



Inland Sea Chronicle

Volume 7, Issue 1

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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LNWC Founder Tapped Lake Advocate

Mark Lancaster, an original founder of the NC Wildlife Federation's Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists chapter, has been honored with the *Jerry L. Barrows Osprey Award* for his tireless efforts on behalf of the lake.

The award is in homage and in memory of Mr. Barrows, "Jerry to his friends," a dedicated and passionate environmentalist and volunteer of the Wildlife Federation. Barrows, who died in 2009, was an avid outdoorsman who loved the lake, the fish and all the animals that inhabit it.

He coordinated the Federation's *Island Habitat Program* where adopters clean refuse and manage islands for wildlife, which in turn led to other programs such as the osprey platform project, youth fishing events, and the launch of LNWC itself.

Upon his death, Duke Energy and NCWF established the Barrows award "in recognition of those who, like Jerry Barrows, exemplify what it means to be a champion of the environment, are tireless in their volunteering efforts, and are people whose love of the Catawba River and making a difference is evident to all."

In a unanimous decision, the Committee chose Mark Lancaster as the clear choice to receive the award in 2012. As

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Mark Lancaster expresses his love for Lake Norman through his leadership in a variety of activities, from sponsoring platform builds to grilling delicious steaks at the 2010 LNWC Wildlife Surf & Turf at Stutts Marina.

A Call For Volunteerism

By Billy Wilson, President

In today's world, you can learn about the vast array of wildlife that exists on this planet simply by tuning into one of the many television channels dedicated to science and nature. As TV viewers, we can get up-close and personal with many species of animals and plants from all parts of the globe, as we see them demonstrate their "expert" survival skills and intriguing behaviors while in their natural habitats.



While watching wildlife in high definition in the comfort of your own home can be relaxing and educational, there is nothing

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



Wild Lives Wild Places

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

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Wildlife Federation CEO, Tim Gestwicki said, "Mark is always the first person to volunteer and always asks, 'What can I do to help?!'"

Mark is tireless in helping lake efforts by offering his barge for Big Sweep Cleanups, volunteering for projects such as shoreline plantings, building and deploying fish reefs to increase angling opportunities, bringing the marina community together for the stewardship of the lake, organizing youth fishing events, erecting osprey nesting platforms, and organizing conservation fundraisers.

Gestwicki further stated, "Anything you ask Mark to do, he DOES it for conservation of the lake! That 'can-do' and 'will

-do' mindset embodies the spirit of Jerry Barrows fully."

Lancaster received the award from Duke Energy and the Federation at LNWC's annual Wildlife Festival with the Barrows family in attendance.

Previous award winners include Steve Turley and Bill Mugg.

Mark is owner of Lancaster Custom Dock & Lift Systems.



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like witnessing the beauty in nature, firsthand.

As a recipient of this newsletter, chances are that you frequent the outdoors and realize that you don't have to sit in front of the television screen to see beautiful species of birds, plants, turtles and a multitude of other wildlife—they are in our backyard.

No matter whether you are a fisherman, birdwatcher or other outdoor enthusiast, you demonstrate a high level of appreciation for wildlife in our area and understand the importance of conservation initiatives.

Thanks to your support, LNWC is thriving as an organization and therefore, the same could be said with regard to our wildlife and wildlife habitats.

As demonstrated by achieving the prestigious honor in 2011 of becoming the largest certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the nation that surrounds a body of water, it is apparent that LNWC's cause is well supported. The record number of attendees and contributions during our latest annual fundraiser, the 2012 Wildlife Oyster & Shrimp Fest, is an example of the strengthening bond that exists between LNWC and the Lake Norman community.

New programs will be created and pre-existing ones will be enhanced as funding and support for our organization grows. Therefore, more volunteers and funding will be needed in order to sustain them.

As the new President of the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists, I want to encourage you to experience the joy and fulfillment that comes along with wildlife-related community activism. You

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Conservation Volunteers!

By Ken Teeter, Projects Chair

During December and January, LNWC volunteers embarked on a new project—Great Blue Heron Platforms. Our mission: Build 18 heron platforms that would establish two heron rookeries on the northern part of Lake Norman.

The design/prototype was created by **Steve Turley** during a previous osprey platform build. On our first work day, Dec. 1, 2012, 14 enthusiastic volunteers showed up for the task. We didn't really know how long each platform would take or exactly how the fabrication process would unfold. After five hours and a slow start of getting everything organized—and multiple trips to Lowes—we ended the day with eight completed platforms and six partial assemblies. It was quite a learning process for all involved.

The second workday was scheduled for Jan. 12. Fifteen volunteers showed up, with a few experienced from the previous workday but many new folks, too. From the very beginning, it was clear that our pace was much faster. During that



3 1/2-hour session, we not only finished the 18 platforms we needed, but also built two others—one to serve as a model for the next build and one to be given to another chapter of the NCWF.

The 18 heron platforms for Lake Norman are scheduled for installation in February. Stay tuned for more information about the exact location.

Many thanks to Lancaster Custom Dock and Lift Systems for providing the build location, and all the dedicated volunteers. Here is a partial list of those who participated. (We missed a few in the signup process.)—**Allan Bendel, Kristen Meng, Don King, Paul Brantley, Rich LaCalamato, Rich Dagenhart, Tim Gestwicki, Eric Peterson, Sid Smith, Ken Teeter, Steve Turley, Don West, Tessa Peerbolte, Bob Peerbolte, John Gerke, Shane Diggs, Check Pinkston, Allan Dysart, Joey Champion, Margaret Jackson and Billy Wilson.**

(Volunteerism continued from page 2)

don't need to be a wildlife expert to help further the mission of LNWC. Volunteering for our events and programs is a very rewarding way to connect with nature and other like-minded people in the community.

The nature of LNWC volunteer opportunities makes use of the multitude of skill sets possessed by folks in our area. For instance, programs and events such as the annual Big Sweep through our Island Habitat Program and Nesting Platform Builds require manual labor and team collaboration.

One of my first volunteer experiences with LNWC was during the most recent platform build. At the end of the day, my hands and feet were tired and my back ached, but sitting on the couch watching a nature program never felt as good as it did that evening.

However, one doesn't have to break a sweat in order to contribute to the organization. You can teach a child how to fish or assist with planning our annual festival. Please keep an eye on our website, Facebook page or e-mailings to find your opportunity!



LNWC officers Eric Peterson and Lilly Vicens took a group of Boy Scouts out in the Reed's Creek Wetland last fall to perform a cleanup. The kids and their parents had as much fun learning the importance of this valuable habitat as they did getting their hands and feet dirty.

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We're on the web!
lakenormanwildlife.org



Conservationists Updates

Reed's Creek Provides Plantings

LNWC's Conservation Chair **Eric Peterson** reports that the Reed's Creek Wetlands site was the scene of an ecological harvesting for several days recently as a work crew gathered willow cuttings along the creek banks. The cuttings were taken from willow trees that had been planted in 2007 at the wetlands mitigation site (on Hwy. 21 by Cypress Landings townhomes in Mooresville) and have grown into a "forest" of such trees.

Workers stacked the roughly 30-inch stakes in bundles for transport to other Ecosystem Enhancement Program locations for rooting.

The project was sanctioned by EBX (Environmental Banc and Exchange), an environmental mitigation contractor that completed the five-year Reed's Creek project in 2012.

Winter Library Programs

LNWC holds free nature programs the second Thursday of every month at a new family-friendly time of 6 p.m. at Mooresville Public Library. No reservations are required.

On Feb. 7, join us at the library to hear bird expert **Taylor Piephoff** describe how to participate in the "Great Backyard Bird Count" that takes place over President's Day Weekend. Taylor is active in the Mecklenburg County Audubon Society Chapter and writes a column for the Charlotte Observer. Our March 14th speaker will be **Greg Shaner** from the Cornelius Fire Department, who will talk about the fireboat and safety on the lake.

LNWC

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