

INLAND SEA CHRONICLE



Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists Newsletter

www.lakenormanwildlife.org

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Building frenzy!

LNWC members tackle wildlife projects

NOTHING suits Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists members more than fresh air and outdoor exercise, all in the name of helping our wild friends.

In early spring, President **Mark Lancaster** and his helpful crew worked with state wildlife officials in placing 200 fish attractors into Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake.

Fish attractors are large, spiked structures resembling something from outer space that are installed on the lake bottom in deep water. They are designed to provide nest-

ing and feeding sites for fish and other aquatic wildlife.



Fish attractor project.

Mark said that not long after installation, the structures he examined had algae growing on them and fish were already hanging around!

Fishermen and anyone else interested in examining the sites can find GPS coordinates on our chap-

(Continued on page 2)

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

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Mark Lancaster

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Membership

Scott Clark

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Julie Higgle

LNWC plans cruise & oyster roast

This year, our wildlife chapter has the perfect cure for the economic blues. We invite all our friends to join us out on the lake for two exciting "Fall Fun-raisers."

Our second annual **Lake Norman Wildlife Cruise** will set sail at 1:30 p.m. Saturday,



Sept. 19 from Queens Landing. This event will feature a narrated tour of wildlife highlights, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a live auction.

Then, starting at 5 p.m. Oct. 17, the all-new Midway Marina will graciously host our first **Lake Norman Oyster Fest**, featuring an oyster roast served with musical entertainment and all the fixin's made famous by the **Lancaster Family**. Reserve your spot today!

Scout gets top honors as Eagle

LNWC member **Jonathan Cooley**, a highly decorated Troop 377 Boy Scout with 32 Merit Badges, was tapped with the Eagle Scout designation at a ceremony held June 6 at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church.

At the ceremony, Jonathan was joined by his proud parents and family as well as



Scouting officials. Among the many people lauding Jonathan for his devotion to nature and the environment was **Steve Turley**, our own vice presi-

speakers and presenters, invited guests and a contingent of fellow Scouts and

dent. Steve himself received a gold Eagle Scout Mentor pin from Jonathan for his guidance in and help with the teen's Eagle Scout Project—the planning, construction and installation of bat nesting boxes on islands and shorelines of Lake Norman and the Reeds Creek Wetland. The ceremony was followed by a great meal.

(Projects from page 1)

ter's website.

Then on May 30, 15 LNWC volunteers converged on **Bill and Ellen Mugg's** driveway to build 19 turtle-basking platforms in 3 hours. This beats the old building record of 10 osprey platforms in 3 ½ hours held by **Steve Turley's** team!

Following the platform build, **Don Higgie** and **Eric Peterson** took two of the platforms to the Reeds Creek Wetland for installation. Also, six turtle-basking platforms were taken by a Mountain Island Lake Chapter member to be installed on that lake.

The remainder will be installed on Lake Norman one by one because the installers are sharing tools, Bill said.

Kim McCullough will install two platforms on

the southern part of the lake, Bill will install two platforms mid-lake, **Debbie Osborn** is in charge of the Mountain Creek area with two platforms, and **Mark Shill** has five platforms for the upper lake area.

What are turtle-basking platforms? Simply put, these structures provide areas for these cold-blooded creatures to warm themselves in the sun. Waterfowl and fish will also be attracted to them.

Earlier in the spring, volunteers surveyed the lake using GPS coordinates, looking for the best placement sites.



Building in the Muggs' drive.



CHAPTER NOTES

WELCOME FRIEND!—We are so pleased to have **Scott Clark**, Bank of America information technologist, join us as Membership Chair for our chapter. He jumped right in by helping us install an internet-accessible map of Lake Norman on our website, complete with locations of fish attractors, turtle basking platforms and osprey nesting boxes. Thanks, Scott!

WETLAND PROJECT —Thanks to our Conservation Chair, **Eric Peterson**, our chapter now has a wildlife protection sign posted at the Reeds Creek Wetland. It reminds jet-skiers and boaters to avoid speeding through the area due to nesting birds and other wildlife. Eric also obtained 200 LNWC car decals that we can distribute to attendees of our fall fund-raisers.

ISLAND HABITAT CLEANUP—What happened to our island sweep? It got cancelled due to higher-than-normal lake levels this year. The island shorelines have disappeared!

PUBLIC PROGRAMS—Our next FREE nature program is 7 p.m. Oct. 8 featuring spider expert **David Grant**.