



# Inland Sea Chronicle

## 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.

## Share Your Love of Wildlife in the New Year!

Please send us your wildlife observation, poem, essay or photo taken in or around Lake Norman. We'd love to include them in a future newsletter!

Contact Julie Higgin  
jchiggin@yahoo.com  
or 704-877-4788



Volume 8, Issue 1

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

## Hello to a New Year of Wildlife Conservation!

By Billy Wilson, President

Lake Norman's 50th anniversary year is behind us now. It was a year full of accomplishments and celebration for Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists' volunteers, supporters and the community at large.

As we continue into the new year, the lake region will continue to reap the rewards of our conservation efforts. For example, in the spring Great Blue Herons will find sanctuary for their nesting season in the secluded cove where the newest rookery awaits their arrival. Ospreys and Bald Eagles will also find habitats at several plat-



Henry the Heron is LNWC's newest educational display. He will accompany volunteers as they present nature programs to the public. This young Great Blue Heron lost his life in the Lake Norman area after a failed rescue, and was donated to LNWC volunteer **Don West** for preservation.

form sites all across the lake that did not exist the previous season.

More than 400 Silky Dogwoods will spread

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## LNWC Chosen to Work on Robbins Park

By Sid Smith, Vice President

LNWC is going into the new year with great excitement as our volunteers prepare to work with the town of Cornelius in developing the Robbins Park Nature Preserve.

Activities include building a Butterfly Garden, helping with the relocation of turtles to facilitate pond repair, erecting trail signage, and supporting a research project on

nesting boxes for Eastern Bluebirds and Brown-Headed Nuthatches that is being conducted by the Mecklenburg Co. Master Naturalist Program.

To date, we have moved stones from a Robbins Park drainage swale to facilitate the development of the Butterfly Garden and helped install 20 nest boxes. We look forward to working with you—volunteers and friends past, present and future—to

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**Working Together  
for  
Wildlife  
Conservation  
in the  
Lake Norman  
Region**



**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  
Mooreville, NC  
28117

*(Robbins Park continued from page 1)*

meet us in the park when the weather warms up to work on this community project! More rocks have to be moved and ground prepared, so wear your work clothes.

We are targeting Earth Day as the date for a community planting day in the park to prepare the Butterfly Garden. We are excited that this special garden is being planned by one of our dedicated volunteers, the very talented garden expert **Christine Lisiewski** of Dearness Gardens in Huntersville.

Our web master **Jim Ray** has sent out information on how you can participate. You can also find it on our website.

**Great Backyard Bird Count**

All you Lake Norman area bird-lovers are invited to join in the annual GBBC which takes place this year Feb. 14-17. This worldwide event is co-sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Audubon Society. You only need to grab a pair of binocu-

*(New Year continued from Page 1)*

their roots deeper into the ground as they silently combat erosion and provide habitat for a multitude of species. Bass, Bluegill and other fish will spawn in cleaner habitats, thanks to the army of volunteers who removed litter from the shorelines of Lake Norman in 2013.

As we gear up for another year of working for wildlife conservation, habitat conservation and connecting people to nature in and around Lake Norman,



*Sid Smith puts up a nesting box at the new Robbins Park Nature Preserve*

lars and look through your window, or visit your local park, or even walk through your neighborhood to count how many individuals of each bird species you spot. It's lots of fun for the family, and educational, too!

Visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) for participation information. You can obtain a list of birds that live in our area and even find photos and

descriptions to help you in your count. The website includes bird counts taken in every community of the United States over the past few years. This program helps scientists keep track of bird populations so we know which species are threatened.

**South Lake Norman CBC**

Speaking of bird counts, the South Lake Norman Christmas Bird Count was conducted Dec. 15 and was considered a success! Ninety-eight species of birds were counted, including five Bald Eagles and 8,000 Ring-Billed Gulls. The CBC data is incorporated into a national data base to help determine the welfare of birds throughout the United States.

LNWC invites all our local supporters to be involved with upcoming projects and programs. All of you—LNWC's donors, friends and project volunteers—enable us to complete goals that give us great reason to celebrate. It's because of you that the wildlife of North Carolina and Lake Norman find newer and cleaner habitats every year.

YOU are the reason that more of THEM come around, and we certainly hope to see you with us around the lake in 2014!

# Conservation News

## Reed's Creek Wetland Experiences Damaging Changes

By Eric Peterson, Conservation Chair

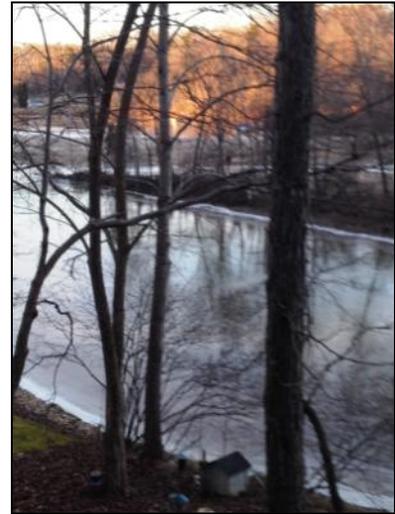
A survey of the Reed's Creek Wetlands area reveals the effects of recent and repeated rainstorm flooding—banks erosion, channel changes, relocation of sandbar alignments and vertical sculpting of the creek's banks.

With the onrushing water comes a new wave of upstream litter to the banks of Island N-36, which was cleaned of 60 gallons of litter in December and, like the famous "swallows of Capistrano" in California, the "golf balls of Mooresville" have arrived from hibernation at the Mooresville Public Golf Course. (Many good new balls and range balls

can be found on the sandbars and under the sand. Bring your boots and a rake to find them!)

There are also increasing signs of beaver activity (downed trees) on Island N-36 which separates the creek bed from the Huntington Woods neighborhood canal. There is no visible evidence of beaver dam building.

Finally, and perhaps most disconcerting of all, on Oct. 23, 2013, an estimated 202,000 gallons of untreated wastewater was released into Reed's Creek from a malfunctioning sanitary sewer pump upstream near Golf Course Drive.



Reed's Creek Wetland has taken on an icy appearance this winter due to severe cold. But that hasn't discouraged visits from the usual assortment of northern migrants, such as Hooded Mergansers and Pied Grebes.

## Volunteers In Action!

On Feb. 1, we're getting together at Lancaster Custom Dock and Lift Systems, 1156 Perth Road, Troutman, to build heron and osprey nesting platforms. If you are interested in helping, please send an email to

**ken@kenteeter.com** to register and let us know you are coming. We will start at 9 a.m. and plan to finish around 1 p.m. Bring work gloves (leather preferred) and safety glasses. If you have a set of pliers, wire cutters and wrenches, bring those too. If the weather turns bad, Ken will send an email out to those who have registered.

### Welcome!

LNWC's BOD has some new faces! A great big "Thank you" to **Tim Lindstadt** for agreeing to head the Island Habitat Program. We hear that Tim has already visited all the islands. Thanks also go to **Carmella Richard**, who will lead the Youth Activities Committee. A proud mother of 2, Carmella also volunteers for animal shelters. And thanks to **Kristen Meng**, our newest director-at-large.

### Join Our Leadership Team!

LNWC is seeking leaders to help us protect and enhance wildlife habitat in the Lake Norman region. There is a wide variety of opportunities available, ranging from leading a Bird House Build to building community support! We also need another Director-At-Large.

Want to help? Contact President Billy Wilson at [billy.wilson@lakenormanwildlife.org](mailto:billy.wilson@lakenormanwildlife.org) Or 704-675-2011

LAKE NORMAN  
WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATIONISTS

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We're on the web!  
lakenormanwildlife.org



## Conservationists Updates

### LNWC Library Programs

LNWC holds free nature programs the second Thursday of each month, eight months out of the year, starting at 7 p.m. at Mooresville Public Library. No reservations are required.

Dr. **Mark Stanback** will discuss "Competition Between Bluebirds and Brown-Headed Nuthatches" at our Feb. 13 program. Dr. Stanback, a professor at Davidson College, is a devoted bird-lover who has spent countless hours studying birds and sharing his expertise with people of all ages. Our March 13 program is "Coyotes" by local expert **Chris Matthews**.

### Guests Welcome to BOD Meetings!

Our Board of Directors Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month in the Mooresville Keller-Williams Conference Room, 118 Morlake Drive, Suite 100.



**Billy Wilson** (right, with **Steve Turley**) hosted the annual LNWC BOD Christmas Party. A good time was had by all!

## LNWC

### Officers

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**Sid Smith**, VP  
**Don West**, Treasurer  
**Julie Higgie**, Secretary

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**Eric Peterson**, **Jim Ray**  
**Ken Teeter**, **Don Higgie**  
& **Kristen Meng**

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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 **jchiggie@yahoo.com**