

Inland Sea Chronicle



LNWC Mission Statement

The Mission of the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists is to protect and enhance the natural resources and wildlife habitats of the Greater Lake Norman area for all to enjoy.

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Volume 5, Issue 3

www.lakenormanwildlife.org

President's Report: LNWC Brings Lake Community Together!

By Stephen W. Turley

Wildlife Friends, This summer sure has been the busiest one that I can remember in regard to wildlife activities! It started with our sold-out Critter Cruise on the Lady of the Lake. We had beautiful weather, a wonderful live animal program for the kids, and a very touching conclusion as the children went on the ship loudspeakers to thank their parents for bringing them. A great time was had by all!



Next was the placing of large piles of rock boulders for fish habitat in Lake Norman. **Mark Lancaster** worked directly with **Tim Gestwicki**, executive director of the NC Wildlife Federation, with the planning and execution of the proper placement of the rock piles under the water. Within days, fish could be seen on fish-finder screens swarming around the underwater reefs. Measurable success!

The next accomplishment truly sets a record. Just 17 months ago, **Don West**, LNWC community relations director, started the application process for having the entire Lake Norman region certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. It was a monumental undertaking that was expected to take many years. But Don created his own committee—branding it the Wild Over LKN! Habitat Project—printed pamphlets and hit the ground running. To the amazement of the NWF, the NCWF and our sister chapter HAWK in Matthews (who have been working on their town's certification for more than two years), Don was recently officially notified that he has met all of the criteria for certification! The Lake Norman region is now the United

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Osprey Population Soaring!

This photo was taken by a Charlotte Observer photographer during the NC Wildlife Federation's placement of rock-pile habitat in Lake Norman during the summer. Also known as "fish hawks," ospreys depend on a good supply of fish for themselves and their offspring. Over the past four years, LNWC leaders Mark Lancaster and Steve Turley have devoted countless volunteer hours to ensure the success of this raptor species and it has paid off in spades! Boaters all around LKN enjoy spotting osprey couples raising young (at a distance, using binoculars, please!) in the many nesting platforms built and installed by our volunteers.

Fall Festival & Fair Focus on Wildlife

By Don West

Wild Over LKN!, our effort to certify the entire Lake Norman region as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, has received notice from NWF that we are officially the 55th Wildlife Habitat Community in the nation.



hosted by Duke Energy at its McGuire Energy Explorium from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1. Then from 5-10 p.m. Oct. 22nd at the North Harbor Club, we will celebrate our area's Certified Wildlife Habitat status at our annual **Lake Nor-**

man Wildlife Festival. (See more details in President's Report.)

This distinguished designation was a collaborative effort involving homeowners, schools, businesses, churches and a host of volunteers devoting untold hours to certifying their own backyards, conducting educational activities to better inform the community on wildlife-friendly practices, and participating in projects that protect and enhance the wildlife of our lake and surrounding communities.

At the fair, we will focus on how to attract and enjoy birds and other wild creatures this fall and winter, as well as how to start now in order to have a beautiful wildlife habitat of your own next spring. This free family event will feature many local vendors and landscapers, as well as activities for children including ZooTastic Park's Petting Zoo. Visit www.lakenormanwildlife.org for tickets and more information on all our events!

This October provides a focal point for wildlife education and conservation when we hold our first (rescheduled from spring) **Backyard Wildlife Fair**

*Working Together
for
Wildlife
Conservation
on
Lake Norman*



DID YOU KNOW?

As a chapter of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, LNWC is a non-profit organization that depends on donations. Our Tax ID is 20-8576936. Please send

donations to:
P.O. Box 4296
Mooresville, NC
28117

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States' largest Certified Community Wildlife Habitat around a body of water! Way to go, Don!

Which brings us to our annual Wildlife Festival. This year's event will be hosted lakeside by the prestigious **North Harbor Club** in Davidson on Oct. 22. The menu is an astounding assortment of gourmet food. Join us to see Don and his committee receive their certificates from a representative of the NWF from Washington, DC. It is an event you won't want to miss! Please purchase your tickets—\$50 apiece—online early for this event. The cruise sold out quickly and we had many people who wanted tickets but were a little late. We always email an early events notice to those

on our contact list.

Saturday, Oct. 1, will also be a busy day as we participate in the annual Big Sweep through our **Island Adoption Program**, and host our first **Backyard Wildlife Fair** at the Duke Energy Explorium. Both start in the morning and run until shortly after lunch. The Wildlife Fair is free and Big Sweep is just good old-fashioned volunteering. Thanks to **Don West** for coordinating the fair and to **Jim and Jill Feldmeyer** for their years of commitment to the annual sweep.

As I look ahead, I'm reinvigorated for our group because through your hard work we now proceed with the admiration of both the NWF and its state affiliate, the NCWF. I'm sure 2012 will be another exciting year!



A Labor of Love

Congratulations to St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson for putting sustainable gardening practices to good use in its beautiful 41-bed "Seeds Community Garden". Ten percent of the garden's organically-grown produce is donated to local food banks or soup kitchens. Also with the help of fellow church members, **Olivia Bearden**, project leader, recently applied to both the National Wildlife Federation and the North Carolina Wildlife Federation to make the entire church campus a Certified Wildlife Habitat!

LNWC Leaders Inspired in Durham

By Julie Higgin

LNWC President **Steve Turley** headed a group of volunteers from our chapter in attending the Aug. 27 NCWF Annual Meeting and Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards held in Durham.

While there, we enjoyed networking with other enthusiastic conservation-minded citizens from all over North Carolina. And, especially in these tough times, we were inspired to cast our nets even further toward the mission of keeping the importance of conservation in the public eye.

Two of my favorite speakers were **Jennifer Mihills**, NWF spokesperson, and **Jill Palmer**, president of the Matthews-based HAWK chapter.

Jennifer discussed several of our national organization's community

outreach programs such as Eco-Schools and Ranger Rick's Geocache Program. Both of these are designed to bring children into the great outdoors to build an understanding and appreciation of wild creatures and wild places. Jill outlined simple ways to bring communities together through Habitat Enhancement Programs.

We also were privileged to meet **Leilani Munter** of Cornelius, a race car driver and environmental activist who told us her inspirational story.

As NCWF members, we also voted to adopt five resolutions involving state wildlife issues.

Those issues concern feral swine; waste of fisheries, and fisherman harassment in coastal waters; science-based management of fox and coyote; game fish status; and the Clean Water Act.

Join us in Durham next year!

Conservation Report

By Eric Peterson

Reeds Creek Wetland

The water level in Reed's Creek and its adjacent wetlands—one of LNWC's most successful habitat enhancement projects—has dropped considerably in response to the annual Duke Energy drawdown of Lake Norman, making access difficult even by canoes and kayaks. The absence of last spring's beaver dam near Highway 21 has reduced some of the much-needed water supply to the wetlands, as well. Minor repairs to some of the project's wood duck boxes this fall may require approaching them on foot rather than by boat.

A "transfer of custody" ceremony and meeting originally scheduled for September at the Reeds Creek site has been postponed until spring of 2012, at which time N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program officials will assume responsibility for the mitigation site from the company that prepared the wetland acreage. The meeting will include representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the N.C. Wildlife Commission, LNWC and other agencies.

As for the litter situation, the amount of litter being extracted from the wetland area has decreased somewhat from previous years, largely due to a major drop-off in home and business construction in the immediate area. It still appears, however, that people view the Highway 21-Reeds Creek point as a dump site for tires and other trash.

The 13 coverboards in the Reeds Creek acreage and nearby islands will be inspected sometime in September.

Coverboard Reminder!

Remember those coverboards placed on various Lake Norman islands last spring? Project coordinator **Bill Mugg** has issued a reminder to all his project participants that a Coverboard Count is due in the September/October time period. The project was launched to survey the number and type of reptile or amphibian that might be living on lake islands. So far, only a few slimy salamanders have been spotted under the boards.



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Conservationist News & Views

Free Nature Programs

LNWC sponsors eight free nature programs each year for members and friends at Mooresville Public Library. These programs, held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, September through May (except December), support our goal of educating the public on conservation issues affecting the Lake Norman area.

Our September 8th speaker is **Capt. Gus Gustafson** focusing on his most exciting wildlife experiences on Lake Norman. **Due to an extremely busy schedule in October, there will be no library nature program that month.** Our November 10th speaker is LNWC member **Christine Lisiewski**, marketing director at Deerness Garden Center in Huntersville, who will present "Wings of Wonder—Butterflies & Their Habitat." Christine is a great photographer so don't miss her beautiful pictures!

See What LNWC is Up To

Want to find out what's *REALLY* happening in our organization and how decisions are made? LNWC members are always welcome to attend Board of Director meetings scheduled for 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the LKN Keller-Williams Realty office, 118 Morlake Drive off Bluefield Road, Mooresville, in the conference room. Right now, potential committee members are being sought. Contact **Steve Turley**, president at 704-309-0762 if you are interested. Project and program ideas are always welcome! Visit our website's Calendar for more details or contact info@lakenormanwildlife.org.

Give the Lake a Clean Sweep

Island Habitat leaders **Jim and Jill Feldmeyer** issue a reminder to join them Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. at the Pinnacle Access Area for the annual Big Sweep. Volunteers gather each year to rid our beautiful lake of trash and often-times strange items tossed in the water. Call Jim at 828-478-5989 for more information.

LNWC

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&

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