



**Special points of interest:**

What is a Letter of Consent?

Hypothermia Prevention

Many improvements during Terry Ramsey's Leadership

Biking on the Overmountain Victory Trail

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January 2009

Issue 6

# Lake Notes

## W. KERR SCOTT DAM AND RESERVOIR

### CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM

Rangers and volunteers are gearing up for the annual W. Kerr Scott Christmas Tree Recycling Program. The program which has been in existence for many years at the reservoir, and provides wildlife and fish habitat in and around the lake.

Some of the trees are cabled together, weighted and dropped in the lake providing areas for cover and fish spawning. Other trees are placed in brush piles throughout the Wildlife Management Areas to create cover for small animals such as rabbits and birds.

The public is encouraged to recycle Christmas trees by dropping them off at two locations at the lake, the small parking area before crossing the dam Blood Creek Overlook.



**Rangers preparing trees to drop in the lake. Jan. 2008**

For more information, call 336-921-3390.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Work on the Environmental Education Center presses on. Sheetrock is being installed along with the electrical wiring. The heating system has already been installed and contractors are working on the restrooms. Volunteers have worked hundreds of hours in the newest addition to W. Kerr Scott Lake.

Rangers, certified by the state of North Carolina as Environmental Educators are already planning programs

and activities.

A smartboard donated by a member of Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake is ready to be installed in the classroom area of the Environmental Education Center. A smartboard is an interactive whiteboard system used in Wilkes County and other schools around the country. The classroom will hold up to 30 students. For Photos of the new center, see page 6..

# FLOWAGE EASEMENT ENCROACHMENTS AND HOW TO OBTAIN A LETTER OF CONSENT

The Corps of Engineers holds a flowage easement over lands located between the Government fee boundary to the 1080 msl elevation. This easement specifically prohibits structures for human habitation and/or structures which may interfere with project operation during periods of flooding. A Consent is a recorded document between the Corps and adjacent landowner, which gives the landowner and any heirs permission for some type of activity within the flowage easement.

**Structures and activities which require a Consent. Examples include, but are not limited to:**

- Septic Repair Area (tail-lines)
- Sheds
- Roads
- Fences
- Gazebos

## **Prohibited Structures in the Flowage Easement**

- Structures for human habitation
- Wells/well houses
- Campers or other temporary human habitation
- Attachments to houses such as: decks, steps
- Basements
- Septic Tanks



**Deer Stand Encroachment**

To request a consent for the activities listed above send a letter describing your request and the type of activity or structure with dimensions. In addition, a copies of your property deed, plat map and current survey (if available) are required. Requests should be forwarded to:

**W. Kerr Scott Reservoir; Attention: Terry Ramsey**

**499 Reservoir Road**

**Wilkesboro, NC 28697**

# PREPARE FOR YOUR DOCK INSPECTION



- Gaps between the gangwalk and dock should be no greater than 2 inches.
- Missing boards should be replaced immediately.
- Underbrushing area is limited to 50'. (Usually 25' on either side of the dock.)
- Gangwalks should be anchored correctly to the shoreline using approved poles and cables attached to pins on the shoreline.

- Ensure that Four 3" Orange Reflectors are in place.
- Rotten and/or damaged boards should be removed and replaced.
- Loose boards should be reattached.
- Excessive personal items related to water recreation should be removed during off season.
- No modifications should be made without prior approval.



These are just a few items rangers look for during routine inspections. If you have any questions, please contact the Visitor Assistance Center at 336-921-3390.

Both dock examples shown above have been repaired!

## MEET OUR STAFF.....



Terry Ramsey has been the Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir since September 2002. Since his duty began Terry has implemented many improvements and additions. Most recently, his vision for a Regional Environmental Education Center has sparked much interest in the community. The Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake, have worked diligently to obtain funding for the center. Many of “Friends” members have volunteered countless hours to install walls and sheetrock in the new center.

The Forests Edge Amphitheater in Fort Hamby Park completed in 2006 was another of Terry’s goals. Bandits Roost Campground will have 50 amp service at all campsites with electricity when the park opens for the 2009 season. Several new campsites were added in 2008. Fort Hamby Park camping area has been totally renovated under Terry’s supervision and was re-opened in 2006. In addition, many of the day use shelters have been renovated.

Terry is a licensed professional Forester and was previously the Assistant Operations Manager at John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir in Boydton, Virginia. Under his leadership, W. Kerr Scott was awarded the National Project of the Year Award in 2007 and he was the 2006 recipient of the prestigious Legends Award.



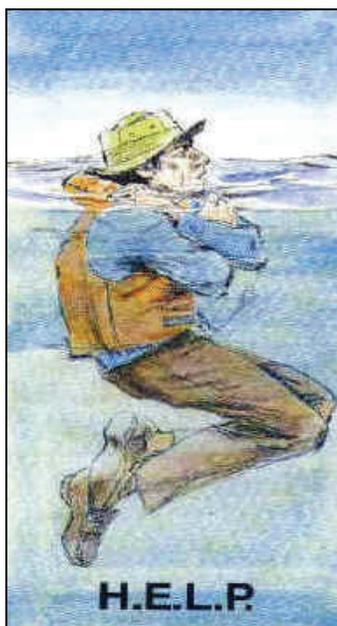
Forest's Edge Amphitheater, Fort Hamby Park



Keowee Park Day Use Shelter

# WINTER RECREATION AND WATER SAFETY

- Hypothermia means losing heat faster than your body can produce it.
- Alcohol doesn't make you warmer, but it does impair balance, coordination and judgment.
- Hypothermia kills by eliminating your ability to swim and stay afloat.
- Hypothermia symptoms include continual shivering, numbness, poor coordination, slurred speech and personality changes.
- A strong swimmer has only about a 50/50 chance of reaching the shore one-half a mile away in 50 degree water.
- Most hypothermia deaths involve non-PFD wearing victims who had no intention of entering the water.

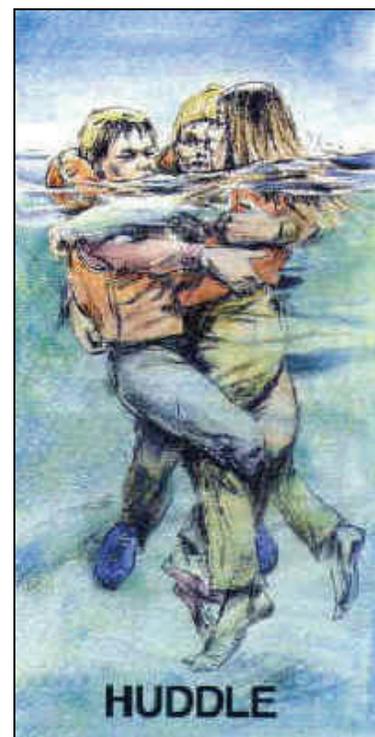


**Minimize heat loss.** Use a position known as heat escape lessening position (**HELP**) to reduce heat loss while you wait for assistance. Hold your knees to your chest to protect the trunk of your body. If you're wearing a life jacket that turns your face down in this position, bring legs tightly together, arms to your sides and head back.

## Hypothermia Prevention

Water doesn't have to be extremely cold to cause hypothermia. Any water that's colder than body temperature causes heat loss. Water that's colder than 70 F can quickly begin to cause hypothermia. The following tips may increase your survival time in cold water, if you accidentally fall in:

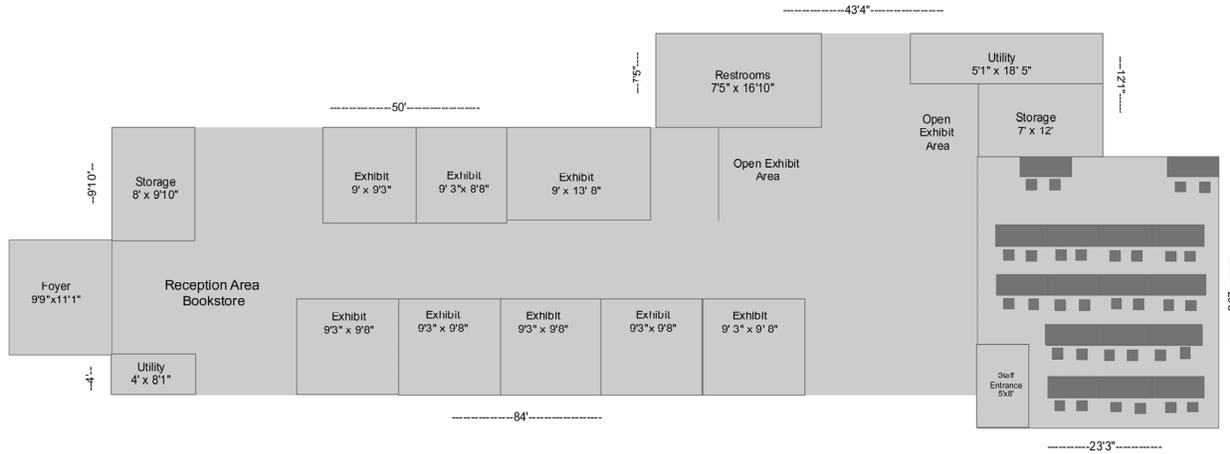
- Wear your life jacket. If you plan to ride in a watercraft, wear a life jacket. A life jacket can help you stay alive longer in cold water by allowing you to float without using energy and providing some insulation.
- Remain Calm. If you can't swim to safety, stay calm. Unnecessary movements require you to exert extra energy and lose body heat.
- Don't remove your clothing. Buckle, button and zip up your clothes. Cover your head if you have a hood. The layer of water between your clothing and your body will be warmed and help insulate you.
- Don't attempt to swim unless you're close to safety. Unless a boat, another person or a life jacket is close by, stay put. Swimming expends extra energy, lowers body temperature and can shorten survival time.



**HUDDLE** with others. If you have fallen into cold water with others, keep warm by forming a tight circle as shown above.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PROGRESS

## Environmental Education Center Floorplan



Friends of the W. Kerr Lake volunteers Mike Kennedy and Gerry Poquette install sheet-rock in the Environmental Education Center.



Environmental Education Center Classroom

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE IMPACTS (Questions and Answers)

## How will climate change affect ecosystems?

Some ecosystems have already been affected by changes in climate. As the climate continues to warm, major changes may occur in ecosystem structure and function, species' ecological interactions, and species' geographic ranges, with predominantly negative consequences for biodiversity. In addition, climate changes such as increased floods and droughts are predicted to increase the risk of extinction for some plant and animal species, many of which are already at-risk due to other non-climate related factors.

## How will climate change affect human health?

The prevalence of some diseases and other threats to human health depend largely on local climate. Extremely warm temperatures can lead directly to loss of life or heat-related illness, while less-severe winters could reduce the number of cold-related deaths. Climate-related disturbances in ecological systems, such as changes in the range of some parasites, can indirectly affect the incidence of serious infectious diseases. Climate change has already caused an earlier onset of the spring pollen season in Europe and North America. In addition, warm temperatures can increase air and water pollution, which in turn harm human health.

## How will climate change affect agriculture?

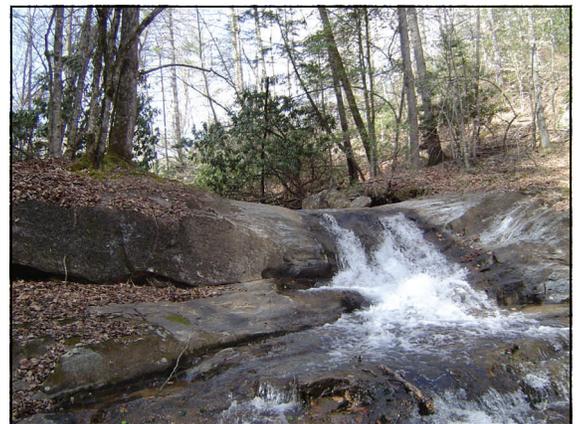
Agriculture is highly sensitive to climate variability and weather extremes, such as droughts, floods, and severe storms. The forces that shape our climate are also critical to farm productivity. Some aspects of projected climate change are predicted to increase food production (e.g., longer growing season, increased precipitation), but weather extremes (increased potential for droughts, floods, and heat waves) will likely have adverse effects, so the net effect on agriculture will vary depending on how these factors play out at a regional scale.

## How will climate change affect Polar Regions?

Polar Regions are expected to warm more than any other parts of the world. In part, this is because ice has greater reflectivity (also known as albedo) than ocean or land. Melting of highly reflective snow and ice reveals darker land and ocean surfaces, which increases absorption of the sun's heat and further warms the planet, especially in those regions. Melting due to climate change is expected to reduce the size and extent of the polar ice caps, even after taking into account the potential for more snow and ice accumulation atop the ice sheets due to increased precipitation.

## How will climate change affect precipitation?

Researchers estimate that rising global temperatures in the past century have led to about a 5 percent increase of atmospheric water vapor over the oceans. Because precipitation is generated mainly by weather systems that feed on the water vapor stored in the atmosphere, this has generally increased the intensity of precipitation and the risk of heavy rain and snow events. As the climate continues to warm, atmospheric concentrations of water vapor are predicted to continue to rise, leading to an increase in the global average amount of precipitation, at least partly through less frequent, more intense storm systems. Higher temperatures also increase evaporation, accelerating the drying of land surfaces and leading to droughts in some areas. A warmer climate may reduce snowpacks in mountains such as those in western North America, also leading to seasonal droughts. Thus, climate change increases the risks of both droughts and floods, albeit at different times and places.



**Bushwhacker Falls, Fort Hamby Park**

## How will climate change affect sea level?

Sea levels are rising worldwide and along much of the U.S. coast. Tide gauge measurements and satellite altimetry suggest that sea level has risen worldwide approximately 4.8-8.8 inches during the last century. A significant amount of sea level rise has likely resulted from the observed warming of the atmosphere and the oceans. The primary factors driving current sea level rise include the expansion of ocean water caused by warmer ocean temperatures (warmer water is less dense), melting of mountain glaciers and small ice caps (resulting in more water in the oceans and less on land), and - to a lesser extent - the melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet and the Antarctic Ice Sheet. Scientists predict that the global average sea level will rise by 7 to 24 inches by 2100 due to thermal expansion alone. The contribution of melting ice sheets, which is very uncertain, could add substantially to this estimate.

**SOURCE:** <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/>

**SOURCE:** [IPCC Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

# BRUSHY MOUNTAIN CYCLIST CLUB IN THE NEWS



Pictured left to right: Jim Horton, BMCC trail boss, Teresa Ford, Executive Director of Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake, R.G. Absher, Assistant Manager, W. Kerr Scott Lake, Colonel Jefferson Ryscavage of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Jason Bumgarner, BMCC president.

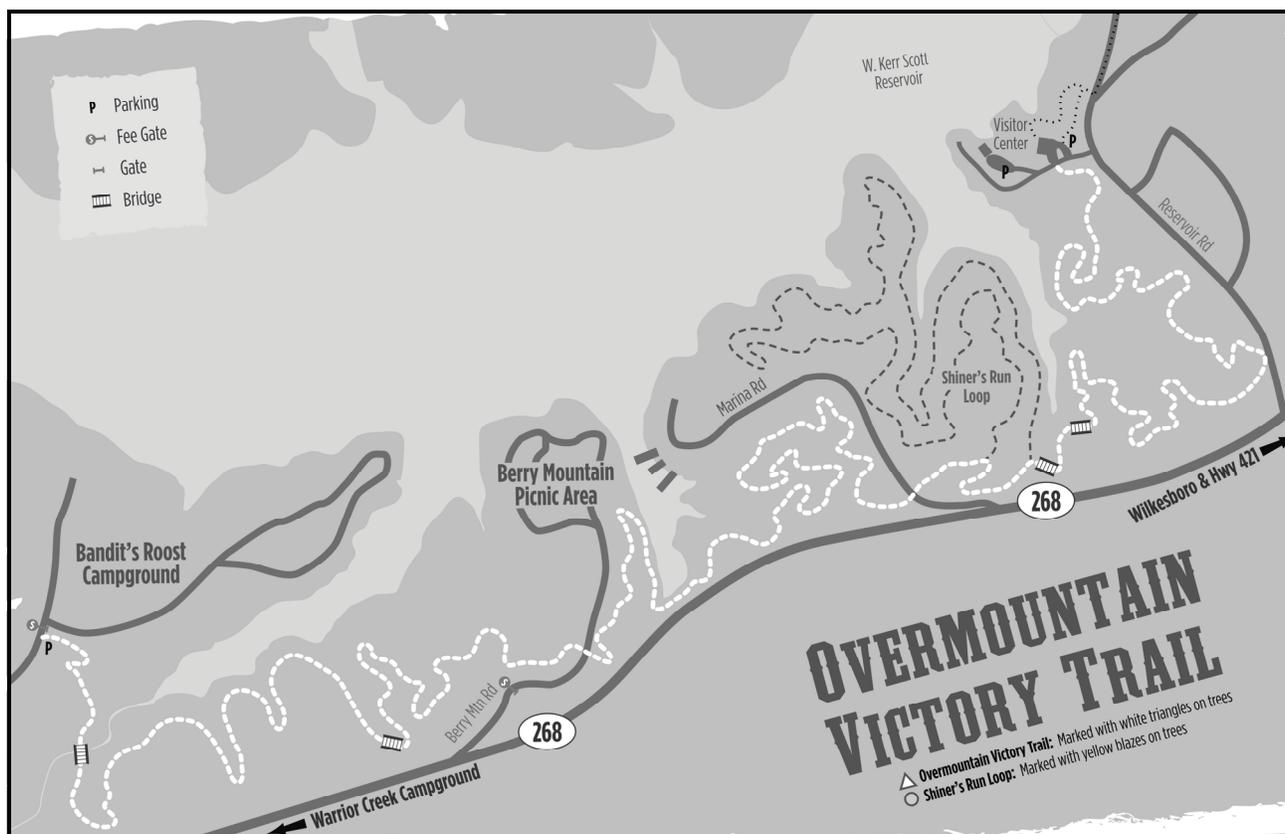
Plans are being made to improve Dark Mountain Park, including water lines, bulletin board, changing station and more parking. An \$8,000 grant from the Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority will fund the improvements. In addition, Brushy Mountain Cyclist Club; long time volunteers donated \$2,000 for the project.

Jim Horton, Trail Boss for the Brushy Mountain Cyclist Club was awarded the American Trails National Trail Worker Award in 2008. He attended the Awards Ceremony in Arkansas. Travel expenses were paid by Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake.



Pictured left to right: R.G. Absher, W. Kerr Scott; Teresa Ford, Friends of the Lake, Jim Horton, BMCC Trail Boss, Jason Bumgarner, BMCC President, Terry Ramsey, Operations Manager W. Kerr Scott.

# TRAIL IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The Overmountain Victory Trail is a six mile trail linking Bandits Roost Campground to the Visitors Assistance Center and offers the most flowing trails at W. Kerr Scott. Nearly every turn is bermed and the climbs are friendly. The trail is marked with white triangles on trees.

Shiner's Run is a beautiful 2.5 mile loop off the OVT trail with great lake views. The trail is marked with yellow blazes on trees.

## **A Few Trail Rules**

- Park in designated areas only.
- Use designated trails only.
- Bike helmets are highly recommended for adults and required for children under 16.
- No motorized vehicles on trails.
- No alcoholic beverages



## FLOODING—DECEMBER 2008



Keowee Park, December 12, 2008

- The lake rose to 1035.60 elevation on December 12th after the area received almost three inches of rain in a 24hour period.
- The elevation was almost six feet above normal and was the highest recorded pool elevation for 2008.

- The highest lake elevation ever recorded at W. Kerr Scott Lake was 1061.20 on November 7, 1977
- The lowest lake elevation ever recorded was 1019.85 on November 1, 1978.



Boomer Park, December 12, 2008

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W. Kerr Scott Reservoir is a National Weather Service Observation Station. Temperatures and rainfall have been recorded by the staff since the 1960s. This data is available on the website at: <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm>, in the Lake Stats link.

# EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

## BOG TURTLES

- The bog turtle is the smallest turtle in North America, growing to only 4-5 inches.
- It is an omnivorous reptile, feeding on worms, beetles and snails, along with plants, including small berries.
- Females lay two or three eggs that hatch in August, September and October.
- Bog turtles spend most of their time under the water, buried in mud, or hiding in thick vegetation, making them very difficult to find.
- It is hard to determine how many bog turtles there are, but fewer than 100 bog turtle populations have been documented in North Carolina.
- Some bog turtles are “tagged” with a transponder that allow biologists to individually identify the turtle if it is captured again and help prevent illegal collecting.



Photo and information courtesy of NC Wildlife Resources Commission

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Report any illegal bog turtle collections by calling 1-800-662-7137.

Do not collect bog turtles from the wild..

Do not purchase or accept illegally collected bog turtles.

Join a conservation organization to remain updated on conservation efforts.

## NATIVE PLANTS AT THE LAKE

### **CHRISTMAS FERN, *Polystichum acrostichoides***



Photo by: W. Kerr Scott Staff

- The Christmas Fern grows in both dry and moist wooded slopes, moist banks and ravines.
- It typically grows in clumps and can reach 1' to 2' tall and has leathery, lance-shaped, evergreen fronds.
- The evergreen ferns you see in the fall woods have already shed their millions of spores.

## 2008 VOLUNTEERS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



Volunteers, Jim and Linda Needum shown with W. Kerr Scott Lake Staff Members

In 2008, 94 volunteers worked 15,760 hours at W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir. Many volunteers are local to Wilkes County, but others came from faraway locations such as Richfield, Ohio and Seabeck, Washington. Some projects included Receptionist Duty in the Visitor Assistance Center, Parking Lot Paint Striping, Trail Building and Maintenance, Lake Cleanups, Sheetrock work, and Park Attendant Duties.



Volunteers, Ed and Carolyn Segrist

# NC BIG SWEEP

**By: Ranger Juanita Souther**

Over 100 volunteers participated in the North Carolina Big Sweep in October 2008. Twenty-four of those volunteers were at the Wilkesboro Housing Development at Hickory Street with Nickie Brady coordinating the event. They collected 59 bags of trash and this marks the fourth year they have participated. Ranger Crystal Dillard registered all participants for the event at Dark Mountain Park.



The lake clean-up was very successful with Boy Scout Troops 399 and 325 participating along with the Millers Creek Student Council Group at various parks and the New Century Club with Melissa Higgins posted at our Bandits Roost Campground doing trash pick-up. Thanks to the dock owners who helped in our clean up this year, and to Greg Core and family with his volunteer services and the use of his barge to help us with the trash pick up in the coves.

Rangers Juanita Souther and Jory Shepherd had the help of Jamie Triplett, daughter of Ranger Shepherd and Brandon Barker. With all of the efforts combined, we collected three truckloads of trash and Rangers Sheila Stanley and Ed Snyder were there to help transport it to the dumpster. They hauled in 24 tires, one being a tractor trailer tire and one that was found 12 feet up in a tree! They also collected a water heater, and there were large pieces of floatation material from docks. A total of 84 small bags and 92 large bags of trash were collected with an estimated total weight of 4,910 lbs.

The Brushy Mountain Cyclist Club was busy with another volunteer on the trails at Warrior Creek, clearing one half mile of new trail. In addition, fifteen trees were planted in Bandits Roost Campground near the near swimbeach. The NC Big Sweep State numbers are still climbing. Thanks to all who volunteered!



# NATIONAL WATER SAFETY PROGRAM

**Drowning Fatalities:** Each year, approximately 6,000 people drown in the United States. Drowning is the **SECOND** leading cause of accidental deaths for persons 15-44 years of age.

What is really surprising is that two-thirds of the people who drown never had an intention of being in the water!

The four major causes of drownings are:

- ✓ Not wearing a life jacket;
- ✓ Abuse of alcohol;
- ✓ Lack of sufficient swimming skills;
- ✓ Hypothermia

***Wear your  
life jacket!***



## Boaters

- Check your boat for all required safety equipment.
- Consider the size of your boat, the number of passengers and the amount of extra equipment that will be on-board. **DON'T OVERLOAD THE BOAT!**
- If you will be in a power boat, check your electrical system and fuel system for gas fumes.
- Follow manufacturer's suggested procedures **BEFORE** starting up the engine.
- Wear your life jacket – don't just carry one on board.
- Leave your alcohol behind. Work to increase your safety, not increase your risks!
- Check the weather forecast.
- File a float plan with a member of your family or friend.

## Swimmers

- Since most drowning victims had no intention of being in water and since most people drown within 10-30 feet of safety, it is important that you and your family learn to swim.
- Never rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to stay afloat.
- Don't take chances, by over estimating your swimming skills.
- Swim only in designated swimming areas.
- Never swim alone.

# PRINT AND COLOR

- 1 BLUE
- 2 BROWN
- 3 GREEN
- 4 PURPLE
- 5 YELLOW
- 6 ORANGE

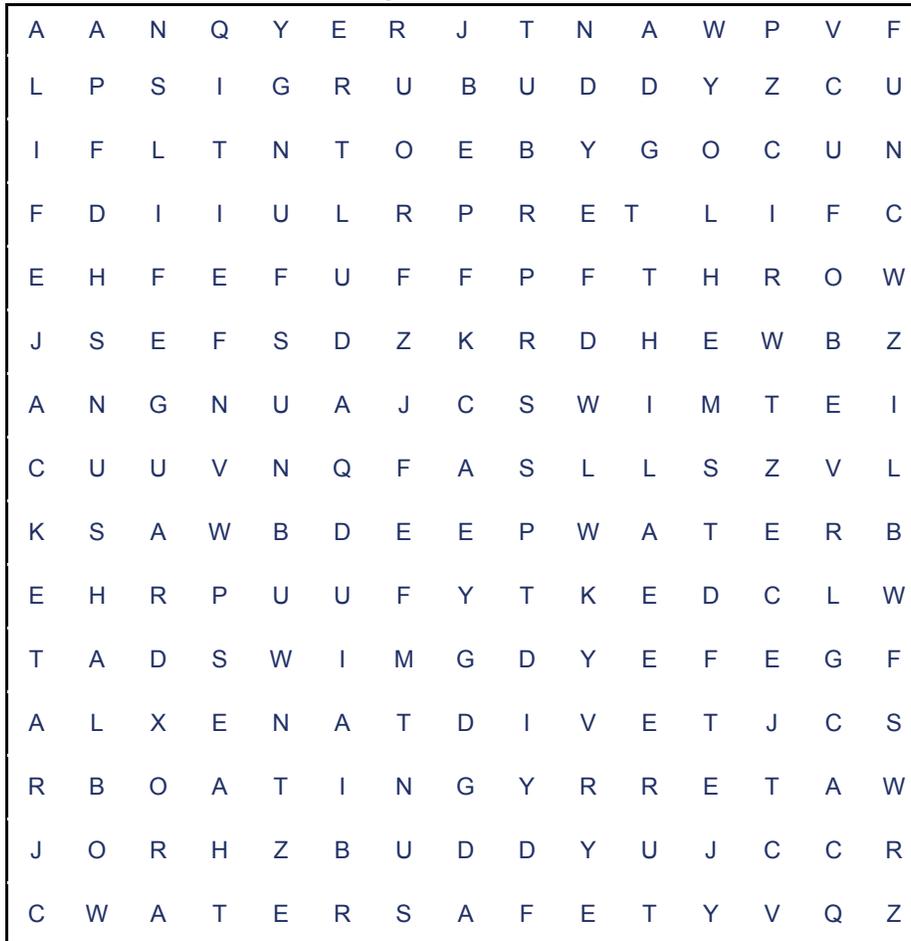
We are happy  
because we are what?  
Color us in  
and find out.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# KID'S PAGE

## Water Safety Search a Word



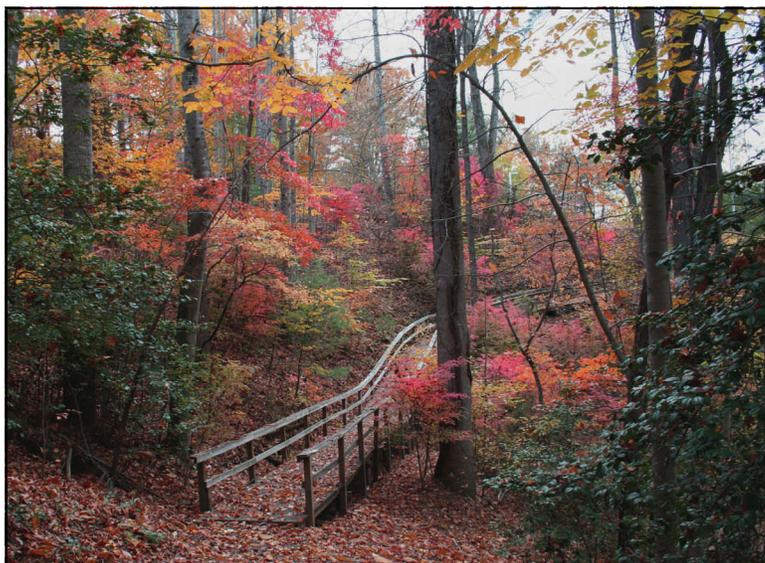
Find the underlined words in the sentences below:

- Always wear a LIFE JACKET
- Wear a Coast Guard Approved Personal Floatation Device PFD
- Be safe around the WATER
- Have FUN but don't forget WATER SAFETY
- Swim with a BUDDY or an ADULT
- Be careful wear you DIVE
- Be aware of DEEP WATER
- Reach, THROW, don't go.
- Learn to SWIM
- Practice safe BOATING

# SCENES FROM 2008 RECREATION SEASON



# LAKE SHOTS



Lakeside Nature Trail, October 2008 by W. Kerr Scott Staff



Boomer Boat Ramp, by W. Kerr Scott Staff



Turkey Tail Fungi, 2008 by W. Kerr Scott Staff



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®  
Wilmington District

W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
499 Reservoir Road  
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Tel: 336-921-3390  
Fax: 336-921-2330  
E-mail: [jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil](mailto:jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil)

## *Calendar of Events*

December 26 until...

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

April 1, 2009

Bandits Roost & Ft. Hamby Open  
call 877-444-6777 for reservations  
or on the web: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

