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Lake is Great Tree Lighting Kicks Off Annual Tradition

The Lake Anna Christmas Tree Lighting was a true holiday event. On Friday, December 2nd, the first tree lighting was held on the shores of Lake Anna. The event started at 5:30 and ended at 9pm with the culmination of a 35 foot live tree lit with an incredible music and light show. The Lake is Great Tree Lighting was held behind the Lake Anna Information Center, which is right next to the Island Shops on the Louisa side of the 208 bridge.

The major sponsors and hosts of this event were the Lake is Great **Thanks to generous sponsors such as the Lake Anna Chamber of Commerce, Dominion & SAM-FM, children were able to make gifts & decorations free of charge.** The family tents were sponsored by the Lake Anna Winery, Wayne's Heating & Cooling, Shoreline Services, Lake Anna Island Realty, and Louisa Home Care.

Local businesses and individuals were generous enough to help sponsor the evening's activities, including Asian Café, NVT&E, Lowe's of Spotsylvania, WalMart at Zion's Crossroads, Lake Anna Heating & Cooling, Big-foot Speed & Custom, Hammerstone, Kitchen Krafters, Lake Anna Winery, Lake Anna Island Realty, Oxendine's Landscaping, Cyberbility, Louisa Home Care, Dave's Lawn

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Earthquake, Hurricanes, and Floods – oh my!

Lake Anna was pounded once again by mother nature on December 7, by monsoon style winds and rain, bringing the third attack the area has seen this year.

Roads were covered with water and winds swept through our community, tearing shingles and damaging homes. Docks were barely out of the water and some were completely covered by the rising levels of the lake. Thunder roared as the storm moved through our sleepy little community. Several inches of precipitation fell in just a couple of days, leaving some land closest to the lake underwater and many low-lying sections of roads completely submerged. These conditions, particularly at night, made for treacherous commutes in all three counties that touch Lake Anna.



continued on page 3

FEMA Deadline Draws Near

The deadline stays fast and comes quick and the aftershocks continue. The cutoff for applying for FEMA assistance is Tuesday, January 3rd, officials say. They encourage residents to apply, even if they do not believe they have earthquake related damage. There were eight aftershocks in November, seven in October, 14 in September and 21 in August, according to FEMA spokesman Art Alejandro. The Small Business Administration Loans for disaster assistance deadline is also the same day. The funds are geared to help the community. "People have been tax payers for decades, this is their tax dollars to help out them and the local economy, they shouldn't feel bad applying for it," he continued.

For more information, please call 1-800-621-FEMA between 7am-10pm or visit the website at disasterassistance.gov.

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Story ideas? Suggestions? Questions?
 Please feel free to contact us
 with a letter to the editor.

Issue No. 4

LETTERS

To the Editor

Just wanted to take the time and thank the crew at Lake Anna Guide for allowing me to be a part of a WONDERFUL evening! I so enjoyed making ornaments with the children. The night was calm, no rain to be seen...only Santa's belly and a BIG Christmas Tree needing to be lit. It was so nice to see the joy and Christmas spark come to life as the children and parents arrived. They had a glorious time making crafts at the many stations available. I especially loved the reindeer food and the stocking stations. My son Mark was able to do Christmas shopping at the crafter's booths. Thank you for making it a safe environment for him to do so!

The majestic songs of Christmas Carols playing in the background offered by the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Choir, Spotsylvania High School Chorus, and Louisa Middle School Band, plus the entertaining performance twirled in from Performing Arts 2000 in Louisa were special touches and gave those children such pride by being involved in something so special to the lake community. The smell of cotton candy and funnel cake filled the air. By the way, that was my first time tasting kettle corn! It was so deliciously and dangerously addicting!

I also wanted to thank you for allowing our family to make ornaments for the 30' tree. My son Mark really enjoyed the home activity and then the spirit of giving by placing them on the tree. The Lake is Great Christmas Tree Lighting" was a huge success! I am glad that we will have such a wonderful tradition in the future years to come! MERRY CHRISTMAS.

-The Moyer Family

Letter from the Editor: 2011 - the Year in Review

from the desk of Ed Blount

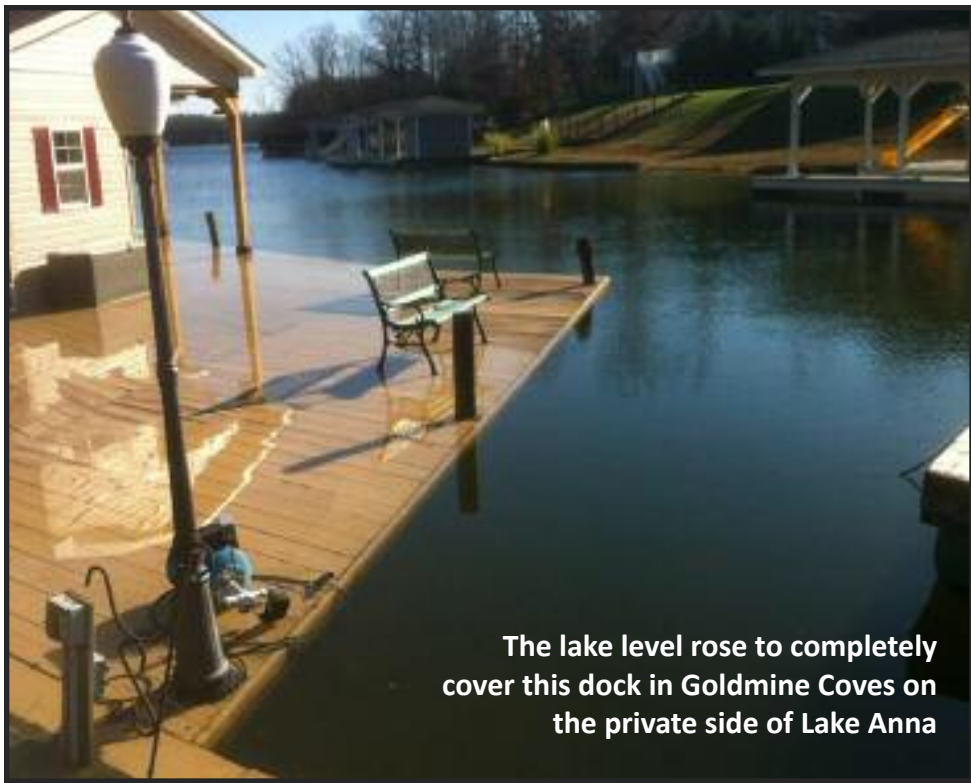


Lake Anna saw an incredible year in 2011. We shared meals at many new restaurants, drinks at new places, we welcomed new companies and enjoyed the company of new residents. Though our country continued to struggle in the current economy and face other obstacles, we were still able to move forward as a community. We laughed together, toasted each other at the first annual Louisa Wine Festival at Walton Park, sipped hot chocolate at the first Christmas Tree Lighting celebration, and gathered and saluted each other at the Best of Lake Anna Awards banquet.

We also comforted one another after parts of our homes and buildings in the community crumbled in the earthquake, the Sand Bar and the Lake Anna Islanders flourished and the memories were plentiful. All in all, we saw many rough patches through an earthquake, hurricane, and damaging floods, but we stayed strong as people and as a community. We raised money for victims and raised glasses to new beginnings.

2011 was a great year for new starts. The New Bridge Landing shopping center opened, bringing a new level of convenience to the lake. A major grocery store, new restaurants, a coffee shop, a hair salon, fitness center and more – all in close proximity to the Lake Anna area. It also brought the debut of the Lake Anna Breeze - thank you for reading. What will 2012 bring?





The lake level rose to completely cover this dock in Goldmine Coves on the private side of Lake Anna

(continued from front page)

The residual damage shows breaks and missing pieces of pavements, long after the standing water has dissipated.

At some point in the evening the storm roared with thunder reminding us that mother nature was still awake. Some residents even believed the noisy thunder to be another earthquake. One contractor went out December 8th and told us that while the homeowner called to have a leaky roof checked, they found gaps in the chimney, large enough to stick your hand in, caused by the earthquake that were previously undetected.

While the excessive rain caused some problems around the lake, don't panic. Homes built after the lake was formed are required to be at least 5' above the lake water level. If you're only a part-time Lake Anna resident, it would be a wonderful idea to call your property managers or neighbors and ask them to check for items that may have been left close to the water's edge, including outdoor furniture, canoes, kayaks, and more.



Coyotes Spotted in Louisa County

While this area is not necessarily known for having a large population of coyotes, recently more and more have been spotted by locals. While they sometimes look like dogs, it is important to exercise care and caution if you see one. Coyotes are attracted to things in your yard, such as garbage, pet food, and sometimes feeding stations for birds and squirrels. While coyote attacks on people are not common, they would easily prey on small pets and other animals, if given the opportunity.

It's important to be on alert and take a bit of precaution and to avoid any interaction. Several have been caught on film and we have photo slideshows available at LakeAnnaGuide.com.

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Christmas Tree Lighting

continued from front page

Care, Ferrell's Termite & Pest Control, Liz Wilson of Long & Foster Real Estate, Mark Tinsman of Lake Anna Island Realty, Gary Griffith of Dockside Realty, Blount's Home Improvement, Lake Anna Land Corp., and Spartan Homes, to name a few. The contributions made the children's activities possible, including personalizing their own stockings, decorating their own ornaments, and creating a pouch of reindeer food to sprinkle at home on Christmas Eve.

The event served as a huge toy drive for Toys for Tots, which will be distributed to local children in need in our region. The local chapter has stated they will be placing more toys than ever this year in the Louisa area. There were amazing performances by the choirs from Spotsylvania High School, Thomas Jefferson Elementary, the band from Louisa County Middle School, and the Millenium Movers from Performing Arts 2000 in Louisa.

The 30-plus foot tree provided by Bel-

mont Christmas Tree Farm, which was installed at the location by EJDJ Construction and Bob Propst from the Lake Anna Chamber of Commerce, was illuminated around 8:40 pm, during a light show that included all of the lights at the location.

Patrons could enjoy funnel cakes, kettle corn, and other refreshments as well as hot chocolate and apple cider to help keep warm in the December night.

Lake is Great plans to make this an annual event and attendees already expressed interest in next year's festivities. For more information or to purchase Lake Anna-themed Christmas items, please feel free to stop by the store at 2991 New Bridge Road in Mineral, or visit the online site at www.lakeisgreat.com.

To read from the perspective of an attendee, please turn to page 4 for a detailed retelling. Details for next year will be available in the coming months on LakeAnnaGuide.com.

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Gary Griffith, Dockside Realty
Hammerstone
Kitchen Krafters
Lake Anna Heating & Cooling
Lake Anna Land Corporation
Liz Wilson, Long & Foster
Mark Tinsman, Lake Anna Island Realty
Norther Virginia Title & Escrow
Oxendine's Landscaping
Spartan Homes
Wayne's Heating & Cooling



Jonathan Smith & his daughter, Arritt.

Our First Tree Lighting

by Jonathan Smith

After a beautiful, busy December Friday in the high 60s, my daughter Arritt and I were going to head to her very first Christmas Tree Lighting ever. Christmas is my favorite and most exciting time of year and the Lake is Great Tree Lighting sounded like a spectacular place to take my little girl. Pulling into the parking lot, I saw a line of cars being carefully directed by the junior members of the Mineral Rescue Squad. After being directed in the appropriate direction by a courteous young gentleman, we were finally here. We could see tents and lights all over the place and the smell of popcorn and cotton candy were tempting all of our senses.

Kids and adults alike were walking around, visiting various tents where you could shop and buy gifts, paint Christmas tree ornaments, or make your very own stocking, complete with your name personalizing the top. We saw children from my daughter's school at the Reindeer Food tent - all these years, we'd left milk and cookies for Santa, but never thought to leave anything for Rudolph and his co-workers! This year, we'll be prepared with our pouch of reindeer food that she was able to put together on her own.

We proceeded to the stocking station, where we made a stocking in case Santa wanted to leave us a little something extra before zooming back up the chimney. We then went next door to one of the food vendors and each of us ordered a cheeseburger that was hot, fresh and delicious. We made our way to the performance area and grabbed a seat and were delighted with performances from local choirs, bands, and dance groups that did their best routines to holiday classics.

Around this time, we spotted him – Santa Claus! He was there, seated in the gazebo, Santa greeted all the children and posed for pictures while the children relayed their Christmas wish lists. Complete with Santa's helper and local photographer Lisa from Lake Anna Photography, capturing the moments on film to be enjoyed for years to come.

The temperatures started to dip, so we headed back to the Lake is Great tent, picked up some hot chocolate, with marshmallows in the popular beverage station. The time had nearly arrived. Having never been to a Christmas Tree Lighting, I was expecting a switch to be thrown and the tree to instantly light, but instead, music started playing and every light in the area started blinking and dancing along with the music. As I sat there in awe, the music started to get faster and louder, the tree was illuminated at the perfect moment in the song. The tree then became part of the show, as well. The 30-plus foot tree looked beautiful, with the lights reflecting off the lake's surface and the large crowd erupting into cheers and applause with the lighting.

After a night filled with kettle corn, funnel cakes, hot apple cider, glitter, lights, and holiday celebration, the night came to a close and we immediately started looking forward to next year. It was an amazing event and we look forward to returning to the Lake is Great Store again next December to experience it all again!

TOP 10 HOLIDAY MOVIES

from contributing writer Hope Smith

It's been done before, but I feel the need to list some movies and TV shows that I consider to be the best of the best, a la David Letterman, so here are my top ten:

10. **A Christmas Carol** – it's a classic and one of the first Christmas movies, as it debuted in 1938 (actually, the original Scrooge came out in 1935). There have been many variations, such as The Muppets Christmas Carol, Mickey Mouse Christmas Carol (remember Scrooge McDuck?) and it really paved the way for the typical heartwarming Christmas movie.

9. **Home Alone** (1 & 2) – A scary premise – a family forgets their child when they take off on a holiday vacation to France. Somehow, with the help of McCauley Culkin, they make it believable, funny and sweet. The second one shines, set in New York City Christmastime.

8. **Fat Albert's Christmas Special** – I'm a sap. Even as an adult, it still makes me cry. Man loses job – his wife is pregnant – they have nowhere to go. Sound familiar? Fat Albert and the gang to the rescue! Favorite line, "Hey, hey, hey, the baby is on its way!"

7. **Elf** – To quote a popular oxymoron, this is an instant classic. Will Ferrell as a child-like adult elf with the innocence of a five-year-old gives this "annuality" in my book. I just made that word up. It means it has real potential to be an annually-viewed program. Besides, where else can we use made-up words in every day speech – "Gi-normous!"

6. **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** – The original 1966 TV special. The movie in 2000 really missed the mark, in my opinion. Original "grinchiness" includes the uber-evil smile, Max the beagle with his rump in the air, and the swelling of the Grinch's heart in the end. We still call roast beef our "Who Rare Roast Beast."

5. **Miracle on 34th Street** – Although remade very well in the nineties, nothing compares to the original, with a young, beautiful Natalie Wood as a child. When I think of a typical Santa Claus, Edmund Gwenn always comes to mind. It was Macy's at its best advertising!

4. **A Charlie Brown Christmas** – The ultimate in holiday television history. Back in the day, it only came on once a year on CBS. And if you missed it, you were toast until next year. Linus with his ever-present wisdom told us the true meaning of Christmas, and that pitiful, little Christmas tree, all it needed was a little love. And Snoopy was on his game, kissing the girls and ragging on Schroeder's music.

3. **Christmas Vacation** – There are so many quotables in this movie, one of which I cannot print here. It is so typical of a REAL life "old fashioned family Christmas", complete with flaws – overcooked turkey, relatives you SO were not expecting, and that bonus you were supposed to get but instead got "Jelly of the Month Club". Okay, so it was a little exaggerated. But "It's a beaut, Clark!"

2. **A Christmas Story** – From the "Major Award" leg lamp to the tongue on the flag pole, this movie makes me laugh out loud every year. The setting is so authentic, you never doubt for a minute it is the 1940's. Between the father whose fascination with the turkey and the furnace (clunker) and the seemingly unreachable dream of the Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle. "Oh, Fudge . . ."

1. **It's a Wonderful Life** – Yes, how completely predictable. But I have seen this movie no less than thirty times, and I bawl like a baby every time, thanks to Jimmy Stewart. The desperation in his eyes when he's praying to God for a miracle in the bar is so believable, and the trip through his life without him is unmatched.

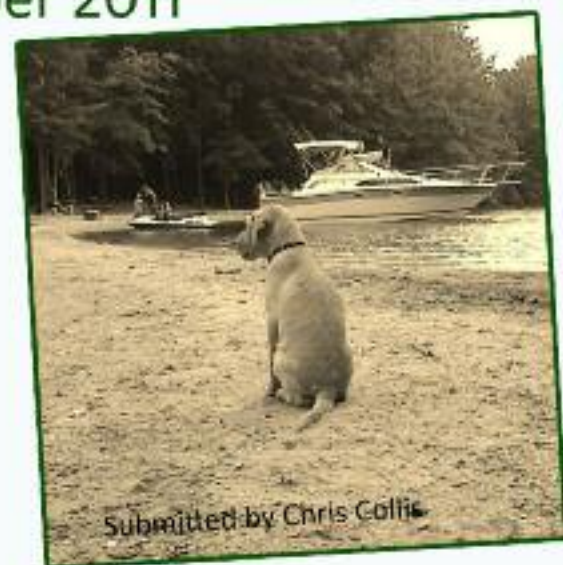
So, there you have it. No matter what is on your list, there are many Christmas movies and TV shows worth watching. And some that are not so much. Who remembers Deck the Halls or The Santa Clause III? Highly doubtful that we will be seeing those play at Mount Pony. Have to go now – A Charlie Brown Christmas is coming on TV! Merry Christmas all!!

Scenes from Lake Anna



E-mail your photos to :
Info@LakeAnnaInfo.net
to share for our next issue!

Lake Anna's Featured Pets December 2011



Send your photos to our facebook page or e-mail them to info@lakeannainfo.net and you could see your pet featured here next month!

Practicing techniques on a trampoline will keep your muscles in shape during the off season



Keeping Fit for the Water in the Off-Season

by contributing writer Kyle Austin

Is your time on the water over...or are you getting ready for next season? Just because winter and the colder days are here doesn't mean that you have to sit back and hibernate. These times of the year give you a great opportunity to train and prepare for the season to come. There are tons of different exercises and routines to do to keep your muscles in tune for the next year. There is skateboarding, snowboarding, balance boards, and trampolines. All of these practices help in their own way, as well as in the colder weather and rainy days on and off the season.

Skateboarding is a sport that keeps your heart pumping and your balance skills alert. It can also help you with your ollies and spins on the water. The muscle memory that you develop while carving side to side riding on a skate will transfer very much like a wakeboard or wakeskate. You have to learn how to carve on the water not only by using your upper body and rope but also with using a little bit of give and take with your ankles and feet as well.

Snowboarding is very relative to wakeboarding and has been associated with it since the two became large recreational sports. Your body has to pivot to carve back and forth as well as lean forward and backward. During the off season snowboarding in my personal opinion is the best training method for any wakeboarder or wakeskater. Terrain parks for snowboarding are a huge help for training balance along with body control. When a rider is hitting a rail and perfecting their balance on a flat box, rainbow, A-frame, etc. they all help the body maintain muscle mass and memory for the water season. Learning how to hit a rail without the rope can also help some riders, as well. The fact that they are learning this skill without the lifeline of the rope can help because you will be ready and more willing to adapt once you hit the rails on the water.

Balance boards are one thing that most enthusi-

asts have not yet tried. There are many brands out there to choose from, so if you obtain one, do your research and find the best product for yourself. The one major benefit to a balance board is that it is an inside and outside training method. If you want to sit back and watch the big game with ten inches of snow outside, no problem. Just jump on the board and get to balancing. Not all of the balancing that you learn will go specifically to just wakeboarding, either. The fact that you can balance in any way shape or form will help your joints and other body parts for the rest of your life. The main thing to me as a balance board user myself is that not only can you use it whenever you want, but you can pack it up and take it with you just about anywhere.

One last training tip for the off season is using a trampoline. This tool will help you on and off season. The trampoline will give you the lighter-than-air feel and big pop feeling, as well. The hang time in the air will give you timing skills to help with on the water tricks. For example, if you are learning how to do a front-side 360 on the water, you will probably fall a few times learning how to get it just right. Now just imagine the possibilities if you did not have to get wet or burn gas every time you wanted to learn something new. You can just jump out on the trampoline and start putting down a whole new line to try in the summer time. Though you won't be getting pulled behind the boat or balancing yourself on top of the water, your body will still develop muscle memory for the time when you do hit the water.

Everyone knows when you hit the water for your first set of the year, the next day you will feel the sore pain of not having been on the water in a few months. Helping to train in the off season can prevent that from happening and get you back on the water with a greater chance of success. Practicing hitting the water with less chance of injury is a great method of post/pre season tune ups.

Too Cold for Wakes? Try the Flakes!

by contributing writer Kyle Barmoy

I often express my excitement when I hear about the possibility of a snow storm. Most of the time, people around me express their hatred towards snow. They complain that the weather is too cold and uncomfortable, the roads are dangerous to drive on, and the list of negativity seems to go on and on. I can certainly understand some of these arguments because I do agree that I would rather be out sitting on a boat during a nice warm day than sitting in an igloo shivering to death. However, I try to look at snow storms through a "glass is half full" mentality. One way I am able to do this is through an addicting sport that allows you to make full use of the snow; snowboarding.

Snowboarding gives riders an experience somewhat similar to that of water sports, but has fewer limitations on different variations of enjoying the sport. For instance, a wakeboarder typically rides behind a boat that restricts him to jumping the wake and performing tricks. Riders can choose



to hit obstacles such as rails and kickers, but switching from boat riding to rail riding is typically not a one minute transition. However, on the mountain you can transition from riding any kind of terrain to a different terrain fairly quick, and even switch back and forth if you desire. Also, consider that wakeboarders do not typically ride very fast and make hard carves because doing so does not inspire big adrenaline rushes, and many boards are not designed for high speed riding. However, in snowboarding, the rider can transition from hitting jumps or rails in the terrain park to carving down the mountain at high speeds in a matter of minutes. The ability to change riding styles fairly easily and quickly helps keep riders having a good time all day long and creates unlimited possibilities for personal riding improvement.

If you have not tried snowboarding I encourage you to visit one of the mountains in your area and give it a shot. However, I highly recommend that first time riders take a lesson from the mountain's snowboarding school. I am a snowboarding instructor at Liberty Mountain in Pennsylvania, and while training to become an instructor I quickly noticed the importance of learning how to snowboard properly from ground up. Snowboard instructors receive training from professionals who have taught hundreds or possibly even thousands of students, so they have discovered what techniques work best for teaching. Many people who snowboard regularly believe that they can teach well because they can ride well, and this might be the case, but I have personally witnessed many riders of decent riding ability teaching others and telling them exactly what snowboard instructors are taught not to tell students. As a result, students who take lessons tend to progress in a quicker and safer manner.

Even if you do not wish to take a lesson for the first time, I highly recommend giving snowboarding a try. It might take a few times, and you might be sore the next day, but if you stick with the sport you will find that it becomes very fun, gives you a good work out, and gives you a reason to look forward to the snow.

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Fishing at Lake Anna

Some of Lake Anna's most skilled guides have prepared fishing reports to help you on your next fishing trip. Our website also publishes these reports monthly and archives them as the year goes on. LakeAnnaGuide.com also provides up-to-the-minute fishing weather conditions.

Lake Anna Striper Guide 540-967-3313
Jim Hemby, <http://www.jimhemby.com>

The lake is in great shape, filled with plenty of fresh water holding plenty of Oxygen and the temperatures ranging from upper 50's up lake to mid 60's down lake. In the current it is hard to beat the Pencil Popper worked on the surface. When the fish sound convert to swim baits and spoons to catch the Stripers (sassy shads, Sea Shads, Toothache). There are nice schools working the mouths of Sturgeons and Boggs and around the power plant. Mid lake fish are turning on strong with the gulls exposing the numerous schools of Stripers. When approaching gulls working fish cut your big motor off at least 100 yards before getting to the area of the gulls and use your trolling motor to take you into the area. The Stripers are schooled well around the splits chasing bait to the surface in low light conditions and schooling deeper in the 20 to 30 foot flats during the day. Run live bait on down lines or jig Spoons and flukes at the depth you see the arches on your depth finder to catch these Stripers. The fish want to fatten up and will attack the larger baits driving the shad up to the surface with explosive strikes. It is not uncommon to catch 15 to 20 Stripers a day using this technique.



Sea Shads

Recent Catches on Lake Anna



Wilson Bradley and David Chisholm



Taylor Mcann and Charlie Bowles



Steve Wilson



Mike Berryman



George Decatur and Preston Cox



Bill and Alex Gearhardt

photos provided by Jim Hemby, the Lake Anna Striper Guide

CCBASSN Lake Anna Guide Service, 540-894-6195

Chris Craft, www.ccbassnlakeanna.blogspot.com
Chris Craft's Full Report is accessible at LakeAnnaGuide.com

Mid and up lake are the best areas to fish now since the Dike III region is transitioning again. Use shaky worms on docks mid and down lake and



Gold Spoon

consider vertical jigging Crazy Blades and Toothache spoons at the mouth of mid lake creeks. Many fish have gone deep and are feeding on three-inch threadfin shad, so the spoon and blade bait is a good choice. In the up lake region, bass are moving away from the shoreline willow grass and onto bait. Hard cover like rocks, road beds and brush offer them sanctuary as they make their annual move deeper. Once the bass get off the banks and grass, pursue them with crankbaits and jigs in 10-15' of water. You can also try yo-yo jigging them with a Crazy Blade in the

upper sections of both the North Anna and Pamunkey Branch where you find bait and 15-20' of water.

Crappie - Bridges, docks and brushpiles in the up lake region are where to fish now until the fish begin to move deep. Some are moving in this direction already in the upper end of the lake. You can find large schools of them in 18-24' water near bridges and deep docks. Slow swim a 1" jig through the are to locate them, then follow up with a slip bobber and minnow to fill the livewell.

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments

December 14 - Lake Anna Winter Bass Series

We also want to see your best catches! E-mail your photos to info@lakeannainfo.net to see your prizes in the next issue of the Lake Anna Breeze!

For a complete list of upcoming tournaments, please visit the Fishing section at LakeAnnaGuide.com.



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Featured Events



New Year's Eve Celebration
held by The Lake Anna Chamber of Commerce
December 31st @ 8:30pm
at the Lake Anna Winery

The Lake Anna Chamber of Commerce is set to host a New Year's Eve Gala on Saturday, December 31st. The New Year's Eve celebration will be at the Lake Anna Winery and the festivities kick off at 8:30 pm. Celebrate the year that was 2011 with friends and other Lake Anna locals through the countdown to mid-

night. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and a DJ will be playing festive music throughout the night, along with a live performance from local band The Southern Special. There will be a champagne toast at midnight with courtesy limousine rides home for those who attend.

Tickets are available now and are free to Lake Anna Chamber of Commerce members or \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. Limited seats are available – more information can be found at www.LakeAnnaChamber.org. Tickets are also available at the Lake is Great Store. As of press time, most tickets have been purchased, so please act fast if you'd like to secure a spot.

The Lake Anna Chamber invites you out for a safe event to celebrate the beginning of 2012. The Lake Anna Chamber of Commerce is an organization consisting of businesses and individuals in the area who strive to promote Lake Anna as an economic, social, recreational and tourism center while providing membership services and networking opportunities for its members.

For additional event listings, please click on our interactive events calendar on LakeAnnaGuide.com

Lake Anna
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The Breeze Word Search

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Lake Anna Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)
 Relax every chance you get this month and enjoy the simple things the holidays have to offer. Your social life will begin to pick up just in time for New Year's Eve.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 Don't over-do it this holiday; you don't want to miss all the memories. Take time to call an old friend and plan a fun evening out.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
 You're at the top of your game right now. Don't forget to give other people a turn in the spotlight. Listen carefully to what others are saying; they may be hinting what they want for Christmas.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
 You're loving the holidays and can't wait to spread the cheer. All your good deeds will pay off and you may share a tender moment with someone you care about at 3...2...1... **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Leo (July 23-August 22)
 Your confidence is gleaming and it should be. Everything is coming easily for you right now. Enjoy it.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)
 Don't play it safe this month. A lot of opportunities are waiting for you, take a leap of faith and before you know it, you'll be landing right where you want to be.

Libra (September 23-October 22)
 Your kind heart has you in bliss this season. Spend time with your family and friends.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)
 You're getting overwhelmed by the holidays and that's not good for anyone. Call some friends and just relax.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)
 A friendship has sparked into something more. Go with it and you may just enjoy a special moment under the mistletoe.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)
 The holiday is busy for you. This year, take the time to organize a birthday party, you deserve it.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)
 December is the month to show your friends and family what a great person you are. Plan a get together with close friends and watch the holiday memories roll in.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)
 Emotions are running high as you try and balance time with family and friends. Everyone wants to see you, so try to save time for everyone.

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Your guide to dining and cooking at Lake Anna.

Featured Recipe



Blue Cheese Chicken Patty Melt with Grilled Onions

Description

Serves: 4
Prep time: 15 minutes
Grilling time: 19 to 24 minutes

Ingredients

1-1/2 pounds ground chicken (preferably thigh meat)
1/2 cup mayonnaise
4 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 large sweet yellow onion, cut crosswise into 1/4-inch slices
Extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt
Ground black pepper
4 slices blue cheese, each about 1 ounce
8 slices rye bread

Instructions

1. Shape the ground chicken into four equal-sized patties, each about 3/4 inch thick. With your thumb or the back of a spoon, make a shallow indentation about 1 inch wide in the center of each patty so the centers are about 1/2 inch thick. This will help the patties cook evenly and prevent them from puffing on the grill. Cover the patties with plastic wrap and refrigerate until you are ready to grill them, or for at least 5 minutes.
2. In a small bowl mix the mayonnaise and mustard.
3. Prepare the grill for direct cooking over medium heat (350° to 450°F).
4. Lightly coat the onion slices on both sides with oil and season with salt and pepper. Brush the cooking grates clean. Grill over direct medium heat, with the lid closed as much as possible, until tender, 6 to 8 minutes, turning once. Remove from the grill.
5. Lightly brush the patties on both sides with oil and season evenly with salt and pepper. Grill over direct medium heat, with the lid closed as much as possible, until fully cooked but still juicy, 12 to 14 minutes, turning once. During the last 2 to 3 minutes of grilling time, place a slice of cheese on top of each patty. Transfer the patties to a platter.
6. Brush the bread on one side with some oil and toast the slices over direct medium heat until browned on both sides, 1 to 2 minutes, turning once. Serve the burgers on rye with the mayonnaise mixture and some onions on top.

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Keeping Extra Pounds Off During the Holidays by Vienna Miller

If you're worried about gaining weight over the holidays, you're not alone.

The average North American gains 7 to 12 pounds over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Follow these simple holiday diet tips and tricks and you'll avoid the holiday weight gain that afflicts so many other people:

Drink Water - and Lots of It. Boring I know - but the reason this tip stays around year after year is because it works. Adequate water intake keeps your metabolism humming along at a maximum rate and staves off hunger cravings as well.

In fact, many people mistake thirst for hunger and end up eating to quench their thirst. This results in more calories than you body needs and - you guessed it - excess pounds.

Increase Your Exercise A Little Bit Every Day - Everyone deserves to indulge in holiday treats. Part of the fun of the holiday season is the amazing treats that are only around at Christmas and/or Thanksgiving. Accept the fact that you're going to indulge a bit - and then enjoy it! But make sure you make up for it elsewhere by increasing

your exercise.

You don't have to double your exercise time or sweat till you fall off your treadmill. Just increase your exercise time a bit every day, maybe ten minutes here, fifteen minutes there. It all adds up.

Cut Back Where You Can At Other Meals

- Did you know that the average number of calories consumed by one person during a typical Thanksgiving dinner is 7,100! That's about 2 pounds strictly in terms of calories alone. But not to worry. All you have to do is make small calorie cutbacks at other meals the week before and you'll easily make up for the extra calories.

For example, instead a huge slice of pecan pie (which normally will run you about 500 calories) for desert, why not try some blueberries mixed with low fat yogurt? Instead of the bag of potato chips you usually indulge in for the big game, why not munch on air-popped, low fat popcorn? You can save as much as 500 calories and you're still having a salty, satisfying snack. Bottom line: cut back where you can in little ways. You won't miss the little sacrifices and you can then enjoy your holiday meals - guilt free!

Eat What You Like - But Only A Few Bites - If you

absolutely cannot imagine giving up any of your favorite treats this holiday season, give yourself permission to have a bite of everything - but only a bite! Let's face it the first couple of bites are the best tasting anyway!

Don't Eat After 7:00 pm - Experts tell us that the earlier in the day food is eaten, the more likely it is to be burned off. However when you eat late at night, this food is more likely to be stored as fat.

So if you know you absolutely must have a sweet indulgence during the day, try to have it before noon. Then towards the end of the day, snack on healthy, lower carb foods like salads, vegetable broth, fruits or lean protein. This keeps your metabolism elevated but won't pack on the pounds. I've personally used this trick before every holiday Christmas party for 5 years running and it certainly helps for getting into those slinky Christmas party dresses!

So those are 5 diet tips to avoid holiday weight gain this year. Follow them and you're guaranteed to save yourself the stress of unwanted weight gain. Heck, you'll probably even lose a few pounds, all in time for New Year's Eve!

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Amazing Nautical Home Decoration Tips

by Jessica Ackerman



If you are lake lover who adores the smell of the breeze and the warm feeling of sand squished between your toes, it is a great idea to bring home this wondrous feeling by decorating your home with nautical home décor and accessories. Turning your home into a relaxing nautical retreat is not that difficult. In fact, with these amazing tips, you will be able to enjoy a more beautiful home that resembles the beauty of a coastal scene.

Choose the Right Color Theme - Color is a crucial design element so you need to find the perfect colors that will give your home a nautical look. Colors in the nautical palette include white, blue, navy blue, khaki, and sea green. These typical color schemes are commonly used for the walls, flooring and for big pieces of furniture.

However, you can add life to the room by including brighter colors such as yellow, orange, and red in the form of colored seashells, nautical flags, coastal wall art, and photographs. It is important to select color groups that complement and blend well with each other. Combinations of blues, greens and neutrals are often great to use for any room especially in the living area or the bedroom.

Bring the Flavor to the Dining Room - A nautical dining room will make you feel like you are having a picnic lunch on the beach so it would be best if you can use green chairs or folding chairs. Dinnerware can have designs of seashells or sea animals. Some of the popular themes for the dining room that you can choose from include sailboats, lobsters, fish, and seashells.

Whip up Nautical Feast in the Kitchen - A kitchen can be made to look like a scene from the coast by incorporating nautical designs on windows of the kitchen. This is great as long as the designs are light, airy or breezy. You can also use nautical accessories such as pots, jars, dishtowels, potholders and so many more.

Liven up the Living Area - For the living room, you can use coastal wall art to add a nautical touch to it. Include accents and accessories such as lighthouse shaped candle holders, beach lantern, seashell decorations, miniature sailboats and sailing flags. You can place the sitting area on top of a nautical inspired rug or carpet.

Spunk up the Bedroom - If you want to keep it simple, painting your bedroom with a nautical palette and throwing in a few nautical accessories such as tropical wall art, model ships, lighthouse miniatures, and so on, is probably enough to do the job. But if you want something extreme, try buying a customized bed shaped like a boat or a ship.

Make the Bathroom a Cozy Retreat - When decorating a bathroom, it is a must to choose shower curtain, rugs and bathroom accessories that go with its color theme or have a patterns of boats, anchors, seashells, ship wheels or anything that would give your bathroom a nautical feel.

Creating a nautical theme in your home is like connecting your haven to the environment and the result of this is an inviting, relaxing and comfortable place, just like what the sea makes you feel when you are on the lake.

For more tips and home design articles, please visit LakeAnnaGuide.com for additional resources, photos, and videos for design idease and other helpful hints.



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How to Keep a Positive Perspective in a Negative Market by William Bronchick

“Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you are right” – Henry Ford

I am sure you’ve heard the expression, “Attitude is everything.” This is very true. Right now, it’s simply your attitude and mentality that will give you the edge over others who are trying to invest in this highly volatile market. You’ve undoubtedly heard the importance of thinking positive and having the right attitude. Most people are intelligent enough to know that this statement is true. Some people reading this will argue that a positive attitude doesn’t always work. Well, maybe not, but I know one thing for sure – negative thinking and a negative attitude NEVER works! So your only choice and your only chance for success in this market are to pick the positive things in life and maintain a positive attitude at all times.

I once read a fortune cookie that said, “An optimist is someone who tells you to cheer up when things are going his way”. I know that if you are reading this article, times may be difficult and you need serious answers to your burning questions such as, “How I profit in a slow market”? There are many answers to this question, but first I need to impart to you some relative perspective.

A History Lesson on Real Estate Cycles

About every ten to twelve years, as an average, real estate values tend to double in most major metropolitan areas. For example, in the 1920’s, the original colonial homes sold for just under \$2,500 in Long Island, New York. Since then, real estate prices have doubled almost eight times over the last 80 years. That averages out to a 100% increase approximately every ten years. An interesting note to this is that about every ten to twelve years, real estate values must correct before they enter their next “doubling cycle”.

It’s Not a Matter of If, It’s a Matter of When

The evolutionary process is three steps forward and one step backwards. For example, imagine a 100% increase occurring in three steps of one-third parts each. The last market cycle of the 1980’s was one in which real estate values doubled, followed by a correction of the early 1990’s, which equated to a 20-30% decrease over a three to five year period. This cycle was then followed by the post-millennium cycle boom of 100% from the last high point of the previous cycle. We are now in the naturally-occurring phase of a correction in the cycle. This essential and beneficial adjustment gives the market pause to reflect and re-gather momentum and strength for the next doubling cycle. This has occurred time and time again because the long-term demand for housing is growing an exponential rate based on population growth to almost double in the United States by 2050. This will continue to drive prices higher as it has for the last 100 years.

Since we now know based on history that nearly all real estate prices will double again, it’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when your existing houses will sell. Sharing these facts with your prospective buyers will put them in the right frame of mind to buy now versus next year if they plan on staying in the home more than five years. If a buyer is apprehensive about being the right time to invest, ask him if he’d like to buy his parent’s home for the price they paid for it – the answer will be obviously “yes”.

Maintain a Positive Attitude Assuming a Negative Result

In “Winning Through Intimidation” author Robert Ringer talks of the importance of maintaining a positive attitude through the assumption of a negative result. In other words, Ringer suggests that you be prepared for the worst case scenario while at the same time putting your best foot forward to get the best possible result. This will take the mental pressure off of you and allow you to focus on getting the job done. This approach, I believe, allows you to be positive and realistic in your mental assessment buying and selling houses.

If it Bleeds, it Leads

There’s an old expression in the media business, “If it bleeds, it leads.” In other words, the media loves to cover negative news more than positive because it sells better. When the real estate market is in turmoil, the media loves to run these negative headlines to keep reminding people how bad things are. When buyers hear the bad news, it affects

demand because the negative news drives fear, which makes buyers worry about whether the time is right to buy a home.

Is the media simply reporting the news or does the media actually affect the news in this regard? The answer is obviously both. The media reporting negative news alone can’t shape a real estate market. However, since perception is often reality, when buyers are spooked, they may shy away from buying. This affects lenders, builders, real estate agents and other professionals who rely on the real estate business for their income. It becomes almost a self-fulfilling prophecy because things get worse and the media again reminds us how bad things are.

But, are things really as bad as the media reports? The numbers certainly do reflect falling home prices and rising foreclosures. When you hear that foreclosures have doubled or even tripled in a particular area, this may sound catastrophic at first until you realize that the vast majority of homes (90-95%, depending on the local market) are NOT in foreclosure. Despite the doom and gloom, there’s always a buyer for a well-kept home offered at the right price and terms. In short, don’t read the paper if you want to keep a positive attitude and sell your homes fast!

Ready Fire, Aim, Fire Well done is better than well said – you have to take a whole lot of action to get your houses sold in a slow market. In a good real estate market,

people can sell a house fast, so when things slow down, they figure, “Oh well, there’s nothing I can do.” Nothing could be further from the truth. Not only is there something you can do, but there’s a lot you MUST do to get your house sold. However, it’s not just about working hard, it’s about working SMART. You need to do things in the right order and in the right way to get the proper results.

However, don’t focus too much on perfection before you take action. You’re probably familiar with the phenomenon of the “C” student who outperforms the “A” student in real life. This is because the “C” student is often satisfied with doing a mediocre job at something, but just getting it done. The “A” student mentality often leads to paralysis of analysis and inaction. In other words, the bottom line is getting your house exposed to as many buyers as possible, not necessarily

getting it done perfectly. For example, many sellers want to show their house only when it’s convenient for them and the house is in perfect shape to be shown, instead of when a buyer is ready. While showing a house in its best condition is a priority, it doesn’t make sense to put off a ready, willing and able buyer for too long.

Fear Many people reading this are prone to inaction because of fear of doing it incorrectly. Remember, it’s not a matter of doing it perfectly, but putting forth your best effort. As I discussed earlier, a lot of effort at a “C” level beats doing less things at an “A” level.

Lack of knowledge certainly makes it difficult to sell a house fast in a slow market, and in fact is probably the single biggest drawback for the average person. Most people only have the opportunity to sell a few houses in their lifetime and often rely on professionals to do the work. Thus, the average home seller does not have enough practice to get really good at the job. In fact, most real estate agents who sell houses for a living are hardly good at it. The top 5% of agents in any market do the vast majority of the business.

Taking the time to learn what to do is a very important part of the success in selling a house. In the classic book “Think & Grow Rich”, Napoleon Hill writes about the importance of learning the right things. He distinguishes between general knowledge and specialized knowledge. Certainly, there’s a lot of general real estate knowledge in bookstores and floating around the Internet, but this book is unique because it offers the very specialized knowledge of how to sell a house ... QUICKLY! Our experience in selling thousands of homes will reveal the very specialized knowledge you’ll need to get your house sold fast and at the highest price you can get for your market.

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Liz Wilson Making the Move to Long & Foster

Local realtor Liz Wilson is moving to Lake Anna’s Long & Foster office as an associate broker. This move brings one of the lake’s most popular agents from Realty World, Lakeside Pros, as owners Vance & Betty Dunn are relocating to North Carolina.


Liz has flourished as an agent here and loves her job. Her favorite part of being a real estate agent? Going to the closing table with happy and satisfied clients. As a longtime Lake Anna resident, Liz knows the area and has the experience to help the buying and selling process run smoothly.

Liz has officially made the move and can be reached at the Long & Foster office as of print time. We wish the best to Liz, as well as to the Dunns and thank them for their many years of hard work and dedication to the Lake Anna community.

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 open floorplan, 3-5 bedrooms, stone fireplace, stone accents, stainless steel appliances, 2-car garage, to be built in Noah's Landing, Lake Anna's premiere subdivision. \$699,900.



WATERFRONT HOME
 optional walkout basement, lanai, outdoor fireplace, barbeque pit, attached garage, beautiful waterfront in Lake Anna's premiere subdivision, Noah's Landing. To be built, purchase now & choose your upgrades!



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"Only the sunset covers Lake Anna better."



Lake Anna Water View \$424,000

Fabulous home with good views of Lake Anna. Home has 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Awesome screened gazebo to enjoy those lazy Summer days. Home has newer Trane HVAC system, paved driveway, deck is pre-wired for hot tub, 2 car garage, and fantastic curb appeal. Make this your lake getaway or permanent home now. Assigned slip in common area.



Lake Anna Water Access \$314,900

Rare offering of a property located in this small, quiet subdivision on the South End of Lake Anna. Fantastic one level living, split bedroom floor plan, great for entertaining with huge open family room. Assigned deep water boat slip (46) in common area. Beautiful stamped concrete patio in backyard with free standing fireplace for those fabulous Lake Anna nights.



Lake Anna Water Access \$399,900

Park like setting with this fabulous 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home (5th bedroom NTC - 3 bedroom septic). Three separate outdoor areas to enjoy beautiful Lake Anna, with year round views from the Gazebo. Home is convenient to community boat launch and Dukas Creek Marina. Perfect for year round living with tons of space for all of your lake guests. Extra bonus - cable tv/internet is available at this property.

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Liz Wilson

Associate Broker, ABR, CSP, GRI



PRICE REDUCTION! Waterviews from this elegant like new home in Louisa County at Lake Anna. Main level master suite with surrounding waterviews. All rooms on first & lower level have views of the lake. Mostly all hardwood flooring on main level, boat slip in common area conveys. Proof of quality and expression of excellence shows in this home. Maintenance free decking. \$535,000



Lovely cape in quiet, established gated community at Lake Anna. Home shows like new. Beautiful landscaped lot for family gatherings, level and well maintained. Wonderful master bedroom and bath waiting for you to relax and remove that stress. \$242,000.



Spacious rambler located on corner lot, updated kitchen w/ new cabinets, counters, center island & breakfast bar. Separate dining & living room w/gas tp, LARGE family room addition w/wood stove plus laundry/mudroom addition. Garage converted to workshop. Relax in your 30'x15' above ground pool w/fence and decking. Nice circular paved driveway. \$165,000.



DO YOU WANT A HOUSE THAT CAN HAVE IT ALL? WELL HERE IT IS! HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE, steps from the common area, waterfront & boat slips (leased). Master on Main Level w/lacuzzi bathtub & large 2-person shower. Mostly "gunstock" hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen w/hickory cabinets & granite countertops, 2 zoned heating & cooling, energy efficient home, full unfin. basement. \$349,900



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