



April/May 2020

Bulletin

YOUR PRIMARY VOICE ON LAKE ISSUES

With a mission to identify issues affecting our members and pursue resolution with the responsible organizations.

www.lakegastonassoc.com info@lakegastonassoc.com

(252) 586-6577 or 1-888-586-6577

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President's Corner

Spring has Sprung!

As we march into Spring, I hope that everyone is healthy and getting ready for Spring housecleaning and chores. Please exercise caution in cleaning up around the yard, especially if you end up on a ladder or the roof. Pay particular attention to outdoor fires and any cautions or limits that local officials may issue about burning. After a winter dry air and sunshine it is amazing how easily a fire can accidentally spread to nearby areas.

I hope you had a chance to participate in our recently held Meet the Candidate Forums in Northampton, Halifax, and Warren Counties. It is a great way to meet the folks looking to get your vote in a nonpartisan setting. The LGA conducts these forums as a service to the community, we do not endorse candidates or parties.

At the time of this writing, we are watching the spread of the Coronavirus disease (or COVID-19) and the efforts being taken to mitigate the growing threat it presents. Both the situation and response are fluid and sometimes changes daily. The LGA is tracking the recommendations of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as State and local Departments of Health as they may apply to our activities.

Our highest priority is the safety and wellbeing of our members and the community. We have postponed our Five County Forum until such time as the threat has subsided and will be evaluating our other activities as the situation evolves.

We must all do our part to minimize the spread of this disease. If all goes well, the spread will be checked and we will never know which of the protective measures succeeded. That will be a sacrifice worthwhile.

If you have lived or visited here more than a year, you probably know that Spring is also the time when we tend to get high run off into the Roanoke River. This brings the muddy water that is a natural part of the Spring cycle. It usually clears up as the weather warms up.

It is also when the Fish Spawning Season begins and runs through early June. During Fish Spawning Season, the flow rates out of Lake Gaston are specified for Dominion with much tighter limits than normal. In order to handle inflows from local rain events and maintain those tight flow specifications, Dominion is allowed to (and sometimes needs to) operate Lake Gaston at higher levels than normal.

Enjoy the Spring, be safe and be healthy.

Don

Lake Gaston – Special Place, Incredible People!

Wally Sayko receives award from NCWRC

At the Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board meeting on February 27th, Wally Sayko was recognized and awarded the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Special Award of Excellence.

The award was presented by Mark Fowlkes, Piedmont Aquatic Habitat Coordinator and Corey Oakley, Piedmont Region Supervisor, Inland Fisheries.

Mr. Oakley stated, "Wally's hard work and dedication to managing vegetation on Lake Gaston has contributed significantly to its success. For years as the chair of the Lake Gaston Association's Lake Environment Committee, Wally recruited volunteers and participated in the whole lake submerged aquatic vegetation point intercept survey.

This data is used to help collaborate and refine NC State University's sonar based SAV survey data. Wally supported the 2014 agreement with the Commission, NC State University and the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council to expand the revegetation work within the lake and indicated the Lake Gaston Association could provide volunteers.

He was instrumental at rounding up volunteers and support from neighborhoods on the lake that allowed us to work in areas like Great Creek. Wally and LGA volunteers worked over 1,100 hours towards the revegetation project.

He was also responsible for working with the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council to purchase all the materials and supplies for the project, including almost 2.4 miles of fencing.

A revegetation project of this size is not possible without dedicated individuals like Wally Sayko and volunteers to make it happen. His insights, calm steadfast demeanor and concern for everyone's safety has contributed significantly to the project's success."

Wally was very thankful for receiving the recognition and thanked Pete Deschenes for his mentorship. Our hat is off to Wally for all his hard work as a LGA volunteer!



L to R: Mark Fowlkes, Wally Sayko and Corey Oakley



10th Annual Lake Clean-Up Day – May 30

Lake Clean-Up Day will be somewhat different this year. Our purpose will be the same.... cleaning up the roads around Lake Gaston.

On Saturday, May 30, instead of the manned dumpster sights, the Lake Clean-Up Committee will be out on the roads picking-up trash.

We hope that you will join us by cleaning up an area near you. All picked up trash can be taken to your local convenience centers.

We aren't sure how much equipment, i.e. vests, bags, picker-uppers, gloves, etc., that we can get donated, but if you wish to help, please contact us and we will share what we can.

If you are unable to join us on May 30, we hope you will do so when possible. Please encourage neighbors to do likewise. See you all on the road – please honk when you see us.

Monthly Lake Clean-Up Committee meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Everyone is invited to participate.

Contact them at LakeCleanup@LakeGastonAssoc.com

Projects galore for Lake Environment Committee

Shift from Flood Control to Fish Spawning Operations:

Rainfall in January led to flood control management at the reservoirs in the lower Roanoke River basin. For most of February John H. Kerr releases were in the 27-35,000 cfs range. At a minimum similar releases occur at Lake Gaston to maintain the 199.5'-200' above sea level elevation.

Fortunately we did not have a wet February and lake levels remained below 200'. These high flow rates have led to increases in turbidity. Fortunately we are now in fish spawn season and but for significant rain events releases have been in the 20-22,000 cfs range. Hopefully we will see water clarity improve over this spring.

Lake Environment Committee participates in Vegetation Control Planning:

LGA representatives participated in several recent meetings to finalize 2020 vegetation control plans on Lake Gaston. On February 3rd, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed 2019 treatments, revegetation work, vegetation and tuber surveys, water quality data along and the Grass Carp stocking model to recommend 2020 treatments and revegetation of native species. On February 26th the State Aquatic Weed Control Council met to finalize the 2020 Weed Control Program.

Then on the 27th, the Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board led by Pete Deschences met to review the TAG recommendations and receive input from various stakeholder groups. Our president Don Carson participated as a voting board member. The Stakeholder's Board provided feedback to the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) that evening where the TAG recommendations were presented by Jessica Bauman, Lake Manager, to the council.

A motion was made and approved by the LGWCC to accept these as the 2020 treatment plan. Several members of the Lake Environment Committee were actively engaged in this process throughout.

2019 Fall Vegetation Survey results:

The work that LGA volunteers do each fall is a significant component in developing treatment plans. It is critical to know what vegetation is present and where it is. This data, along with sonar surveys conducted by NCSU, are inputs to a program called "Bio Base" which generates heat maps showing the location and density of hydrilla.

Some highlights from the survey; over 60 volunteers contributed 550 hours conducting 6041 samples. 78% of sites had some vegetation present with water willow being the predominant vegetation found on 42% of sites, algae was found on 25% of all sites with Chara at 14% and Lyngbya at 11%.

Hydrilla acreage is estimated to be 160. This is on the low side of estimates made in the last 6 years being in the 150 to 400 acre range.

Thanks again to all the volunteers, too numerous to mention, who contributed to the fall survey effort. You are helping provide critical data in the vegetation management effort.

Highlights of the 2020 Lake Gaston Vegetation Management Plan:

- No additional Grass Carp to be stocked this year
- Treat 80 acres of Hydrilla beginning in June with an optional 80 acres for "flare ups", focus will be on Lizard and Pea Hill Creeks
- Move forward with treatments of Lyngbya using SePRO and Applied Biochemist products. Expand into operational treatments (20+ acres). Retain some current sites for long-term evaluation. Begin treatments in March. Explore lab research for new treatment technology
- Continue native revegetation and fall survey

Native Vegetation Work - Volunteers needed:

We continue to plan our work on the vegetation exclosures or cages. This is an annual effort to develop native vegetation replacing the hydrilla population we have so successfully reduced. We will survey the condition of the cages with NC Wildlife Resource Commission in late April.

Our focus this summer will be repairing existing cages and planting native vegetation inside and around cages. This work will take place the second week in June (Tuesday 9th -Thursday 11th), and is another great opportunity for volunteers to contribute to improving our lake environment. If you are interested in helping out please call Jeff Zimmer at 252-257-2085.

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Projects galore for Lake Environment Committee

(Continued from page 3)

E. coli water testing:

E.coli water test equipment has been purchased and should be available for pick-up beginning at the April 1st Board meeting. We would like to see sediment levels drop and water temperatures rise before we begin testing (hopefully in May). Al Potter will continue to organize this effort for us.

Dominion to receive input on Shoreline Management Plan:

Consistent with its operating License with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions (FERC), Dominion Energy is receiving input on its Shoreline Management Plan for the Roanoke Rapids and Gaston Lakes. A meeting for the general public is being held at 09:30 am on Tuesday April 14th at the Roanoke Rapids Power Station, 100 Oakwood Ave., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870. A meeting of Stakeholders only will take place that afternoon. Dominion's Shoreline Management Plan can be found at: <https://www.dominionenergy.com/library/domcom/media/community/lakes-recreation/construction-procedures-lake-gaston-roanoke-rapids-lake/roanoke-rapids-lake-gaston-shoreline-plan.pdf>

The LGA Lake Environment Committee is reviewing Appendix E Aquatic Weed Control Revision 5 dated July 10, 2015 for possible comments and will make a recommendation to the LGA Executive Committee.

To learn more about this and other Lake Environment volunteer opportunities come join us for breakfast at one of our committee meetings ...

Monthly Lake Environment meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Kitchen Table Café, 4111 Gasburg Road, Gasburg, VA 23857 (across from Dollar General). Everyone is invited to participate.

Contact them at Environment@LakeGastonAssoc.com

LGA Monthly Committee Meetings:

Committee	Meeting Day	Time	Location
Public Safety	2 nd Friday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Education	3 rd Tuesday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Government Relations	3 rd Tuesday	9:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Environment	3 rd Wednesday	8:30 am	Kitchen Table Cafe *
Marketing & Membership	3 rd Thursday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Lake Clean-Up	Last Wednesday	10:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **

* Kitchen Table Cafe is located at 4111 Gasburg Road in Gasburg, VA 23857 across from the Dollar General Store.

**Littleton Food & Spirits is located at 231 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, N.C. 27850

Occasionally a LGA scheduled committee meeting may need to be cancelled. If you are on that committee the chair will inform you via email of its cancellation and it will be reflected on the LGA's calendar on our website at <http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/Organization/Calendar.htm>

A great link for your favorites list.

Need to know who are your Government Elected Officials

Lake Gaston NC & Lake Gaston VA

US, State and County... <http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/GovRel/ElecOfficials.htm>

LGA Government Relations Committee keeps this page on our website updated for you.

(It's the best kept secret under Committees, Government Relations. Check out who represents you at the lake and email them direct from our website. Telephone #s are listed as well. Use the link above to check out this information. You can also get to the County websites from the same page.)

What A Turnout!

The LGA March monthly meeting was a resounding success. Local attorney and LGA business member Tom Skinner gave the overflow crowd a complete lesson on the legal aspects regarding Homeowners Associations. Of considerable interest were problems involving short term rentals.

Your directors work hard to recruit presenters at our monthly meetings whose topics are felt to be of particular interest to our membership.

We also realize that most of our members are not able to attend and therefore we make available the minutes of the meetings on our new website. Check it out at www.lakegastonassoc.com.

Have other ideas? Why not email us or attend one of our Marketing & Membership meetings.

Monthly Marketing & Membership Committee meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Please join us. We are a small group and would appreciate your input.

Contact them at MarketingMembership@LakeGastonAssoc.com.

Spring 2020 Education Committee Update

Spring is here and the Education Committee is busy. We have scheduled a Lakeside Learning Day (LLD) for Warren County Middle School 6th graders on April 2, 2020 to be held at Granite Hall Shores launch area. We have also scheduled a LLD for James S Russell Middle School on April 9, 2020 to be held at Edward's Beach. We appreciate the hosts and all the volunteers both within and outside the LGA that are supporting the LLDs. The LLDs are each expected to run from approximately 9 AM to 2 PM weather permitting. Unfortunately all LLDs have been canceled due to the coronavirus concerns.

We welcome any member to support the future LLDs and share their thoughts and participate on a part-time basis with the Educational Committee. Being active with local students is a great way to provide an important service to our community.

Monthly Education Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. We welcome your participation at these meetings even if it is to learn more about our programs.

Contact them at Education@LakeGastonAssoc.com.

Lake Gaston water level change -

Fish Spawning season March 1 thru June 15

Effective March 1 Dominion Energy is operating under fish spawning operations. This means that Lake Gaston can be raised an extra foot (199-201 feet) to provide storage in support of spawning flows as necessary. Dominion Energy has stated that they don't expect to raise the water level much more than a couple inches over 200 feet.

Nevertheless, experience has taught us to be prepared. We know that once we get above 200 feet we begin to encroach on many of our docks. You are reminded to make sure that any items that are on your docks are securely tied down including canoes and paddle boats. Items sitting on the floor of boat house sheds should be moved up to prevent the possibility of water damage. Boats in docks should be securely tied and boats in lifts should be raised and tied.

To see the daily projected lake levels during spawning season click here

<https://www.dominionenergy.com/community/lakes-and-recreation/lake-gaston-water-levels>

Dominion Energy will operate under spawning conditions until June 15. If you have questions, email environment@lakegastonassoc.com.

Weed Control questions ...

Do the property owners in your subdivision have questions about weed control? Feel free to contact Jeff Zimmer our Lake Environment chair at zimmer2216@gmail.com.

A Message From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating committee will be nominating the following individual for term as a Director of the Lake Gaston Association at the annual meeting in June:

Warren: Jeff Zimmer 1st term director, Brian Goldsworthy 2nd term director

Additional names of candidates may be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signatures of a least 15 members in good standing. Petitions must reach the chairman of the Nominating Committee by June 1.

Contact Nomination chair Bill Heflin or email, Nominating@LakeGastonAssoc.com.

There are also other Director vacancies in Brunswick, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Northampton, and Warren counties.

Lake Gaston Annual Fireworks Display

The Lake Gaston Annual Fireworks display is **Sunday, July 5** at dark, at Eaton Ferry Bridge. It's an event that draws boats from east and west of the bridge by the hundreds. And depending on your preference for the best spot, you may leave home early enough to be up by the bridge. It's definitely an experience – watching the fireworks from a boat, and to see the amount of boats that turn out for the event.

You may not realize that Long Bridge Volunteer Fire Department organizes this event and they rely on donations to fund the fireworks. Because it is a public event, and as you know fireworks are much, much bigger & more sophisticated than they used to be, a pyrotechnic company has to be engaged to handle the fireworks.

Long Bridge VFD have an advertisement book that raises funds for the fireworks event by selling the ads within, and they rely heavily on donations to fund this event too. If you want to be in the advertisement book the deadline is May 31. You don't need to have a business in order to buy an ad, there are many ads that reflect family good wishes.

Donations can be made any time of the year. Checks should be mailed to Long Bridge VFD, 1678 Eaton Ferry Road, Littleton NC 27850, Memo: Fireworks.

For more information please call (252) 586-2634 or (252) 586-6938.

Mile marker buoys & danger buoys

If you notice a mile marker buoy that is damaged, light is out, is missing from its mooring, has washed up on the shore, etc., please contact the LGA at info@lakegastonassoc.com or (252) 586-6577 or 1-888-586-6577 and we will report it to Dominion. Similarly, if you notice a danger or no wake buoy damaged, missing, etc. please contact us as above and we will report it to the NC Wildlife Resource Commission or VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.



Staying current with Lake Gaston's water level

Whether you are full or part-time at the lake we recommend that you have the following link to Dominion's website as a 'favorite' on your computer or hand-held gizmo. Rest assured we will still send you water level alerts from Dominion when they occur but if you want to know on any given day what the water level is, then click on the link - <https://www.dominionenergy.com/community/lakes-and-recreation/lake-gaston-water-levels>

LGA Annual Meeting Set for Saturday, June 13

You are invited to attend the LGA's annual meeting which will be held on Saturday, June 13 at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church on Hwy 903, 1 mile north of Eaton's Ferry Bridge. Refreshments and sign in will start at 9:30 a.m. with meeting commencing at 10 a.m. Meeting will conclude by noon.

Special Presentations at Annual Meeting

We plan to allow time during the meeting for comments from those present at the meeting, i.e. questions, observations about lake activities, suggestions for LGA involvement or lack of involvement in lake issues, etc.

However, if any member would like to make a special presentation they must notify the LGA by May 27, 2020. This notification must be submitted in writing, stating the topic of the presentation to Don Carson, 117 Coventry Court, Macon, NC 27551 or Donald.E.Carson@gmail.com. This is required by the LGA By-Laws and helps in developing the meeting agenda and allocating time for the meeting.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 93 - 2020 training dates

April 18, May 9, June 6, July 18, August 22, Sept 26, Oct 17

America's Boating Safety Course is an eight hour course covering the basics of boating and is appropriate for youth as well as the adult boater. Successful completion of this course satisfies the education requirement for youth to operate a PWC in both Virginia and North Carolina.

Remember: **Virginia now has a law** that all boaters in the waters of Virginia will have proof of taking a Boating Course. All Motor Boat Operators operating a vessel with a 10 HP engine or greater, must meet these requirements. All PWC Operators regardless of age must have proof of taking a Boating Course.

North Carolina Law effective January 1, 2014 requires that all PWC and Motor Boat Operators who were born after 1 Jan 1988 will have proof of taking a Boating Course, if they are operating a vessel with a 10 HP engine or greater.

Clarification: Boaters on Lake Gaston need to be in compliance with their state of residence for Boater Education Certification. This is true whether the boater is a resident of North Carolina, Virginia, or any other state as recognized by both states' enforcement officers.

The fee for the course is \$30.00, **Preregistration and prepayment are required.** Courses are now taught at the Long Bridge VFD, 1678 Eaton Ferry Rd., Littleton, NC 27850. All classes are on Saturday from 8:30am to 5:00pm, with the exam given at the end of class.

Please bring your lunch. Bottled water and sodas can be purchased for 50 cents. It is a busy day - but rewarding. Remember – **Preregistration and Prepayment are required.**

For more information on these classes, or to register call (252) 535-3335. If you get the answer machine, leave a message with your name and phone number and an Auxiliary member will call you back.

On-line courses & Classroom by NC Wildlife & VADGIF:

For North Carolina Boating Safety course options go to

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Boating/Marina-Resources/Boating-Education-Courses>

For Virginia Boating Safety course options go to

www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/requirement/steps-to-requirement.asp

Free Vessel Safety Check

Flotilla 93 will perform a free Vessel Safety Check on your boat at your home. The boat can be in the boatlift or on a trailer and does not need to be running. To receive a free safety check, call John Dyckman at (252) 537-9877. Flotilla 93 will also provide a Vessel Examiner at your Home Owners Association Meeting to inspect boats after your business meeting. Call John Dyckman.

LGA's Annual Community Paper Shred

The Lake Gaston Association will sponsor its Sixth Annual Community Paper Shred on Saturday, April 25th, 2020 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The collection will be accomplished in the lower parking area at the Roanoke-Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department at 790 Lizard Creek Rd. The service is free to the public but contributions would be gratefully accepted.

Items to be shredded can include any old paper records; staples and paper clips need not be removed, but please no three ring binders or heavy metal clamps. We can accept any amounts that can be processed in the time period.

The truck mounted shredder consumes about 10 book boxes/cases of paper every 8 minutes. People can stand and watch while the paper is shredded. The shredding is professional grade and is the same level of shredding contracted by banking institutions.

For more information contact (252) 586-6577 or 1-888-586-6577 or info@lakegastonassoc.com

Stay Safe ...

Jumping right into one of the major topics on any station at any hour, take a few moments to protect yourself and loved ones from the Coronavirus. Checkout this info from the Red Cross – <https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/get-help/COVID-19%20Checklist%20v6%2003062020%20FINAL.pdf> <https://www.cdc.gov/>

NC Department of Public Safety recommends that families should develop and review an emergency plan and discuss thunderstorm and tornado safety with all members of your household. Make sure your family knows basic safety measures, such as first aid, CPR and how to use a fire extinguisher. Have a home evacuation plan and supplies for water, food, or fuel shortages. Have at least a weeks' extra prescription drugs in personal things that are ready to go with you to a safe place in a storm. Find more information on emergency preparedness by visiting the North Carolina <https://www.readync.org/> or residents of Virginia may prefer <https://www.vaemergency.gov/>

National Safe Boating Week is May 16-22 and folks should check out their boating gear before beginning the fun for Memorial Day by checking fuel tanks for leaks, ventilation systems for obstructions (inboard/outboards and Personal Watercraft), anchors, ropes/tie lines, life vests, lights, horns, and batteries, and even trailer tires for proper pressure and brakes where applicable. Getting there is half the work. And getting the dock in shape is smart; trip hazards and cleats that can injure feet need to be removed from the dock area.

Daylight Savings Time is already here. Even so, take time to check that smoke alarms work and have good batteries. Some systems are on house wiring and will alarm when tested even if batteries are depleted. If there are bad batteries the sensor may not work at all. Also check all fire extinguishers to ensure they are charged and ready for use.

Employ surveillance cameras as a neighborhood or individually for property protection. Let local Sheriff Departments know the property will be unused for a time and most will perform random checks of entryways.

Just a reminder from the E 9-1-1 task force that there are still many issues contacting the correct 911 center when using cell phones. If available call using a landline. If using a cellular phone, when the call is answered give your location, including County and State. If you can't reach 911 by using your cell phone you can call the alternate number for the county you are in. Those numbers are in Virginia for Brunswick County - (434) 848-3133 and Mecklenburg - (434) 738-6191; and in NC for Halifax - (252) 583-7051, Northampton - (252) 574-1041, and Warren - (252) 257-3456. It is critical to know and provide an accurate location.

Monthly Public Safety Committee meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food and Spirits 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Everyone is invited to participate to give us fresh ideas and viewpoints.

Contact us at Safety@LakeGastonAssoc.com

LGA Dues Discount:

Sponsor a friend or neighbor and they will get a \$5.00 discount off of their 2020 membership dues and you the same during the next renewal period.

Want more information? Contact Moira Underwood, Executive Director at 252-586-6577.

Lake Gaston Water Safety Council News

As I prepare this column while sipping an evening toddy on my deck, I heard the drone of a boat motor engine in the distance. Looking up I fully expected to see a fisherman but to my surprise I heard the “ker-plunk” of a water skier hitting the water. Wow, that has to be cold; even with a wet suit. Guess we can truly say it’s time for water activities to commence, just 10 days before spring!

When you read this, the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council will have given our opening remarks to the attendees taking the first US Coast Guard Flotilla 93 Boating Safety Course of the season - this is a great learning opportunity. This information should be mandatory for first time boaters and the information presented may save your life or that of someone else enjoying our lake.

For more information please visit our web site at www.LakeGastonWaterSafetyCouncil.com.

I have lots of things to do before lowering my boat into the water for the season. Let’s see my to do list: get boathouse inspected for any damaged boards, check the lines, fire extinguishers, PFD’s, throwable, call my friends at the Boat Lift Store to conduct my annual inspection, boat engine serviced for the season, get my boat safety inspected by Flotilla 93 to receive the annual sticker, gosh....oh my, what have I forgotten?

Doing all this stuff now should ensure a fun and safe boating. Can’t wait!

If you would like a Board Member from the LGWSC to speak in front of your HOA, please let us know.

Brian Goldsworthy, President LGWSC

Need a Children’s Loaner Life Jacket?

The PERFECT solution when guests show up and you don’t have children’s life jackets of the correct size for all of them. The Lake Gaston Water Safety Council’s FREE loaner program makes children’s sizes available at the following locations:

Bracey, VA

Holly Grove Marina - (434) 636-3455
Americamps - (434) 636-2668

Gasburg, VA

The Club - (434) 577-2935



Henrico, NC

Washburn’s Marina - (252) 537-1335
Sherwood Forest - (252) 537-2526

Littleton, NC

Morningstar Marina - (252) 586-4661
Thousand Trails/Outdoor World - (252) 586-4121
Stonehouse Timber Lodge - (252) 586-3012

Spring is here and the days are getting longer – Yes!

We hope you had an opportunity to participated in some of Government Relations’ recent events.

Since we communicated last, we introduced NC political candidates to the community. We had 30 candidates to participate in our Meet the Candidates Forums for Northampton, Halifax and Warren Counties in North Carolina. The forums were attended by local residents looking to meet the candidates and hear views on many topics. Congratulations to all candidates who participated in the primary process.

The Government Relations Committee carefully considered the current situation with the Coronavirus and whether we should go forward with our annual Five County Forum workshop scheduled for March 19. We agreed that everyone’s safety and well-being is a priority. Therefore, we decided to postpone this workshop and hopefully we can schedule for later in the year as we hope that the situation and conditions have improved. We will be back in touch with a new date as soon as feasible.

The Government Relations committee is preparing budget letters for each of the five counties. The letters are for each county government and request specific funds to support weed management efforts that should be included in the upcoming FY 2020-2021 budget process. We asked each county to fund \$116K to help control noxious aquatic vegetation and maintain water quality. These letters are read by an LGA director in the comment period at a Commissioner/Supervisor meeting prior to the adoption of next year’s budgets.

Monthly Government Relations Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Come by, have a ham biscuit and cup of coffee and join us for an hour. Everyone is invited to participate. Please come join us!

Contact them at GovernmentRelations@LakeGastonAssoc.com.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Since pulling together our February/March 2020 Bulletin I tripped and collided into a building and broke two bones in my right wrist towards the end of January. Of course it had to be my dominant hand, so my left hand is having to type for both hands.

And on no account am I to type with my right hand, or drive! I still have a ways to go and it looks like I'll still have the cast on at our April 1st meeting. I take off the cast for showering and to work on my fingers gently to get them pliable again. (This was the first time I'd ever broken one bone let alone two.)

We are always looking for meeting topics. Our monthly meeting on Wednesday March 4th on "HOA's in NC - Legal issues that affect Home Owner Associations especially instituting prohibitions on short term rentals into the Covenants" was a huge success. We had the most attendance for a while. Tom Skinner of William T. Skinner, IV, Attorney-at-Law, was the speaker and he also covered a variety of HOA topics that the audience raised.

So ... we would love to hear from you with any topics you would like to hear about at our monthly first Wednesday meetings. If you know of a speaker you'd recommend for a particular topic, we'd be glad to work with that speaker to set up the meeting. If you have a topic in mind but don't know a speaker, just leave that to us.

From time to time we receive requests from our members to have an additional email address in their membership record. We only have room for one email per record and we ask the requesting member to ask their spouse to forward them the LGA email.

It's not a case of adding space to the membership record for a second email address, it's a case of the volume of email addresses that that would mean. At one email address per record we are around 1,900 emails and growing.

There are rules that govern bulk email lists, I can't just hit send and all 1,900 emails go at once. We have to use a mail server to spread out the delivery of those emails so LGA emails make it to your inbox vs spam. We thank you for your understanding.

In preparation for summer we have two great presentations that were given at one of our LGA monthly meetings by Tony Moran (our Marketing & Membership chair) - "Snakes Around the Lake Area" in 2017 and "Dangerous Spiders Around Lake Gaston" in 2018. Here are the links:

<https://www.lakegastonassoc.com/about-us/lga-news/43-snakes-around-lake-gaston.html>

<https://www.lakegastonassoc.com/about-us/lga-news/7-dangerous-spiders-around-lake-gaston.html>

We understand from Dominion that they are replacing all mile marker buoys that will be more sturdy and have stronger tethers. This changeover should be completed before the end of April 2020.

Moir

Wanted!

What does it take to be a Director?

- You are welcome to sit in on any of our committee meetings and decide what is best for you – look for the committee meeting grid in the Bulletin for when they meet.
- Join us the first Wednesday of each month for the LGA monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. (Lake Gaston Baptist Church, across from Subway), to see what is being done and what can be done.

Contact Nominating@LakeGastonAssoc.com

Lake Gaston Lost & Found items ...

If you have **lost any property** or **found any property** that may have floated away like a canoe/kayak, jet ski, boat, paddle board etc. call/email the LGA office at 1-800-586-6577 or (252) 586-6577 or info@lakegastonassoc.com and let us know, describe each item(s) and give us contact information for you. Lost & Found items would be listed in this section of our bi-monthly bulletins but rest assured we would not list your contact information.

Calendar notes ...

Apr 1 – **CANCELLED** LGA monthly meeting 9:30 – noon, Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577
 Apr 1 – **CANCELLED** Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m. Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico 586-7112
 Apr 14 – **CANCELLED** Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091
 Apr 24 – American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti Dinner at 5 – 7 p.m. Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-3268
 Apr 25 – LGA Community Shred event, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Roanoke-Wildwood VFD, 790 Lizard Creek Rd.
 Apr 29 – Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, 6 p.m. social 6:30 p.m. dinner, Kennon House, Gasburg (919) 302-6511
 May 6 – LGA monthly meeting 9:30 – noon, Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577
 May 6 – Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m. Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico 586-7112
 May 12 – Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091
 May 16,17 – Annual Catfish Challenge Fishing Tournament, Weldon, (252) 536-4836
 May 22 – American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti Dinner at 5 – 7 p.m. Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-3268
 May 27 – Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, 6 p.m. social/6:30 p.m. dinner, Kennon House, Gasburg (919) 302-6511
 May 29 – “Wynonna & The Big Noise, 8 p.m. at the Roanoke Rapids Theater
 May 30 – 10th Annual Lake Clean-Up Day, Lake Gaston (252) 586-6577
 July 5 (Sunday) – Lake Gaston Fireworks Display, at dark, Eaton Ferry Bridge (252) 586-2634 or (252) 586-6938

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www.lakegastonchamber.com www.warren-chamber.org www.northamptonchamber.org
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[Medoc Mountain State Park website](http://www.medocmountainstatepark.com)

(Put cursor on website & press CTRL + click to follow link)

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Ken Carroll
Owner

*Please fill out the application below
for any changes of information or to become a
new member of the LGA.*

<h3>LGA APPLICATION</h3> <p>Dues are for Calendar Year (January-December)</p>	
<p>PLEASE INDICATE:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail Change</p>	
<p>PAYMENT FOR (Select one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Sponsor Membership*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 General Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Bronze</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Silver</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Lifetime <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50</p>	
<p>Name _____</p>	
<p>*Sponsored by _____</p>	
<p>Lake Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time</p>	
<p>Lake Property <input type="checkbox"/> House <input type="checkbox"/> Lot only</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Multiple properties _____</p>	
<p>Number of adults in household _____</p>	
<p>Subdivision _____</p>	
<p>County _____</p>	
<p>LAKE ADDRESS: (#/Street/City/State/Zip) _____</p>	
<p>MAILING ADDRESS: (If different) _____</p>	
<p>PHONE @ Lake: _____</p>	
<p>Home: _____</p>	
<p>E-Mail: _____</p>	
<p>Circle how you first heard of the LGA i.e., newspaper, LGA Bulletin, neighbor, brochure, website, radio, billboard & magazine, other _____</p>	
<p>Mail with payment to: LGA, P.O. Box 656, Littleton, NC 27850 THANK YOU!</p>	

*Thank you for being a
Member of the LGA!*

2020 Membership Goal: 2,500

Current Members: 2,404 (Households 2,297 / Businesses 107)



*Welcome
Spring!*

CHECK: If the information on the label below is incorrect, please advise. By Web: www.LakeGastonAssoc.com,
By Email: MemRec@LakeGastonAssoc.com or By Mail: Member Records at the address below. Thanks!



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