

INLAND SEA CHRONICLE



Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists Newsletter

www.lakenormanwildlife.org

Volume 2, Issue 1

Chapter Founder is Conservation Hero

One of our very own Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists founders, Steve Turley, was presented with a 2007 Governor's Conservation Achievement Award at a banquet held Feb. 23 at the Raleigh/Durham Hilton.



LNWC's Steve Turley is a new NCWF board member and Water Conservation winner.

Steve was named the North Carolina Water Conservationist of the Year and on that same weekend was appointed director of North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Region 7.

"It was a very exciting time. I was honored to be a part of it," Steve said, adding that nearly 250 people attended the event. "I was really impressed with how many people won an award. So many are actively involved," he said.

At the banquet, Steve was touted as "a pillar of support for conservation for the Lake Norman area for years. Back when the Wildlife Federation first floated the idea of an Island Habitat adoption program, Turley and his sons signed on to adopt a large island in the middle of Lake Norman. Ever since, Turley has answered, again and again, the question so many of us asks ourselves: What can I do?"

Also pointed out were Steve's osprey platform work with Mark Lancaster and his help on the shoreline stabilization pilot projects.

Our LNWC chapter received kudos at the

banquet, as well, being called "a model" of NCWF's expanding statewide chapter network. "The federation is very charged up about the new local chapters," explained Steve, who serves as LNWC treasurer.

The chapter concept is a grassroots effort to draw more citizens into the conservation movement.

Also at the banquet, Steve presented Conservation Director Tim Gestwicki with one of our brand-new LNWC T-shirts. In his new capacity as Region 7 director, Steve will be an important part of the NCWF Board

of Directors. He will attend quarterly meetings and be actively involved with local affiliates.

Congratulations, Steve!

Ready to Roll on Reeds!

Eric Peterson, chapter conservation chair, is preparing to implement LNWC's enhancement work on the Reeds Creek Wetland. "We're all set to roll. We're installing nesting boxes in less than two weeks," Eric said in early March.

Our chapter has seven nest boxes to install, including wood duck, prothonotary warbler and barred owl. Birds are already in the process of choosing mates, so it's important to get those boxes in quickly.

Volunteers will be needed to install those
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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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Bob Kulak

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Nature Notes: Natural News from Here & There

REEDS CREEK WETLAND—

Neighboring resident and LNWC member **Julie Higgin** has been monitoring the wetland and reports the following spring inhabitants: Hooded Merganser (4), Belted Kingfisher (2), Wood Duck (4), Killdeer (2), Great Blue Heron (2), Mallard (8+). Plus, a new beaver dam has been built right beside US 21. Thus far, the engineer(s) have remained out of sight.

CANOE & KAYAK-A-THON—

Let's help raise money for wildlife conservation by grabbing a paddle at 8:30 a.m. June 7! Volunteers will travel an easy 7-mile stretch of the Catawba River starting at Riverbend Steam Station on Mountain Island Lake. All participants will receive a T-shirt, lunch and snacks. There will be prizes and giveaways! Mecklenburg County Natural Resources Division has donated the use of several

canoes and kayaks. Register early by calling 704-332-5696 or contact greta@ncwf.org right away.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN—

Visit www.ncwildlife.org to see this 600-page report that prioritizes NC wildlife species and describes actions needed to protect major habitats. This plan took three years and hundreds of partners to produce. The plan can be downloaded and saved as PDF files.

Facts on Chimney Swifts

A neotropical migratory bird, the Chimney Swift is easily identified by its "flying cigar" profile. Swifts are considered extremely valuable to man because of their habit of dining on a wide range of flying insects. Instead of perching, swifts spend all of their daylight hours on the wing. They even drink water and bathe by dipping into a body of water while in flight.

Here are some other "Swift Facts":

- ♣ Before European settlement, swifts nested in hollow trees and caves. The birds have adapted well to manmade structures.
- ♣ The birds construct their nests using small twigs and saliva, attaching them directly to the side of a surface.
- ♣ They vocalize using loud, chattering twitters.

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boxes, plus place logs and plywood boards in strategic places for reptiles and amphibians, as recommended by North Carolina Wildlife Federation biologist Scott Fletcher.

Picking up trash is also important, Eric said, as well as monitoring the wetland throughout the season.

Anyone interested in assisting the chapter with these important tasks is welcome to visit our website at www.lakenormanwildlife.org to see how they can help. It would

be especially helpful if you have access to a canoe or kayak.

LNWC received a \$1,000 Habitat Enhancement Grant to use for the wetland project. Part of that money will be used to erect a chimney swift tower, Eric said. The Lake Norman Home Builders Association has promised to help build that tower.



Chimney Swift Tower



CHAPTER NOTES

MEETINGS — Our chapter's March 13 meeting will give attendees a taste of the Planet Earth documentary series. The first segment, "From Pole to Pole," will be shown. Educator **Susan Caplow** of the Carolina Raptor Center will introduce us to four of her beautiful winged friends at our April 10th meeting, and **Rick Gaskins** of the Catawba RiverKeeper Foundation will illuminate us on May 8th. All meetings take place at the Mooresville Public Library, 304 S. Main St. and are open to the public at no cost.

PROGRAMS — Environmental Educator **Gail Lemiec** will lead our chapter on a Wetlands Journey from 10 a.m. to noon March 29 at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge in Huntersville. Don't miss the opportunity to explore this beautiful piece of protected land that is accessible only by special permission. And now that we have been blessed by rainfall, many amphibians and macro-invertebrates should be there to greet us! Call 704-947-3099 right away to let Gail know you are coming. And don't forget to wear clothing and shoes that can get wet and muddy. This program is for ages 6 and older.

In other news, Habitat Steward **Theresa Morr** is planning a Habitat Steward Training Workshop in the near future. You too can learn how to educate your friends and neighbors on the importance of creating a wildlife habitat. Stay tuned for details!

Newsletter news and comments welcome! Contact Julie Higgin at jchiggin@yahoo.com or 704-877-4788.