

The Board's Corner

By Dale Wilde, FOLKS President

The Legacy of Leadership

FOLKS was established in the spring 1993 and since that time has had 13 presidents, two Executive Directors, and numerous Board members. This leadership helped to form FOLKS into the lasting 501(c)(3) Lake Keowee watershed volunteer organization that it is today.

Sadly in 2021 FOLKS lost several past Board members. These men dedicated years of service as not only Board members or leaders, but also as steadfast volunteers to complete the mission of advocacy, conservation, and education.

John R. "Jack" Lewis (3/25/1936–9/8/2021)

Jack served on the Board for more than 10 years, served as President from 2014–2016, and was an active FOLKS volunteer for over 15 years. He served as a Lake Sweep Captain for the northern part of the lake and was key to starting the FOLKS Adopt-an-Island program which still is going strong today. Jack was a strong and supportive



voice for FOLKS. He was a constant contributor for *The Sentinel*, our bimonthly newsletter that focuses on Lake Keowee initiatives to keep the Lake clean and pristine for all to enjoy. He also did a great job presenting our achievements to homeowner associations around the lake to increase our membership. Jack was a strong leader of FOLKS and his commitment and passion for preserving Lake Keowee cannot be understated.

<https://robinsonfuneralhomes.tributes.com/obituary/show/John-Richard-Jack-Lewis-108526346>

Jim Hamilton (2/29/32–9/15/21)

Jim was a board member for many years and was an outstanding volunteer. Jim and his wife, Jacqui, were both very involved in FOLKS. They retired and moved to Salem from Buffalo, New York and loved their time on Lake Keowee. Jim sat on the board and was in charge of the FOLKS membership committee. He kept and managed the patron database for years. He also spent many hours updating our database to QuickBooks.



Jim was also involved in Lake Sweep and Adopt-an-Island for many years. His family has asked that friends make a donation to FOLKS in his honor.

<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/obituaries/gvn107364>

John Link Schmid (11/30/1952–9/25/2021)

John served on the Board for over 5 years and was also instrumental in leading the board through the relicensing efforts. John started his career as a federal prosecutor and had a 35-year career with Shell Legal Organization in Houston, Texas. He and his wife, Mary Anne, retired to the Lake Keowee area and built a lovely home for their kids and grandkids to visit.



John was a friend to all that met him, always willing to share a smile and a story. I enjoyed our lunches and meetings together as he shared so much of FOLKS rich history with me. His advice over the years has been invaluable and I will greatly miss his sage advice.

The family requested that contributions may be made to Dr. Wayne L. Hofstetter, M.D. of MD Anderson Cancer Center, specified toward "research and education of esophageal cancer," or FOLKS

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/22496870/john-link-schmid>

Without these leaders past commitment and our current Board's vision, FOLKS could not continue. FOLKS is also dependent on our future Board's dedication. We encourage our members to consider a Board position or to volunteer their time to help with our mission to preserve Lake Keowee. ❖

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