

Membership meeting at WatersView 5:30 pm social – 7pm meet. April 3, 2024

Attendees:

Public: approximate number of attendees 53: 46 dinner and 7 non-dinner

Board of Directors: Jeff Zimmer, Eric Wooster, Brian Goldsworthy, Jane Stringer, John Cataldo, Shannon McAllister, Anne Wood, Bob Allen, Jennifer Allman, Patricia Price

Co-Chairs: John Franz

Executive Director: Tammy Clarke

Welcome

Jeff welcomed all members and guests at 7 pm

Jeff provided updates on upcoming, meetings, events, activities, and Committees.

- Volunteers needed for the Habitat Enhancement Project on June 18th and 19th and for the upcoming annual fall vegetation survey.
- Jennifer Allman, our new acting Director from Mecklenburg County, is working on a proposed Mecklenburg County community listening session, May 2.
- Lake Clean-up Committee, Shannon has put together clean-up kits and the kits are located at the Chamber of Commerce.
- May 1st: Membership meeting will be a panel discussion of realtors on real estate issues and conditions.
- May 4th: QWAC event is a fun run and the LGA will have a display booth at Chamber of Commerce
- May 4th: LGA will have the annual shred event at Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department
- June 1st : First Response at the Lake which is a focus on first responders has been postpone until June 2025.
- June 8th: LGA will have the Annual meeting and will cover election of directors and vote on bylaw changes and budget. Check website for updates.
- The LGA Directors participated in a 2-day strategic planning session, which focused on the LGA's mission and vision for success. More information to come.

Brian provided updates on becoming a member.

Eric provided the prayer and dinner was enjoyed.

Jeff introduced Speaker – Jessica Baumann Extension Associate – Aquatic Plant Management Program. Jess has been working on Lake Gaston for 5 years and we look forward to her presentation.

Jeff stated that the presentation will be video recorded, and the recording will be of Jess not the audience. The audience will not be videoed, but their voice will be recorded when questions are asked.

Jess Baumann provided an enlightening presentation on the aquatic plants, survey results and treatment. Below are a few bullets points. For more information, please see the LGA website to review Power Point and link to YouTube.

- Overall monitoring effort and the Volunteers Survey in 2023 is critical. The volunteers environmental commit is huge....you are Rock Stars.
 - Over 150 volunteers 572 volunteer hours with 235 active hours.
 - 6311 point or rake tosses
 - 82% of the sites have vegetation.
- Largest group emergent, submergent and floating suppress.
 - Primary water willow.
 - Second Lyngbya and kara. In Pea Hill the kara is keeping Lyngbya at bay.
- Eel Grass is native in Lake Gaston and seeing more growth in 2023.
- Jennifer walked through the bio maps with color indicators.
- Dominion shoreline management requirements apply to removal of eel grass.

- Jess covered how the management plan is a collaborative initiative with multiple groups determining the final plan such as Lake Gaston Weed Council, NCSU, LGA and more.

- Jess provided insight into the hydrilla history, management, and treatment.
 - Treatment of hydrilla 2022 found 166 acres - 94.5 acres treated.
 - 2023 survey shows 329 acres, increase from 2022.
 - Hydrilla produces tubers and the tubers can stay dormant for 7 years.
 - Hydrilla treatment information was provided.
- Jess provided information on Lyngbya.
 - Lyngbya has increased in the southeast portion of the lake.
 - Now Lyngbya is a larger problem with more acreage than Hydrilla.
 - First documented in the 90s and doesn't take much material to spread.
 - In 2022; 1285 acres were found, and 375 acres treated.
 - It's expensive to treat which is the primary reason for fewer acres treated than Hydrilla.
 - The treatment area has increased to 500 acres.
 - Check Weed Control website. Inactive map to see treatment areas. Treatments start April 15 and then in May, June, July, Aug, September.

Questions:

Q: Is there a correlation between Hydrilla and Lyngbya treatments?

A: Treatments are different. NC focuses on management of Lyngbya.

Q: If not in the treatment area should I get treatment?

A: Yes, private treatment is important.

Q: Is frequency of treatment the same for private treatment as it is for your treatment plan?

A: Each private company has their own treatment. Share information with neighbors.

Q: Are there special triggers that promote Lyngbya growth?

A: There are several factors for growth. Lyngbya likes water temperature at 85 degrees. This water temperature will cause surface mats to grow up.

Q: How deep of water will Lyngbya grow in?

A: Up to 9 feet has been seen.

Q: Does it move up to shore?

A: Has been seen along shore. Not sure what is causing movement, possibility wind. There have been studies attempting to determine cause without success.

Q: Do any other lakes have the Lyngbya issue?

A: Yes. Lake Gaston is leading the way in monitoring. Lake Gaston treatment program is running well, but is limited due to funding.

Q: Is there any Federal government aid for treatment?

A: No, not currently. Lyngbya is not considered an invasive species.

Q: What can we do to help promote and contribute?

A: Become part of survey effort, and proactive management; keep lawn waste and debris out of the lake, contact State and County officials for funding. Language needs to be more open.

Q: Are you working with **NCDEQ**?

A: No one working with them on Lyngbya. We are working with them on Hydrilla.

Q: What are the hazards of handling Lyngbya?

A: Lyngbya can produce toxins. When it dries toxins can become airborne. Don't mess with it.

Q: There is a lot of eel Grass in Jimmy's Creek, what can be done?

A: It is native and there are benefits. Jimmys Creek has an excess amount of it. Dominion's regulations and management options apply. Protected by shoreline management plan. Please contact Dominion.

Q: How can Dominion's shoreline management plan be changed?

A: Every 5 years the public can come to make comments to the Shoreline Management Plan. Express concerns at the public meetings Dominion holds.

Jeff thanked Jess for her presentation and the attendees for their participation. The LGA is critical in supporting the quality of the lake and couldn't do it without your support.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm