

Lake Notes

W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir

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EROSION CONTROL ACTIVITIES

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir shoreline areas are subject to extreme erosion. Although it is not economically feasible to implement an extensive shoreline erosion control program, the Corps is interested in retarding erosion whenever possible. The Corps' first priority for its limited erosion control funds are the shorelines associated with developed recreation areas. However if individuals, private groups or non-Federal public agencies desire to perform erosion control on government property, the Operations Manager may:

1. Issue a cost free permit for the work if the work can meet specifications of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
2. Protection activities must not exceed one cubic yard per linear foot of fill and not exceed 500 linear feet of shoreline.
4. Nationwide and regional permits may apply

Erosion control activities include:

1. Riprap, if used, must be natural stone 6 to 12 inches in diameter and be clean of unnatural materials and building rubble. Riprap material must be placed on a filter cloth material or bedding stone as approved by the Operations Manager.
2. All vegetative planting or seeding must be of an approved species. Grass planting for erosion control will not be mowed.
3. Retaining walls for the purpose of stabilizing shoreline erosion are normally not permitted, but may be considered if extenuating circumstances exist which prevent the use of other approved methods. Retaining walls require design certification by a state licensed civil or structural engineer experienced in retaining wall construction. In addition, review is required by appropriate District Corps offices.

Dock in the Spotlight

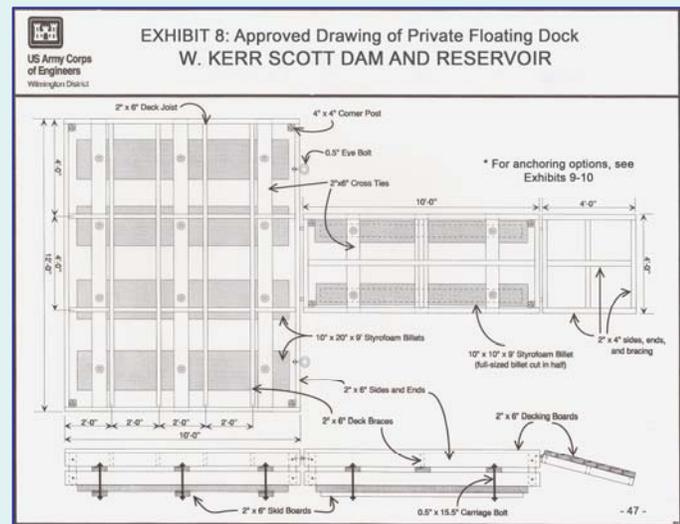


WOODEN MINIMUM SIZE DOCK

Dock Builders W. Kerr Scott Lake

Although the builders have approved plans on file with the Corps, each individual dock must pass inspection by Corps Shoreline Ranger and Corps reserves the right to remove a builder who violates the Shoreline Management Plan.

Todd Norman	336-262-4871
C&C Performance Greg Core	336-921-4534 704-564-4223 Cell
Reins Motorsports (Clinton Reins)	336-957-1401
Alumadock Marine Structures Wayne Puckett	800-849-5511 252-438-7399



If you would like to be added to the list, email:
jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil

or call 336-921-3390 for the requirements.

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Shoreline Management Plan Update

The Corps of Engineers announces that it intends to update the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Shoreline Management Plan as last approved in February 1997. This plan provides guidance and information to the public specific to the effective management of the shoreline at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. The plan also describes the types of private use that are permitted and the fees charged for such things as boat docks, walkways, and erosion control structures. Shoreline allocations, rules, regulations and other information relative to use of the shoreline are discussed in detail.

The update will require an Environmental Review taking anywhere from 90 days to 18 months. This review will be immediately followed by public listening sessions as announced and will likely be held at the Visitor Assistance Center located at the reservoir. Listening sessions will give the public the opportunity to review the draft plan and any changes being proposed. At these sessions the public will have the opportunity to sit down with a ranger to get clarification on proposed changes and provide written or oral comments.

The draft plan once completed will be posted on the official W. Kerr Scott Reservoir webpage at: <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm>, and hard copies will be available at the Visitors Assistance Center located off Reservoir Road near the dam. The current projected timeline for completion of the updated plan is December 2008. Effective December 7, 2007, the Commander of the Wilmington District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colonel John Pulliam Jr. has placed a moratorium on the issuance of certain new shoreline use permits. A moratorium is commonly applied in the Shoreline Management Plan review and update process. Specifically, the moratorium will involve the following areas of proposed change:

- a. **Legal Access:** Temporarily suspend the issuance of any new shoreline permit where "Legal Access Agreements/Statements" are used as a means of gaining legal access to public lands for the purpose of obtaining a shoreline use permit. Current permit holders who use Legal Access Agreements to access public lands will be grandfathered under the 1997 Shoreline Plan as long as a boat dock has been constructed and correctly placed on reservoir waters. Similarly, those permit holders who have not constructed their docks will be notified in writing of a 6-month dock construction grace period or the permit will be terminated.
- b. **Electricity Within Flood Pool:** Temporarily suspend the issuance of any new shoreline permit proposing the use of electrical lines (above or below ground) within the reservoir's flood pool (1080 above mean sea level), including electrical line use on boat lifts. Those permit holders with existing approved and certified electric lines will be grandfathered under the 1997 Plan. The use of solar powered boat lifts is highly recommended and will be allowed through the moratorium period.

This moratorium does not affect any existing permits and subsequent renewal under the 1997 Shoreline Plan. The reservoir staff will maintain a waiting list for anyone affected by the moratorium and contact will be made after the update is complete. Any questions relating to this process may be directed to the W. Kerr Scott Project Office at 336-921-3390.

W. Kerr Scott in the News

W. KERR SCOTT KEEPING WATER SAFETY FRESH AND AT THE FOREFRONT

By Miriam Fleming, former W. Kerr Scott Ranger

The safety of visitors to our lakes is a top priority for employees of the Wilmington District. For those of us who bear this message daily, the problem is, how do you keep that message fresh in the minds of those who recreate on our waters? If we don't find new, creative ways to present the same message, we and our visitors become complacent about the whole idea of water safety. This, in turn, leads to increased water related deaths. Fortunately for us, we have a team of dedicated rangers who are always thinking of new ways to encourage safe water recreation which includes encouraging adults to wear their life jackets, promoting safe boating, teaching children the importance of responsible behavior around water, and most importantly, setting the example for everyone who visits our projects.

The staff at W. Kerr Scott kicked off the recreation season by reviving the ever popular Water Safety Forum. The Forum brings together representatives from many local and regional organizations whose have a vested interest in promoting safe water recreation. Presentations from the Lake Wylie Marine Commission, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Police Department, as well as the Savannah and Wilmington Districts brought methodology from very diverse operational aspects. Each agency brought something new and interesting to the table allowing each organization an opportunity to learn what worked in other areas and take back ideas that can be incorporated into their own programs. Of course, the highlight of the event was the hands-on activities such as throwing rescue rings, putting out fires on water, and learning the basics of boat inspections. One of the biggest benefits of the Forum is the opportunities to network. In fact, the Forum brought Rangers R.G. Absher and Tara Novakowski together with representatives of the Winston-Salem chapter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary who agreed to provide Vessel Safety checks at W. Kerr Scott during Safe Boating Week. Members of the Auxiliary and North Carolina Wildlife Commission checked approximately 35 boats for required equipment and provided information to boaters entering the project at Dam Site and Smithey's Creek Parks.

Rangers at W. Kerr Scott provide a valuable service to the community by recording a radio report which provides weather and statistical lake information daily on WKBC, the local AM station. There are those in the community who listen faithfully and will even call asking for the information if they happened to miss the report. At the end of each report, the ranger provides a safety message which changes daily. This year, we took the reports a step further. Ranger Juanita Souther was given a five minute spot every Wednesday to talk about upcoming environmental education programs and water safety initiatives. We received quite a bit of feedback from the community on this program and were asked by station representatives to continue the practice next year. One of the most important things we do at W. Kerr Scott is to make personal contacts on the swim beaches.

Wilkes County has a large Hispanic population and 75 percent of our beach users come from that community. To reach that community, managers at W. Kerr Scott resolved to hire a Spanish speaking ranger, who also happens to be a certified swim instructor, to fill the communication gap with this community. This move has had a great effect for our visitors. There are fewer flare-ups requiring enforcement actions and the Hispanic community is now the largest group of participants in our bi-lingual basic swim classes. As a result, there has not been a minority drowning at W. Kerr Scott in more than 5 years.

Our water safety focus at W. Kerr Scott has always been on children. We believe what we teach children now will help them develop safe habits later. The rangers continue using tried and true methods of education such as the "Safe Passage" and "Young and the Reckless" videos as well as the extremely popular Ranger Trading Card program. The new Junior Ranger Journal continues to gain steam and the "Wear it and Win" program that rewards children for wearing their life jackets was expanded into rewards for adults that are seen wearing their life jackets. Whatever the case, staff at W. Kerr Scott remains on the forefront of fresh and innovative ideas to keep our visitors safe in and on the water.





Boating Safety in Winter Requires Preparation and Precaution RALEIGH, N.C. (Dec. 3, 2007)

This time of year, the rule for boaters is when you are on the water, stay out of the water. The danger of hypothermia greatly increases when submerged, even if briefly. "Winter may be the off-season for most recreational boaters," said Capt. Chris Huebner, boating safety coordinator for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "But for waterfowl hunters, it's as busy as ever. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, more hunters die from hypothermia and drowning than gunshot wounds." Capt. Huebner offers this advice for all winter boaters:

Wear a life vest and insist passengers wear one

Wear protective clothing

Carry a cell phone in a zip-lock bag programmed with an "in case of emergency" number

Let someone know your destination and your expected departure and return times
Capt. Huebner adds this advice for waterfowl hunters:

Wear a life vest ("It bears repeating," he says. "Don't be in such a rush to get hunting that you leave it off.")

Don't overload the boat, especially with passengers

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission administers free boating education courses that cover safe operation, legal requirements, handling emergencies and other information. The course is required for 14-16 year olds to operate a personal watercraft in North Carolina. To check availability, [click here](#) or call (919) 707-0031.

MEET A RANGER...



Ranger Souther teaching kids to swim at the YMCA

W. Kerr Scott Ranger Makes Huge Impact!

Staying in the forefront of environmental education initiatives throughout the county is a primary goal for Juanita Souther, Interpretive Ranger at W. Kerr Scott Lake. She provides invaluable education resources to the local community both in schools and at the Visitor Assistance Center.

However, one of her largest undertakings is that of Wilkes County Coordinator for North Carolina Big Sweep (NC Big Sweep), an annual cleanup that focuses on keeping North Carolina's waterways safe from point source and non-point source pollution.

"Juanita is a tireless worker for Big Sweep activities," said Terry Ramsey, Operations Manager. "She started here as a volunteer and in just three short years expanded the program to include County Commissioners as well as county recycling officials."

Ranger Souther operates under the idea that debris and waste that falls anywhere in the county will eventually enter the Yadkin River system. In support of her theory she enlisted support from local housing authorities and schools to include their areas in the annual cleanup with resounding success. This year, volunteers collected nearly three tons of debris from local waterways, housing complexes, and schools.

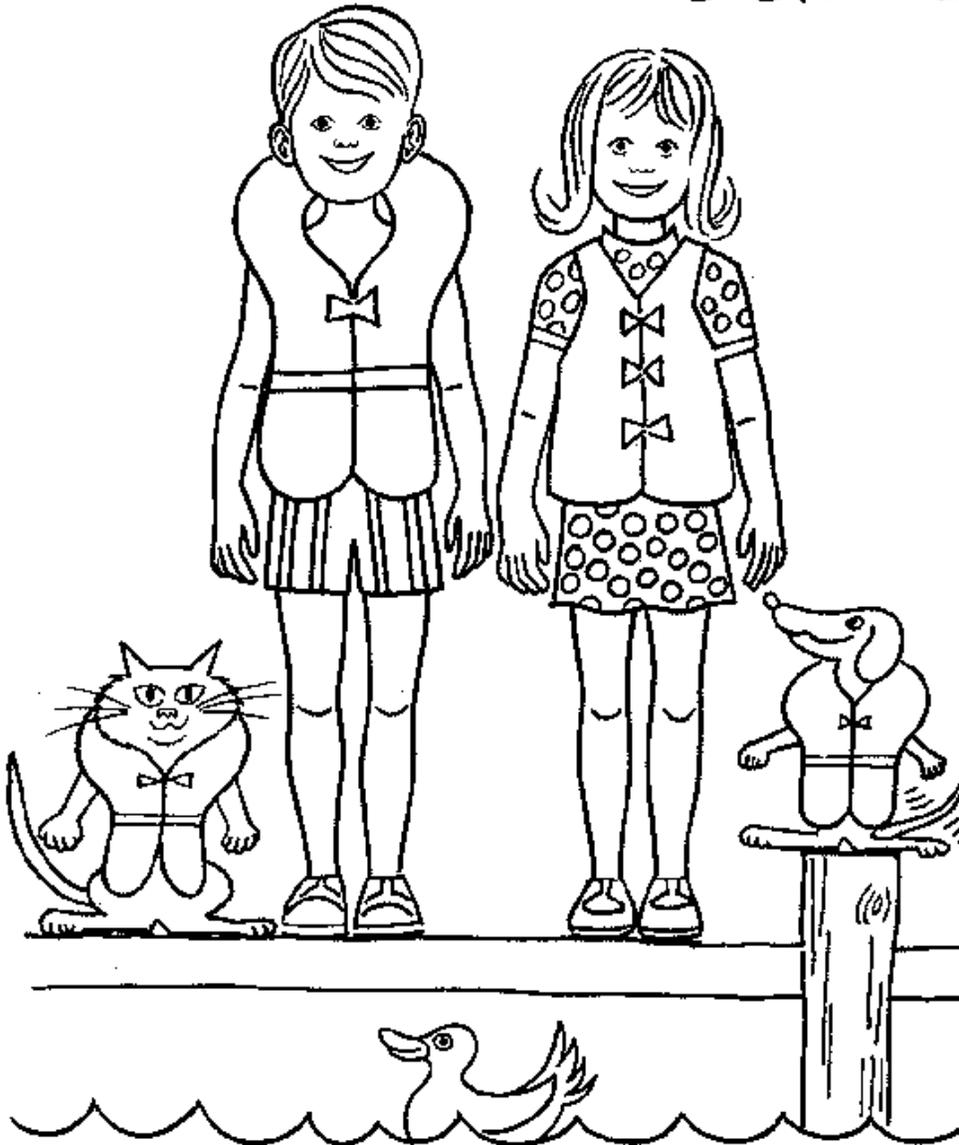
In recognition for her outstanding efforts and her continued enthusiasm for the program, Judith Bohlin, NC Big Sweep Director, presented Ranger Souther with an award and certificate for her outstanding community involvement. She received the additional honor of being asked to serve on the NC Big Sweep Board of Directors.

This is not the first time Ranger Souther received recognition for her work with the US Army Corps of Engineers. In 2004, she received the Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Council for her efforts as a volunteer to provide free bi-lingual swim lessons at W. Kerr Scott Lake.

Ranger Souther said, "I would not have received this award without the cooperation of the community at large. It's the volunteers who come out year after year that leads to our continued success in this important cleanup effort."

Kid's Page

COLOR THE LIFE JACKETS ORANGE



Print and Color!

Native Plants at the Lake

Cranefly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*)



Family: Orchid (Orchidaceae)

Height: 15 to 20 inches at flowering

Habitat: terrestrial in woodlands, typically on embankments overlooking streams, rivers, and lakes.

Flower size: 1/2 inch across

Flower color: green and dark purple

Flowering time: July to August

Origin: native

The leaf, a semi-glossy green on top and varyingly purple on bottom, appears in the late fall (typically November) and persists through early spring (early March). The leaf measures up to 3 inches (7.5 cm) long on mature plants. The inflorescence appears in mid-summer, usually mid-late July. While many plants will be seen in an area in the winter months, only an occasional blooming stem will be seen. The flowers are about .5 inch across (1.3 cm) and resemble a large mosquito or a small crane fly (hence the common name). An uncommon occurrence amongst the orchids, the flowers are asymmetrical (with the lip skewed one direction and the petals and dorsal sepal skewed the other).

Eye on the Environment



Red-backed Salamander
Grandfather Mountain, 2007



Three-lined Salamander
Fish Dam Creek Bridge, 2007

- ~ Salamanders are amphibians.
- ~ Salamanders have tails and small, weak limbs; superficially they resemble the unrelated lizards (which are reptiles), but they are easily distinguished by their lack of scales and claws, and by their moist, usually smooth skins.
- ~ Salamanders are found in damp regions of the northern temperate zone and are most abundant in North America. Most are under 6 in. (15 cm) long.
- ~ Most salamanders are terrestrial as adults, living near water or in wet vegetation, but some are aquatic and a few are arboreal, burrowing, or cave-dwelling. Most are nocturnal, and all avoid direct light.
- ~ Salamanders are able to regenerate a lost limb or tail.
- ~ They feed on small animals, such as insects, worms, and snails.
- ~ Most salamanders, including most that remain in an aquatic environment, go through a typical amphibian metamorphosis into air-breathing adults. Generally the adults have lungs, but in the large family of lungless salamanders (Plethodontidae) breathing occurs entirely through the skin and the lining of the throat. In a few salamanders growth occurs without metamorphosis, and the gilled, juvenile form is able to reproduce.
- ~ Newts are a large, widely distributed family of salamanders; North American species include the red-spotted newt, which goes through a terrestrial stage known as the red eft.
- ~ The hellbender of the Eastern United States and are large aquatic species. They are eel-like in appearance and are quite large.
- ~ There are over 200 salamander species.

Calendar of Events

April 1

Bandits Roost Campground Opens

April 15

Fort Hamby Park Opens

Warrior Creek Campground Opens

May 15

Boomer Park Opens

Berry Mountain Park Opens\

June 20

Opening Night Tom Dooley Play
Forest Edge Amphitheater

Contacts

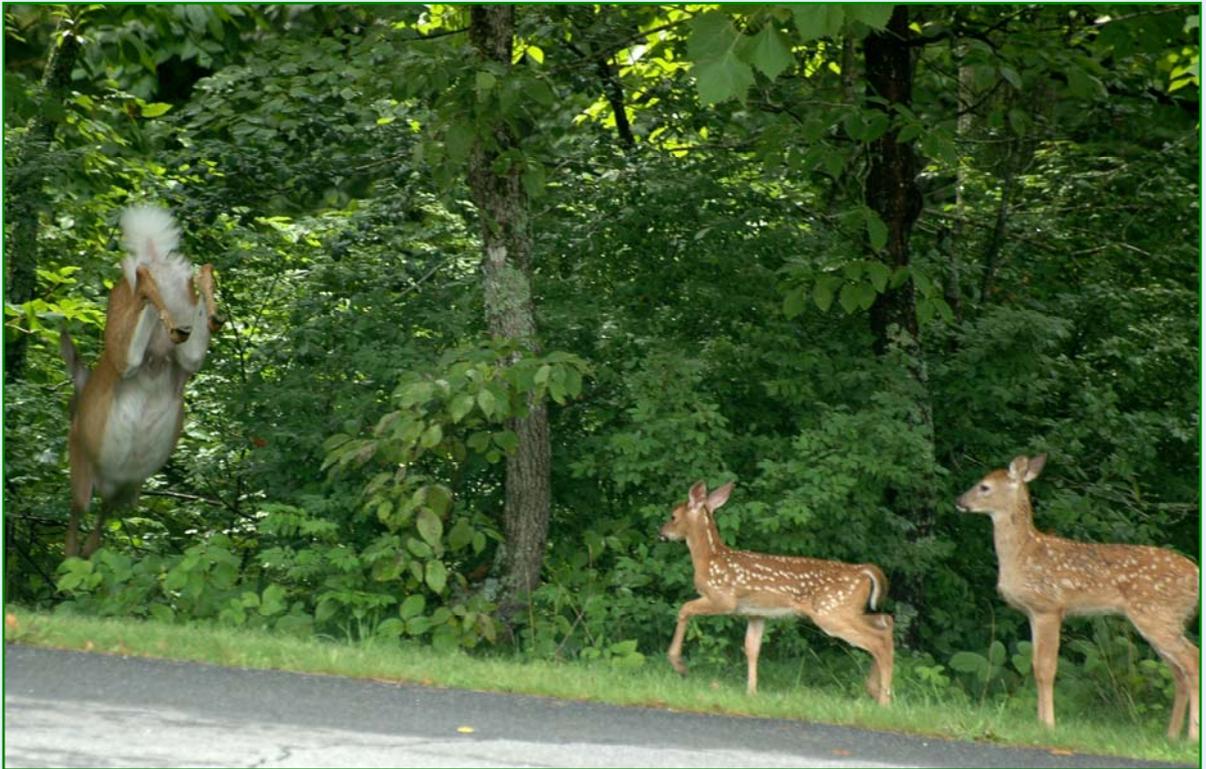


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Lake Shots



If you have photographs of the lake, wildlife around the lake or recreation related activities and would like to share, please email to jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil.