

LNWC Mission Statement

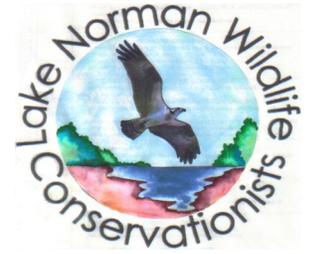
The Mission of the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists is to protect and enhance the natural resources and wildlife habitats of the Greater Lake Norman area for all to enjoy.

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Inland Sea Chronicle



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www.lakenormanwildlife.org

Lake Norman Reflections

By Tim Gestwicki
NCWF Executive Director

A tremendous amount of work was accomplished in 2011 for the wild lives and wild places of North Carolina and Lake Norman. Often in our line of work—and especially over the last months—it seems that one hot-burning, must-do-something-about-this issue follows closely on another. (Or more than one

raises their ugly heads at the same time.)

As we gear up for another year working for wildlife conservation, habitat conservation and connecting people to nature in and around Lake Norman, we invite all our local supporters to get involved with upcoming projects like building osprey nesting platforms, wood duck boxes and nesting sites for great blue herons. We will plant button

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Don West, shown with a native bee nest box, successfully led a team of Wild Over LKN! members to certify the entire Lake Norman region as a Community Wildlife Habitat. The effort to add even more certified wildlife sites around the lake continues in the new year!

Want to Help? Here's How

By Don West
President Pro-Tem

I invite you to join us because 2012 is the year of opportunity! Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists is expanding its scope to emphasize not only wildlife habitat enhancement, but also to create a program for youth education through outdoor experiences. We are about to embark on a whirlwind series of activities that will be limited only by the number of wildlife enthusiasts available to bring about our success. We hope to extend our conservation reach to every sector of Lake Norman—every county, every town.

This year's projects mentioned by our executive director (above) provide great opportunities to get involved on a grassroots level. Our youth activities include a nature camp, field trips, creation of a butterfly garden, nature trail hikes, and the first-hand study of local flora and fauna. Our goal is for kids to "get their hands dirty", have fun, and connect with nature.

The public will have an opportunity to learn more about each of these projects by attending our monthly education program at the Mooresville Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8. After an abbreviated nature presentation, each project and program will be briefly described. Input concerning suggested locations for platforms, boxes and shoreline plantings will be taken at that time.

There has never been a better time to get involved with LNWC!

*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



(Reflections continued from page 1)

bush along the shorelines of the lakes' islands to provide vegetative cover for wildlife and to curb erosion. We will erect nest platforms for osprey and herons and need monitors as well as folks wanting to "adopt an island" for refuse cleanup and wildlife management. We will establish fish habitat sites in the lake and offer exciting family natural resource expeditions.

It will be a super year for sure!

Sometimes with the onslaught of issues to tackle at a grassroots non-profit organization and an all-volunteer chapter like LNWC, we don't stop often enough to celebrate and reflect upon achievements made in the name of wildlife. So here, at this time of new beginnings, is a chance to offer thanks and reflections upon **your support of the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists and Wild Lives, Wild Places!**

We are thankful for the sound of children mucking around in a creek, unfettered by technology or stresses of life. For goldfinches at a backyard feeder, doves in a field, and fireflies on a summer night.

We are blessed by the iridescent colors of brook trout, forests dappled with winter sun, spotted fawns, water glistening on a duck's wings, and the brilliant hues of a cardinal perched on a hemlock bough.

We're thankful for all these things and for you, our LNWC supporters and donors—individuals and corporations who allow us the privilege of working for the wildlife of NC and Lake Norman and speaking for the wildlife that have no voice. Thank you!

**Thank You
Sponsors!**

- ◆ The Lake Norman Company
- ◆ Stutts Marina
- ◆ Midway Marina
- ◆ Morningstar Marinas
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- ◆ Fish On! Lake Norman Guide Services with Craig Price
- ◆ Fishin' With Gus! Gustafson
- ◆ Wild Birds Unlimited
- ◆ Daveste Vineyards
- ◆ Queen's Landing



New Youth Activities Committee To Inspire Young Conservationists

By Lilly Vicens
LNWC Youth Director

In response to popular demand from the community, the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists have formed a new committee to develop activities, outings, and events that connect youth to nature and wildlife in the Lake Norman area.

Future activities will include conservation projects and education activities at Robbins Park in Cornelius, and are a great opportunity for local youth groups, businesses, and non-profit organizations to get involved.

We are currently recruiting volunteers (teens included) who are interested in sharing an appreciation of wildlife and the outdoors with chil-

dren. Opportunities include serving on the planning committee, helping with events, or leading conservation/wildlife outings and/or educational activities.

If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more about youth activities in your area, our next meeting will be held **6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21 at Caribou Coffee in Mooresville**. Contact me at 910-603-4929 or lilly.vicens@gmail.com to RSVP, for more information, and/or to be placed on our mailing list for event announcements and volunteer opportunities as they arise.

Join us in inspiring youth to discover, appreciate and take action on behalf of wildlife conservation!



LIVE
Snakes

Return to LIBRARY!

We have even more great news for parents, children and also reptile enthusiasts around Lake Norman. Dr. **Michael Dorcus**, esteemed biology professor of Davidson College, has promised to bring a LIVE 14-foot python to LNWC's February 9 (7 p.m.) free nature program at Mooresville Public Library, 304 S. Main St. In Dr. Dorcus' program, "**Invasive Pythons**," the professor will discuss his research on these non-native snakes which have invaded the United States. The last time Dr. Dorcus brought live reptiles to the library, there was a HUGE crowd. So please plan to arrive on time in order to get a seat. We will have to close the doors after the program starts. We look forward to seeing you!

LAKE NORMAN
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATIONISTS

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info@lakenormanwildlife.org

We're on the web!
lakenormanwildlife.org



Conservationist News & Views

LNWC Financial Report

Treasurer **Don Higgle** reports that LNWC began 2011 with approximately \$17,000 in the bank and ended the year with approximately \$16,000. Our fall festival held at the North Harbor Club in Davidson netted us \$6,000 which we as a chapter split with the NCWF.

Among the expenses for 2011 were about \$4,000 spent to promote the highly successful Wild Over LKN! certification project. Other project expenses included osprey nesting platforms and signage for lake marinas creating awareness of LNWC's mission.

Show Your Love for LNWC

A local nature-lover can help you spread the word about our non-profit group. **Linda Perrelli**, owner of It's All About You Embroidery, can embroider the LNWC logo onto a shirt, hat or other item. Find out more by contacting her at 704-530-7476 or itsallaboutyouemb@bellsouth.net

Help Make Things Happen

LNWC members are welcome to join board members at the monthly board meetings. Meetings take place at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Keller-Williams Realty office, 118 Morlake Dr. off Bluefield Road. Pizza served!

Social Networking for Wildlife

Don't forget to "like" our new LNWC Facebook page to be created by **Ken Teeter** and **Jim Ray**. Thanks, guys!

LNWC

Officers

Don West, Acting President
Vanda Freeman, Secretary
Don Higgle, Treasurer

Directors At-Large

Eric Peterson, **Sid Smith**,
Jim Ray & **Ken Teeter**

Standing Committees

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Debbie Osborne
Events/Projects
Sid Smith
&
Ken Teeter
Membership
Ken Conrad
Youth Activities
Lilly Vicens
Island Adoptions
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Julie Higgle

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