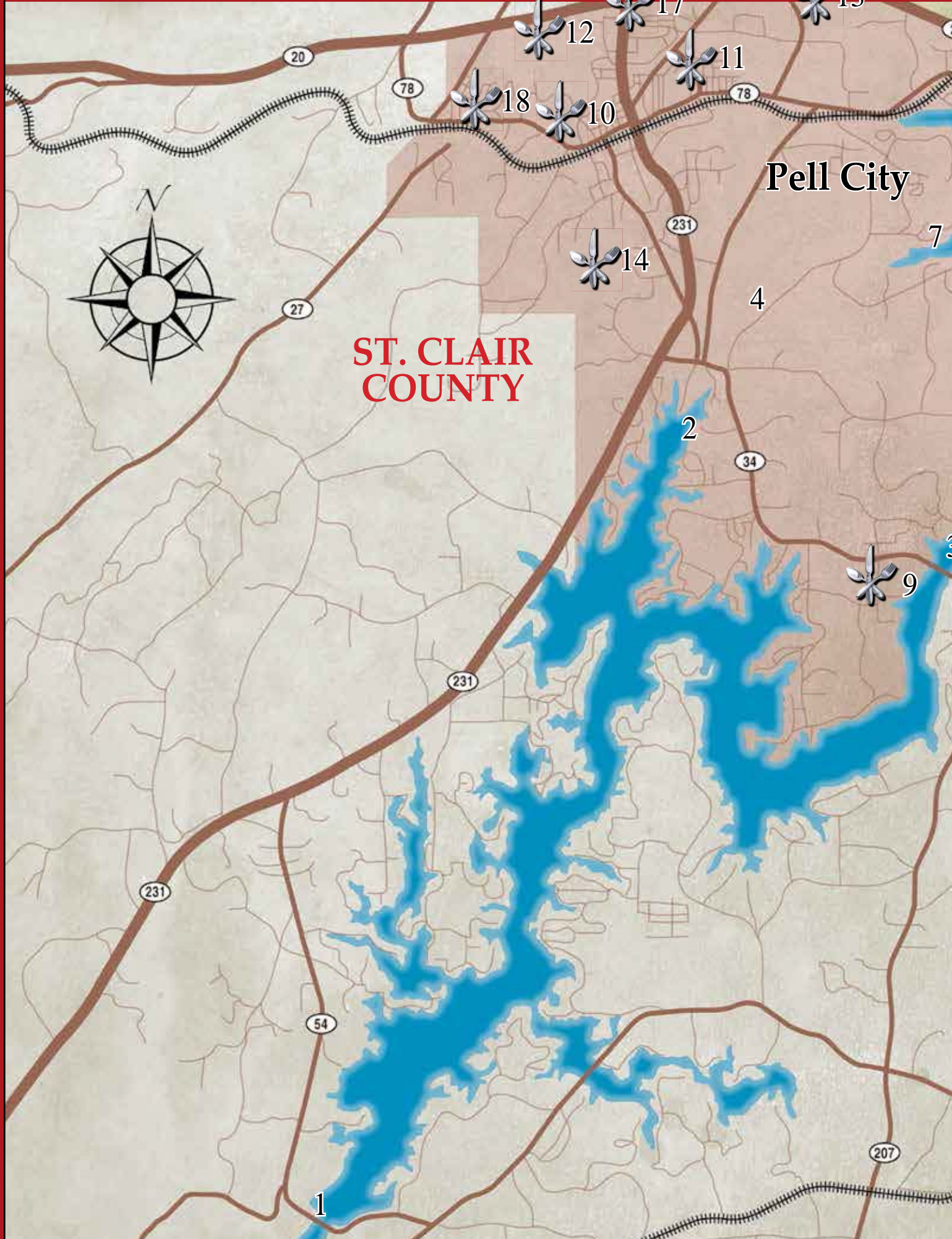
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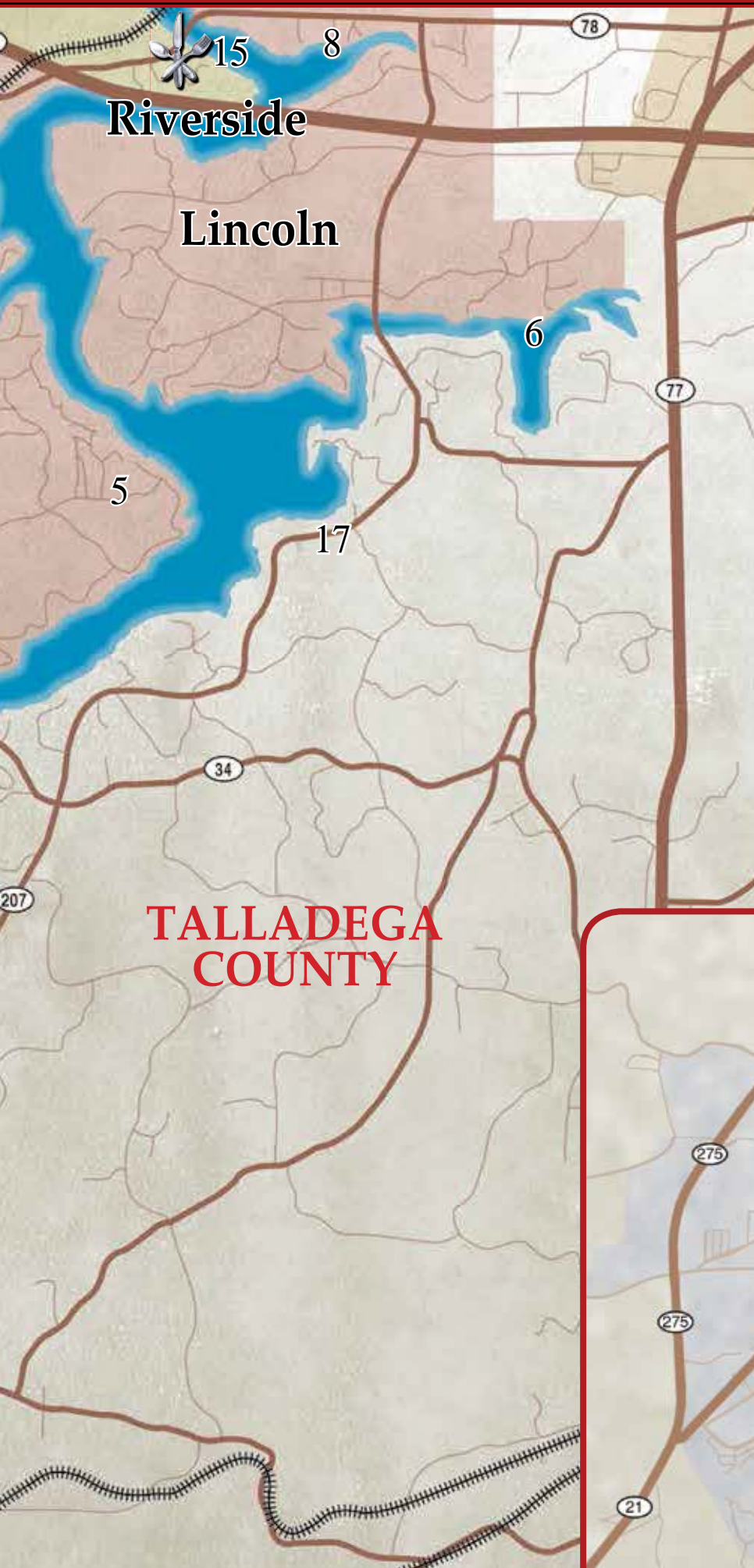
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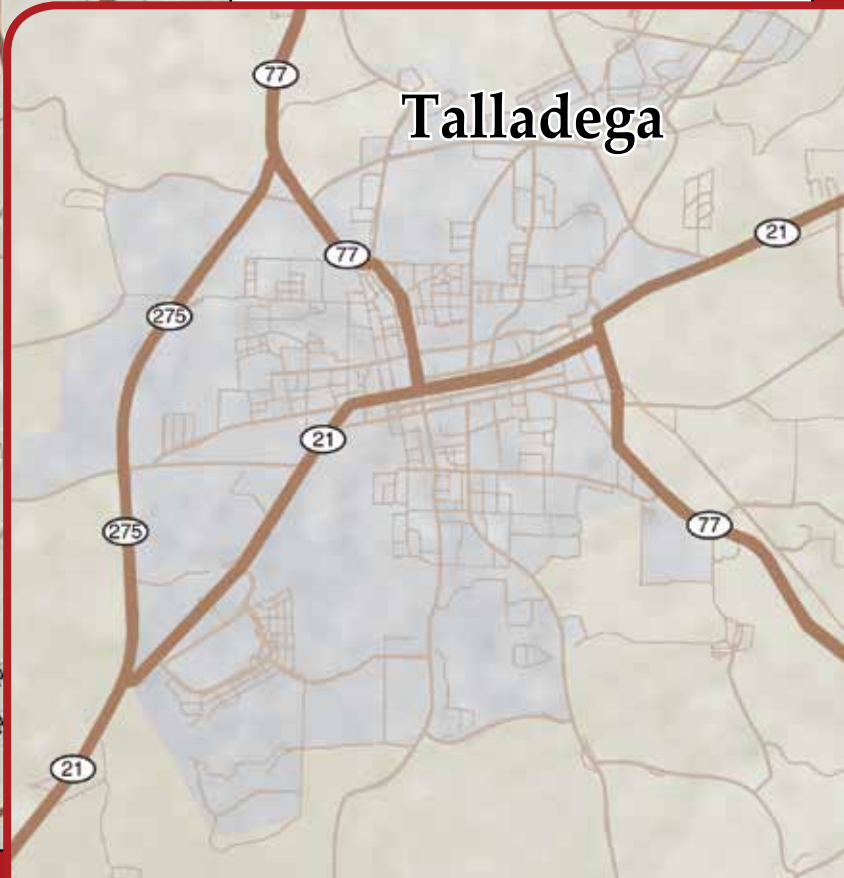
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Logan Martin Lake- Lincoln, Shelton Shores, 5 minutes to I-20, 95' waterfront, tax assessment \$71,500, sell for \$59,000, call 256-236-2173

OCTOBER 2014

Logan Martin Homes

A Real Estate Property Guide for Logan Martin Lake and Surrounding Areas



Fields & Gossett
Realty

508 Martin Street South | Pell City, AL
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Love this house?



Immaculate & Move-In Ready

Story by BILL KIMBER
Photos by BOB CRISP

If you're ready to move to Logan Martin Lake, Fields-Gossett Real Estate has the house for you.

"It's immaculate – move-in ready," said broker Brenda Fields.

The spacious house at 175 Sunset Hill Drive in Cropwell offers three bedrooms, three and a half baths, and a lot that slopes gently to the water.

It's got hardwood and tile floors throughout, and it's in "tip-top shape," Fields said.

Built in 2008, the two-story house has a spacious kitchen with a pantry, ample, quality cabinets, built-in stainless appliances, tile backsplash and granite countertops, including a breakfast bar with bar stools. The kitchen opens into a large great room with a gas fireplace and built-in shelves.

Two of the bedrooms have private dressing areas that share a bathing area, and the master bedroom suite is nestled into a private spot with a comfortable sitting area


and tray ceilings.

The bathroom features a linen closet and a jetted tub with separate shower.

There's a central vacuum system, and the windows throughout the house are equipped with plantation blinds.

Outside, the 32,670-square-foot lot features fresh landscaping, a pier with a shared boat launch, and a storage building, with scenic views of the Rabbit Branch area of the lake.

The appliances, including the water heater, are electric, and there's a two-car garage. There's also a laundry room with utility sink on the main level.

The house is offered at \$449,000 by Fields-Gossett Realty. For information about this or other desirable properties, call 205-884-2300 or 800-806-7741, or visit fieldsgossett.com. 



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GORGEOUS LAKE ESTATE



LOGAN MARTIN LAKE PRIVATE ESTATE \$1,199,000. Approx 6 acres on 1000' waterfront with seawall. Beautiful Vanishing Edge Salt Water Pool with fountain & surrounding patio overlooking lake. One level, views of the lake from all rooms. 4BR/4.5 BA, Beautiful Dining room, Huge Gathering Kitchen with Australian Verde Fire Granite, Wet Bar, amazing cabinetry. Luxurious Master, Jet tub, Steam Shower, coffer ceilings, dressing closets, adjoining study w/FP. Gazebo w/swing. Covered boathouse, 2 electric winches, seaplane hangar, covered boat slip w/lift. Landscaped & wooded for privacy. A fishing HOT SPOT.



Guest House with Kitchen/Living combo, bath, laundry, private deck. Playground, beach volleyball area plus 2nd boat dock, fenced yard & 2nd stone patio. MUST SEE! MLS#498718

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GORGEOUS LAKE LOTS AVAILABLE!

- Prices range from \$25,900 - \$169,000
- waterfront lots, water access lots & pond lots
- nice subdivision with sidewalks and underground utilities
- Pell City School District



NEW LISTING!



CROPWELL \$249,000. Lovely 3BR/2BA one level home with great open floor plan, in nice subdivision. Hardwood floors, arched doorways, wet bar, see-thru fireplace from kitchen to great room, which opens to beautiful courtyard. MLS#609717



REDUCED!



PELL CITY \$299,000. Very well-kept 5BR/3BA lake home on 2 lots, boat launch, pier, partial seawall, covered pavilion, fenced in sections. 20x40 play pool, 4-5 ft deep with new cover. MLS#594959



REDUCED!



LINCOLN \$279,000. Large 1 level 4BR/3BA home on good water. Very well-built, needs some carpet and paint, basement has 2 entrances. MLS#595462



TALLADEGA \$599,000. Fantastic home on Logan Martin Lake, sits on approx. 3.38 acres with over 350 ft of waterfrontage. Spacious 4 or 5BR/3.5 BA. Amazing Master with all the extras. Nice sunroom, 2 laundry rooms, terrific kitchen with solid surface counters, large pantry & formal dining room. Multiple entertaining areas, four decks, hot tub, screened tile porch, pagoda, launch, huge pier, garden shed and garage/workshop. MLS#549580



PELL CITY \$589,000. Unique custom-built home on Pine Harbor Golf Course, with Lake access, 3BR/3.5BA, open floor plan, kitchen with granite, great room with lots of windows, sunken dining with glass walls, perfect for entertaining. Amazing Foyer with 18 ft ceiling. Lots of extras, travertine & marble floors, handmade mahogany doors, solid limestone fireplace, 2-2 car garages, lifetime terracotta roof, and beautifully landscaped with 16 station irrigation system. MLS#551527



V I N C E N T \$149,900. Beautiful lake lot in nice Cumberland Coves Subdivision, partially wooded. MLS#571729



PELL CITY \$257,900 Charming stacked stone & wood 3BR/2.5 BA home in Pine Harbor with water access, nestled in the trees on large lot. Great room has Cathedral pine tongue & groove ceiling, lots of windows. Beautiful master suite with double walk in closets, great kitchen with eating area, island, gas cook top, Viking stove, huge

pantry. Sunroom, patio and great workshop in backyard. MLS#606349



CROPWELL \$399,000. Amazing brick & stone 5BR/4.5 BA home on 3 wooded acres. Gorgeous great room with vaulted ceiling, stacked stone FP, open kitchen with stainless apps, 6 burner gas cooktop, dbl conv. oven, eating area & formal dining. GR opens to nice screened porch. Beautiful hardwoods throughout. Master suite with vaulted cigs, double walk-in closet, huge walk in shower, jet tub. Double Garage & Partially stubbed basement. MLS#604927

Caffee: Experience, hard work are keys to success

Story by ZAC AL-KHATEEB

After 27 years of working as a realtor, Judy Caffee has come to the realization that, if she could go back in time, she would change a few things about her career.

"I would do a few things differently," Caffee said. "I would have hired a secretary the day I started. I have always done it all on my own. If I had to, I would hire a secretary – an assistant."

Other than that, Caffee said she has loved every minute of working as a realtor – both for RealtySouth and The Realty Pros – in the Pell City area. After working for years in marketing, sales and development for a grocery wholesaler, Caffee said she was looking for a career change where she could be at home after working a long day.

She had family who worked in real estate and decided to give it a shot. Twenty-seven years later, she has become one of the most successful realtors in Pell City.

Two years ago – she hasn't counted how many since then – Caffee estimated she had closed on more than 800 listings, averaging roughly 29 a year.

She wears that number as a badge of honor and as a calling card for potential clients. Indeed, her slogan is, "Where experience counts." It's something Caffee has stockpiled over her career, and not just in selling properties.

"I wish I had started writing a book when I first went into real estate," Caffee said. "I have met some interesting people and won a few battles."

Having been in the field so long, she has also had the opportunity to see how technology has changed the field since she first started.

The main difference, Caffee said, is the Internet. Maintaining property and communication with clients has become easier, but keeping up on the web has added a few wrinkles to the job that weren't there earlier in her career.



Judy Caffee

Of course, what makes realtors successful – what has made her successful – remained the same.

"A lot of hard work," Caffee said. "Being available all the time. Good follow-up. I also think real estate revealed skills I didn't know I had, like negotiating, and client-to-client skills."

Even with all the success she's had, however, Caffee said the main reason for her success has been the clients with whom she worked. Without them remaining loyal to her and sending business to her through the years, she never would have closed on as many houses as she has.

Not that real estate is the only thing in her life. She also has a husband, two daughters, and two grandchildren. When she has time off, she likes to travel to Florida and, in more recent years, the mountains of Tennessee.

But above all things, Caffee enjoys gardening. Caffee loves fresh flowers, and keeps something blooming in and around her home at all times. Day lilies are her favorite. "It's a great stress reliever," she said.

At 69 years old, Caffee said she will likely be retiring soon, although she is not sure when. Regardless, she attributed the love of her work, the love of helping people buy their dream home, to her continuity and history of success.

"I'll be 70 in March," Caffee said. "I love it or else I would have already been gone." 



Bill Gossett



Blair Fields



Lawrence Fields



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\$324,900 - 676 Sunset Rd. - LOCATION is great for this refurbished 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath foreclosure on 13 ACRES m/l in Pell City. Family room with fireplace, circular staircase leading to second floor. Unfinished basement, inground pool, barn and workshop. MLS#605522 Call Scott 205/368-8138



\$449,900 - 1154 Funderburg Bend Rd. - THIS TRUE LAKE HOUSE provides an abundance of space and tongue and groove vaulted ceilings. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths greatroom with stacked stone fireplace, finished basement with den/rec room and another stone fireplace. Outdoors has screened porch, covered boat dock and seawall. MLS #562184 Call Karen 205/473-4613



\$309,900 - 70 Fritz Dr. - SOUTHERN ELEGANCE with this inviting 4/5 bedroom, 4.5 bath 1.5 story home with nice amenities. The home has a large living room with fireplace, formal dining room and fantastic kitchen. The master bedroom is oversized with a sitting area, located on the main level with the other four upstairs. Basement includes a den, another bedroom and full bath with room for additional expansions. MLS #592268 Call Blair 205/812-5377



\$439,900 - 1650 Mountain Top Loop Rd. - 10 BEAUTIFUL ACRES with this gorgeous family home. This southern plantation features 4 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths. Additional acreage can also be purchased. Just bring your horses and enjoy! MLS #588808 Call Mary 205/586-0825



\$199,000 - 1275 Funderburg Bend Rd. - IMMACULATE 3 bedroom 2 bath brick home on approx. 1 acre lot. Large 2-car detached garage PLUS additional storage building. Home comes with MINI LOT for Logan Martin Lake Access. MLS #593311 Call Bill 369-7977



379,000 - 5802 Lee Rd. - PINE HARBOR area with this custom built 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with 2-story foyer, living room, dining room, family room with fireplace. Downstairs has nice den, 2-car garage and located on gently slope lot with pier. Convenient to town and I-20. MLS #607409 Call Lawrence 812-5195 or Brenda 812-4141



\$448,500 - 477 Aradon Farms - QUALITY 4 bedroom, 4 bath Executive Estate with many amenities. Main level and basement parking, split bedroom design, formal living and dining room and refurbished kitchen with solid surface counter tops. Enjoy the privacy with covered patio and rock water fall. MLS #558310 Call Bill 369-7977, Jeff 405-1649 or Tony 281-1317



\$389,900 - 380 Riverview Drive - NICE 1.5 story brick 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath lake home with large family room with fireplace as well as in the master bedroom, dining room, loft and bonus room upstairs. Finished basement with 2-car garage, pier, seawall and located in a Lake Access Community to launch your boat. MLS #592657. Call Carey 901-0652 or Blair 812-5377



\$699,000 - 229 Willow Dr. - MOTIVATED SELLER with this custom built home with abundance of amenities. 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half baths, gorgeous view of the lake from the huge living room, den with kitchen downstairs overlooks saltwater in-ground pool and the lake. Home has central vac, stereo/intercom system, covered pier and boathouse. MLS #558234 Call Lawrence 205/812-5195



\$249,900 - 153 Lakeview Circle - 4 bedroom 3 bath one level home with family room, dining room, bonus room upstairs with finished basement. Conveniently located to I-20. MLS #580513 Call Adam 369-2704



\$177,500 - 370 Hodgens Drive - IMMACULATE AND COMPLETELY UPDATED 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on approx. 1.6 ACRES. Large living room with wood burning fireplace, abundance of cabinets in the kitchen and 2-car garage on the main level. MLS#601564. Call Carl 205/965-4755 or Michelle 205/427-3222



\$160,000 - 163 Nathan Lane - LAKE ACCESS with LAKE VIEW with this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with family room, eat-in kitchen with finished basement and 2-car garage. MLS # 586465 Call Tina 205/337-8509



\$347,900 - 712 Lindy Place - IMMACULATE, UPDATED 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath very livable home. Enjoy the comforts of the living/dining room with fireplace and coffered ceiling. This area leads you to the covered porch with open deck overlooking the lake. Downstairs is a cozy den with another fireplace and game room area. Plenty of storage enhances the unfinished area with boat storage and workshop area. Gentle sloped, fenced yard, pier and floating boatslip and boathaunch. MLS #603538 Call Brenda 205/812-4141

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NEW LISTING!

TALLADEGA \$334,900. Awesome sunset view with year round water, a floating pier & a lake pump with a 20 gal holding tank! This gentle sloping lot has a gentle walk way to water. The spacious

Great Room has hardwood flooring, cathedral ceilings, ceiling fans & a wood burning fireplace. The kitchen features tile flooring, oversized double ovens, abundance of countertop space, gas cook top, dishwasher, built-in microwave, a bar area & a spacious eat-in area. The Master BR has a great view of the water and an exit to a screened porch! The Master BA has 2 walk-in closets, 2 sinks, a tub & separate shower. Downstairs has 2 BR and a den, kitchen/game room & an office! The large decks on both levels are great for entertaining. MLS#595605



NEW LISTING!

CROPWELL \$249,200. 3BR/2BA, great room w/ surround sound, private patio with a hot tub off the master, bonus room. The guest house offers 1BR/1BA, den, huge foyer, bonus room, ample parking. Raised herb garden in the spacious back yard. Swings hanging from the beautiful oak trees. Garage has a track room, green house, work shop and a train room complete with tracks and trains. There is a whole house generator. MLS#607332



NEW LISTING!

PELL CITY \$159,900. Gorgeous Cape Cod Style home in Down Town Pell City. The back yard is fenced, plus a fenced off area for the dogs with a dog house. Separate garage apartment, The home offers original heart pine floors and arched door ways. For the men there is a work shop just outside your door. MLS#596808



NEW LISTING!

ALPINE \$179,900. This home offers 3BR/2BA, a bonus room above the double car garage. This home sits on a large corner lot with beautiful

rose bushes and crepe myrtle. The home has an open floor plan. Cook in the kitchen and still see the ball game. Your breakfast room has a bay window, you also have a eat up bar. The home is built out of hardplank, with 1936 square feet more or less. Alarm system. Fresh paint on inside walls. MLS#607292



PELL CITY \$144,900. Cute all brick 4BR/2BA with bonus room and nice fenced backyard, attic, 2 car garage. MLS#589452

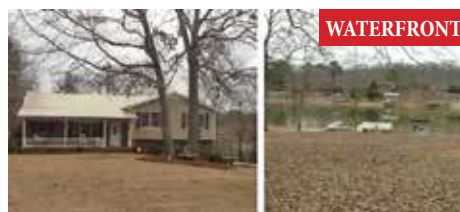


LINCOLN LAKE \$199,900. LOGAN MARTIN LAKE access home on large lot. 3BR/3BA with hardwood floors, split bedrooms, large dining room with wainscoting, attic storage. Fenced backyard is perfect for pool or kids' swing set. Convenient to I-20 & Honda. Community swim area & boat launch just a gold cart ride away. Large deck, basement den and full bath. MLS#568506



NEW LISTING!

PELL CITY \$184,900. FOX HOLLOW - THE COVE - 3BR/2BA with bonus room, large level fenced in back yard, screened porch, Corian counter tops and island in the kitchen. Great room with fireplace, jetted garden tub in master BA. Community pool, sidewalks. MLS#603463



WATERFRONT

PELL CITY \$264,900. Nice 3BR/2BA home on Logan Martin lake in nice Skyline SD. Kitchen has granite counters, hardwood floors throughout, generator in basement, new pier. MLS#587905



REDUCED!

PELL CITY \$175,000. Large 3BR/2BA home on large lot in Pine Harbor SD. Remodeled, state of the art kitchen with granite counters. Great screened porch, double garage, fruit trees, unfinished basement has lots of potential. Near Golf Course & Marina. MLS#592022



RIVERSIDE \$179,900. Highlands, 4BR/3BA, full brick, fenced backyard, man cave/office, MLS#599331



NEW LISTING!

PELL CITY \$234,900 3BR/2BA with 12 ft ceilings, dining room, great room w/ fireplace, hardwood floors, Corian counter tops, stainless appliances, oversized laundry room, basement den and rec room on a cul-de-sac. MLS#603358



LINCOLN \$121,900. 3 BR, 2 BA on large level lot, close to downtown Lincoln and convenient to Honda.



TALLADEGA \$409,900. Q-U-A-L-I-T-Y This home SHOUTS it! 5BR, 5.5BA, Almost newly built with all the upgrades. Extensive ironwork, beautiful kitchen with antique

stained cabinets, exposed beams and stone pillars lead into the great room with wonderful rockwork fireplace that goes all the way up to the 21 st ceiling where large windows overlook seasonal water. MLS#599819



PELL CITY \$549,000. This is the deal of the century, 2 homes for the price of one. 4 acres with a beautiful pond. Both homes are approximately 2000 square feet each. The main house has 3 BR and 2 BA, large great room with a fireplace plus a double car garage. The master shower is to die for, 6x6 with 4 shower heads. The second home has a huge pavilion with a hot tub and grilling area. This home has 3 BR and 2 BA. The master bath has a big soaking tub. MLS#596899



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