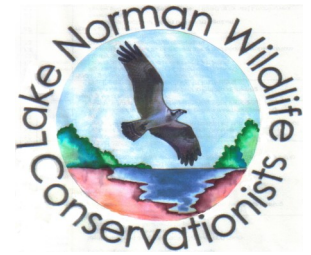


Inland Sea Chronicle



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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www.lakenormanwildlife.org

President's Report: Join LNWC's Spring Plans

By Stephen W. Turley

Well, I am sure that all of our members and volunteers are just as happy as I am to have spring finally arrive! Now we are getting back into the "get outside and work" mode. I know that one thing on my list is to get my backyard certified as a Wildlife Habitat. I won't have much to do a birdhouse or two (Thanks **Bill Mugg** ... that left- over cedar you gave me last week will work just fine!), some blueberry bushes for the birds and some flowers for the bees.

I've been meaning to certify my property for a while, but now, thanks to **Wild Over LKN!**, it is much more important to do it. And I hope you will join me in being a part of our organization's plan—headed by community relations chairman **Don West**—to certify the entire Lake Norman area. This effort will create the largest water-based certified wildlife habitat area in America.

Also, if you own a boat and keep it on Lake Norman, I hope that you will consider adopting an island through the totally renovated **Island Habitat Program** headed by **Jim** and **Jill Feldmeyer**. The Feldmeyers are gearing up to enable many people to become island adopters very easily. Look inside this newsletter for details!

Another exciting change for spring is that our annual **Wildlife Cruise** on the Lady of The Lake at **Queen's Landing** will be more of an educational nature cruise. We will lower ticket prices so that families will be encouraged to bring all of the kids—and maybe a few from the neighborhood too!

It is my sincere hope that as all of you get outside and work in your yards, that you will consider the needs of our local wildlife as you choose which bushes and trees to plant this year.

Have a really great spring!



The Ospreys Are Back!

*This photo by LNWC charter member **Bill Mugg** illustrates one wildlife resident who depends on our organization to protect and enhance its habitat. LNWC is responsible for building and placing osprey nesting platforms throughout the lake. We also help educate other NC Wildlife Federation chapters and organizations on platform building, and other habitat enhancement projects.*

**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

LNWC Events for Members & Friends

Adopt Your Own Island!

The LNWC's Island Habitat Program is kicking off in April for **Adopt an Island in Lake Norman**.

"We have over 50 islands in Lake Norman that need to be adopted," said **Jill** and **Jim Feldmeyer**, volunteer coordinators for Island Habitat. Duties can include: Cleaning up your island; Collecting data and reporting; Placing bird houses on the island, and other important duties to help enhance wildlife habitat.

The program's official kickoff will start Tuesday, April 5th, when the Feldmeyers present an informational program at the Sherrills Ford Library. Then on April 16, they will have a booth at the Backyard Wildlife Fair in Huntersville.

Finally, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 12, at the regular free monthly nature program at Mooresville Public Library, Duke Energy scientist **Gene Vaughn** will educate us all about the importance of Lake Norman islands to wildlife. The Feldmeyers will follow with information on how to adopt your very own island!

Contact the Feldmeyers at saveour-lake@charter.net or call 704-724-2852 for more information on island adoption.



Backyard Wildlife Fair

Duke Energy's McGuire Station in Huntersville will host LNWC's first annual **Backyard Wildlife Fair** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 16. This exciting family-friendly event is free to the public!

Activities will include garden crafts, free pony rides, a display of exotic animals from Zootastic Park, nature hikes, and presentations on gardening for wildlife, birding, composting and native plants.

Best of all, everyone who attends will get the chance to have their property designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat under the auspices of the National Wildlife Federation.

Food will be available for purchase. See you at the fair!

LNWC Nature Tip

Now is the time to put out your hummingbird nectar feeders! Hummingbirds have started their migration through our area.

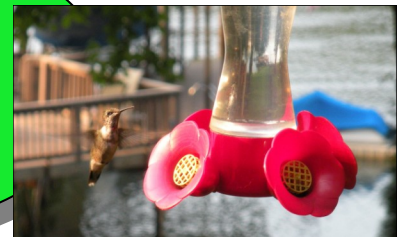


Photo by Jim Ray

Furry Wetland Swimmer Presents Challenges

By Julie Higgin

Reprinted from *The Mooresville Tribune*

Like the wild turkey, the beaver is a North Carolina success story. After being eliminated by fur trappers by 1897, beavers were reintroduced in our state in the 1930s by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and have since thrived.

Wildlife lovers have to admit these guys have a lot going for them, despite mixed reviews of their handiwork.

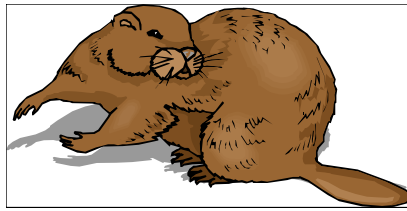
One of 43 mammals in our region, the beaver is the largest rodent in North America. It is called “nature’s architect” due to its remarkable ability to modify its environment for its own use. In short, it builds dams in watershed areas to control the flow of water.

Its goal, according to the NC Cooperative Extension Service, is to “raise water levels to access food sources safely by swimming instead of walking. Most beavers depend on their ponds as places to meet all living, food, and protection needs.”

One beaver myth is that they eat fish. Actually, beavers are herbivores which feed on many woody plants and herbs. Their favorite trees include sweet gum, poplar, willow, birch, box elder and fir.

But as most people know, they don’t just eat the trees. They use them to create dams and also to build lodges in which to raise families. Beaver children are called “kits” in their first year and “yearlings” in their second. After their second year, mom and dad toss them out of the lodge to seek a new territory and make a home of their own.

Beavers construct two types of houses: a **bank den** partially covered with sticks and mud, or a **pond lodge** out in the water. The pond lodge is most impressive. It can be 15-20 feet in diameter and 10 feet high.



I have seen both kinds in Mooresville’s **Reeds Creek Wetland**, a LNWC habitat project which has been extensively “remodeled” by these critters in the past three years.

Beavers use their large, flat tails both for swimming and to communicate a warning. Many a fisherman on a quiet morning has been startled by a sudden loud “smack.” That was a beaver telling its relatives an intruder is near.

Many people who hang out on or around Lake Norman’s coves have some experience with these critters—both positive and negative.

Positive beaver facts:

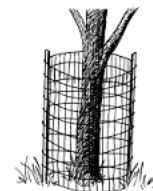
- ◆ The dams they construct along waterways improve downstream water quality.
- ◆ Their ponds provide prime habitat for many kinds of wildlife from ducks and turtles to fish and amphibians.

Negative beaver facts:

- ◆ Property owners along waterways dislike having their trees removed or damaged.
- ◆ In some cases, croplands or human neighborhoods are flooded and ruined.

How can we cope with beaver damage? The answer is not relocation, according to Tim Gestwicki, executive director of the NC Wildlife Federation.

“It would be extremely futile to try and trap beavers in Lake Norman (because) I feel the habitat is so large and other beavers will simply move in to the area,” Gestwicki said. He recommends protecting trees with fencing as the best solution.



Property owners can find positive ways to cope with damage from “nature’s architect”

Learn to Protect Wildlife

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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.

On April 14, we will welcome Dr. **Mark Stanback**, ornithology and vertebrate specialist at Davidson College, to share "Bird Research at Davidson College." Then on May 12, **Gene Vaughn** of Duke Energy will discuss the importance of Lake Norman Islands to wildlife. At that program, you will get the chance to adopt your own island! This makes a great family project.

Backyard Wildlife Fair

Wild Over LKN! chairman **Don West** has promised us the very best in outdoor fun and information April 16 at LNWC's first annual fair hosted by **Duke Energy** at the EnergyExplorium. The speaker schedule includes:

- ◆ Noon—Waterfowl Rescue, **Leslie Weiser**
- ◆ 12:30 p.m.—Organics, **Mark Tyburski**
- ◆ 1 p.m.—Lake Denizens, **Hailey Wilson**
- ◆ 1:30 p.m.—Spiders, **Dr. David Grant**
- ◆ 2 p.m.—Composting, **David Smith**
- ◆ 2:30 p.m.—Feeding Birds, **Lou Kaestner**

UNCC Spring Plant Sale

Don't forget the importance of native plants when you create your **Certified Wildlife Habitat** this spring. You can pick some up at the McMillan Greenhouse from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the weekend of April 22-23. You'll find a wide array of native plants and exotic botanicals at the garden's largest plant sale of the year. The proceeds support the university's beautiful greenhouse and gardens.

**Want to attend the June Wildlife
Cruise? Look for an email
announcement!**

LNWC

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