

October/November 2021



# 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,  
*Government Relations*

Carol Warfel,  
*Lake Clean-Up*

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Tony Moran,  
*Marketing & Membership*

Jeff Zimmer,  
*Vice President &  
Lake Environment*

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

Writing this column reminds me of the old Elizabeth Taylor joke about her 7th husband (she married Richard Burton twice so technically 8th (apologies in advance). "I know what I'm supposed to do but how do I make it interesting".

We made it past the summer hot temperatures and a very busy boating season. I think we are all looking forward to the quiet, perhaps slowing down and the cooler temperatures with fall colors. However, when you read this in early October, the LGA activities are still in full swing.

I truly hope, if you haven't already, will join us in the annual fall vegetation survey. Can you throw a rake, operate a tablet, operate a boat or willing to keep others doing those tasks entertained, we need you. This volunteer effort runs through the end of October and we have over 300 miles, yep miles of shoreline, to survey. It's my favorite fall activity when the lake is quiet, temperatures are cooler and you start to see the leaves turn. As a bonus, you might even smell wood burning fireplaces. Look for more information in this Bulletin or contact Jeff Zimmer or me.

For those who have either signed up or completed the task, a huge thank you. This project has a major impact what happens next year to ensure we protect this lake.

Our Public Safety Committee (full disclosure my committee), Lake Clean-Up, Government Relations, Lake Environment and Marketing & Membership remain focused on the tasks at hand and are always looking for more volunteers. Remember without volunteers none of this stuff happens.

Finally, we will soon be losing two long term board members who will be moving from the lake. Our thanks to past president Bill Heflin and E Coli kit Mr. Al Potter. Your behind the scenes work and countless volunteer hours are noted and will be missed. Best of luck when you begin the next chapter of your lives.

A special welcome to Eric Wooster who has joined the board. Eric lives in Northampton County and is already an active member of the Public Safety Committee.

If you live in Mecklenburg County (or any other lakeside county), we need you! Please join a committee which is the gateway to becoming a director. Why? Because we want to keep Lake Gaston a special place to live or visit.

I hope I kept your interest and you enjoyed this column. Please tell us what we can do better and we will do our very best to accommodate.

Stay safe, wear the mask when appropriate, wash your hands while you sing Happy Birthday, use hand sanitizer and floss daily. Thanks for reading and your support.

*Kind regards,  
Brian Goldsworthy*

## ***Lake Gaston -Special Place, Incredible People!***

## ***October 6, 2021 – LGA Monthly Meeting***

9:30 a.m. at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church (1 mile north of Eaton Ferry Bridge on Hwy 903)

**Topic: The Landings of Lake Gaston – Assisted Living**

**Speaker: Heather Foster**

**Also:** Got a lake-related issue or concern that the LGA should be working on? There will be time allotted on the agenda to present those concerns to the LGA Board. And, catch up with what the Committees are working on.

The meeting is open to the public, members and non-members alike so gather up your neighbors and come join the LGA for an informative meeting. For more information contact [info@lakegastonassoc.com](mailto:info@lakegastonassoc.com) or call (252) 586-6577 or toll free 1-888-586-6577.

## ***Lake Environment Committee Update***

### **Vegetation Survey now underway-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Lake Environment Committee is now full on into our annual vegetation Survey. September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, volunteers are on the water surveying Lake Gaston shoreline's aquatic vegetation. This is an important component of the lake management effort.

To volunteer:

- 1) You need access to a boat, kayak, or jet ski and a few hours to spend on the lake
- 2) The shoreline is divided into survey sites, volunteers are able to choose sites that are most convenient for them.
- 3) Equipment will be issued by the LGA to include:
  - a handheld electronic tablet for data collection
  - a double rake on a throw rope, and
  - a ID booklet that will cover most of the plants that you will encounter

Training is provided using several videos on-line that explain the vegetation survey in detail and provide tips on aquatic plant identification.

To sign up, please use following the link.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedhp3sg8NNGEbs5i6QVyNiK1O8gp-83P-m1hm9m0R532LJZQ/viewform>

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.

### **Habitat Enhancement Projects**

Recently Jessica Baumann, NCSU Extension Associate and Kirk Rundle with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission have deployed several "habitat reefs" on Lake Gaston. These are a novel design that incorporates native submersed vegetation and provides critical structure concentrating fish for anglers with minimal visual profile to waterfront homeowners.

Hopefully the effectiveness of these reefs will lead to further deployments. The reefs are a supplement to the native vegetation enclosures or "cages" that LGA volunteers have been developing over the last 7 years. We will be surveying all the existing cages this fall to check on their status.

### **Weed Control Council Treatments**

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

Six treatments for Lyngbya on 37 sites covering 300 acres have been conducted this year. The last one occurred September 14-17<sup>th</sup>. Visits to these sites indicate we are seeing positive results. Once NCSU completes their analysis of this year's treatments, plans will be developed for the 2022 next treating season.

Monthly Lake Environment meetings are held the third Wednesday 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.

Contact them at [Jeff Zimmer at jzimmer2216@gmail.com](mailto:Jeff Zimmer at jzimmer2216@gmail.com)

## *Ahhh, it's good to be back*

We started back in our old regular schedule in September. Nothing wild happening yet at the lake, YET. Check out our new "Legislative Agenda" in this Bulletin on page 5.

Monthly Government Relations 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. 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).

## *What Can You Do?*

If you are reading this, you are probably a member of the Lake Gaston Association. Ever think back about what brought you to make the decision to be a member? I bet you still feel that the LGA deserves your financial support in reaching its goals. For this, the association says thank you!

There are other ways to show our support. Check out the list of business members on our website or the bulletin. Visit them and thank them for their membership. These folks look at their membership as more than an advertising venue but are also strong supporters of the LGA's various projects. Most have been members for years.

Please also consider becoming more involved in our activities. Many of our members are transitioning to a more active lifestyle here at the lake. We can tailor your available time to our needs.

Want to learn more? Call us at 252-586-6577 / 1-888-586-6577 or join us on the third Thursday of each 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)



## *Lake Gaston Clean-up*

Summer is behind us and the trash along the roads will be more visible, unfortunately.

The good news is that I have been pleasantly surprised to see more residents along the roads picking up trash around our lake roads. A great big THANK YOU!! It is very refreshing to see. Please pass it on.

Also, it was a so good to see Brunswick County workers on Oak Grove Rd. recently picking up trash before they mowed. Thanks to whoever is responsible for this effort. Hopefully as we see the roads looking neater, people will work harder to keep them that way.

Whatever you can do to help with this problem is always appreciated. It is helpful to see some headway with this situation.

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)

## **LGA Dues Discount:**

**Sponsor a friend or neighbor and they will get a \$5.00 discount off of their 2021 membership dues and you the same during the next renewal period.**

**Want more information?**

**Contact Moira Underwood, Executive Director at 252-586-6577.**

## Public Safety News

A lot has transpired since the last Bulletin ...

We've also dealt with some serious rain and electrical storms. Let's discuss emergency preparedness first. The time to think what to do is before a major weather event has a direct head on the lake area. Visit <http://www.Ready.gov> for more information. Also a good time to check your homeowners policy to ensure it's current and all valuables are covered in the event of a loss. It's always a good idea to take photos of personal belongings, record serial numbers, etc.

It's now fall and that means the lake is less populated and many homes vacant. Make sure outdoor sheds are locked and any items of value put away out of sight. Please watch out for your neighbors. If something doesn't look right, say something and call the sheriff's office.

Make sure items at your dock are properly secured. That means boats and jet skis are raised above the high water mark. They should be secured to the dock both fore and aft. Consider the use of security cameras and an alarm system.

This committee is hard at work on several projects. You may have noticed the Eaton Ferry bridge is now striped for no passing. By the time you read this, the nighttime navigational lights should be installed to facilitate passage after dark under the bridge.

We continue to support the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program in Northampton County. Now that Warren County has a new Emergency Management Director, we hope to see CERT in Warren. We are working closely with the 911 Community Task Force and some of their members have an active role on this committee. We think this is a win-win for everyone and hope this will more quickly influence positive change. Their activities working with the 911 telecommunications in the 5 counties around the lake to ensure better cooperation is a huge win. We are also jointly working with the realtors to ensure those who rent a house on the lake and don't have a landline know how to call 911 if using a cell phone. We have special cards that can be placed on a kitchen refrigerator and down at the boat dock so anyone knows who is reporting an emergency to first know your location and then the type of emergency.

What3Words is slowly rolling out in this area and Warren County and Halifax County telecommunications are using this to quickly find someone who needs help. Similar to a street address, the world is divided into 10 foot squares and assigned 3 unique words. Lake Gaston Outfitters, Lake Gaston Jet Ski, Overby Marina, Eaton Ferry Marina and the Lake Gaston Regional Chamber office are helping to increase awareness. Google it to learn more.

That's all for now. Please practice crime prevention at home and your immediate surroundings. If you would like to learn more, please email us at the address below.

Elsewhere in this issue, please take a look at the article by the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council. As you all know, we had a very busy boating season.

Monthly Public 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.

Contact us at [Safety@LakeGastonAssoc.com](mailto:Safety@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 [jzimmer2216@gmail.com](mailto:jzimmer2216@gmail.com).

## 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>

## Lake Gaston Association “Legislative Agenda”

### LGA GENERAL INTEREST AREAS:

- LAKE SAFETY
- LAKE HEALTH
- LAKE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### PURPOSE ...

Used to remind us and to inform the unaware where our major interest lies and why we are involved with a specific issue. Detail paragraphs may/will be expanded as new issues or information becomes available.

### LAKE SAFETY

We support continued improvement in boating safety and partner with the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 93 and the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council to promote effective law enforcement and fire protection. The availability of adequate medical service and enhanced cell phone/internet service are essential.

### LAKE HEALTH

A healthy clean lake is what makes Lake Gaston a great place to live, work and enjoy. We are actively engaged in monitoring and controlling pollution, sedimentation, and invasive species. We support research and best management practices that maintain water quality for all users. As part of the Roanoke River Basin, we will work closely with public and private organizations to conserve our valuable natural resources.

### LAKE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

We support controlled growth and development consistent with local planning boards. Future development should provide goods and/or services as well as employment opportunities without sacrificing Lake safety and Lake health. Community input should be obtained to address their concerns. Development should positively impact both the county tax base, and its citizens.

## *LGA welcomes four new business members:*

**Sandcastles Therapeutic Massage**

**Exceptional Home Care and Hospice LLC**

**Candace Teel of Waterfront Properties at Lake Gaston**

**Speechless Catering**

## LGA Monthly Committee Meetings:

Committee	Meeting Day	Time	Location
Public Safety	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits *
Government Relations	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits *
Lake Environment	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits *
Marketing & Membership	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits *
Lake Clean-Up	Last Wednesday	10:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits *

\* 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 one of the above committees, the chair will inform you via email of its cancellation.*

## *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 2022 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!

*Moira*

## **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)

**Please support the businesses that advertise in our newsletter beginning on page 12. Shopping local helps everyone in the community around Lake Gaston.**

## Draft 2022 Budget for review by LGA members

The draft budget for FY 2022 (below) is published here 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 no later than October 25, 2021.

The LGA Board of Directors will vote to approve the FY 2022 Budget at the monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 3. The approved budget will be included in the December/January 2022 Bulletin. A report on the FY 2021 closeout will be given at the February 2, 2022 monthly meeting.

INCOME	BUDGET
Interest Earned on CD's	\$300.00
2021 Carry Forward	\$10,000.00
2022 Dues	\$12,500.00
Transfer from Prepaid 2022 Dues	\$28,500.00
Donations	\$700.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$52,000.00</b>

EXPENSES	BUDGET
<b>Administration</b>	
Annual Meeting	\$250.00
Chamber of Commerce	\$150.00
President	\$200.00
Venues	\$825.00
Vice President	\$100.00
Website Maintenance	\$750.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$2,275.00</b>
<b>Education</b>	
School Superintendents' Meeting	\$300.00
Lake Learning Events	\$0.00
Outdoor Presentations Supplies	\$0.00
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>Lake Environment</b>	
LEMs Training and Gear	\$100.00
Travel and Forums	\$400.00
Habitat Enhancement	\$500.00
Water Testing Kits	\$700.00
<b>Total Lake Environment</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>
<b>Executive Director</b>	
Executive Director	\$20,000.00
Bulletins	\$6,650.00
Database Maintenance	\$2,100.00
Office Space Rent	\$1,475.00
Office Supplies	\$850.00
Postage	\$350.00
Communications	\$3,150.00
<b>Total Executive Director</b>	<b>\$34,575.00</b>

EXPENSES	BUDGET
<b>Government Relations</b>	
5 County Forum	\$700.00
Political Forums	\$300.00
Tax Assessor Forums	\$0.00
<b>Total Government Relations</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Lake Cleanup</b>	
Acknowledgements	\$0.00
Publicity	\$500.00
Food and Beverages	\$150.00
<b>Total Lake Clean Up</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>
<b>Marketing and Membership</b>	
Advertising	\$3,800.00
New Member Drive	\$1,785.00
Renewals	\$600.00
Billboards	\$1,780.00
<b>Total Marketing and Membership</b>	<b>\$7,965.00</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	
First Responders Outreach	\$1,200.00
Fire Safety Awareness	\$100.00
Emergency Preparedness	\$125.00
Community Outreach (includes Neighborhood Watch)	\$500.00
Community Shred Event	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>\$2,925.00</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Bank Charges and Fees	\$50.00
IRS Form 990 and 1099 Prep	\$525.00
Postage	\$35.00
Software	\$0.00
<b>Total Treasurer</b>	<b>\$610.00</b>
<b>TOTAL 2022 EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$52,000.00</b>

## ***We have had a very busy boating season on the lake***

The good news during the peak activity between Memorial Day and Labor Day, (I'm knocking on wood) no fatalities then or since but we did have incidents; some requiring first responders, one airlift and on a couple of occasions near misses that easily could have resulted in serious injuries if not fatalities.

Although visitors at the lake had two of the more memorable incidents, just the other day four underage juveniles were stopped riding on a jet ski. IN BOTH NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA A CHILD MUST BE AT LEAST 14 TO OPERATE A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC). CHILDREN 14 AND 15 YEARS OLD MAY OPERATE A PWC IF THEY CARRY PROOF OF AGE AND THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF A RECOGNIZED SAFE BOATING COURSE. ALL PERSONS ON A PWC MUST WEAR A U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFE JACKET. THE LIFE JACKET MUST HAVE ALL FASTENERS FASTENED. The parent wasn't aware there was an age requirement to operate a PWC not to mention four riding at the same time. Yikes but at least they were all wearing PFD'S.

Unfortunately, water safety is something that can be easily taken for granted. We all visit and live at the lake to have fun on the water. But when we see individuals bow riding (sitting outside the railing dangling their feet in the water while the pontoon boat is underway), who reading this thinks that is a good idea? Two people are lucky to escape life threatening injuries when they did just that here at LKG and quickly discovered what happens when you meet the boats propeller. Not pretty.

We pay for and maintain a web site that has all kinds of information about the lake and water safety. My wish is everyone would bookmark this site and refer to it at least at the start of the boating season. Visit us at [www.LKGWSC.org](http://www.LKGWSC.org).

While at the site, please join. A family membership is just \$10 for the year. We are all volunteers and this 501 (c) 3 needs your tax deductible donation to maintain our programs, pay for printing costs, etc. Believe it or not, we only have about 50 families and about 7 business members and there are more than 7,000 houses on the lake. Kind of embarrassing. If you are a member, thanks for your support. If not, please join us.

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

## ***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. They will also provide a Vessel Examiner at your Home Owners Association Meeting to inspect boats after your business meeting. Call John Dyckman at (252) 537-9877.

## ***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.

### **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.)*

## 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.



### 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/>.

## 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

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



## 2021 PUBLIC EDUCATION BOATING SAFETY CLASS

**October 2 is the last class**

**Course Fee \$30 includes book and all materials**

**Location: Longbridge VFD 1678 Eaton Ferry Road Littleton, NC 27850  
LAKE GASTON**

Courses are taught by certified instructors from the USCG Auxiliary Lake Gaston Flotilla. Classes are 8:00am to 5:00pm, (arrive at 7:45am to sign in) with the exam given at the end of class. Please bring your lunch. Free Coffee and muffins available. Bottled water, sodas, chips, snacks can be purchased for \$1.00.

**North Carolina's Covid-19 restrictions will be adhered to IAW Governor Cooper orders if appropriate. Class size may be limited.**

For additional information, email us at [uscgauxflotilla93@gmail.com](mailto:uscgauxflotilla93@gmail.com) or phone 252-537-9877.

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 306 Henrico, NC 27842**

America's Boating 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 to operate a boat in ANY STATE and for youth to operate a PWC in both Virginia and North Carolina.

**Virginia Law** : All Virginia boaters in the waters must have proof of taking a Boating Course.

**North Carolina Law**: Requires that all PWC and Motor Boat Operators born after 1 Jan 1988 will have proof of completing a Boating Course, if they are operating a vessel with a 10 HP engine or greater.

### ***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)

***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.

## LGA & John 3:16 Center's 2021 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 3<sup>rd</sup> thru December 1<sup>st</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.); Lake Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce; Subway - Lake Gaston (across from Lake Gaston Baptist Church); Lake Gaston OUTFITTERS; RE/MAX on Lake Gaston; Littleton .... Littleton Town Hall; Veteran's Museum; Dollar General; and Family Dollar



Our Toy Drive will conclude at the December 1 LGA monthly meeting at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church where we will present Jodie Dowhan, John 3:16 Board Chair with the toys, books, games, etc., etc. Toy collection boxes will be available at the meeting between 9:30 a.m. and noon. 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](http://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.

## Calendar notes ...

**Oct 2 - Seafood Festival, 1-5 p.m.,** Lake Gaston Lions Club, 139 Stanley Rd., Henrico (252) 586-9866

**Oct 6 – LGA monthly meeting, 9:30 till noon,** Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577

**Oct 6 – Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m.** Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 586-7112

**Oct 9 – Taste of Brunswick Festival 10:00 – 4:00 –** Brunswick County Airport, Lawrenceville, VA

**Oct 12 – Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m.,** Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (717) 875-4481

**Oct 22 – American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti Dinner at 5 – 7 p.m.** Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-2558

**Nov 3 – LGA monthly meeting, 9:30 till noon,** Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577

**Nov 3 – Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m.** Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 586-7112

**Nov 9 – Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m.,** Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091

**Nov 19 - American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti Dinner at 5 – 7 p.m.** Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-2558

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