

SUMMER 2007

INLAND SEA CHRONICLE



Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

TAKE FLIGHT WITH LNWC: BECOME A CHARTER MEMBER



**Our Goal:
To Protect
Our Greatest
Natural Resource**

The beauty and quality of our Lake Norman area has brought hundreds of admirers and residents. But the downside to that trend is to displace and endanger wildlife species that depend on the lake for survival. That's why the North Carolina Wildlife Federation decided to dedicate this new chapter to helping residents preserve and enhance wildlife habitats for all to enjoy. We invite YOU to get involved today by becoming a charter member of the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists at our next meeting on June 14, 2007 at the Mooresville Public Library.

Thank you in advance,
Andrew J. Wingo - Acting President

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.

Acting Board

President

Andrew Wingo

Vice President

Steve Turley

Treasurer

Bill Mugg

Membership

Walt Morgan

Conservation

Eric Peterson

Education Programs

Help wanted!

Secretary

Theresa Morr

Website Manager

Jim Ray

Newsletter/Media

Julie Higgle

Stay tuned for our new website:

www.lakenormanwildlife.org

Raptor expert welcomed



The chapter is pleased to welcome Professor 'Rob' Bierregaard of the UNCC Biology Dept. to our second public meeting.

A world-recognized authority on birds of prey, the professor has studied ospreys at Martha's Vineyard since 1969 and is currently conducting research on barred owls in suburban habitats, specifically those of Charlotte. He has served on the board for many environmental groups including the Carolina Raptor Center and Audubon North Carolina.



This spring, Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists volunteers worked alongside Duke Energy in a test plan to reintroduce water willows and black willows to the island shorelines to slow erosion and provide cover for fish.

NCWF MEMBERSHIP FORM

Support Wildlife & Habitat Conservation by becoming a NCWF member

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Support Levels: \$25__ \$50__ \$175__ \$250__ \$Other__ *Write LNWC in memo section

(Visa, MasterCard call 704-332-5696)

Mail form and payment to North Carolina Wildlife Federation, 2155 McClintock Rd. Charlotte, NC 28205



Retired couple's pontoon is osprey nursery

By Julie Higgin, LNWC Volunteer

Reprinted from the May 25th Mooresville Tribune

When John and Jan Cauthen sadly left their longtime jobs at the now-defunct Pillowtex, they had visions of filling their spare time with boating and gardening. But a pair of ospreys aspiring to raise their brood on the Cauthens' pontoon boat has put a temporary halt to those early-retirement plans.

"We were hoping to go out on our boat and we had some yard projects to do, but we don't want to bother them," Jan Cauthen said about the large, fish-eating birds who, starting last year, found the boat a perfect place to install their huge nest of sticks, traditionally built on a large tree or other sturdy platform by water.

But don't think that the Cauthens resent this intrusion. Rather, the birds have added joy to the Mooresville couples' retirement years. "We love the wildlife," Jan Cauthen said, adding that she and her husband are careful not to disturb the nesting pair by coming too close to the dock.

By now, the male osprey has gotten used to his human neighbors and even issues a friendly call to John Cauthen when he compliments the bird on a good catch.

Although uncommon inland, ospreys have increasingly made Lake Norman their summer nesting ground. Typically they raise one small brood a year. Incubation takes 32-43 days, with the female bird doing most of the egg-sitting. When the babies hatch, both parents are kept busy for up to 59 days bringing fish to the nest.

Sadly, the osprey couple lost last year's eggs to the freak hail storm in May 2006. "That's why my husband really tries to watch the nest this year," Jan Cauthen

said. There has been an additional danger this year of a rival osprey "aggravating" the nesting couple, she added, because the boat deck is too large and causes other birds to horn in.



Sponsors are needed for suitable nesting platforms.

So when the Cauthens learned that NC Wildlife Federation volunteers were interested in erecting a new platform nearby, after nesting season is over this fall, they were relieved.

The idea was suggested to the volunteers by biologist Gene Vaughan of Duke Energy and environmental contractor Mark Auten, who discovered the unique boat nest during their Lake Norman osprey nest survey completed recently. They suggested to the couple that a more-suitable platform erected nearby might be the solution, and contacted members of Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists, the newest chapter of the NCWF.

Businesses are being sought to help sponsor the building of this platform and others being planned on Lake Norman to keep these "fish hawks" safe during nesting season, before their long trip back to South America where they spend their winters.

Thus far, six platforms have been erected on high poles at various points on the lake. Led by Steve Turley of Woodbury Homes and Mark Lancaster of Lancaster Custom Dock & Lift, the LNWC plans to install six more platforms this year.

Businesses or individuals who would like to sponsor an osprey platform can call Steve Turley at 704-309-0762 or Tim Gestwicki at the NCWF at 704-332-5696.