



Inland Sea Chronicle

Volume 6, Issue 3

www.lakenormanwildlife.org

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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So What If It's Icky?

By Don West, President

Some of my most cherished memories go back to my early discoveries in the woods, fields, and ponds or streams surrounding the homes of my parents and grandparents. Every morning was filled with anticipation of things soon to be discovered. What I knew about the world was very simple. Trees were for climbing, blackberries were for picking, creeks were for wading, jars were for catching lightning bugs, and acorns were the perfect defense for repelling attacks from all imaginary invaders. I awoke daily to the music of a "bob white" whistle. Then, buoyed by an imagination of adventures to be that can only be conjured by a child, and with my canine "best pal" at my side, I would be off to see what Nature offered on that day. As a young boy, I waded small brooks and streams, turning over rocks, and discovering a whole new world of wild things. As I grew a little older, I learned to hunt and fish at my Dad's side.

Today's children and youth are losing contact with that world. The siren song

of technology has them "unplugged" from the magic of Nature. Society is sending a subtle message to children: Nature is in the past, electronics are the future, and something evil lives in the woods. In his article, "The Nature-Child Reunion", Richard Louv points out that the way children understand and experience the outdoors has changed dramatically in recent decades. "A child today can tell you all about the Amazon rain

forest but not about the last time he or she explored the woods in solitude or lay in a field listening to the wind." If the divide between children and Nature continues to widen, who will be the future stewards of the Earth? Those who

do not spend time in Nature are less likely to protect it. If we don't instill an interest in Nature in this latest generation – our children or grandchildren – then their children will be able to see wildlife currently common to our backyard only by a visit to the zoo. We can't undo extinction!

So what can you do about it? When asked "When do you feel your child is safest?", almost universally, the answer is "When they're with me." Therein lies our answer. Educating our children

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**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

Reeds Creek Wetland Changes Hands

By Eric Peterson

**Editor's Note—Enhancement and cleanup of the newly mitigated Reeds Creek Wetland was one of the first projects undertaken by LNWC. Volunteers placed numerous nesting boxes for wood ducks, prothonotary warblers and eastern bluebirds, monitored wildlife populations and helped protect native plantings and the area in general. The wetland is located in Mooresville on the west side of NC Hwy. 21 between Huntington Woods and Cypress Landing.*



A significant change has occurred in the management of the Reeds Creek Wetland project area with the transfer of that responsibility from the mitigation firm EBX (Environmental Banc and Exchange) to the State of North Carolina Ecosystem

Enhancement Program. The “turnover” took place following a final inspection of the site by officials from the Ecosystem Enhancement Program, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a representative from the NC Division of Water Quality, and EBX.

Eric Geland of the N.C. Enhancement Program will be in charge of the Reeds Creek property, and the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists will continue to monitor the site by removing litter, maintaining nesting structures and reporting any vandalism or illegal activity to Mr. Geland. It is the intent of the EEP to maintain the site in “pristine and untouched condition.” There are no plans to further develop the site as a park or tourist attraction.

For access and information, please call Eric Peterson at 704-660-3508.

(Continued from page 1)

about Nature has an abundance of rewards along the way for the educator, no matter if it is a parent, grandparent, teacher or neighbor. Have you ever seen the look of joy on a child's face upon catching that first fish? That cry of exultation at being first to the top of the hill? Take them out to interact with Nature. Put up a bird feeder, “camp out” in your back yard, go on a nature walk – try to name the animals, birds and insects that you see, wade a stream, go fishing, or create a Certified Backyard Habitat site.

My dream is for today's version of that little boy or girl of my childhood to be able to safely wade those streams, turn over those rocks, and enjoy the fascination of examining something newly discovered, even if it is “icky”.



Youth Activities!

Time to Get Wild Over Wildlife!

Free Family Fishing Day

August 25, 8-11:30 a.m., Camp Dogwood, 7050 Camp Dogwood Dr., Sherrill's Ford

Pre-registration Required

Families are invited to bring the kids/grandkids for a day of fishing fun and prizes at the beautiful Camp Dogwood shoreline. Fishing experts from the South Harbour Fishing Club will give beginners fishing lessons to children ages 6-15. All equipment and supplies will be provided on loan thanks to donations from the Bass Pro, Lake Effects Marine, and the Southfork Bassmasters, Coffee and breakfast items will be available for purchase to support the Lions Club. Visit our website for more information or call Lilly Vicens, event coordinator, at 910-603-4929.

Reeds Creek Wetland - Trash & Treasure Hunt

September 29, 9:00 a.m.

Pre-registration Required; Ages 8 and up.

Kids bring your boots and join LNWC on a guided tour of Reeds Creek Wetland, a hidden gem and recent conservation effort now teeming with wildlife and wetland plants. Get your hands dirty as we hunt for both trash and treasure, while learning why the wetland ecosystem is so vital to Lake Norman. This event has limited space. Visit our Website for more information or call Lilly Vicens, event coordinator, at 910-603-4929.

Visit us at the Green Day Festival

September 15th, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Davidson Village Green, Main Street at Concord Road, Davidson, NC.

All ages should stop by our booth to discover where wildlife go in the winter during a hands-on activity at this family-friendly event. Information will also be provided on membership opportunities and upcoming events.



Critter Cruise

Amazes!

The Amazing Critter Cruise took off from Queen's Landing on June 16 with 126 happy guests. A great big "Thank You" goes out to the Lady of the Lake crew for welcoming and serving us in fine style. Thanks also to the LNWC Youth Activities Committee headed by **Lilly Vicens** which did a great job of planning this activity. We received lots of compliments from people on board! Zootastic animal handler **Jake Hosegood** and Catawba Riverkeeper's **Rick Gaskins** educated us on the beauty and importance of our own Lake Norman as both a wildlife and human habitat..

LAKE NORMAN
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATIONISTS

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We're on the web!
lakenormanwildlife.org



Conservationists Calendar

Library Program Dates

Mooresville Public Library Youth Activities
Room, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13

Oct. 11

Nov. 8

Jan. 10

Feb. 7

March 14

April 11

May 9

Board of Directors Meetings

Sept. 10 (due to Labor Day)

Oct. 1

Nov. 5

Dec 3 (BOD Christmas Party at Big
Daddy's)

Jan. 7

Feb. 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3 (BOD Cookout/Meeting)

**Note: LNWC members are wel-
come to attend all board meetings,
6-7 p.m. at Keller-Williams Realty
Bldg. 118 Morlake Dr., Mooresville.**

Upcoming Events

Aug. 25 Family Fishing Day (Youth)

Sept. 8 NCWF Banquet (Board and
Committee Heads)

Sept. 22 **Wildlife Fest at All Seasons!**

Sept. 29 Proposed Reeds Creek Wet-
land Tour/Cleanup (Youth)

Oct. 6 NC Big Sweep (9a.m.-12)

April 22 Earth Day

June 1st or 8th Amazing Critter Cruise
(Youth)

LNWC

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Mark Lancaster, VP
Don Higgin, Treasurer
Julie Higgin, Secretary

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Jim Ray & **Ken Teeter**

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