

# INLAND SEA CHRONICLE



Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists Newsletter

www.lakenormanwildlife.org

Volume 2, Issue 6

## Reaching Out: New Leaders Set Sail

There are fresh faces heading up Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists activities. The new Board of Directors will officially take their posts at the end of November. Leading that group is local businessman **Mark Lancaster**, an active volunteer who has donated much

time and effort to preserving and enhancing wildlife habitats on Lake Norman.

Take for example the numerous osprey offspring that are getting a safer start in life thanks to Mark's leadership in erecting platform nests appropriately placed in the water.

"I'm very pleased and honored to hold the position," Mark said. Reaching out to our young people in activities like Big Sweep and in school rooms is one of Mark's biggest goals.

"I'm looking forward to getting more children involved in LNWC programs and what we're trying to accomplish in conservation efforts," he stated.

Other newly elected board members include **Don Higgin**, treasurer, and **Vanda Freeman**, secretary. **Andrew Wingo** and **Bill Mugg** stepped into at-large director shoes. HUGE thanks to **Carissa Roman** for taking on membership and fundraising.



### Introducing...Jerry the Osprey!

Through the determination of Bill Mugg, the LNWC now owns an osprey mount to help educate the public about our programs. Thank you, Bill, for all you have done for our group. At a recent board meeting, it was decided to name our osprey "Jerry" in honor of **Jerry Barrows**, who along with Tim Gestwicki started the Island Habitat Program for the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Thank you, Jerry, for your continued commitment to protecting wildlife in the state of North Carolina.

Steve Turley and the LNWC Board

### LNWC Vision Statement

The Vision 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.

### Board

#### President

Mark Lancaster

#### Treasurer

Don Higgin

#### Secretary

Vanda Freeman

#### At-Large Director

Andrew Wingo

#### At-Large Director

Bill Mugg

#### Island Habitats

W.Morgan & S.Turley

#### Conservation

Eric Peterson

#### Education Programs

Gail Lemiec

#### Membership

Carissa Roman

#### Website Manager

Jim Ray

#### Newsletter/Media

Julie Higgin

### Happy Holidays!



During this holiday season, we thank all of you who give your time and talent to the cause of wildlife conservation. There can be no greater gift than a green future for future generations.

# Conservation News



## CHAPTER NOTES

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation has secured funding for **Turtle Basking Platforms** for lakes Norman, Mountain Island and Hickory/James via a large woody debris (LWD) project.

LWD is a vital and naturally



occurring component of healthy aquatic habitats. The project will increase the LWD in these reservoirs and, at the same time, create basking areas for a variety of turtle species, loafing areas for waterfowl and foraging areas for fish.

NCWF will fell and cable specific trees along the shorelines of Duke-owned islands. In addition, NCWF will attach to these felled trees 7-10 platforms for basking and loafing areas in Lake Norman.

The project will entail surveying and choosing sites that provide optimum opportunity to fell trees into the water. Trees will be cut partially for felling purposes and remain sufficiently attached to stumps.

Once trees are felled, basking platforms will be attached. LNWC volunteers will construct, attach to LWD and anchor the basking platforms. Additionally, chapter volunteers will monitor the platforms for reptiles, amphibians and small mammals once they have been established.

If you are interested in helping, please contact [billmugg@roadrunner.com](mailto:billmugg@roadrunner.com)

In other conservation happenings, **Eric Peterson** has been busy working on our chapter's **Reeds Creek Wildlife Corridor Project**. Phase I included installing nesting boxes. Still to be completed is a chimney swift tower, and cover boards and PCV pipes for amphibians and reptiles, and a possible no-wake sign.

Phase II of this project involves extending the area of protection beyond the 15-acre site to neighboring properties such as St. Therese Church's 23-acres, Cypress Landing townhomes, and Duke's easement.

**Steve Turley** is heading the **Shoal Marker Osprey Excluders** project to prevent osprey from trying to use lit channel markers on Lake Norman as nesting sites. **Mark Lancaster** is heading the **Deep Fish Attractors** project. Get details at [www.lakenormanwildlife.org](http://www.lakenormanwildlife.org)

**NATURE EDUCATION**—LNWC's free nature programs for all ages take place from 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Mooresville Public Library, 304 S. Main St.

The Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> program in the Selma Burke Room on the top floor is "Bats: Our Necessary Nocturnal" presented by **Gail Lemiec**, LNWC education chairperson and environmental educator at Latta Plantation Nature Center in Huntersville. Gail has a special love for these helpful creatures that are often considered scary and unappealing. Hear why we should offer bats the same respect that we give to other wildlife species. Gail has some wonderful facts and photos highlighting North Carolina bats.

"Green Gifts" is the name of our Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> program that will take place downstairs in the large Youth Services Room. Be prepared to enjoy this hands-on presentation by Gail and her co-worker at Latta, **Julie Higgie**, as they show you how to "reduce, reuse and recycle" when wrapping presents and how to decorate your yard for a wildlife-friendly holiday.

The New Year will bring these and other exciting programs:

- ♣ Jan. 8—**North Carolina's Wildlife Action Plan**
- ♣ Feb. 12—**Radical Reptiles**
- ♣ March 12—**Magnificent Mammals**
- ♣ April 9—**Freshwater Habitats** from the Planet Earth series

## Want to Help Count Birds?

Mecklenburg County's **Mark Oliver**, Natural Resources specialist, has issued an invitation to LNWC members and friends to count waterfowl next spring. The Colonial Waterbird Nest Monitoring Program deals with birds that build nests in trees or shrubs over water, specifically Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Egrets and Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Forty-one nests have been counted around Charlotte thus far, but that doesn't include Lake Norman. Monitoring starts in March and field data sheets will be provided. Contact Bill Mugg if you want to lead a group of LNWC volunteers in this fun and easy project!