

LNWC Vision Statement

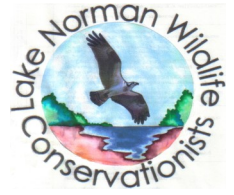
The Vision of the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists is to protect and enhance the natural resources and wildlife habitats of the Greater Lake Norman area for all to enjoy.

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Inland Sea Chronicle



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Our Goal? Protect, Preserve & Promise

President's Message

By Mark Lancaster

People often ask, "Why do you do it? Why do you spend so much energy spreading your conservation message?" In this difficult time, when we are all working hard just to pay the bills, feed the children, support our church, why should we persist in protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat on Lake Norman?

I'll tell you why: It's because of our vow to **Protect, Preserve** and **Promise** when it comes to natural resources in the Lake Norman region.

What do we protect? Places for wildlife such as fish, turtles, birds and frogs to live and raise families.

What do we preserve? Trees, flowers, water quality, islands, people's lake-side homes—and the animals who share those areas with us.

What do we promise? We promise to our children—and to our children's children—that those creatures and the water we all rely on will still be with us 100 years from now.

That's what it means to work for natural resources conservation. It means that this land inherited from our ancestors will not be ruined by ignorance or greed. Yes, all of us have busy lives. But we are never too busy to keep an eye on this beautiful part of Planet Earth entrusted into our care. Let's all remember that on April 22nd, Earth Day. Future generations are counting on us.



'Spring Into Nature!' Writing & Photo Contest

Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists invites nature-lovers of any age to participate in our Spring Into Nature! writing and photography contest.

Targeted toward Earth Day, this contest focuses on the beauty and importance of wildlife, and especially of preserving wildlife habitat in the Lake Norman area. Poetry, essays and photo-essays that reflect the LNWC

mission, and that can be electronically transmitted, are being accepted.

Contest participants should include their name, age and complete contact information, plus permission to publish and/or display their work on the LNWC website, www.lakenormanwildlife.org.

Winners will receive a free year of membership to LNWC, a T-shirt and a book on creating and enjoying wildlife habitats.

Deadline for entries is Saturday, April 10. For more information, visit the website, email info@lakenormanwildlife.org or call 704-877-4788.





Osprey nesting platforms should be observed from afar, using binoculars, so the birds will not feel threatened while raising their offspring.

“Jerry was the perfect mentor and the consummate environmentalist.”

Steve Turley is Conservation Hero

Architect Steve Turley, a charter member of LNW and a NCWF board member, was honored with the first Jerry L. Barrows Osprey Award at our March 11 nature program.

A cooperative effort of Duke Energy and the NCWF, the award recognizes Steve for outstanding conservation efforts that include designing, building and placing many of the osprey-nesting platforms seen out on both Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake.

Jerry, a retired marketing specialist who died in 2009, had a special love for ospreys and all other wild creatures that make the lake and its islands their home, said Tim Gestwicki, NCWF executive director. Jerry’s family and friends joined in this first tribute that will carry on his legacy.

The trophy will be presented each year to volunteers who share Jerry’s passion for wildlife conservation, Tim said.

“Jerry gave me nothing but continual support—he was a perfect mentor,” said Steve, owner of U.S. Home Designs in Harrisburg. “He was the consummate environmentalist, a great guy to know and an icon. Nobody can fill his shoes.”

Gene Vaughn and Hugh Barwick represented Duke Energy in presenting the trophy to Steve. A plaque will also be placed in the NCWF offices and a \$1,000 check was awarded to the



Gene Vaughn of Duke Energy presents the award to Steve Turley.

federation in Steve’s name on behalf of the Duke Energy Foundation to support conservation work on the Catawba River.

Gene said that in 1985, there were no ospreys—an endangered species that normally nest on mature trees—living at Lake Norman. Duke biologists went out to the coast and brought back a few young ospreys to place on trans-

mission towers in order to imprint upon the lake.

The experiment was a success. But as the osprey population grew, the birds started building nests on channel markers, so something had to be done.

Gene said he had rudimentary plans for osprey-nesting platforms and took them to our LNW chapter as a project. But then, “Steve looked at the plans with an architectural eye and vastly improved them,” Gene said, praising Steve for his passion in protecting the birds.

Tim told the gathering that Jerry was key to the inception of the LNW chapter back in 2007. As head of the Island Habitat program, Jerry was great at collaboration and had a special gift for inspiring people to work for wildlife conservation.

“The perpetual award is fitting,” Gene added, “because even at the end (of his life) Jerry wanted to go out and inventory the islands.”

LNWC Spring Program Calendar

April 22nd at Mooresville Public Library: Jason Walls of Duke Energy will discuss the challenge of fulfilling energy needs while protecting wildlife habitat.

May 13th at Mooresville Public Library: Gregg Antemann, president of Carolina Wetland Services, will discuss dealing with non-native plants in the Lake Norman area.

Spring Field Trip: Madge Eggena of Mills Garden Herb Farm in Statesville has invited us to visit her woodland area full of native spring ephemerals at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 25. Madge says that even though they are 2 weeks late, the plants are popping up right now, just in time for our visit. The \$10 cost includes herb tea, herb snacks and a handout on native NC

plants. Bring a check or cash. Participants will receive a confirmation email with directions.

Don’t forget to visit our website for more information on these programs, or contact info@lakenormanwildlife.org



Got Wildlife? Here's Our Projects

Herp Monitoring

Led by chair **Bill Mugg**, this two-year project kicks off in early May. Twelve islands have been selected, volunteers located, and training is set for 9:30 a.m. May 8 at Lake Norman Volunteer Fire Dept. on Brawley School Road. Coverboards will be placed on the islands and monitored periodically by the volunteers. This project is particularly exciting because no studies on reptiles and amphibians have ever been conducted on Lake Norman islands. Data collected on the islands will be compared to shoreline data. Davidson College's Biology Department, headed by Dr. **Mike Dorcas**, will post the results. Bill can be reached at billmugg@roadrunner.com or 704-662-7970.

Fish Attractors

NCWF has 300 fish attractors ready to place on the bottom of Lake Norman and Lake Wylie. **Mark Lancaster** will install 200 of them this spring in Lake Norman. GPS coordinates of the fish attractors and also turtle-basking platforms can be found on our website.

Osprey-Nesting Platforms

Sticks are being collected to seed newly-built platforms so that they can be placed immediately. In early March, ospreys were seen arriving back in this area from their winter feeding grounds.

Turtle-Basking Platforms

Last summer, LNWC built and deployed a total of 19 turtle-basking platforms. Six of them went to Mountain Island Lake. We have received reports and photos from people delighted to see turtles using the platforms. For example, one placed in the Reeds Creek Wetland had seven sliders sunning themselves on it recently. It's very exciting to see our wild friends enjoying their new habitat improvements!

Reeds Creek Wetland

Speaking of habitat improvements, the wetland population continues to grow thanks to the many nest boxes we started placing in the wetland two years ago. Included are boxes for wood ducks, prothonotary warblers, Eastern bluebirds and barred owls. Last year, a mother wood duck was startled in her box when a couple of our volunteers fixed a falling baffle, not knowing that she was sitting on eggs. The brave mom did not leave her post. Already this spring, a pair of wood ducks was sighted occupying a box on Island 36 which is across from the Huntington Woods neighborhood. Also spotted this spring in the wetland were 4 other wood ducks, 8 mallards, a dozen Canada geese, 29 turtles, a bufflehead, GB heron, belted kingfishers, killdeer, 4 hooded mergansers and 2 beavers. A large variety of tree frogs sing there each evening.

Pollution Watch

LNWC Conservation Chair **Eric Peterson** continues to monitor Reeds Creek Wetland and other areas within reach of his kayak, searching for and disposing of paper, old tires, plastic bottles and other items littering our beautiful waterway. Tires, especially, are a problem. If you see anyone throwing tires into the wetland or any part of the lake, please report them to the sheriff. The same with ATVs, which should not be driven within the Lake Norman buffer. To report illegal shooting or habitat destruction, call the NC Wildlife Resources Commission at 1-800-662-7137. View rules at www.ncwildlife.org



Pine Lake Prep Schoolyard Habitat

AP Science Instructor **Ron Pfeffer** (left) is heading up the NWF Schoolyard Habitat certification process for PLP, supervising students like **Paige Frasso** (center) in making the campus wildlife-friendly. Dr. **Mark Stanback** (right), bluebird expert at Davidson College, donated his expertise in placing bluebird nesting boxes in their proper locations. Ron's AP students are monitoring the boxes for breeding activity and will collect pertinent data for a long-term study. PLP teacher **Bitsy Gregory**, who heads the school's Science Club, is leading an effort to plant a butterfly garden. The school hopes to celebrate its Schoolyard Habitat Certification by opening of the next school year. LNWC Habitat Steward **Julie Higgie** and Conservation Chair **Eric Peterson** are acting as advisors.

Calling All LKN Fans!

We are forming a team of people interested in designating our beautiful Lake Norman as an official Certified Wildlife Habitat under National Wildlife Federation guidelines. Team captain is **Don West**, LNWC Community Relations Chair. We need people who are interested in gardening for wildlife and spreading the word on erosion control. Contact Don at don@premiertitleservices.com or call him at 704-660-8192.

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We're on the web!
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Conservationist News

Time To Brag

This year, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation was named Top State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, thanks in part to the wonderful work done by its system of chapters, reports NCWF Conservation Director **Chris North**. In fact, Chris called our own chapter, "not just grassroots, you are grass-tops!" LNWC was tapped for having Best Communications, thanks to **Jim Ray's** management of our website. We also received honorable mentions for Best Nature Programs, Fundraisers and for Connecting Kids to Nature. Our chapter also shares the Most Successful Conservation Project award with the Mountain Island Lake Wildlife Stewards and the Gaston County Piedmont Area Wildlife Stewards for placing artificial fish attractors in Piedmont lakes.

Fundraisers for 2010

The **Lake Norman Wildlife Cruise** is set for June 26 at Queen's Landing. As in the past, the Lady of the Lake will start boarding at 12:45 p.m. and set sail at 1:30 p.m. It will return around 4 p.m. Tickets are \$40 apiece or two for \$75. The cruise includes a narrated tour, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. This year's **Wildlife Oyster & Shrimp Feast** will take place Sept. 11 at Stutt's Marina. It will be a great evening of food, music and fun by the waterside. LNWC is also putting together a 2011 calendar featuring Lake Norman flora and fauna. Photos from the Spring Into Nature contest might be used, so submit yours right away!

Children's Tournaments

Our president, **Mark Lancaster**, who owns the newly renovated Midway Marina, is working with several other marinas to host four tournaments this summer. He plans to coordinate with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the region to attract participating children ages 8-14. Fishing poles will be provided.

More Fun Events

- ♣ **Reptile Day** is set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 10 at Davidson College.
- ♣ CPCC's **Spring Plant Sale**, featuring many native plants, is set for April 17 on the Cato Campus.
- ♣ The annual NCWF **Canoe/Kayak-a-Thon** will be held June 5th on Mountain Island Lake.
- ♣ **Aquapalooza** will be held July 31 at Midway Marina.

LNWC

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