

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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Inland Sea Chronicle



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Chapter Captures State Award

By Julie Higgle

Thanks to our hard-working volunteers, the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists received the **NC Wildlife Federation "Chapter of the Year"** award at the Sept. 8 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards held in Cary.

President **Don West**, whose Wild Over LKN! Committee led the Lake Norman region's certification as a Community Wildlife Habitat last year, was handed the framed certificate and a trophy topped by a large mouth bass.

"One of NCWF's recurring themes," master of ceremonies T. Edward Nickens stated, is this: When it comes to wildlife habitat, every acre matters. (LNWC) has taken that idea to lengths that have attracted an enormous amount of attention—and done wildlife an enormous amount of good."

This "epic wildlife habitat quest," Nickens said, to certify habitat projects in 330 private yards, 11 schools, 10 businesses and 10 parks in 18 months, occurred in "record time." All this work, he pointed out, was in addition to LNWC's regular projects to install and maintain osprey nesting platforms, fish attractors, fishing line recycling stations, and shoreline vegetation buffers.

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LNWC board members (from left) Ken Conrad, Don Higgle, Don West, Billy Wilson, Julie Higgle and Steve Turley were in Cary to accept the chapter's state award and participate in activities.

Join Us at the Fall Fest!

By Don West, President



Excitement is building for our upcoming **Wildlife Oyster & Shrimp Fest!** The support that we have received, beginning with our numerous marina sponsors, and continuing with many area businesses and individuals who have donated wonderful auction items, is amazing. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can get more information on this great event.

The annual Fall Fest serves two purposes. The first is all about the "3 Fs" – fun, food, and friendships. We strive each year to improve upon the past year's experience. This year, guests can savor a delicious meal of steamed oysters and shrimp, dance to the beat of the DJ, participate in the live auction, or simply laugh at the banter of our fast-paced auctioneer. Its also a wonderful opportunity to renew

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**Working Together
for
Wildlife
Conservation
on
Lake Norman**



Wild Lives Wild Places

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
Mooreville, NC
28117

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“This is community activism at its best,” Nickens stated, “involving all levels of society, including work, education, recreation, and municipal activities. It’s what the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists does best, and it’s why this group is the NCWF Chapter of the Year.”

The NCWF first presented its conservation awards in 1958.

“Each year we are amazed at the commitment and creativity of North Carolina citizens in protecting wildlife and wild places,” stated Tim Gestwicki, executive director of the NCWF.

Award winners are nominated by the citizens of North Carolina and decided upon by a committee of scientists, environmental educators and conservation



Don West thanks the NCWF and state officials for acknowledging and recognizing LNWC’s hard work. He holds the large mouth bass trophy presented by Lewis Ledford, superintendent of NC Parks.

activists.

“This awards program brings together a remarkably diverse group of conservationists to highlight the “good news” about wildlife conservation in North Carolina,” Gestwicki said. “Our primary focus is to applaud and honor these people who work so hard for wildlife and the air, water, land that they and all of us depend upon.”

FAST FACTS

Admission:
\$40 a piece or 2
for \$75

Catered by:
Big Daddy’s!

Hours:
6 p.m. to ?

Location:
827 Langtree
Mooreville

For Info:
704-660-8192

(President’s Report Continued from page 1)

acquaintances with old friends or someone who may have worked with you on one of our projects. Our main purpose, of course, is to provide funding for our continuing efforts to enhance wildlife habitat for the greater lake area.

Our sincere thanks go out to those marinas who support us through annual sponsorship, but we must also rely upon the generosity of area residents who recognize the importance of wildlife sustainability. It is because of your generosity and willingness to participate that we have, in the past year, installed many new Osprey nesting platforms, created four deep water reefs, planted 1,000 button bushes, hosted multiple kids’ events, and conducted monthly nature programs. It is because of you that we have been named NC Wildlife Federation 2011 Chapter of the Year.

On behalf of our furry, feathered or scaled wild friends, I invite you to our Oyster & Shrimp Fest. See you Sept. 22!

Youth



FREE FAMILY FISHING DAY—A good time was had by 45 children and family members Aug. 25 at Camp Dogwood in Sherrill's Ford. A big "Thank You" goes to Youth leader **Lilly Vicens** (far left), and the South Harbour Fishing Club and the Southfork Bassmasters. The morning went smoothly and five awards were handed out. But the best prize was seeing smiles on all the young participants' faces!

UPCOMING EVENT

Reeds Creek Wetland Trash & Treasure Hunt

September 29, 9:00 a.m.

Pre-registration Required; Ages 8 and up.

Kids bring your boots and join LNWC on a guided tour of Reeds Creek Wetland, a hidden gem and recent conservation effort now teeming with wildlife and wetland plants. Get your hands dirty as we hunt for both trash and treasure, while learning why the wetland ecosystem is so vital to Lake Norman. This event has limited space. Visit our website for more information or call **Lilly Vicens**, event coordinator, at 910-603-49 29.

Lake Norman "Big Sweep" Sponsored by the Save Our Lake Organization

By Jill Feldmeyer, Island Adoption Co-Chair

With the lake traffic dying down, it's that time of the year to get 'er done and clean 'er up! We're on schedule for the ninth annual Big Sweep set for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 6.

Last year, we picked up a record-breaking amount of trash in just two hours. A whopping 7,890 pounds of trash came out of Lake Norman, and that was covering only 30 miles of shoreline/islands Lake Norman has over 600 miles of land (including island shorelines). So picture this...on one day out of the year, all the "lake lovers" pitch in their time and help clean up the lake.

In a couple of hours, we cover as much of the lake as we can. If we cleaned up 7,890 pounds of trash in a 30-mile span with 193 volunteers, imagine how much trash we could get out of Lake Norman if even more people volunteered!



SOLO is a non-profit organization 501C3, just like NC Big Sweep. Our focus is to "Promote a clean Lake Norman." Just a few years ago, the Catawba River Basin was listed as one of the most endangered rivers in the United States. Lake Norman is part of that river basin. That's enough motivation for me to want to keep our lake clean for our kids and grandkids to use and enjoy.

Island Adopters and other members of the LNWC are asked to join in the effort by going to your island and doing a complete cleanup and possibly hosting visitors to help you. If you have a boat, I really need your help in transporting volunteers. The Big Sweep is a lot of fun and a very rewarding experience. Strangers come from as far away as Charlotte to help!

For more information, call me at 704-458-1163.

LAKE NORMAN
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATIONISTS

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info@lakenormanwildlife.org

We're on the web!
lakenormanwildlife.org



Conservationists Updates

LNWC Elections

Have an urge to get involved in our award-winning wildlife conservation group? Our bylaws require us to fill Board of Directors/Officers/Committee Chair positions every fall. We are particularly in need of a programming chair, and also will accept nominations for President, Secretary, and At-Large Director. If interested, send President Don West an email at don@premiertitleservices.com

Fall Library Programs

LNWC holds free nature programs the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at Mooresville Public Library. No reservations are required.

On Sept. 13, **Scott Fletcher**, Duke Energy senior scientist, will present **Bird Migration in the Lake Norman Area**. He will discuss birds most commonly seen migrating through this area, where they come from and where they are headed.

On Oct. 11, esteemed angler **Jake Busolini** will discuss **Facts for New Anglers on Lake Norman**, Jake has written four books on freshwater fishing, and much of the research he has done for those books come from fishing our beautiful lake.

On Nov. 8, **Christian Oldham** and **Madeline Kern** of Davidson College's Herpetology Lab will speak on **Turtles of the Lake Norman Region**, and will bring some critters for us to meet!

LNWC

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Jim Ray & **Ken Teeter**

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The *Inland Sea Chronicle* is published by the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists, a chapter of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Direct comments and inquiries to jchiggin@yahoo.com