

# LANDEN NEWS

*Official CSA News for Landen*

April 2007

Photo courtesy of Frank Hoot

## **Current Landen Farm Community Services Association Board Members and Officers:**

Scott Brown PRESIDENT (*Strawberry Hill*)  
Gary Algie VICE PRES (*Hunters Pointe*)  
Roger Cupp TREASURER (*Hunters Pointe*)  
Julie Farmer SECRETARY (*Carriage Gate*)  
Kathy Bowlin (*Pond Woods*)  
Bill Coffey (*Sailboat Pointe*)  
Murry Feldstein (*Woodfield*)  
Lee Hamilton (*Montgomery Hills Condos*)  
Lynn Hand (*The Island Community*)  
Mary Hoot (*The Trails*)  
William Klum (*Strawberry Hill*)

**CSA Board Meetings**  
**Tuesday May 22 Woodfield**  
**Tuesday June 26 Woodfield**

Property Owners who want to be addressed must call Henkle Schueler Management office a week prior to the meeting. If you are unable to put in a request for the agenda, you may bring your concern before the board in a five minute presentation. Contact:

Henkle Schueler Property Management  
Attn: Shannon McCowan  
3000-G Henkle Drive, Lebanon, OH 45036  
(866) 775-1525 [smccowan@henkleschueler.com](mailto:smccowan@henkleschueler.com)  
Toll Free 24hours/7days

**Board positions are available each year for those who wish to volunteer their personal time to make Landen a great place to live. There are six seats open this year. If you are interested in serving your community, call Shannon at 866-775-1525**

***The Annual Election Meeting***  
***Columbia School Cafeteria***  
***Tuesday April 24th 6pm***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO LANDEN RESIDENTS**

Dear Landen Neighbor,

After a cold and brutal February, it looks like spring has finally arrived in Landen! As I walk and drive through our community, spring, however, is not turning my thoughts toward what the old cliché talks about.

Rather, my thoughts are about our home values. We all know that the current real estate market is down for sellers across our region and across the country. Like it or not, Landen also is in competition with other surrounding areas, and often these are newer subdivisions with the latest in home design and features. Moreover, although I might be wrong about this, sometimes it seems as some have an undue influence in setting and keeping our home sale prices stagnant in the Landen area. That is clearly wrong -- such short sightedness does not reflect the true, appreciating value of the great place we call home.

Landen continues to be a unique community unlike any other in the Greater Cincinnati area. Our amenities and planned development make ours a special place to live, for which a premium should be reflected in home values. All of us need to remind ourselves and others of this, particularly real estate brokers. The CSA is diligently trying to protect the future of our lake and beautify our common areas. You will see more of that this spring, as community entrances are revitalized and spruced up. As you know, we also have established our website and now provide vital information that realtors can use to sell Landen.

However, it is also incumbent upon all of us to keep our homes, yards, and common areas in great condition, in order to maintain Landen's status as one of the area's premier communities. Failure to do so will only negatively affect our home values. As we get out into our yards this spring, I encourage everyone to consider the condition of his or her property, and the effect that it has upon not only his or her own home value, but upon our neighbors.

All exterior changes/additions need to have prior approval of the Design and Review Board (DRB). Changes include, house color, landscaping, decks, roofs, windows, driveways, play equipment, etc. During the approval process, the DRB reviews the application (drawings, land plots, estimates, color swatches) to ensure the desired change(s) comply with the CSA guidelines and do not detract from the property. After approval, the DRB monitors the application until completion. The application is not complicated. Once it is submitted, the management company will review it and inform you of any missing pieces the DRB may need to make a decision at its next meeting. If you have any questions the management company will guide you through the process. The DRB, with management's assistance, performs community inspections to aid in maintaining the CSA standards and notifies homeowners when their property is not in compliance.

Thanks again for caring so much about your community. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely Yours,

*Scott Brown*

**ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

On April 24, 2007, the Annual Election Meeting will take place in the cafeteria at Columbia Elementary School.. The meeting will be held at 6 pm.

Residents who run for board positions volunteer their time and contribute their ideas for this community. There are six seats open for election with seven candidates running.

The candidates are:

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Gary Algie         | Hunters Point          |
| Scott Brown        | Strawberry Hill        |
| Kevin Downey       | North Cove             |
| Julie Farmer       | Carriage Gate          |
| Lee Hamilton       | Montgomery Hill Condos |
| William Klum       | Strawberry Hill        |
| Kristin Spiekerman | Strawberry Hill        |

Nominees from the floor or "write ins" will be accepted during the election meeting..

We hope you can attend the Election Meeting where you will be given a ballot. If you can't attend, please take the time to send in your proxy and appoint the board to vote your designated choices for you or appoint someone who will be attending the meeting to vote your proxy for you. The results from the election will be posted the following day, April 25, on our web site <http://www.landencsa.com>

We wish to thank all board members who have contributed their time and talent so that Landen has continued to be a great place to live.

*Scott Brown- advisory*  
*Mary Hoot- Chair*  
*Gary Algie, Lee Hamilton*

**FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

LANDEN FARM CSA  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS  
FEBRUARY, 2007

There was not much activity in February. Total cash activity was about \$12,000. Most of the cash received came from the reserve transfer of \$10,000. Membership dues in the amount of \$1,422 were also received. Expenses consisted of \$11,640 for dredge expenses and other miscellaneous items (postage, repairs, and legal). Cash available in the max saver account totaled \$ 1,162,976. In addition to this there is over \$ 110 K in C D's yet to mature. The tax return has been extended until September 15th. A \$ 3,800 estimate was paid in with the extension. This was based on net investment income of about \$ 35,000 and previous estimates paid in of \$ 7,064.

*Roger Cupp, Treasurer*

**THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

We have had a great response to our new web site [www.landencsa.com](http://www.landencsa.com) which has been active since October 2006. Below are the "stats" for the site which change dramatically each month. We are encouraging Realtors to use the site as a selling tool to familiarize their clients with the Landen community. If you are selling your home, be sure to tell your listing agent about the site.

The next Landen News will be published on the web site in May/June and a hard copy will be printed and delivered in July. The issues online may be printed from the web site.

The Communications Committee is growing and we are recruiting talented people to help. Please contact Shannon at the Henkle Schueler office if you are interested in volunteering for a worthwhile project. Tel: 866-775-1525.

**Web Site Stats:  
March 27, 2007**

18,929 (14,728) hits since Oct 1st  
3100+ hits per month (almost 3,000)  
Avg. 107 (100) hits per day (up since last month)

Top 5 Pages Visited:

- Lake Restoration
- Landen Newsletter
- Recreation Associations
- Property Manager Page
- Landen Maps

Additions to the web site since last CSA Board Meeting:

Three progress reports on the lake restoration & Pictures added  
General Election Info page updated & Candidate Bio's added  
CSA Meeting Reminder.

*Mary Hoot, Murry A. Feldstein*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**LANDEN NEWS Is Going On-Line**  
**3 Ways To Receive Future Editions**  
REGISTER your e-mail address at  
[www.landencsa.com](http://www.landencsa.com)  
We will e-mail all future editions of Landen News  
And the latest news about your community  
  
VISIT our site and download the newsletter  
  
CONTACT Shannon at 866-775-1525  
to be put on our mailing list for a printed copy which  
will be mailed to you

# PLEASE ATTEND

THE  
ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING  
(or appoint someone who will  
be attending to vote for you)

APRIL 24, 2007

6 PM

COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
COLUMBIA RD. LANDEN



The lake restoration project is well underway! While it is very exciting to see all the big trucks and heavy machinery going in and out of the end of the lake, this is not a sightseeing area. During the months to come, please respect this area as a construction site where you should not walk or run, walk your children or pets, bike ride, or park your cars. And drivers : please slow down! The speed limit on Simpson's Trace is 25 mph, and in a construction zone, you need to slow down below that speed limit. Be considerate for the men who are working and their safety.

While the lake project is going on, take this opportunity to discover the other paths running throughout beautiful wooded parts of Landen – approximately ten miles of them! The path around the lake is a favorite, yes, but right now it would be best for you and your family to avoid it and look for new paths to enjoy....especially since the view isn't that great right now!



It is hard to believe, but Spring 2007 is here! We are looking forward to a busy year. If you are planning any exterior changes, please get your application in by noon the day before the meeting (Monday at noon) so it can go through the proper process and not delay your project. During the summer we will meet twice a month (dates to be posted).

Please remember to submit your application, with as much information as possible, (i.e., photos, scaled plans, explanations, and when possible manufacturers product photos and information) to the Design and Review Board (DRB) early enough that it can go through the proper process in a timely manner and not delay your project. A \$50 application fee is required and will be returned if the application is submitted before work begins.

A few additional reminders as we head into summer:

\* Any exterior change needs to have an application submitted.

\* Pick up after your pets.

\* Signs (garage sale, missing pet, birthday, for sale, etc.) should not be attached to the CSA signs. A fee will be assessed along with any repair cost (filling holes, paint, etc.)

\* We are in the process of enhancing the community entryways and need your help. When putting signs into the ground, please do not place your sign in the landscaping, Foot traffic and signs damage the plants and mat down the mulch. Please place the sign at the edges of the beds outside of the landscaped areas

\* Do not assume the board or the management company knows of violations and maintenance issues. Let us know. There are 2 options, call the management company (866-775-1525) or use the website ([www.landencsa.com](http://www.landencsa.com)). Simply go to the Design and Review tab and click on Violations and Non-Compliance Report. We would rather hear about an issue 2 or 3 times than not at all. All reports are confidential.

We are looking forward to a great spring and summer. If you have questions or need an application to make an exterior change to your property, contact Shannon McCowen, our Property Manager at Henkle Schueler, 866-775-1525 (toll free) to help you with the process or visit the website [www.landencsa.com](http://www.landencsa.com).

*Julie Farmer, Chair  
Jim Baker, Ralph Elliott, Robert Geisse,  
Mary Hoot, William Klum*



Building a Better Bass Club



Summer 2008

## Conservation Report

# One day, big impact

*Members of an Ohio club tackled a habitat project that should help the lake for years to come*

By ED HARP  
Special to BASS Times

LANDEN, Ohio — Southwestern Ohio's Landen Lake needed improvement. Its 70 acres supported a reasonable largemouth bass population and a respectable forage base, but the habitat was mediocre. Enough structure wasn't available to move it from a good bass fishing lake to a great one.

The members of the lake's governing board wanted to remedy that problem, so they contacted the Warren County Bassmasters. After considering several ideas, the board decided this activist group could handle the job.

Club President Bill Donaldson knew fish attractors could be made inexpensively from PVC pipe, concrete and gravel. He also knew they had been used effectively in other locations. With a limited budget, the club contacted Lowe's Home Improvement. The store manager agreed to supply material at 5 percent over cost, including free delivery.

Donaldson, an engineer by trade, mapped out the following plan: A length of 4-inch schedule 40 PVC was drilled completely through both sides of the pipe at 2-inch intervals, forming the trunk. Branches were made from various sizes of PVC. The branches were pushed through the trunk and secured with PVC glue.

The height of the trunk, size of the holes and length of the branches varied depending upon where the attractor was to be placed — the deeper the water, the taller and bigger the tree.

The branches at the top of the trunk were cut shorter than the ones on the lower portion.

This gave the structure a realistic Christmas tree shape. Different diameter branches also helped create a lifelike appearance.

The base of the main trunk was then placed into a plastic washtub, drilled completely through and secured to the sides of the tub with another length of pipe. Then, 80 pounds of concrete was poured over the base, into the tub. This secured the tree in a vertical position once it was on the bottom and allowed it to survive extremely rough weather.

The end of each length of pipe was left open, allowing baby bass and minnows to use the pipes as a refuge from larger predators. That's an important function of any habitat device.

August was selected as the placement date. The attractors were transported by boat to their prospective locations in the lake. Just before their release, pea gravel was poured over the concrete to the top of the washtub. The idea was to create a spawning site for largemouth bass. It will be next spring before they know if that was successful.

This club project went along very quickly. Nine men made 25 attractors in just six hours. It took less than two hours to deploy them. The complete cost for materials was just under \$1,500. Lunch and refreshments are included in that figure.

"We're really proud of this project. It'll improve bass fishing in Landen and hopefully around the country as our idea catches on," says Donaldson. "And the great thing is that every time anyone does this, they'll come up with something to make it better. That's great."

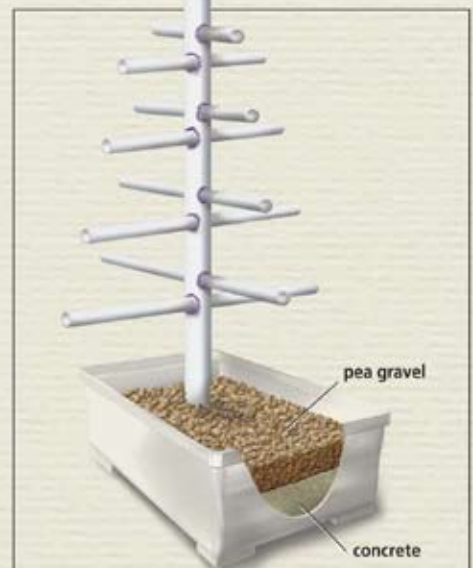
Club Vice President Ed Sizemore goes on



Nine members of Ohio's Warren County Bassmasters added habitat to a local lake in only one day's work. Photo courtesy of Warren County Bassmasters

to point out that new materials aren't necessary. "Most of us have enough scrap around our basements to build a couple of these things. They don't have to be perfect to work. The fish won't know the difference."

Any bass angler interested in building a few of these attractors is encouraged to contact Donaldson at 513-470-9670 or Sizemore at 513-573-0578. They'll be glad to offer advice or swap ideas for improvements.



Habitat "trees" are relatively inexpensive and easy to make. Illustration by Lenny McPherson

### Material List For 25 Attractors

Quantity	Material
8	10 feet, 3/4-inch schedule 40 PVC
10	10 feet, 1-inch schedule 40 PVC
11	10 feet, 1- to 1 1/2-inch schedule 40 PVC
13	10 feet, 1 1/2-inch schedule 40 PVC
13	10 feet, 4-inch schedule 40 PVC
25	20-gallon PVC washbasin
25	80-pound bags Ready Mix concrete
25	50-pound bags pea gravel
	hole saws to fit PVC branches
	PVC glue



Construction Crew: From left to right, Mikla Hodges, Chelsea Sizemore, Conan McFarland, Josh Mattingly, Ed Sizemore, Chris Benner, Jeff Shultz, Bill Donaldson and Mark Delta.

## CLEAN UP LANDEN DAY

Clean Up Landen Day is scheduled for April 14, 2007. In conjunction with this semi-annual clean up day, all Landen homeowners and residents are encouraged to take a day to clean up their own property...rake out planting beds of all those left over Fall leaves, remove last years dead growth from perennials, and clean out gutters so they don't overflow during the Spring rains, pick up fallen branches and twigs and bundle them so that Rumpke will pick them up on trash day. With the windy days of Spring, loose items such as paper, cans, bags, tend to blow around. Please pick these up and dispose of them in your own trash can. Another very important area that we could all clean up is the street in front of our own homes. Sweeping up and bagging the leaves and debris which have collected there over the Winter will also help keep our lake clean, as all the debris from the street eventually finds its way into our lake – the same lake that is currently undergoing restoration. Please do your part this Spring, to keep Landen beautiful and our lake clean!

After the cleanup it will be time to plan your garden and to apply mulch. Time for pre-emergence. Consider a lesser dosage of nitrates or organics to discourage weeds. Does what I use on my lawn matter in the big scheme of things? Corn Gluten has been used successfully on lawns in Landen for more than 7 years with excellent results. There is, however, a small window of time to apply the gluten to your lawn and flower beds. Applications are most successful when forsythias and daffodils are in bloom.

Corn gluten meal is an environmentally sound way to control weeds in your garden and lawn. Corn gluten meal is a natural product that can safely inhibit germination of grass and weed seeds. In 1985, Dr. Nick Christians, of Iowa State University (ISU), accidentally discovered that corn gluten had pre-emergence herbicide activity.

Corn gluten is a by-product of wet milling process to make cornstarch. It is an animal feed for cattle, poultry, other livestock, fish and some dog foods. It also contains naturally occurring substances, which inhibit the growth

of seed's tiny feeder roots by causing a break down in the cell wall. The seedlings struggle to get enough moisture, which causes them to die before they ever have a chance to take hold. When used as directed, corn gluten acts as a pre-emergent natural herbicide that will not harm beneficial insects, soil organisms, pond or stream life. It is also safe around pets and children.

Since corn gluten kills only the roots of sprouting seeds, it can be used around transplants and established vegetables, flowers, fruit, shrubs and lawns. It can be used even up to the day of harvest. Once vegetable or flower seedlings have true leaves, it is then safe to apply corn gluten.

Corn gluten has another benefit. It is 10% nitrogen by weight in a slow release form. As a 10-0-0 fertilizer it can inhibit weed germination and feed your lawn and garden nitrogen. (Additional supplements of phosphorous and potassium may be needed, based on a soil test.) The only potential hazard that is documented so far is potential allergic reaction from inhalation of dust with certain individuals.



When fertilizing your lawn, consider using products lower in nutrients. Anne Lyon, Director of the Stream Monitoring Program at Green Acres Foundation warns about algae on lakes and ponds. "Green Grass, Green Lake" is the result of using high amounts of chemical nutrients on our grass and has also contributed to feeding the troublesome algae which plagued our lake before the reconstruction. Copper sulphate treatments were needed to remove the heavy growth of algae in the past several years and was costly for the Association. We love our green lawns and have, in many ways, become fanatic about it. If each one of us would take the time to research products which have lower levels of phosphates and nutrients, including organic fertilizers, it could make a significant change in what washes from our lawns into our streams and lake and eventually into the Little Miami River.

**CLEAN UP LANDEN DAY**  
**APRIL 14, 2007**

**WOODFIELD RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

**“PLAY BALL!”** April 2nd is nearly here, anyone going to Opening Day for the Cincinnati Reds? Who is ready for Spring Break? Kings and SMOY will be on break April 9-13. If you don't have a spring break, hopefully you can use the extended Easter weekend for a mini-get away.

Our neighborhood continues the annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday March 31, 10:30 at the Clubhouse. This is a really fun event, especially for the kids. Make sure you bring a basket for the goodies and a camera for all the cute Kodak moments with the Easter bunny!

It's that time of year again. The WRA has sent out its annual membership dues invoice. If you did not receive it, contact the WRA at 588-8013 or [www.woodfieldrecreation.com](http://www.woodfieldrecreation.com). Any payment postmarked after April 6th will be charged an additional \$30 late fee.

April showers bring May flowers and in May the pool opens! It's not too early to start thinking swimming. For the benefit of newer residents of Woodfield/Hunters Point, Woodfield is the home pool for the incredibly successful summer swim team Landen Stingrays, which is in the Tri-County Swim League. We are fortunate to have a competition sized pool here, which has been training waters for swimmers age 5 to 18 for nearly 30 years. Through the years Landen Stingrays has helped to cultivate state and national level swimmers. Our neighbor Lindsey Graessle, a Senior at Kings High School, in February, made her fourth consecutive trip to the Ohio State Swim Championships, in the breaststroke. She has 2 gold and 2 silver medals to claim in her state experiences, and also swims on the National Swim Team for Countryside YMCA. She is an amazing talent as her breaststroke times are equal to Olympic trial times. She will be attending the University of Kentucky this fall on a swimming scholarship. Way to go Lindsey!! We're really proud of you! Congrats to the other Kings swimmers (who also happen to be Stingrays in the summer), Paige Troyan, Anna Bersani and Sam VanDyke for your impressive swimming achievements at state this year.

Speaking of swim team, Landen Stingray's president this year is our neighbor Julie Himes, who says the following: "Come join in the fun of the swim team! Sign-ups for the Landen Stingrays will be on Thursday, 4/26 from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Columbia school cafeteria for Kings Local students only. All your questions can be answered there or you can check out the website at [www.landenstingrays.com](http://www.landenstingrays.com). Aren't you glad you live in such a fun community?!" Regardless of what school you attend, if you reside in the Kings Local School District and are between the ages of 5-18, you are eligible!

What else is happening this month, you ask?

April 19th - Kindergarten registration for JF Burns will be from 4-7.

April 20th - Kings JHS dance 5-7

April 28th - Kings HS Prom! 5:30 pre-prom at KHS, 8:00 prom at Oasis, 1-6am after prom at Countryside YMCA

Sent me pictures! Maybe we can get you published!! Any news from you?

Quote for the month: You'll never be the person you can be if pressure, tension and discipline are taken out of your life...  
James G. Bilkey

*P. J. Wolf - David Fleischer*

**PINE RIDGE RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The few warm days we've had already are hinting that summer is just around the corner. This means that we'll soon be splashing in the swimming pool again. Members of the Pine Ridge Recreation Association will be required to use pool passes this year to gain access to the pool. The management company is in the process of having the pool passes printed and will be mailing them out starting in April.

You can still enjoy the warm weather before the pool season begins by checking out the tennis courts. Repair of the tennis court surface was completed last fall in an attempt to fill in the cracks with a flexible, silicon base mixture. It is a wonderful asset to our community and is within easy walking distance for our members.

*Janet Fliegel - Pond Woods Resident*

**THE TRAILS RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Happy Spring neighbors and friends!

Most of you have probably started to hear the familiar sounds of spring. With the birds chirping, children playing outside and green grass, it's hard to go unnoticed!

The annual homeowner meeting was held on January 18th at St. Margaret of York Catholic Church. All residents are always invited to attend. The Trails is in need of resident trustees. Please contact Jim Powell (513.398.3955) for details if you're interested. If you haven't already, you will be receiving the invoices from The Trails. Annual homeowner fees have recently been mailed out. If you don't receive yours, please call Jim and an additional one will be mailed out.

Congratulations to Matt and Mary Looney! They are expecting their first child. We wish you the best and will be waiting to hear if it's a girl or boy!

Congratulations also to the 11 girls from Kings in KYO competition cheerleading. They received a high enough bid to go to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Good luck Lindsay, Meagan, Ashlee, Kennedy, Emily, Brooke, Jessica, Scarlett, Delaney, Emily and Rhyann. GO KNIGHTS!

Keep an eye out for summer updates and meetings.

Enjoy your spring and The Trails!

*Shannon Hofer*

## WILD ABOUT LANDEN

We share our environment with a wide variety of colorful birds that rival any tropical species. Not only do we have “land “birds but we have an abundance of water birds and a long list of migrating birds in the spring and fall.

Can you identify some of the species which call Landen” home”? If you have a bird feeder, you have witnessed flashes of brilliant color as goldfinches ,cardinals , blue jays, red winged blackbirds, and woodpeckers flock to feed. And it isn’t the color alone that dazzles us, it’s the wide variety of their pleasant songs. If we become very familiar with our feathered friends, we will be able to identify them by their distinct individual sounds. Who hasn’t been impressed by the amazing medley of 25 to 30 beautiful songs of the Northern Mocking Bird borrowed from other birds.

Robins stay here all year but there are some which pass through on a migratory path..In some cases , the species of trees will dictate which birds will inhabit your property. For instance, the Golden Crowned Kinglet winters here and prefers conifer trees. There are over thirty varieties of land birds and a wide variety of water birds including those migrating through. Bird watching is a wonderful family pastime. Create a backyard habitat with bird feeders and a water feature. Keep a log of the birds you see each season and with the aid of a good pictorial field guide book you will soon be familiar with many birds. This love of birds is part of our inherent need to connect with nature. How many birds can you identify? You may have already identified some birds in Landen not listed.

### BIRD REFERENCES

Cornell University Lab of Ornithology

[Http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAbout](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAbout)

1. National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America
2. The Sibley Guide to Birds by David Allen Sibley
3. Field Guide to Hawks: North America (Peterson Field Guides) by William S. Clark
4. A Guide to Field Identification/Birds of North America by GOLDEN
5. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds



*Common Grackles mealtime*



*Northern Cardinals*



*Red Tailed Hawk*

### LANDEN LAKE BIRDS

#### Permanent Residents

Canada Geese  
Mallards  
Blue Heron  
Migrating Lake Birds  
Loon  
Grebe  
Cormorant  
Wood Duck  
American Black Duck  
Pin Tail  
Blue Wing Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Canvas Back  
Ring Neck  
Red Head  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
American Coot  
Bufflehead  
Merganser  
Ruddy Duck

### LANDEN AREA BACKYARD BIRDS

American Gold Finch  
House Finch  
Northern Mocking Bird  
American Robin  
Indigo Bunting  
Blue Jay  
Eastern Blue Bird  
Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red Winged Blackbird  
Cow Bird  
Common Grackles  
Crow  
Starling  
Ruby Throated Hummingbird  
Chickadee  
Nuthatch  
Mourning Doves  
Dark Eyed Junco  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Yellow Bellied Sapsucker  
Ladder Backed Woodpecker  
Red Bellied Woodpecker  
Flicker  
Rufous Sided Tohee  
Warbling Vireo  
Red Tailed Hawk  
Golden Crowned Kinglet



*Canada Geese*

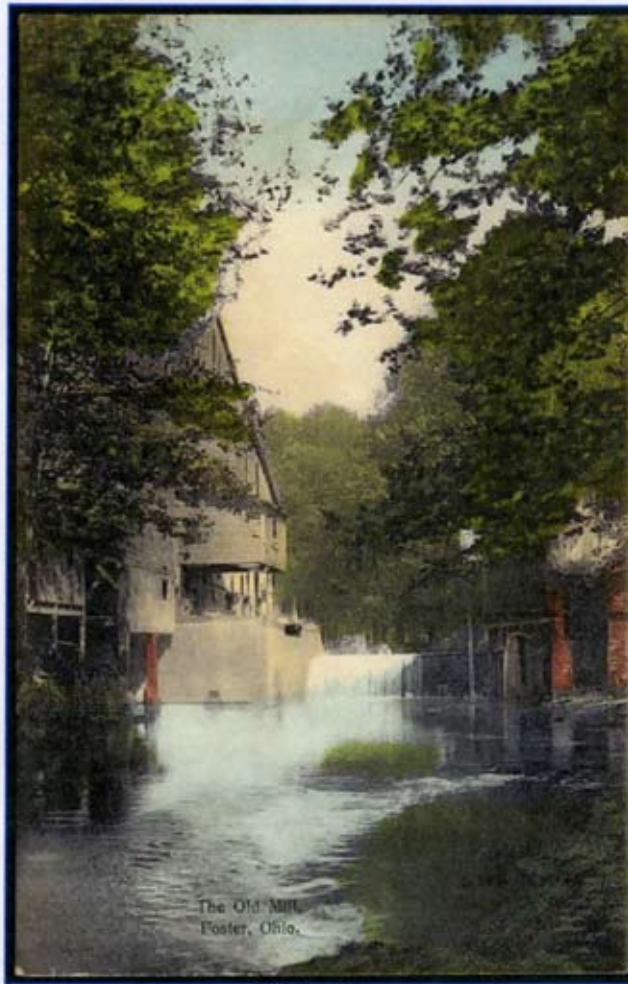
## A LANDEN HISTORY MINUTE

### “My Home Village”

In 1900 Mary and Joseph Landen’s third daughter, Clara who was 16 wrote an essay about Foster called “ My Home Village”. She says,; “Foster, almost all of you have seen or heard something of this village. One of our honorable members of the society, Mr. Forest Mosteller, with whom you all are acquainted has added swamp to its beautiful name and persists in calling me a native of Foster’s swamp. Now I am going to prove to you that Foster is not a swamp but a village. You say describe it – that is just what I’ll do. Foster is situated in a valley, hills rising to the right and to the left while through the middle runs the beautiful Little Miami River. Next as we are interested in school work, let us visit her school. It is beautifully situated in the back of the recess of the hill. The playground has a pleasing look, sufficient room and plenty of shade. The American Flag, of which we are also proud, floats from a pole on the left. As we enter the building we find two rooms with teachers as bright as those of the Mason Schools. The village boasts a blacksmith shop, lumber yard, and two stores that are up to date. You can get almost anything you ask for at reasonable prices. And there is the flour mill where you get your fine flour, cornmeal, buckwheat and a supply of everything that you need for the cattle. It has three saloons of which I must confess we are not proud. It also has two churches. There are several ice houses which each winter are filled with pure good ice to be distributed among neighboring villages in the summer. Then look at the many hours of pleasure her young folk spend at the river – in winter on skates and sleds, in summer swimming, fishing, or boating. Oh, yes, I almost forgot to tell you about our new boat that is run by gasoline and which is named “ the Queen of the Miami.” It is a boat only one summer old and runs from Foster to Kings Mills. It will hold comfortably almost twenty five persons. The rate of travel is reasonable- only five cents from Foster to Kings. And as I hold the pleasure of taking the trip I can testify that it is well worth your nickel. Let us look at her outlets. First of all the railroad, which is not a fourth rate one horse line like the CL and N going through Mason, we have a straight line from Cin. To Pittsburgh, New York and other eastern cities”

Clara further describes in detail the beauty of the roads leading to Kings Mills, Mason, Hopkinsville and Maineville noting half way up the hill to Maineville was a spring of cool, refreshing water. She notes the Mound Builders once inhabited this place and that back of the school house a signal mound was found and another across the river. She invites people to come to see this beautiful village which was just down the hill from her parent’s dairy farm emphasizing it isn’t a swamp.

The area around Foster was very important to early Landen area settlers because of its grist (flour) mills and saw mills on the Little Miami River. The coming of the Little Miami Railroad to Foster in 1844 was important to both millers and farmers for shipping their goods. Foster shipped large amounts of hogs and cattle. Concrete holding pens were built under the Liberty Hotel. Foster was also known for a superior grade of sweet potatoes grown by the Butterworths on their 1000 acres of land that bordered the Little Miami River. Some of that land became a Girl Scout camp called Camp Butterworth.



In 1861 a Presidential train carrying President Lincoln passed through Foster. When it stopped in Morrow Mrs. Wm Clement, wife of the President of the Little Miami Railroad, presented a bouquet of white camellias to Mrs. Lincoln. Wm Clement had helped lay out the town of Morrow and made that his lifelong home even though he went on to become President of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad and then the Southern Railroad.

In the early 1800’s Foster became an important stop on the Underground Railroad. Henry Butterworth who was a Quaker was a conductor for the Underground Railroad and his home at Butterworth Station near Fosters was the most southern location of the Underground Railroad in Warren County. It is believed that tunnels were made in the sides of the hill along the river to hide slaves between Butterworth Station and Foster. From Fosters slaves were often taken to the Quaker Settlement at Otterbein on Hwy 741 and then on north to Springboro.

Brazilla Clark built Foster’s first mill in 1806 and shortly after sold it to Percy Kitchel who operated it until it burned in 1844. It was located near a shallow part of the river where people were ferried across. In 1890 Harvard University excavated the famous Kitchel Mill site. Jeremiah Morrow also built a saw mill and grist mill just south of Foster in 1812. Old Mill Road was built to allow easier access to the mills. In 1857 Seth Greely built a grist mill and in 1861 a flour mill near the intersection of Davis and 3 C Hwy. and for years ran the Little Miami Mills. Greely sold his mills in 1886 to Augustus Hoppe who had been a miller for Jeremiah Morrow. Hoppe produced cake flour made from soft winter wheat, corn meal, and pancake flour. “Pride of Miam” was its top brand. The mill closed in 1944 when Edward Hoppe was killed in an accident at the mill. In the early 1900’s Hoppe’s Island located between the millrace and the river became a popular recreation area. Hoppe built a swimming pool in the millrace and people came to the island to picnic, swim, canoe, and dance. In 1944 the mill passed to Hoppe’s nephew,

## A LANDEN HISTORY MINUTE *Cont.*

Glenn Irwin. Irwin never reopened the mill and the 13 acre site became known as Glen Island. For many years many Cincinnati residents took the Little Miami Railroad's special train, The Morrow Accommodation, to spend the day at Hoppe's Island or Glen Island.

Many immigrants were attracted to Foster. Of the 180 residents in Foster in 1868, 105 were of German descent. Sebastian and Elizabeth Maag came to Foster's Crossing from Germany in 1854. He was a blacksmith and his son born in 1865 later became a miller for Augustus Hoppe. M. Obergefell, a tailor from Germany, came to Foster's Crossing with his wife Francisca in 1865. Besides making uniforms for soldiers, he built and ran the Liberty House Hotel in Fosters. In the early 1900's it became Maag Inn and was a dance hall featuring German polka music. The Blue Danube Tavern was a beautiful three story hotel and restaurant that sat on the east side of the river. A large log demolished one end of the building during the 1913 flood but the remainder of building still stands next to the bike trail and is known to bikers as the Train Stop Inn. The Evangelical Church that sat next to the railroad tracks and accessed from Foster Maineville was started by the Hoppe family. Many families sent their children to Saturday German School there before WWI. One of the Hoppe children was confirmed May 1903 and the program for Confirmation Sunday was beautifully printed in German. St. John's Catholic Church served the Irish families that came to Foster. It sat on the south side of Socialville Foster near 3 C Hwy.

In 200 years Foster has moved from mill town to resort town to ghost town. When James Foster opened a general store and hotel there in 1842 he called the area 22 Mile Stand but since he had ferried people across the river before a bridge was built the railroad insisted on calling the village Foster's Crossing. The general store is still standing and is owned by Deerfield Township but



the post office built in 1859 and the ice cream parlor that sat next to it are gone. Foster's Crossing officially became Fosters in 1884 and changed to Foster in 1893. The bridge over the Little Miami River that joined Foster in Hamilton Township on the east side of the river to Foster in Deerfield Township on the west side of the river also changed many times. The first bridge built in 1836 was a wooden covered bridge and a toll was charged to cross it. The second wooden covered bridge was built in 1870

and replaced by a large steel bridge which was carried away by the 1913 flood. A new steel bridge was built and used until 1980 when it was considered unsafe and replaced by the current bridge. When the large concrete viaduct was built over the river, railroad, and highway high above Foster in 1938 so that the highway bypassed Foster, the village began to whither away. At its height Foster had 47 buildings grouped on both sides of the river including a toll gate house, grain depot, boarding house, two mills, two cooper shops, two barbershops, two blacksmith shops, two cobblers, six saloons, a distillery warehouse, general stores, hotels, and animal pens which could hold up to 250 cattle and 150 hogs. Today little remains of the village of Foster however, the beauty of the area described by Clara Landen remains. Foster's history is fascinating and a tribute to the hard work of the early settlers and immigrants that made this area great.

