

October/November 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](http://www.lakegastonassoc.com) [info@lakegastonassoc.com](mailto:info@lakegastonassoc.com)

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

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **BRUNSWICK COUNTY, VA**

John Cataldo  
Carol Warfel,  
*Lake Clean-Up*

### **HALIFAX COUNTY, NC**

Jeff Dowhan,  
*Education*  
David Murphy  
Judy Waters

### **MECKLENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Al Potter

### **NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, NC**

Jack Saunders,  
*Treasurer & Safety*

### **WARREN COUNTY, NC**

Don Carson,  
*President*  
Brian Goldsworthy,  
*Vice President*  
Bill Heflin,  
*Nominating*  
Tony Moran,  
*Marketing & Membership*  
Jeff Zimmer,  
*Lake Environment*

## ***President's Corner***

### ***Keep Calm and Carry On!***

Like life most everywhere, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the activities of the Lake Gaston Association. Our popular monthly Board of Director's meetings featuring a guest speaker are now just a Zoom videoconference where we address LGA business. Our committees meet virtually the same way.

We are exploring the option of holding the monthly Board Meetings online as Webinars. We are planning to give that a try for the December 2 meeting. We expect to have the membership vote on the appointment of new Directors. Normally that would have happened back at the cancelled June Annual Membership meeting. Watch for details for this webinar.

Although many of our activities have been put on hold, our committees have managed to conduct some of our planned activities. The Safety Committee ran the popular Community Shred Event in mid-September.

The Lake Environment Committee is well into this year's Vegetation Survey where the LGA and volunteers survey the aquatic vegetation around the whole 350+ miles of Lake Gaston shoreline. Amazingly enough that is approximately the same length of the entire North Carolina Atlantic coastline! This survey is done by volunteers – us and our members – to help NC State University with the management of the plant life in our lake. Plants are an important part of the lake ecosystem, we have both good and bad, or invasive, plants. Many people don't realize it but, our lake community is at the forefront of determining just how to combat these invasive plants. Over the next few months, NCSU will be analyzing the data that has been collected and formulating strategies for managing the aquatic world below us.

Also, as the summer crowds disappear, especially this year, it is all the more important to support your local businesses. If we don't support them, they may not be here when you really need them. At the end of every issue of the LGA Bulletin, there is a listing of all our business members. You can also find them by going to the LGA website. That list is a good place to start looking for a local source.

With the passing of Labor Day weekend, many of our neighbors have, or are thinking about, shutting their vacation home for the winter season. We look forward to seeing you again in the Spring.

For the full timers that remain, enjoy the beauty that is Fall on Lake Gaston.

***Don***

***Lake Gaston –  
Special Place, Incredible People!***

## *The Search Is On!*

We are still looking for members to sponsor new members to the LGA. Sponsored new members will get a \$5.00 discount on the normal \$25.00 dues and the sponsoring member will get the same discount at renewal time. As a matter of fact, renewal time is fast approaching so now would be a good time to contact friends and associates who are not presently members.

Membership numbers appear to be holding steady which we very much appreciate. Please be assured that though we have not been able to hold our monthly membership meetings, the directors have been conducting virtual meetings and continue to address issues impacting the lake area.

We are again looking forward to conducting in person meetings and hope you will join us at that time.

As you may know, North Carolina annually leads the nation in the number of venomous snake bites. That's right, even more than Texas or Florida. Number one culprit is the copperhead. This year the numbers are significantly higher due to COVID-19, with people spending more time working outside their residences and the large numbers of cicadas this season which is a favored food source. Still have a month or so to go, so be careful.

***Tony Moran***

**SUSPENDED** - 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](mailto:MarketingMembership@LakeGastonAssoc.com)

## *Education Committee Fall Update*

There were minimal Education Committee activities this summer. We did support two activities. The snacks that were purchased to support the LGA Lakeside Learning Days (which were ultimately canceled due to COVID-19) were donated to the John 3:16 food center and were distributed to local community members in need. Second, members of the LGA supported the John 3:16 sponsored "Stock the Classroom" school supply drive.

We are waiting on hearing what the local school policies will be for the upcoming school year to determine what if any programs we may support to help our local students. Our expectation is there will be minimal opportunities this Fall but hope that next Spring will afford a safer environment to support our students. Education Committee meetings have been canceled for the near future. Stay healthy!

**SUSPENDED** - 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](mailto:Education@LakeGastonAssoc.com).



## *Lake Clean-Up*

Like everything else right now, Lake Clean-Up is on hold. Hopefully come spring we can make plans for our 11<sup>th</sup> Lake Clean-Up Day. **BUT** as I have said so many times, EVERY DAY IS LAKE CLEAN-UP DAY.

The grass is high along the roads right now and hopefully will be mowed soon. Because of that, it is hard to see what is lurking along the roads (besides ticks, chiggers, etc.). If you are able and can do so safely, please do what you can.

Thanks to the volunteers around our business area (ACE Hardware, Food Lion, Outfitters, etc.) for cleaning up around the area. Your service is appreciated.

If you should have any good ideas or would like to help, please contact us.

**SUSPENDED** - 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](mailto:LakeCleanup@LakeGastonAssoc.com)

## *News from the Government Relations Committee*

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected public participation in local Board of Commissioners (in NC) and Board of Supervisors (in VA) meetings. The number of members of the public allowed to attend in person is severely limited. On the upside, those meetings are now available live, online via Facebook or Youtube streaming. This allows citizens to observe the meetings from the comfort of their own homes. You don't even have to be local.

Our non-resident members can now see their Boards in action from wherever your home is. There is usually some provision for public comment, generally via email in advance of the meeting. Check with your local Board for how to get access.

Back in February, the Government Relations Committee sponsored Meet the Candidate Forums for local offices in Halifax, Northampton, and Warren Counties, NC. Virginia local elections are held in odd number years and we held Brunswick & Mecklenburg Candidate Forums in October 2019. Election season is now in full swing with the General Election scheduled for November 3. We encourage everyone to get out and vote.

**SUSPENDED** - 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.

Contact them at [GovernmentRelations@LakeGastonAssoc.com](mailto:GovernmentRelations@LakeGastonAssoc.com).

## *From the Desk of the Executive Director*

A major part of my duties is to manage the LGA membership database from which comes the information you see in your membership renewal notice. These notices are scheduled to go out the beginning of October via US mail. Please take the opportunity to look over your membership information and update where necessary and return it with your dues.

However, those of you who live in Brunswick Estates, Clydes Retreat, Delbridge Estates, Eaton's Ferry Estates, Ferncliff, Hunter's Creek, Jack's Landing, Laura Woods, Long Branch Shores, Merrymount, Pasture Gate, River Forest, Roanoke Shores, Summerwood, Timber Creek, Timbuctu and West Winds, your dues for 2021 will come from your HOA treasurer.

For those of you who have sponsored a new member(s), you will see your dues amount has been discounted by the number of new members who wrote your name on their application form as their sponsor - \$5 per new member.

On your renewal notice, please pay particular attention to your email address – do we have the correct email address? I try to keep up with them when an email address is rejected by calling you or sending you a note by US mail to get your new address. However, if you do have an email address and it's not on the 'Email address:' line, please write it in for me, and/or send me your latest email address if it has changed.

We do keep your email address confidential to the LGA - we are very particular about that. You miss out on information that is date related that will be out of date by the next Bulletin, like a Lake Gaston water level advisory; it may be information that's specific to the county where your property is located or of interest to all our members. All our emails start the subject line with LGA: and then the topic, about three a month. You can either read them, or delete unseen if the topic doesn't interest you.

Please know that no member has access to our distribution lists. Even though you may use the name of one of our distribution lists to try and reach LGA members – it happens from time to time, all emails come into an approval box on the mail server. It takes my intervention to connect an LGA generated email to one of our membership email distribution lists. Emails on the mail server not generated by the LGA are deleted.

We do appreciate that you are members of the LGA and are helping us to increase our membership goal. Thank you!

*Maira*

### **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 Environment Committee Update

### Vegetation Survey now underway

The Lake Environment Committee is now full on into our Vegetation Survey. Already a number of volunteers, some new and some seasoned, have been out on the water throwing a rake and collecting data. If you haven't signed up already, here is a link to the volunteer sign up form: <https://forms.gle/9g76eDU1SUnxxZz7>

Well we will most certainly be enjoying some crisp autumn air, the water is still warm and the summertime crowds are waning. What a great time to be on the water and doing your part to help keep Lake Gaston a great and healthy place.

### Vegetation Exclosures Project

While COVID-19 virus work restrictions placed on NCSU and Wildlife Resource Commission folks have prevented LGA volunteers from maintaining our vegetation exclosures, or "cages", this year, we will have completed an inventory with Mark Fowlkes of the Commission in late September to assess the health and organic spread of these native aquatic plants. This information will help us plan for our 2021 maintenance.

Our ability to develop and maintain a healthy lake ecosystem is based on a diverse plant community dominated by native plant species.

### Weed Control Council Treatments

The Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) continues to fund herbicide treatments based upon recommendations from the Technical Advisory Group with support from the Lake Gaston Stakeholders Group.

Six treatments for Lyngbya have been conducted this year. Visits to some of these sites indicate we are beginning to see positive results. Once NCSU completes their analysis of this year's treatments, plans will be developed for next treating season.

Three treatments for Hydrilla were conducted in Lizard Creek. In addition, the sterile grass carp population continues to serve as an effective biological control. We have had no reports of any outbreaks or "flair ups" of Hydrilla.

Maps showing the specific treatment areas can be found at: <http://www.lgwcc.org>

### Water Quality

Our partners at NCSU continue to collect water quality samples on Lake Gaston as part of an integrated research effort to address biodiversity and noxious weed management. This effort funded by the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council is developing a critical data set to aid decision making and management plans. The North Carolina Department of Water Quality is working to develop a presentation on Lake Gaston Water Quality for our members. We hope to make this available to you in the next few months.

To learn more about this and other Lake Environment volunteer opportunities contact us by email.

**SUSPENDED** - 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](mailto:Environment@LakeGastonAssoc.com)

### Attention HOA LGA members

*Brunswick Estates*

*Clydes Retreat*

*Delbridge Estates*

*Eaton's Ferry Estates*

*Ferncliff*

*Hunter's Creek*

*Jack's Landing*

*Laura Woods*

*Long Branch Shores*

*Merrymount*

*Pasture Gate*

*River Forest*

*Roanoke Shores*

*Summerwood*

*Timber Creek*

*Timbuctu*

*West Winds*

Your 2021 dues will be coming to us via your Home Owner Association Treasurer

You will not be receiving individual renewal notices from us.

### 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](mailto:zimmer2216@gmail.com).



## Public Safety news ...

This year we all should be in a state of preparedness caused by changes in the way we live, shop, and recreate. Buy the bread ahead of time (or canned biscuits or raw ingredients), get the bottled water and store up flushing water, check and/or replace batteries in any flashlights, make sure the generator is in operating order and that extra fuel and oil is available, and have the travel kit ready.

Hurricane Floyd was the last hurricane delivering significant damage locally, leaving evidence for a number of years. Predictions and tracking are far better now, but we need to accept that predictions rapidly change and Mother Nature has her own will in setting course which can deliver a punch or amble by with hardly a rumble. Please know warnings are the best officials can do, and you must be willing to protect your family and get out of harm's way, even if there is a chance the storm will pass without consequence. Recently there were flash flood warnings not an hour from our area. One driver was swept away by water over a roadway and two small children were swept away from their yard.

There are a number of useful links on the Safety Committee page of the LGA website to help you prepare for destructive weather or just to get ready for winter. Take a moment to check out the one from FEMA <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>. Make adverse weather and disaster planning a family activity, have children and grandchildren embrace the potential reality and provide suggestions. We are currently reviewing and updating the information on the webpage for safety and will be more proactive with renewed flexibility in maintaining the website. As a reminder, the Safety page also has information to register for the emergency notification network in each of the lake counties.

Normally in the late summer we have had the local Sheriff Departments relate status of activities in their jurisdiction. This year without the face to face meetings the messaging is the same. Most petty criminals look for the easy targets, which are left unprotected or hard for neighbors to see. Make a difference; meet a neighbor. If they live elsewhere, take the empty garbage container away from the street. Pick up the handbills left in the driveway. Make note of unfamiliar vehicles. Put up a cam: doorbell cam, cell phone cams, nanny cams, ADT or competitors; install a loud clanging alarm for unauthorized entry. See something, tell law enforcement.

We are extremely fortunate here to have so many friends and neighbors who are employed by law enforcement, and emergency medical services, or who volunteer with the fire departments and rescue squads. It's so important to take a moment and tell them you appreciate what they do as well as all the Doctors, RNs, LPNs, PAs, and other medical personnel. Most volunteer organizations can use help with administrative tasks if you are not able to physically help with fire or rescue services. You can always stop by a Sheriff's office, Volunteer Fire Department or Rescue Squad to say thank you and leave a case of water, soft drinks, some subs or a pizza or two. You'll feel good and they really appreciate the effort. Besides you might see them again when you really need to and then you will be proud that you said thanks before you needed anything.

Please take preparedness in protecting your family seriously. Buy a case of water and a 5 gallon container before the next storm. As we come into the season, get a bag of salt for the first ice/sleet event and get that chimney cleaned to avoid deadly fires. Change batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide sensors and replace the smoke detectors that have stopped working altogether. Secure boat, deck and yard items, and take action to avoid frozen pipes.

**ABOVE ALL STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY.** Get the COVID-19 vaccine when available and please get the seasonal Flu shot to keep from having your health attacked. I even checked and found out I am due for a tetanus booster. If you are well seasoned (some refer to us as aged) make sure your shots are up to date. There are many advantages to these times such as anti-pneumonia shots, shingles vaccines, and others. Be well and Happy Thanksgiving.

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

**VIA ZOOM** - Contact us at [Safety@LakeGastonAssoc.com](mailto:Safety@LakeGastonAssoc.com) if you would like to participate via Zoom from your home and we will send you an email with the link for the next Virtual Safety Committee meeting on the second Friday of the month.

## 2021 Budget of estimated expenses for review by LGA members

The proposed budget for FY 2021 (below) is for our members' review. If you have any comments please send them to [treasurer@lakegastonassoc.com](mailto:treasurer@lakegastonassoc.com), or mail them to LGA, P.O. Box 656, Littleton, NC 27850, to be received by October 31, 2020.

The Board of Directors will vote to approve or not at the monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 4. The approved budget will be included in the December/January 2021 Bulletin. A report on the FY 2020 closeout and Performance of FY 2020 to January 1, 2021 will be given at the February 3 monthly meeting.

### Draft LGA 2021 Budget Plan

#### Income

Interest Earned on CDs .....	\$1,200
2020 Carry Forward .....	3,400
2021 Dues.....	12,000
Transfer from Prepaid 2020 Dues .....	28,000
Donations .....	250
<b>Total 2020 Income .....</b>	<b>44,850</b>

#### Expenses

##### Administration

Annual Meeting.....	200
Chambers of Commerce.....	150
Directors' Retreat.....	0
Nominating Activity.....	0
President.....	200
Venues .....	825
Vice President.....	50
Website Maintenance .....	1,000
<b>Total Administration .....</b>	<b>2,425</b>

##### Education

Initiatives	
Lake Learning Events .....	1,000
Outdoor Presentation Supplies	
<b>Total Education .....</b>	<b>1,000</b>

##### Lake Environment

LEMs Training and Gear.....	100
Travel and Forums .....	150
Weeds Symposia & Forums .....	200
Revegetation Support .....	200
Water Testing Kits .....	650
<b>Total Lake Environment.....</b>	<b>1,300</b>

<b>Executive Director .....</b>	<b>16,000</b>
Bulletins .....	6,650
Database Maintenance .....	1,500
Office Space Rent .....	1,475
Office Supplies .....	850
Postage .....	325
Communications .....	3,150
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>29,950</b>

#### Government Relations

5 County Forum .....	700
Political Forums .....	300
Tax Assessor Forums	
<b>Total Government Relations .....</b>	<b>1,000</b>

#### Lake Clean-Up

Acknowledgements .....	0
Publicity .....	500
Food and Beverages .....	150
<b>Total Lake Clean-Up .....</b>	<b>650</b>

#### Marketing and Membership

Advertising .....	2,800
New Member Drive.....	1,785
Renewals .....	600
Billboards (was signs) .....	1,780
<b>Total M&amp;M .....</b>	<b>6,965</b>

#### Safety

First Responder Recognition Activity .....	100
VA and NC Safe Boating Alliances .....	0
Neighborhood Watch Materials .....	0
Fire Safety Awareness .....	100
Emergency Preparedness .....	0
Boating Safety .....	0
Community Shred Event .....	780
<b>Total Safety Committee .....</b>	<b>980</b>

#### Treasurer

Bank Charges and Fees .....	50
IRS Form 990 and 1099 Prep.....	500
Postage .....	30
Software .....	0
<b>Total Treasurer .....</b>	<b>585</b>

<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>44,850</b>
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## *Who's the right contact for lake levels, operations, Shoreline Management, Wildlife Officers etc.*

We have received the following information from Dominion Energy for you to use ...

For questions/comments related to lake levels and operations, please send an email to [lakeinfo@dominionenergy.com](mailto:lakeinfo@dominionenergy.com) .

### **A couple of items related to the account ...**

1. As would be expected, this is not to be used for emergencies.
2. The account will be checked at least weekly and emails will be forwarded to the proper person for reply.
3. For questions related to Shoreline Management such as docks, riprap or the mileage buoys, please continue to call Will Miller, the Reservoir Program Manager, at 252-535-6894
4. For issues related to boating safety and regulations:

In **North Carolina**, WRC enforcement officers are the point of contact. If there is an urgent concern about safety or violations, please call the enforcement hotline at 800-662-7137 and the dispatch center will contact the nearest officer on duty. General complaints should probably be directed to Col. Jon Evans at 919-707-0036.

In **Virginia**, VA Conservation Police Officers (CPO's) enforce boating safety laws. Violations in progress should be reported to the Wildlife Crime Line at 1-800-237-5712 or [WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov) .

General complaints can be directed to the main line at 804-367-1000 or <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/contact/> .

## *LGA & John 3:16 Center's 2020 Toy Drive*

The Lake Gaston Association will again join The John 3:16 Center in their Annual Toy Collection Drive in support of their Christmas Outreach program to provide gifts for approximately 175 local children. Toy drive starts November 2<sup>nd</sup> thru December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Collection boxes will be placed in several businesses around the area: **Lake Area** ... Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer (River Rd); Ace Hardware Store Lake Gaston (Elams Rd); Subway – Lake Gaston (across from Lake Gaston Baptist Church); Lake Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce; Lake Gaston OUTFITTERS; RE/MAX on Lake Gaston; **Littleton** .... Dollar General; BB&T, and Rosy's Nail Salon.

Our Toy Drive will conclude at the beginning of December when we will collect the toy boxes from the businesses and take them to John 3:16. We are making the assumption that in December we will still be in the COVID-19 virus situation and we won't be having our first Wednesday meeting in December.

The Center asks that all gifts be new and unwrapped. They do not distribute any toy weapons of any kind.

Gender-neutral gifts are always good: puzzles (under 500 pieces), books, board games, coloring books, baby's toys, etc. They have had children registered from 1 month old to 16 years old. Every child gets a book, so appropriate books for different age levels (books boys may enjoy are often hardest to find) will be appreciated. Balls, dolls (ethnically diverse), art supplies, craft/model kits, small handheld electronic games, toy cars and trucks, watches or inexpensive jewelry for older children, etc. also are typical of the types of gifts given in the past.

John 3:16 recommends that we limit the cost of any gifts to under \$15 & that most of the items listed can be found for \$10 or less.

If you would like to send a donation instead, please make checks payable to The John 3:16 Center, Memo: Christmas Toy Drive and mail to The John 3:16 Center, P.O. Box 1541, Littleton, NC 27850. These donations help with the cost of purchasing clothing for each child.

Your help in bringing a smile to a child's face Christmas morning will be sincerely appreciated. For more information, call the LGA Office at (252) 586-6577, or The John 3:16 Center at (252) 586-1800.

Final details of the manner in which the items will be distributed this year are still being determined. It will almost certainly be very different from past years, but The John 3:16 Center staff and board are still committed to meeting needs of children at this special time of year.

Please follow The John 3:16 Center on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/john316center](https://www.facebook.com/john316center)) or contact Shannon McAllister at [smcallister@john316center.org](mailto:smcallister@john316center.org) or Carolyn Ross-Holmes at [crossholmes@john316center.org](mailto:crossholmes@john316center.org) if you would like to be updated on volunteer opportunities as plans are finalized.



## ***Some Important Safety Reminders from the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council***

- All vessels must carry a readily accessible (not wrapped) U.S. Coast Guard approved and serviceable life jacket of the proper size for every person on board.
- Federal regulations require children under the age of 13 to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket all the time when underway (not anchored or docked) on any size vessel.
- In both North Carolina and Virginia, a Children's Life Jacket Loaner Program, sponsored by the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, is in place at the following locations to promote life jacket safety. Americamps (Bracey), Holly Grove Marina, Lake Gaston Water Sports at Poplar Creek, Gasburg at the Club, Washburn's Marina, Sherwood Forest, Outdoor World, Stonehouse Timber Lodge and Eaton Ferry Marina (formerly Morningstar Marina.)
- Personal watercraft (PWC) are not to be operated before sunrise or after sunset.
- It is illegal to use docking lights when underway. Use of vanity lights is not permitted after sunset.
- All powered vessels operating before sunrise and after sunset must display proper lighting which includes the red and green navigation lights and all-around white stern light. All other vessels (canoes, kayaks, rowboats and sailboats) must have at least a visible white light.
- For more water safety tips, please visit our web site at [LakeGastonWaterSafetyCouncil.com](http://LakeGastonWaterSafetyCouncil.com). Please be careful out there.

***Brian Goldsworthy, President, Lake Gaston Water Safety Council***



## ***Buoys placed in Lake Gaston need state & federal approval***

Dominion Energy as well as the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission have received complaints concerning buoys being placed in the lake to deter boats near boat docks.

Both Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, as well as Dominion, do not allow buoys to be placed in the lake without state and federal approval. Any buoys placed in the lake will be considered an obstruction to navigation and will be required to be removed.

## ***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 Dominion Energy at (252) 535-6161 Ext. 4. Similarly, if you notice a danger or no wake buoy damaged, missing, etc. please contact the LGA at [info@lakegastonassoc.com](mailto:info@lakegastonassoc.com) or (252) 586-6577 or 1-888-586-6577 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>



## US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 93 - 2020 last training date

### October 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) 537-9877. 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](http://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.

## 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:*

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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

## LGA Monthly Committee Meetings:

Committee	Meeting Day	Time	Location
Public Safety	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Education	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Government Relations	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	9:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Environment	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	8:30 am	Kitchen Table Cafe *
Marketing & Membership	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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.*

## 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](mailto:Nominating@LakeGastonAssoc.com)

### 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.)*

### 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](mailto: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.

# **Wear Your Life Jacket!**

# **They Float, People Don't!**

## Calendar notes ...

Oct 3 – CANCELLED - Seafood Festival, 1 -5 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Club, 139 Stanley Rd, Henrico (252) 535-5308  
 Oct 7 – CANCELLED - Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m. Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 586-7112  
 Oct 7 – CANCELLED - LGA monthly meeting 9:30 a.m. – noon Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577  
 Oct 10 - CANCELLED - Taste of Brunswick Festival, 10 – 4 p.m., Southside VA CC, Alberta (434) 577-2971  
 Oct 13 – CANCELLED -Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091  
 Oct 17– US Coast Guard Auxiliary Boater Safety Course, 8:30 – 5 p.m. Long Bridge VFD, 1678 Eaton Ferry Rd (252) 537-9877  
 Oct 23? - American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti Dinner at 5 – 7 p.m. Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-2558  
 Nov 4 – CANCELLED -LGA monthly meeting 9:30 a.m. – noon Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577  
 Nov 4? – Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m. Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico 586-7112  
 Nov 10? - Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091  
 Nov 20? - American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti Dinner at 5 – 7 p.m. Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-2558

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[www.visithalifax.com](http://www.visithalifax.com)   [www.southhillchamber.com](http://www.southhillchamber.com)   Medoc Mountain State Park website  
 (Put cursor on website & press CTRL + click to follow link)

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