

Inland Sea Chronicle



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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www.lakenormanwildlife.org

Clean Cast Draws Kids Into Nature

By Vanda Freeman

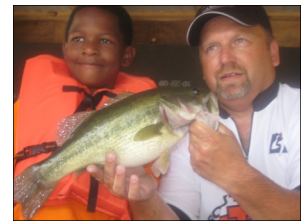
Thirty-five members of the Claremont Boys and Girls Club were given a special treat June 17 when they were taken to Midway Marina on Lake Norman for a day of fishing and fun.

This special event, entitled "Clean Cast for Kids", was organized by **Mark Lancaster**, president of LNWC, in cooperation with **Bob Patrick**, Conover fisherman; **Bob Bauer**, North Carolina Chairman of the youth division of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society; and **Constance Quinn**, Claremont Unit Director for the Boys and Girls Club.

Experienced Lake Norman fishing guides **David Clubb**, **Gus Gustafson**, **Craig Price** and volunteers **Kerry Earnhardt**, **Don West**, **Eric Peterson**, **Vanda** and **Bob Freeman** worked with two youngsters each.

All but a few youngsters caught and weighed in fish. For many, it was their first fish ever. The biggest

catch, a 3-pound bass, was caught by **Devin Lee** of Conover. **Ivey Huffman** of Conover was the angler of the day, weighing in four fish. Bauer served as weigh master and reported that "all fish were weighed and returned to the lake alive and in good condition." The few children who did not catch fish were given special prizes. All contestants received gifts and T-shirts.



Smiles and prize-winning fish went together at LNWC's first Clean Cast for Kids

Through a large group of sponsors solicited by Mark Lancaster and Bob Bauer, all the equipment including life vests was furnished. Midway Marine provided a hot dog and burger lunch.

The sponsors were Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet, NC
(Continued on page 3)

'Wild Over LKN!' Habitat Project Set to Launch

By Don West

LNWC's project to have the Lake Norman region certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat is officially under way, with the submission of our application to NWF. The steering committee has been formed and divided into four teams. Each

team is tasked with the goal of achieving the necessary points required in one of the four scoring categories: Education, Projects, Administration, Habitat.

The goal of the Education Team is to conduct workshops that show the public how to make their backyards more wildlife friendly. The Projects Team will

work with local nurseries to promote native plants, and plan community events such as stream or trail cleanups.

The Administration Team will maintain a record of our project, and will recruit new individuals and organizations as habitat partners. The fourth

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Because we are a chapter of the NCWF, half the funds raised by the cruise help statewide wildlife conservation goals.

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

Wildlife Cruise Meets Fundraising Goal

By Julie Higgle

For the third straight year, LNWC's loyal members and friends pitched in to support wildlife habitat enhancement projects on our beloved Lake Norman and beyond. Despite continuing financial challenges faced by many businesses and households, the third annual Lake Norman Wildlife Cruise raised more than \$4,000, topping our 2009 cruise.



A great big "Thank You" to Queen's Landing for donating its beautiful Lady of the Lake.

A huge "Thank You" goes to **Mark Lancaster** and **Don Dimperio**, along with other LNWC board members who spent many dollars and man-hours making sure this fundraiser was a success. Without the cruise-day help of **Steve Turley, Don West, Vanda and Bob Freeman, Debbie Osborne** and **Eric Peterson**, we would have been "lost

at sea"!

In addition, generous cruise guests contributed more than \$1,200 in donations to LNWC above and beyond income from event registrations and auction totals, stated **Don Higgle**, treasurer.

The cruise was attended by 95 people who enjoyed the sights and sounds of Lake Norman, along with tasty snacks supplied by Queen's Landing, plus an informative presentation by **Steve Price** of Davidson College who discussed animals commonly found in the Lake Norman area. Steve brought along a few animal friends including a rat snake and box turtle to share with animal lovers.

It was Capt. **Craig Price** who convinced the fabulous **Terri Bennett** to be our auctioneer. Visit Terri's website at www.doyourpart.org to get her green tips and participate in her blog. We ended up with nine live auction items and around 35 silent auction items. Thank you to all our donors and purchasers!

Speaking of great fund-raising events, everyone is looking forward to the second annual **Wildlife Oyster Feast** that is scheduled for Sept. 11 at Stutts Marina. Host and hostess **Don** and **Peggy Dimperio** are sure to provide LNWC friends with a deliciously good time! Stay tuned for details.

(Wild Over LKN! continued from page 1)

team, the Habitat Team, will work with individuals, schools, churches, businesses and local governments to create Certified Wildlife Habitats.

The official launch of "Wild Over LKN!" is scheduled for July 31 at Aquapalooza 2010 at **Midway Marina** on HWY. 150, expected to draw hundreds of boating and nature enthusiasts. Numerous projects, however, have already begun.

On July 1st, for example, a workshop hosted by **Dearness Garden Center** in Huntersville treated 70 summer day camp students to a tour of the nursery with Dearness Garden's **Christine Lisiewski** explaining the value of using native plants; Dr. **Mark Stanback**, biology professor at Davidson College, speaking on Eastern Bluebirds and other songbirds, and how to attract them; and **Ken Conrad** talking about how to get individual homes declared Certified Wildlife Habitats.

For more information, or to participate in "Wild Over LKN!", contact me at don@premiertitleservices.com or call 704-660-8192.

Got Wildlife? Here's Our Projects

Osprey Platforms

On May 22, volunteers from the LNWC headed by **Steve Turley** had an osprey nest-building workshop hosted by **Lancaster Custom Dock and Shorelines** on Perth Road in Troutman. Not only were seven nesting platforms built for Lake Norman, but Dr. **Bill Jarman**, president of the Gaston PAWS Chapter, attended and learned how to build the platforms for his chapter. He built one himself and took it back to install on Lake Wylie.

Last year, volunteers from the LNWC taught a group from the Mountain Island Lake chapter how to build the platforms. The LNWC is excited to continue to assist other chapters in "learning the ropes" on protecting and enhancing their osprey populations.

Mark Lancaster recently installed one of the osprey platforms close to board member **Don Dimperio's** home. Don reported that ospreys started building a nest within two days of the installation! The ospreys will not have chicks on that nest this year, but have built it in preparation for their family next year. The same mating pairs of ospreys return to their respective nests each year for a new brood of hatchlings.

Great thanks go to Mark for his tireless devotion and considerable financial contribution to the osprey enhancement program on Lake Norman!

Reeds Creek Wetland

LNWC Conservation Director **Eric Peterson** reports that this spring's heavy rains kept Lake Norman and its tributaries at high water levels. This is extremely evident in the Reeds Creek Wetlands mitigation area. As a result of the work done by Mid-Atlantic Mitigation LLC, about 80 percent of the almost 15-acre site is under water. In addition, the 3,000-4,000 trees planted by Mid-Atlantic have grown significantly during the past several years to create an impressive wetland forest.

Inspection of the wood duck nesting boxes indicates that at least five of the seven boxes placed by LNWC volunteers were occupied this spring. Fledgling wood ducks have been spotted exploring the wetland with their mothers.

On June 5th and 6th, 10 NCWF coverboards were installed in the wetland and three more were placed on Island N-34 in nearby Harbor Cove, thanks to efforts by **Theresa Morr, Julie and Don Higgie**, and **Gary and Angela Rogers**.

LNWC turtle-basking platforms placed last summer are providing ideal perches for various turtles and Great Blue Herons.

Herp Monitoring Update

Coverboard Project Manager **Bill Mugg** reports that 62 of 75 boards were deployed on nine islands, plus Reeds Creek. Volunteers will start review/monitoring Aug. 1. The idea is to list and photograph any reptiles and amphibians seen under the boards. Data will contribute to larger research projects including the Catawba River Corridor Coverboard Program and the Carolina Herp Atlas.



Theresa Morr, president of the OWLS chapter, and Eric Peterson joined Don and Julie Higgie in placing coverboards in the Reeds Creek Wetland. First monitoring of the placed boards begins Aug. 1. The boards are clearly marked with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation name and orange ribbons placed nearby so locations can be easily seen from the water.

(Clean Cast continued from page 1)

Youth Conservation Org, Up Town Charters, Midway Marina and Boathouse Restaurant, Boat US, Midway Bait and Tackle, NC Federation Nation, NC Bass Federation, Southfork Junior Bassmasters, Lancaster Dock and Dredge, Truesouth Custom Lures, and Koyote Bait and Tackle.

The June 17th fishing event was the first of four to be held by the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists, with the next one set for July 15 at Stutts Marina. Earnhardt Chevrolet has committed to sponsoring all the events.

The remaining Clean Cast events are Sept. 9 and Oct. 7. The winners of the first three will participate in a championship fishing derby for the final event.

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Conservationist News

Good-bye to a Friend

LNWC lost a passionate supporter when **Bob Kulak** passed away at his home in March. Bob was our first Community Relations committee head and played a big role in organizing our first Lake Norman Wildlife Cruise. He lived in Terrell.

Photography Honors

Our Spring Into Nature! Earth Day Contest drew a number of talented participants. Our winner was **Christine Lisiewski** of Huntersville who submitted a beautiful photo called "Our Coopers Hawk" taken at Dearness Garden Center where she works. Honorable Mentions went to **Sue Hakendorf** of Davidson, **Debbie Foster** of Mathews and **Stephanie Grice** of Charlotte. You can enjoy their entries by visiting our website's homepage!

Looking Forward to 2011

Love the wild beauty of Lake Norman? Then you'll love the 2011 Lake Norman Wildlife Calendar being created right now by experienced wildlife photographer and LNWC member **Bill Mugg**. Bill is out there capturing LKN flora and fauna. Anyone who has ever tried nature photography knows what a challenge it can be getting critters to pose for pix. We're all looking forward to his efforts. The calendar was **Jill Feldmeyer's** idea and she will help Bill choose appropriate photos. Thanks Jill and Bill!

Snakes Alive!

LNWC holds eight free nature programs each year 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. The first program will be very exciting. Education committee head **Debbie Osborne** has invited Dr. **Michael Dorcas**, Davidson College's "herp" expert, to our Sept. 9 program. He promised to bring live snakes for your inspection. Other topics slated for this year include trout fishing and lakeside gardening. Visit our website for updates or request to be put on our e-mailing contact list by sending your request to info@lakenormanwildlife.org



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