

Bulletin

YOUR PRIMARY VOICE ON LAKE ISSUES...

with a mission to identify issues affecting our members and pursue resolution with the responsible organization(s)

P O Box 656, Henrico, NC 27842

(252) 586-6577

% Website: LGAncva.com % Facebook: facebook.com/LGA.nc.va % Email: execdir@lgancva.com %

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lake Environment

Tentative Schedule of Membership Meetings for 2025

(dates and speakers may change – check the LGA website for the most current information)

January 1 – No meeting this month

February 5 – 9:30 am @ LKG Baptist Church, Coffee Meet & Greet with R. Josh Simpson and a representative from Dominion Energy to make a presentation on The American Eel Working Group

March 11 – 9:00 am @ LKG Lions Club, Joint LGA and Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) host the Pete Deschenes Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board, coffee/snacks and lunch provided for attendees

April 2 – 6:00 pm Dutch Treat Supper (location TBD), Jessica Baumann w/NCSU, 2024 Vegetation Survey Results and Treatment Plans

May 7 – 9:30 am @ LKG Baptist Church, Representatives from Smith Mountain Lake Association and/or Lake Anna Civic Association,

Topic: Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB)

June 14 – Saturday - 9:30 am @ LKG Baptist Church, Annual meeting, Coffee Meet & Greet, Panel discussion, Responsible Wake Surfing

July 2 - No meeting this month

August 6 – 6:00 pm Dutch Treat Supper (location TBD), Topic: Meet our LGA Partners

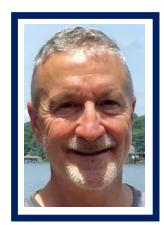
September 3 - 9:30 am Field trip to Kerr Reservoir Environmental Center

October 1 - 9:30 am @ LKG Baptist Church- NC Wildlife Resource Commission, Lake Gaston Fishery

November 5 - 9:30 am @ LKG Baptist Church - Sheriffs Forum and the John 3:16 Center Toy Drive kick-off

December 3 - 6:00 pm Dutch Treat Supper (location TBD) - Toy Drive Wrap-up and LGA Annual Review





REELIN' IN THE YEARS, STOWING AWAY THE TIME*



Winter at Lake Gaston provides some impressive lake views but has us looking forward to warmer springtime weather.

How time flies! Here it is 2025 and we start a new year.

The Lake Gaston Association is 35 years old and still going strong. Many different folks have volunteered over the years and worked hard to keep Lake Gaston a wonderful place. We honor their legacy by continuing their efforts, conserving the lake environment, engaging our members, and building relationships with community and government organizations.

This year our association will continue and build on our past work while raising awareness and working with our partners to address important issues. As individuals we can only do so much. But together as an association, we are much stronger. Collaborating with our partners, such as the Weed Control Council, the Stakeholders Board, and the Water Safety Council, we can maintain the quality of life that we so dearly enjoy here at Lake Gaston.

Join us. Volunteer to help with an event, as a committee member, or as a leader. Together we can keep Lake Gaston a great place to live, work, and play.

*Steeley Dan, can't buy a thrill, 1972

Jeff Zimmer
President
President@LGAncva.com

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m. LGA Monthly Membership Meeting

at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church: 2378 Eaton Ferry Road, Littleton
Coffee Meet & Greet with R. Josh Simpson, LKG Reservoir Program Manager, and another representative from
Dominion Energy who will discuss the Roanoke Rapids & Gaston Hydropower Project American Eel Working Group

This meeting is open to the public and Lake Gaston Association membership is not required. For more information, please email us at executive [252] 586-6577.



Lake Environment Committee...

LKG Aquatic Vegetation Survey Project Summary for 2024

The following is a summary of the 2024 LKG Volunteer Aquatic Vegetation Survey Project conducted by the LGA in support of the LGWCC.

Participants: LGA Volunteers, LEC Survey Quadrant Coordinators, NCSU staff

Date: August 15 - October 31, 2024

From August 15, 2024, through October 31, 2024, LGA volunteers, NCSU Staff and LEC personnel conducted an aquatic vegetation survey of the Lake Gaston shoreline. This involves surveying approximately 350 miles shoreline by power boat, jet ski, or kayak/canoe. Additional equipment used to conduct the survey included:

- double sided rake attached to 20ft of rope
- handheld electronic tablet with MDC software
- aquatic vegetation identification booklet

The shoreline was broken into 100+ sections of 2-3 miles each. Rake toss samples were taken at 200+/- foot intervals and the results of invasive, noxious, and native vegetation was captured on handheld tablets using the MDC (GPS) software. The sampling data was uploaded to the "cloud" and will be assessed and analyzed by NCSU to model the results of the "state of aquatic vegetation" across Lake Gaston. This information will be used by NCSU and the TAG to identify annual aquatic vegetation management and treatment options for 2025. The LGWCC, in turn, makes the final decisions on the LKG 2025 aquatic vegetation management and treatment actions.

Approximately 120 LGA volunteers along with NCSU staff participated during the 75-day survey period. NCSU provided technical and management support for the

planning and execution of the survey. The Lake was divided into 4 quadrants (Northwest, Northeast, Southeast and Southwest) to streamline the management of volunteers and equipment assignment. Typically, teams of 2-3 volunteers spent approximately 4 hours per survey section (100 sections of lake shoreline) on the water conducting the survey. In some cases, specific teams surveyed multiple sections. In addition, pre/post survey actions, such as training and other logistics activities added approximately 1 hour of time for each section. There were five Survey Quadrant Coordinators (1 each NW, SE, SW and 2 each NE due to size) that managed and assisted volunteers in conducting the survey. Each quadrant coordinator spent approximately 25 hours conducting survey support. NCSU staff also conducted surveys of portions of the lake shoreline as needed.

The table on the following page outlines the volunteer work hours executed and the approximate value of support for the project.

Group	# of personnel per survey section	# of Survey Sections	Survey hrs per section	Pre/Post hrs per section	Total hrs	Value
LGA Survey Volunteers	2 (average)	~100	~4	~1	900 (2*100*4hrs) + (100*1hr)	\$28,476
LGA Survey Quadrant Coordinators	-	-	-	-	125 (5*25hrs)	\$3,955
Totals	-	-	-	-	1,125	\$32,431

LGA Volunteer hours value was calculated at \$31.64/hour (per Independent Sector data at https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time).

Who is the Lake Gaston Stakeholders' Board, and what is their future?

An organization that the LGA participates in as a member is the Pete Deschenes Lake Gaston Stakeholders' Board (LGSB). This group was established in 2005 for the purpose of refining and improving the decision-making of vegetation management on Lake Gaston. At the time, recreation and tournament fishing organizations voiced concerns about how the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) was managing invasive vegetation. More specifically, the elimination of hydrilla and its detriment to the lake ecology and fishery. They wanted their members to have a say in the management process.

During the formation of the board, 13 local organizations and 9 state, federal, and other non-local groups participated. A long-term action plan, "Managing Aquatic Plants in Lake Gaston," was developed and revised over the next several years. Concerns regarding funding, stocking Grass Carp, vegetation surveys, expansion of native vegetation, communication with the public, and establishment of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) were acted upon.

In 2005, surveys indicated that hydrilla was present on 3,500 acres of Lake Gaston. By 2015 surveys indicated hydrilla was coming under control, but the acres of lyngbya, a blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria) were increasing. As hydrilla entered a "maintenance mode," focus turned to the management of lyngbya, which increased in its coverage of Lake Gaston to 1,330 acres by 2023.

TAG has continued to report annually to the LGSB, making recommendations for vegetation management, which the stakeholders pass on to the LGWCC. Attendance at LGSB meetings has diminished over time, particularly during the Covid period (2020-2022).

The LGSB has provided a valuable service by bringing diverse groups together, addressing concerns, focusing resources, and acting on a critical issue impacting the health of Lake Gaston.

What is the future of this group? Does the Stakeholders' Board wish to disband, continue as is, or reinvent itself with a new focus or purpose? This will be the topic of discussion at the March 11th Lake Gaston Stakeholders' Board Forum.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Lake Gaston Stakeholders' Board Forum

at the Lake Gaston Lions Club, 139 Stanley Rd, Henrico, NC 27842

The LGA and Lake Gaston Weed Control Council will host the Pete Deschenes Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board Coffee, snacks, and lunch provided for attendees

This meeting is open to the public and LGA membership is not required. For more information, please email us at execdir@lgancva.com or call (252) 586-6577.



Membership & Volunteer Engagement Committee...

Happy New Year!

Here's a gentle reminder.....

If you haven't paid your 2025 membership dues, please do so.

We begin a new year with changes in our committee structure for the first time in many years. It's all good and reflects a realistic realignment of what we do and how we do it, to support our membership and this organization.

What was once M&M is now Membership and Volunteer Engagement. I remain the Chairperson. Why you might ask? We believe there is an opportunity to engage, retain, and grow our membership numbers. However, our 10% annual attrition rate means we never get ahead. We feel if we engage our membership there might be interest in ongoing support besides paying dues.

Be on the lookout for more group activities to support ensuring a clean and safe Lake Gaston area. Our first one in 2025 will be the second DOT Roadside Clean-up on Saturday, January 11. If you recall, the LGA has adopted a stretch of Eaton Ferry Road between Food Lion and WatersView Restaurant. After we do our good deed, there just might be some chili and hot chocolate for participants at Gus's Diner. We will soon be posting an electronic sign-up sheet so you can volunteer.

There will be more work and play activities coming. Please help us retain and grow the LGA membership. Thanks for reading and your support.

Brian Goldsworthy
Membership & Volunteer Engagement Chair
LGA Lifetime Member since 2015
Committees@LGAncva.com



Be safe this Winter Season

We have had mild winters the past few years but let's not forget how to be prepared and be safe. Here are a few reminders for you.

First, be aware of the weather by paying attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Listen for emergency information and alerts. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

When bad winter weather hits:

- Stay off the roads, if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.
- Watch for ice on driveways, steps, sidewalks, and when driving on bridges and roadways.

Supplies for Your Vehicle:

Flashlight with extra batteries and extra bulbs, maps, first aid kit and manual, bottled water, non-perishable foods (such as granola bars), blanket, hat, mittens, windshield scraper, florescent distress flag, shovel, sand, tire repair kit, jumper cables, flares, and keep a full tank of gas.

If you lose power in your home, avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by only using generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven. Ensure your carbon monoxide detector is working.

Pat Price Northampton County Director



From the desk of the Executive Director...

When you review the proposed 2025 budget on the next page, you might wonder about the line item for the expense labeled "Executive Director fees - \$20,000." Many people might not know that the Executive Director is the only paid position within the LGA organization.

The following job description is taken directly from the LGA Bylaws:

"An Executive Director position is established to provide continuity of effort for the organization. This is a paid position and reports directly to the President. The Executive Director is responsible for the smooth and efficient operations of the LGA. Duties include but are not limited to maintaining all files and records of the organization, answering routine email and telephone inquiries -- or redirecting them to the appropriate Director, advising the Board on policies and procedures, and carrying out other duties as assigned. The Executive Director is expected to be knowledgeable about all LGA programs, priorities, functions, and issues. The Executive Director serves as a non-voting advisory member of the Executive Committee and as an informational resource to all Directors."

In addition to these duties, the Executive Director also attends all monthly Board and Membership meetings, as well as any Committee meetings that have upcoming events. Assembling and sending out this quarterly bulletin and the "Splash of News" newsletter is also part of the job. Some weeks are busier than others, but it averages out to about 20 hours of work per week. If you ever have any questions about Lake Gaston or the LGA, please do not hesitate to call or email me and I will do my best to help!

Tammy Clarke
Executive Director
execdir@lgancva.com
252-586-6577

LGA – 2025 Proposed Budget

Ordinani Incomo/Evnonco	
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	045.00
Donations Lifetime Membership	245.00
	1,500.00
Membership Dues (Business)	6,120.00
Membership Dues (HOAs)	13,700.00
Membership Dues (Individual) Shred It Event Donations	16,310.00 1,000.00
Total Income	38,875.00
Total income	30,075.00
Expense	
Direct Expense	
Gov't & Community Relations	0.405.00
Community Outreach	2,425.00
Lake Clean - Up	600.00
March Forum	1,000.00
Other Government Forums	500.00
Sheriffs Forum	200.00
Shred It Event	1,300.00
Total Gov't & Community Relations	6,025.00
Lake Environment	500.00
Aquatic Vegetation Survey	500.00
Habitat Enrichment	200.00
Other Lake Environmental Topics	200.00 500.00
Water Quality Testing Total Lake Environment	
	1,400.00
Membership/Volunteer Engagement	400.00
Appreciation	400.00
New Membership Drive Renewals	750.00 400.00
Volunteer Engagement	1,000.00
	2,550.00
Total Membership/Volunteer Engagement	
Total Direct Expense Operations	9,975.00
	400.00
Annual Meeting	400.00
Bank/PayPal Fees	300.00
Executive Director Fees Insurance	20,000.00
	250.00
Postage, Mailing Service Printing and Copying	300.00
Promotional	3,000.00
Rent	1,800.00
Supplies	500.00
Tax Prep	350.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	600.00
Venues	550.00
Website Management	1,250.00
Total Opertions	30,000.00
Total Expense	39,975.00
	-1,100.00
Net Ordinary Income Other Income/Expense	-1,100.00
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	1,100.00
Depr and Amort - Allowable	-66.00
Total Other Income/Expense	1,034.00
Income	-66.00
Income	-00.00



What the LGA does for our members...

We identify lake issues affecting our members and pursue a resolution with the responsible organization(s).

We do this by...

- working to conserve our lake's natural resources while protecting your recreational enjoyment by monitoring and controlling pollution, sedimentation, and invasive species, supporting research and best management practices that maintain Lake Gaston's water quality for all users.
- engaging with our local governments to inform and influence decision-making in your best interest.
- > supporting and promoting safety in our communities and on the water to encourage a safe environment.
- ▶ advocating and encouraging a clean, healthy, and desirable lifestyle along the roadsides and shorelines of beautiful Lake Gaston.
- ▶ informing and communicating on Lake Gaston issues via email advisories and quarterly Bulletins, emergency, weather, and water level alerts, open-door monthly meetings, website, social media, press releases, radio broadcasts, and public forums.

We accomplish this by building relationships and coordinating efforts with Dominion Energy, the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council, North Carolina and Virginia Wildlife Agencies, North Carolina State University, local Law Enforcement and Emergency Management, the Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, LKG 911 Community Task Force, and many others.

LGA ~ Calendar of Events



Jan 1 - New Year's Day - NO Monthly Membership Meeting

Jan 11 - Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up Day - Click here to volunteer: volunteersignup.org/PJA9W

Jan 15 – NO Lake Environment Committee Mtg this month

Jan 16 – Volunteer & Member Engagement Committee Mtg - (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

Jan 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 21 - Community & Gov't Relations Committee Mtg - (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

Jan 29 - LGA Board Mtg - (8:30 - 11:00 a.m.) - Lake Gaston Coffee Shop at Daphne's, 137 E South Main St, Littleton

Feb 5 - Monthly Membership Mtg - 9:30 a.m., Lake Gaston Baptist Church: 2378 Eaton Ferry Rd, Littleton

Feb 17 - Presidents' Day

- Feb 18 Community & Gov't Relations Committee Mtg (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd
- Feb 19 NO Lake Environment Committee Mtg this month
- Feb 20 Volunteer & Member Engagement Committee Mtg (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd
- Feb 26 LGA Board Mtg (8:30 11:00 a.m.) Lake Gaston Coffee Shop at Daphne's, 137 E South Main St, Littleton

Mar 5 - No Monthly Membership Meeting

March 11 - Lake Gaston Stakeholders' Board Forum - 9:00 a.m. LKG Lion's Club: 139 Stanley Road, Henrico, NC

- Mar 18 Community & Gov't Relations Committee Mtg (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd
- Mar 19 Lake Environment Committee Mtg (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd
- Mar 20 Volunteer & Member Engagement Committee Mtg (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd
- Mar 26 LGA Board Mtg (8:30 11:00 a.m.) Lake Gaston Coffee Shop at Daphne's, 137 E South Main St, Littleton

Thank you, LGA Business Members, for your support!

For more Business Member details, please visit our website at:

https://www.lgancva.com/lake-gaston-association-membership-application/business-member-directory.html

Business Member

A. M. Newsom Agency

Ace Hardware of Lake Gaston

Always In Bloom

Arthur & Nicholson DDS

Banzet, Thompson, Styers & May, PLLC

Blue Jay Bistro

Bragging Rooster Beer and Mead

Budget Blinds

Center for Energy Education

C-Line Graphics

Coldwell Banker Advantage-Susan L Gordon

Corbitt Hills Construction
Creekside Animal Hospital

Crenshaw & Haight Family Dentistry

Cygnet Enterprises, Inc.

Davis Body Shop Inc.

Deo Auto Repairs

Dominion Energy

<u>Dunlevy's Marine & Construction</u>
Eaton Ferry Marina-Keel Marinas

ECU Health North Hospital
Edward Jones - Brad Smith
Family Dollar Store #10525
First Citizens Bank – Warrenton

Fresh Faces

<u>Futrell Pharmacy of Littleton</u> George's of Warrenton

Gus's Diner

Halifax County Economic Development Halifax Electric Membership Corporation

Helpful Hands and Hearts

Hockaday Funeral & Cremation Services

Inland Boat Company

Jennifer Allman, Pointe Realty

K-9 Cuts Pet Grooming Lake Gaston Awning

Lake Gaston Celebrations Rental Homes

Lake Gaston Coffee Company

Lake Gaston Edge Realty - Linda Hedgepeth

Lake Gaston Fitness
Lake Gaston HVAC

Type of Business

Insurance

Hardware & Home Improvements

Florists Dentists Attorneys Restaurants

Breweries/Distilleries/Wine Shops Hardware & Home Improvements

General

Marketing/Graphics/Printing
Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Builders & Developers

Veterinarian Dentists

Lake Treatment & Management

Auto Sales & Service Auto Sales & Service

General

Builders & Developers Marina Sales & Service Hospitals & Urgent Care

Financial Advisors

Shopping Banks Shopping

Pharmacies & Medical Supplies

Restaurants Restaurants General Electricians

Nonprofit Organizations Funeral Homes & Services

Boat & PWC Sales, Service & Storage

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Pet Grooming & Services

Home Improvements & Repairs Lodging & Vacation Rentals Coffee & Coffee Shops

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Gyms & Fitness

HVAC

Lake Gaston Jet Ski & Powersports Boat & PWC Sales, Service & Storage Lake Gaston Marine Marina Sales & Service Lake Gaston Pizza & More Restaurants Lake Gaston Real Estate Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Lake Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce General Lake Gaston Sign & Graphic Co. Marketing/Graphics/Printing Lake Gaston Supply Co. **Building Products & Supplies** Lake Realty LLC Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Lakeland Pier & Boathouse Co. Inc. **Builders & Developers** Lakeside Dog Boarding Pet Grooming & Services Lakeside Leisure at Oak Grove General Lakeside Lutheran Church Churches & Places of Worship Lakeside Signs & Engraving Marketing/Graphics/Printing Littleton Hardware **Building Products & Supplies** Liz Christensen, Realtor Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Locōrum Distillery Breweries/Distilleries/Wine Shops Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Lorraine Atkinson – Coldwell Banker Adv Luv'N'Flame Restaurants MacBride Excavation LLC Home Improvements & Renovations Main Street Mercantile Breweries/Distilleries/Wine Shops Mindy's Ace of Fades Hair Salon/Barbers More Than Just A Pet Cremations Funeral Homes & Services NAPA Southside Parts Co. Auto Sales & Service Nationwide / OL Meek Insurance Agency Insurance Northstar Industries Home Improvements & Repairs Once Upon a County Line Emporium Shopping Overby Marine Sales & Service Marina Sales & Service Pair's Management - Littleton Towne Center General Pea Hill Team - Lake Gaston Realtors & Real Estate Brokers PLM Lake & Land Management Corp Lake Treatment & Management Quality Design and Construction Home Improvements & Repairs R.M. Robertson Electric Electricians Roanoke Porta-Johns General Roanoke Shores Tennis Club Tennis & Golf Clubs Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Dept Fire Departments & Rescue Squads Saint Albans Episcopal Church Churches & Places of Worship Sherry Walker Moxley, CPA, PLLC Accountants Slayton & Clary Attorneys St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Churches & Places of Worship State Farm Insurance - Chris Canady, Agent Insurance Stonehouse Timber Lodge Lodging & Vacation Rentals Story Properties - Ed Roughton Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Story Properties - Tommy & Beth Story Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Subway – Lake Gaston Restaurants Tar Heel Tire Sales & Service Auto Sales & Service The Acorn Center Museums & Theaters The Boat Lift Store Boat & PWC Sales, Service & Storage

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Tiffany Dotti – Lake Homes Realty

<u>Tree Huggers Expert Tree Care</u> Trident Residential Solutions

Tri-Lakes Flooring LLC

Triple R Tree Service
VCU Health – CMH

Vincent's Retreat Center

Washburn's Marina

Waterfront Realty Lake Gaston

WatersView Restaurant
William T. Skinner, IV

Williams Custom Homes LLC

Tree Service General

Home Improvements & Repairs

Tree Service

Hospitals & Urgent Care

General

Marina Sales & Service

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Restaurants Attorneys

Builders & Developers

Thank you for being a Loyal Member of the LGA!

2025 Membership Goal: 3,000

Current Members: 2,093 (Households 1,933 / Businesses 100)