

February / March 2008



# Bulletin

**YOUR PRIMARY VOICE ON LAKE ISSUES**

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

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## ***Lakeside Commons, LGA meets with VaDEQ***

The Government Relations Committee continues to work on action items including organizing political forums, scheduling monthly speakers, identifying future festival dates for all counties and much more. However, our main focus recently has been involvement with the Eaton's Crossing and Lakeside Commons projects.

First, there has been no feedback concerning the request for about 120 boat slips for Eaton's Crossing. We understand it is currently being reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). You may recall that the LGA has gone on record as opposing this request because we believe it violates the current guidelines outlined in Dominion's Shoreline Management Plan.

Second, the request by Lakeside Commons to construct a wastewater treatment facility that would discharge the processed water into Pea Hill Creek is ongoing. A representative from the LGA, President of the Roanoke River Basin Association, President of a nearby homeowners association, the Director of Public Utilities for the City of Norfolk and an attorney who is a friend of Lake Gaston met with high ranking representatives from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VaDEQ) on January 22, 2008.

It was a productive 90 minute meeting which we believe had some positive and encouraging news for Lake Gaston. Here are a few highlights:

- Performance standards will be set by VaDEQ that the applicant must agree to follow that are based on the lake being a "pond of water" not a river. Therefore the standards will be much more stringent. They will include a limitation of nutrient discharge that might support the growth of hydrilla. These standards may be so stringent that it may be too expensive for the applicant to proceed with the project.
- The Virginia Water Quality Review Board will make the final decision (This board is politically appointed.) We will need to involve Senator Ruff and Delegate Wright in this effort.
- If this request goes forward, there will be a public comment period and public hearing (comments must be fact based and not on emotions, i.e., "not in my backyard.") These comments will be reviewed by the VaDEQ.
- The applicant must document a long term operational and management plan for the facility and must show financial backing to support this plan i.e., bond or a maintenance agreement with an established company or VaDEQ will not issue the permit.
- VaDEQ is coordinating with North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources.
- The standards will not be ready to submit to the applicant until the late winter or spring—so there is some time to prepare.

There is much more but this represents some of the key points. There will be more in the coming weeks and months. Stay tuned to the LGA and your local newspapers!

Government Relations' next meeting will be Monday, February 18, at 9 a.m. at Eaton Ferry Grocery & Grill on Hwy 903 on the south side of the lake.

### ***Presidents corner ...***

Well, winter is finally here. I love this time of year but many of my neighbors have opted to flee to the south. Those of us still here need to increase our vigilance in our neighborhoods. Check on the empty houses, keep an eye on strangers, ask questions of unfamiliar visitors. Don't get into a confrontation. If the person takes offence, call the sheriff and let him sort it out.

The LGA committees are still busy, with projects ranging from developing an emergency calling guide to meeting with the VaDEQ in Richmond about dumping treated waste water into the lake. Read more about these projects in the committee reports.

The subdivision Home Owners Associations are beginning to wake up for this years' activity. The LGA would like to speak to your members. Please give us the opportunity. We are up to speed on most everything that is going on around the lake. Call our Executive Director Moira Underwood or any of the other officers to schedule a speaker.

I have been asked by many HOAs about whether they should contract with a private applicator for the control of Hydrilla. They are concerned that they will lose money if their area gets subsequent treatment with public funds. The answer is yes. Now is the time to get bids from the contractors for summer treatment. Most do not ask for money now. You will only pay as the treatment is completed. The contracts typically include two treatments, one treatment in early July and the other in mid September (if needed). If the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council decides to treat your area with public funds, you won't owe your contractor anything – make sure your contract states that provision. If you have paid money up front, the contractor will refund your money, or if you wish, roll it over to next year.

One last note on HOAs. The LGA is only as strong as the numbers of members we have. We want your HOA to join en mass - we offer a discount off our general membership fee. Call us, and let's talk.

***John***

### ***LGA Environment and Weed Committees are Joined***

The first meeting of the re-formed environment committee was held Wednesday January 16, 2008. The reformation was undertaken to promote greater continuity and efficiency in the overlapping groups. The objectives remain as before:

Represent the LGA on weed control issues; monitor, encourage and support sound environmental efforts with the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council. Participate, research, monitor and communicate findings concerning Lake Environment; including water levels, water and air quality, biological impacts, and general aesthetics on land and water. Keep informed and maintain rapport with all appropriate groups and agencies involved in the decision-making process for each of these issues, obtain approval from the LGA Board for positions on major issues, and report progress to the LGA members through the LGA Newsletter, Website, and other means of communications.

At this time the committee has four sub-committees with co-chairs:

- Weeds
- Lake Environment Monitors LEMs
- Sedimentation and Erosion
- LGAAlert

An overall chairman/coordinator will be announced soon.

## ***From the desk of the Executive Director ...***

The intent of our Bi-monthly Bulletin is to keep you up-to-date more frequently. We changed over to this format with the December/January 2006 Bulletin that replaced our previous method of bringing you information from the LGA in our Quarterly Newsletters. As you know, you have the choice to receive your Bulletin through the US mail, email, or both ways – whatever works for you.

LGA members who share their email address with us receive information from the LGA in between Bulletins. Incidentally, of our 1,251 members, 921 have an email address. We have our overall membership email list, and one for each of the counties.

To all members with email addresses, we let you know when the next bi-monthly Bulletin is available on our website, water advisories, Lake Gaston Weed Control Council agendas; speaker information for our next monthly meeting, a public hearing that may affect all members and anything else that applies to all members that can't wait until the next Bulletin. On average about two emails a month.

So that you have the opportunity to see what is going on in your county government each month, we send you the upcoming agendas for: Commissioner/Supervisor meetings, and Planning/Zoning which includes notices of Public Hearings. You only get your particular county's agendas. About three emails a month.

We have feedback from our members that they enjoy and look forward to receiving this county level of information, as well as the information that goes to all members with email.

Any information that comes from us will have LGA at the beginning of the subject, for example ... Subject: LGA: Status of Va legislation HB 1627 and later SB 1241 and will come From: LGA Executive Director. Then you have the option to open or delete.

Please remember to keep us in mind when your email address changes, so we can update your database record. I've tried changing earthlink.net to embarqmail.com and that doesn't always work.

Changing the subject ... one of our members called to find out the date for this year's Lake Gaston Firework Display, so I thought it would be a good opportunity to let you know how the date is set. Longbridge Volunteer Fire Department organizes the display and the date is set by the pyrotechnic company around the end of February. We should have that date for our April/May Bulletin. But for vacation planning purposes, we will send an email as soon as we know.

The fireworks display is paid for through donations that are accepted any time of the year and can be mailed to Longbridge VFD, c/o Kendra Pierce, P.O. Box 133, Vaughn, NC 27586, memo: Fireworks. You may want to consider an advertisement in their ad booklet which is not just for businesses – non-profits, property owner associations, and individuals advertise too, like surprising a loved one with a "Happy Anniversary," spot. And, there is a special page dedicated to non-ads listing others that have made donations of \$10 or more. Deadline to be included in the ad booklet is mid April. For more information you can contact Roy or Kendra Pierce at (252) 586-4332.

***Moir***

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## ***P&D Seek Consistent Development Standards***

The Committee continues to work to define recommendations that can be taken to the County governments around the Lake to promote consistent development standards. There was no meeting in December. The action that we have concentrated on recently was formulating and flushing out our recommendations for development standards for single family, and multi-family residential subdivisions.

We have concluded our initial discussion of standards to be recommended for new single-family dwelling construction, and have initiated discussion of objectives for standards for new condominium developments. This discussion is even more complex and we will continue to address our concepts for standards for condos in the next several months.

We also look forward to reviewing progress on the mapping project of the area we have initially labeled the Planning and Development Influence Zone.

If there are members or acquaintances that have experience in community/county development and planning who would be willing to work on this activity please contact us through [jacksaunders@embarqmail.com](mailto:jacksaunders@embarqmail.com). Monthly meetings are held the third Friday of the month at 8:30 at the Eaton's Ferry Grocery and Grill on Hwy 903 south of the lake.

## ***NC Safe Boating Alliance Kickoff***

The LGA Public Safety Committee continues to support North Carolina Legislative action for Boating Safety Training parallel to that passed in the last session of the Commonwealth of Virginia's House of Delegates and Senate. Meetings with Rep. Michael H. Wray have led to his offer to provide sponsorship legislation in the next full legislative session. Rep. Wray has offered to sponsor a meeting of potentially interested supporters of such boater safety training legislation in the January/February time frame in Raleigh. Rep. Wray and his office in Raleigh are working to identify an appropriate date, time and location for kickoff meetings both with the NC Wildlife Commission and the 17 organizations that have shown interest in participating in a NC Safe Boating Alliance. These initial meetings are still anticipated in late January and/or early February.

We have continued to work to identify all the fire districts that service properties around the Lake. George Kimble (safety committee member) sought assistance from Butch Garnett (Chief of the Roanoke Wildwood VFD) to get a complete identification of the Fire Districts around the Lake in both Virginia and North Carolina. We now have this information and will work to create a list of subdivisions in the Fire Districts and to prepare the handouts for distribution to all citizens around the Lake.

The Committee wishes to emphasize once more that in using cell phones around the lake, there are few cell phone companies with full service in the area and in many instances the cell phones are in roaming mode. The closest some of those phones can be located is the nearest tower that the signal hits. Without a number of nearby towers, there is no good method for GPS location. It is very important when calling 911 from a cell phone to very clearly identify the specific location one is calling from and to ask where the 911 center answering is located.

We would also recommend to citizens and taxpayers to take part in local government budget activities. There are over the course of a year a number of complaints about the long response time of law enforcement and emergency medical services. As is totally human, we all see truth from a personal perspective. We all live in fairly large counties with lots of square miles, low populations and limited county resources. We live in a society that recognizes no distinction in the provision of public services to the population. For that reason, we all suffer from not being in a big budget city with fast response at great expense. Things can be better, but they need to be better for all the citizens of the counties. For improvements in the presence of law enforcement and to reduce emergency response times all citizens need to participate in the county government budget processes. Go to the Commissioners and Supervisors meetings and support increased law enforcement and emergency services budgets for the entire county. Talk to your elected officials one-on-one and encourage them to support increased budgets for law enforcement and emergency response. Remember that you can make a difference.

The next meeting of the LGA Public Safety Committee will be on 14 Mar 2008 at 0830 at the Eaton's Ferry Grocery and Grill on Hwy 903 on the south side of the lake.

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## ***US Coast Guard Auxiliary 2008 Training Dates***

<p><b>March 29, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16 and September 20</b></p>
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**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 for youth to operate a PWC in both Virginia and North Carolina. Courses are taught at the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 93 Building, located at 252 River Road, (Route 1214), Henrico, 1/4 mile south of Route 46. All classes are on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the exam given at the end of class. Please bring your lunch - none will be provided. The fee for the course is \$30.

**Preregistration and prepayment are required** and may be accomplished by calling the Lake Gaston Gazette, (252) 586-2700, or stopping by their office at 378 Lizard Creek Road, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration and payment must be completed no later than one week prior to the course date. Checks, made out to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, may be dropped off at the Gazette, or mailed to the Lake Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1166, Littleton, NC 27850, Attn: Boating Safety Course.

### Thanks for Your Support – Please Spread the Word

The LGA represents 1,251 households and businesses and greatly appreciates you adding your voices, so the LGA has a strong presence with government and the community.

The 2007 new memberships grew from 2006. Renewals for 2008 have been very good so far. Thank you for renewing, and telling a friend. You are our best resource for new members. We will discuss four possible recruiting methods for households at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting, at the Eaton Ferry Grill and Grocery, at 10:00 a.m. We will be sending letters to businesses to show the LGA’s benefits, and the exposure they can receive from our Web Site. We will continue the Realtor Gift Memberships and try to expand the participation among realtors, promote the Home Owner Association (HOA) discount and Lifetime Memberships.

At the beginning of February we will be mailing renewal reminders, and during March we will personally call those members who have not renewed, like we did in the Spring of 2007. About 23 % of the 2006 non-renewals did return after being called.

Bring your ideas, and a friend to one of LGA’s monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church on NC Hwy 903, near Food Lion, at 9:30 a.m., or call Moira Underwood at (252) 586- 6577 or toll free at 1-888-586-6577, or e-mail her at ExecDir@LakeGastonAssoc.com. By the way, the idea for the Lifetime Membership came from an attendee at one of our monthly meetings.

We have included a membership application form. Please help us increase our membership numbers by sharing your Bulletin with a neighbor and encouraging them to join. We’ve positioned the form so that its removal won’t impair your Bulletin when it is returned to you.

### LGA NEEDS YOU!

Your Lake Gaston Association is in need of directors. To insure that the LGA’s work continues to preserve the quality of life that brought us to beautiful Lake Gaston, we need your expertise. Directors are currently needed in Brunswick and Halifax counties. Contact Nomination Chair Laura Kolb at (252) 586-4705, or email, [laurakolb@embarqmail.com](mailto:laurakolb@embarqmail.com)



### LGA APPLICATION FORM

Dues are for Calendar Year (January-December)

PLEASE INDICATE:  New Member

Renewal  
 Address Change  E-Mail Change

PAYMENT IS FOR:

\$ 25 General Membership  \$ 50 **Bronze**  
 \$100 **Silver**  \$500 **Platinum**  
 \$250 **Gold**  \$250 **Lifetime**

Name(s) or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Resident  Full-time or  Part-time

Lake Property  House  Lot  Multiple

Subdivision \_\_\_\_\_

Lot # \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

LAKE ADDRESS: (#/Street/City/State/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: (If different) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE @ Lake: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND NEWSLETTERS:  E-Mail  US Mail

Please tell us how you first heard of the LGA  
(i.e., newspaper, LGA newsletter, neighbor, brochure,  
webste, radio, etc.)

THANK YOU!

**A Special Thanks** to our **SUPPORTING Members** who will be contributing a higher level of Financial support in 2008 so the LGA can approach its mission and goals with greater scope and influence

**Members who have renewed their Supporting Levels for 2008:**

**Silver:** John (Pete) & Sherry Bryant, Fred Buffaloe, Karl & Elizabeth Groeger, Julie & Larry Jolly, Barbara & Ron Bryant King, Bill & Margaret McCulloch, Sherman & Susan Merchant, Peter & Heidi Moore, Mitch & Chris Mumma, Dayle & Al Raymond, Jack & Anna Saunders, S. Bruce Smith.

**Bronze:** American H<sub>2</sub>O Technologies LLC, Bob & Barbara Ashe, Nelson & Diana Bareis, Bob & Elizabeth Bralley, Shirley & Herman Burgess, Jeff & Paula Burton III, Harold E. Carawan, John & Patricia Cataldo, Joe & Ginny Coleman, Scott & Kristen Covey, Lewis & Deborah Crowder, Edwin & Sally Davis III, Peter & Susan Deschenes, Catherine & Robert Evans, Robert & Theresa Feild, Brian & Penny Fontaine, Daughtridge Gas, Jack & Kay Gates, Tom & Pat Gipson, David & Mary Griffin, Serafim & Constance Guerra, Bruce & Sue Gulley, Pam & Clyde Hargrave, Jack R. Hayes, Ronald Helms, Brad & Pam Hemminger, Mike & Eileen Hendren, Eric & Leslie Hodeen, Wayne F. & Jacqueline W. Hogge, Jack Houston, Joe Hoxter, Larry & Joy Johnson, Daniel A. Buddy Kelly, Jr., Francine Kendrick, Tim & Lona Korman, Ralph & Marie Liebelt, E. Carroll Mann Custom Builders, Inc., Outdoor World Lake Gaston Campground, David & Natalie Miller, Ruth & Gary Mock, Ron & Dot Moore, Sylvia & David Newsom, Lee Nicholson, James D. Poe, Jr., Alberto & Marsha Protzel, Greg & Julie Richardson, Hazel Ross, Ed Roughton, Realtor, Story Properties, Ann W. Stephenson, Anthony & Julie Strange, Superior Walls of North Carolina, Kenneth Taylor, Jr., Charles & Mary Thompson, Adele Topham, Donald & Anne Vandegrift, Al & Nancy Veeck, Greg & Mary Veraa, Virtually Yours At The Lake, Malcolm & Marion Warfield, Keith & Jan Werner, Chris Williams, Bruce & Rebecca Williams, Frank Wilson, Robert L. Zucker.

**Thank you to all our members who are renewing for 2008 and our new members too!**

**THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING LEVEL BUSINESSES**

*American H<sub>2</sub>O Technologies, LLC Daughtridge Gas Dominion North Carolina Power  
E. Carroll Mann Custom Builders Outdoor World Lake Gaston Campground  
Professional Lake Management Ed Roughton, Realtor, Story Properties  
Sea\Tow Lake Gaston Superior Walls of North Carolina Synthetic Turf & Maintenance  
Virtually Yours At The Lake*

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BULK RATE  
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