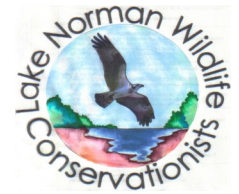


# Inland Sea Chronicle



## 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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Volume 3, Issue 5

[www.lakenormanwildlife.org](http://www.lakenormanwildlife.org)

## Year-end Message from our President

### By Mark Lancaster

It's been a great year for wildlife conservation in the Lake Norman community, thanks to the support of an ever-growing number of LNWC members and friends.

Dedicated volunteers built and installed turtle-basking platforms around the lake. Volunteers also installed additional nesting boxes, osprey platforms and fish attractors. Still others presented habitat programs for local groups of children and adults, and organized free nature education programs at the Mooresville Public Library.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for making it possible to accomplish our mission of protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats. I also want to thank our dedicated Board of

Directors for going above and beyond the call of duty in making sure programs are successfully accomplished.

In the New Year, we look forward to spreading the conservation message to more young people, knowing that the future is in their hands. A series of youth fishing tournaments will be a fun way to spread that message.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I'd like to wish everyone a blessed holiday season.



## Chapter Looks Forward to 'Undercover' Project

### By Bill Mugg

Want to do some undercover work? This winter, LNWC will set up a coverboard project to inventory and monitor reptiles and amphibians (herps) on Lake Norman's

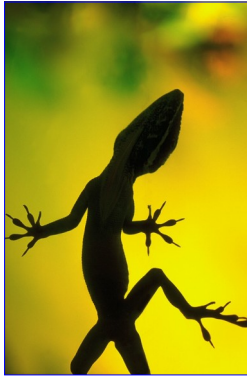
islands and at the Reeds Creek Wetland (on Hwy. 21 in Mooresville).

Coverboards are sheets of plywood that are laid on the ground to provide an attractive shelter for these species. The boards

are lifted periodically and the species that have crawled underneath are surveyed, recorded, and photographed if possible.

This is an exciting project because there is currently

*(Continued on page 2)*



Children and parents can work together to search for frogs, toads, salamanders and any other critters hiding under boards.

**“Lake Norman provides important habitat for many wildlife species.”**

## Undercover Project (continued from P1)

no knowledge of which herps are present in these areas, so we have an opportunity to make new discoveries. The data collected will be contributed to larger research projects and will also provide information about priority species that will help determine future habitat restoration projects.

### Objectives

The objectives of this project are:

- To inventory and monitor reptile and amphibian species on Lake Norman islands and at Reeds Creek Wetland
- To collect data for contribution to larger research projects, including the Catawba River Corridor Coverboard Program and the Carolina Herp Atlas
- To collect data that will be useful in making future decisions about habitat restoration and/or enhancement projects
- To contribute data to a Davidson College study of island biogeography theory
- To support the goals of the NC Wildlife Action Plan

### Volunteer Participation

Volunteers will be needed to help with initial setup as well as continuous monthly monitoring.

Setup duties will include visiting islands to set up coverboards, using GPS to map the location of each coverboard, and flagging trees to mark coverboard locations. GPS information will be submitted to the project coordinator, who will record it on a spreadsheet.

After setup is complete, volunteers will be assigned to an island or an area of Reeds Creek and will be responsible for checking coverboards at that location on a monthly basis. Volunteers should fill out the species data sheet provided by the project coordinator and should try to photograph their findings. Volunteers will submit their data sheet to the project coordinator each month and the data will be compiled on a spreadsheet. Volunteers should survey species visually and should not attempt to handle herp species.

### Volunteer Training

In order to maximize survey accuracy, volunteers will be required to attend a short training session to learn about common local herp species. This training program will also cover volunteer procedures and safety.

### Data

Data from this project will be added directly to the Carolina Herp Atlas, an online database of herp species in the Carolinas. Volunteers may opt to join the site and add their own data and photos, or they can request that the project coordinator add their data.

Data will also be submitted to the Catawba River Corridor Coverboard Program and will be made available to the academic community for use in various herp studies.

To sign up for this exciting project, contact **Leah Biery** at [biery.leah@gmail.com](mailto:biery.leah@gmail.com) or 704-608-0506.

## Don't Miss Our Jan. 14 Nature Program

Wildlife conservation usually begins at home. But what happens when wild creatures are snatched from their native land, brought to the United States and abandoned or mistreated due to misunderstanding of their wild nature?

Find out 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, when Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists welcomes **Leslie Wieser** and a few of her live bird friends as they present **The Plight of Parrots—From Native Wildlife to Human Companion.**

Leslie, who is vice president of the non-profit group Companion Parrots Re-homed, says that most of today's companion parrots, from African Greys and Amazons to Cockatiels and Conures, were either wild-caught or are only one or two generations from being wild-caught. People often have difficulty coping with these creatures' wild instincts and may not realize that their lifespan can equal that of a human being.

Sadly, these magnificent and intelligent birds face losing several homes through their lifetime in captivity because of misunderstandings.

Companion Parrots Re-homed accepts



*Leslie will bring several of her bird friends to Mooresville Public Library.*

surrendered, found or injured parrots, or rescues them from harmful or unwanted situations, and offers them to qualified homes for adoption. Come learn about the interesting lives of parrots, both in the wild and in our home.

Professionally, Leslie is human resources manager for Discovery Place Inc. She is also an active volunteer for Carolina Waterfowl Rescue and serves on the board for the Habitat & Wildlife Keepers (HAWK) chapter of the NC Wildlife Federation.

No reservations are required for this Free Public Program, set for 7-8:30 p.m. at Mooresville Public Library, 304 S. Main St. **COME WITH A FRIEND!**

*“Sadly, these magnificent and intelligent birds are often misunderstood.”*

## LNWC Nature Program Calendar

**Feb. 11: Celebrate Native Orchids**—David R. McAdoo, orchid expert

**March 11: Egret Research at Lenior-Rhyné College**—Professor John Brzorad

**April 22: Energy Generation & Conservation**—Jason Walls of Duke Energy

**May 13: Alien Plant Invasion!**—Gregg Antemann, president of Carolina Wetland Services

**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! Date TBD

LAKE NORMAN  
WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATIONISTS

PO Box 4296  
Mooresville, NC 28117

Phone: 704-332-5696  
E-mail:  
info@lakenormanwildlife.org

We're on the web!  
lakenormanwildlife.org



## Conservationist News

### New Board Members

We are excited to announce the addition of six enthusiastic volunteers to our board roster. **Jim Isley** fills the director-at-large slot. Fishing guide **Craig Price** will organize outings for us. **Debbie Osborn** applies her administrative skills toward our free public programs. Stutts Marina owner **Don Dimpirio** will help us with fundraisers. And Clean Sweep organizers **Jim** and **Jill Feldmeyer** will help supervise the Island Habitat Program. Welcome!

### Find Updates on the Web

Don't forget to check our website for nature happenings, program details and volunteer opportunities. You can also get answers by contacting info@lakenormanwildlife.org

### Speakers Available

Attention teachers, scout groups and other organizations! We have speakers ready and willing to discuss wildlife habitats and conservation projects with you or your group.

### NCWF Scholarship Grants

Each year, the NCWF provides up to seven grants of \$1,000 each to students attending an accredited North Carolina college or university full time. Students must be majoring in wildlife, fisheries, forestry, conservation or the environment. For information and an application, contact **Greta Salem** by email at greta@ncwf.org`

## LNWC

### Board of Directors:

*President*

Mark Lancaster

*Vice President*

Steve Turley

*Treasurer*

Don Higgin

*Secretary*

Vanda Freeman

*Directors At-Large*

Andrew Wingo

Jim Isley

### Committee Chairpersons:

*Conservation*

Eric Peterson

*Education Programs*

Debbie Osborn

*Fundraising*

Don Dimpirio

*Island Habitats*

Jim and Jill Feldmeyer

*Membership*

Scott Clark

*Outings*

Craig Price

*Media Contact/Newsletter*

Julie Higgin

*Website Manager*

Jim Ray

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