



“It was Labor Day weekend, I was 17....”

By: Michelle Simpson, SJRA G&A Division

Meaning

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a byproduct of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. Did you know that? Sadly, I did not. It represents a yearly national holiday to honor the contributions and sacrifices workers have made to the well-being of our country. If you didn't know that, don't feel too bad...most don't. As a matter of fact, few recall the blood soaked roots of this holiday as they jump in the boat and head out for Lake Conroe or fire up the grill around the campsite in the Sam Houston National Forest.

We Can Do It!



History

During the late 19th century, when labor movements and unions were expanding like a wet sponge, different trade groups began celebrating labor. There is some debate on who was the first to propose a Labor Day holiday, but regardless if it were Matthew Maguire or Peter J. McGuire, it wasn't until 1894 that it was signed into law. In fact, following an awful confrontation in Chicago where the United States Army and Federal Marshals killed 30 railroad strikers during the Pullman Strike of 1894, the United States Congress unanimously voted to approve legislation to make Labor Day a national holiday. President Grover Cleveland signed it into law six days after the walkout ended. And here I thought it was merely a day set aside to enjoy watersports and hotdogs.



Labor Day Holiday Festivities

With any holiday, the traffic on Lake Conroe undeniably increases. Below are some simple tips to keep you, and your family and friends safe while we celebrate Labor Day:

1. **Weather**
 - a. Check the weather before you leave.
 - b. Stay hydrated and avoid prolonged exposure to the sun.
2. **Boating and Water Safety**
 - a. Be sure to use properly-fitted life jackets.
 - b. Never swim alone.

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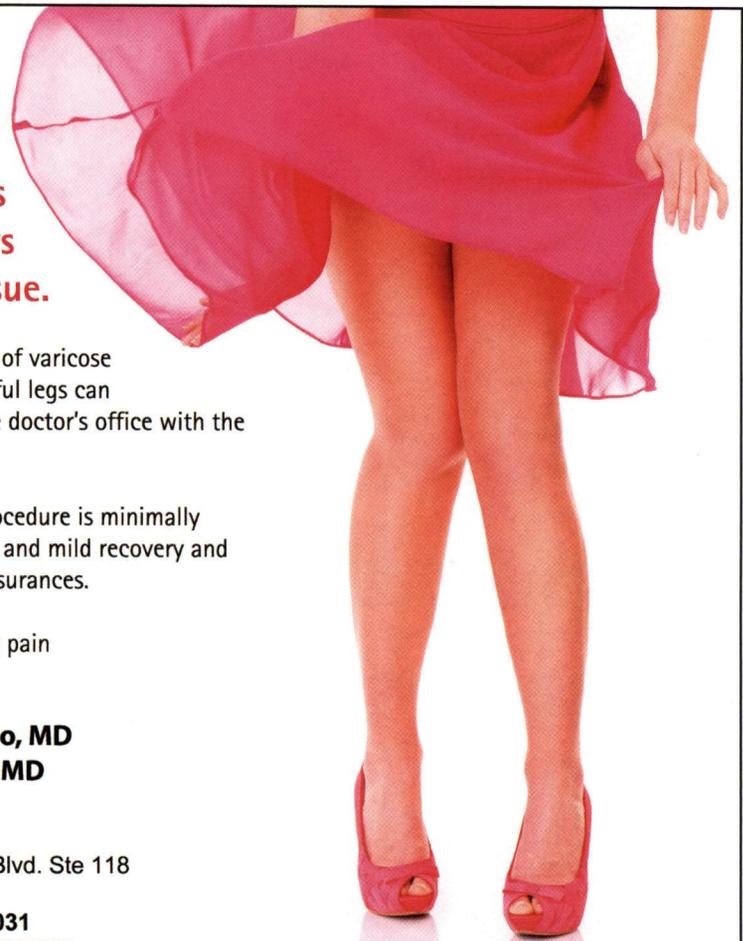
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c. Know the rules of the waterways to avoid a boating accident or fatality.

3. Trails

- Bring a basic first aid kit, wear proper shoes fit for hiking, use a hat for sun protection, and bring drinking water.
- Please observe trail signage.
- Be courteous of other trail users, practice trail etiquette, and stay alert.

For information on the San Jacinto River Authority or Lake Conroe, please visit our website at www.sjra.net. ♦