

Lake Notes

W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir

Environmental Education Center Tops Activities at Kerr Scott

By Jory Shepherd

Issue Highlights

Free Fishing!	3
Meet Our Staff	6
Eye on the Environment	9

W. Kerr Scott is abuzz with many activities this year. The ever popular “Tom Dooley: A Wilkes County Legend” is in full swing at the Forest Edge Community Amphitheater for its eight season. “Moonshine and Thunder – The Junior Johnson Story” will again play at the amphitheater in October. Mountain biking reached it’s zenith over the Memorial Holidays with the 24-Hour Burn Race and the addition of the first annual “King of the Lake” races along portions of the Overmountain Victory Trail. Fort Hamby Park is the location for the second annual Native American Pow Wow in September. In addition, the 27th Engineering Battalion from Fort Bragg constructed a much-needed bathhouse in Fort Hamby Campground--in only 3 weeks. For the fifth year in a row, W. Kerr Scott partnered with the Wilkes Family YMCA to provide free swimming lessons. This year, 100 kids benefited from this extremely popular program.

Two years ago, NASCAR Hall of Famers Junior Johnson and the late Benny Parsons partnered with W. Kerr Scott to provide water safety video clips. Appalachian State University is W. Kerr Scott’s newest water safety partner. This year’s water safety trading cards will feature the three-time NCAA Division I champions Coach Jerry Moore, who also won an Emmy Award this year for his role in the production of *Under The Lights: Appalachian State Football - A Date With Destiny*, and the Mountaineer mascot “Yosef.” cont’d on page 2



Environmental Education Center (continued)

On May 16, 2008, the W. Kerr Scott team, Board Members of Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake, Chamber of Commerce officials, and various contributors and supporters gathered for an official groundbreaking ceremony. Colonel John Pulliam, Wilmington District Commander, spoke at the ceremony commenting on the importance of the new EEC and partnerships.

Currently, Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake has received more than \$100,000 in grants and donations for the project. This includes a \$25,000 grant from Glaxo Smith Kline, \$20,000 grant from Lowes Hometown Community Education, and \$55,000 in large and small private donations. The group continues to fundraise while they await word on several pending grants that seeks to provide another \$250,000 needed to complete the exhibit area. With Phase I complete, a separate Environmental Center public entrance way has been established. Phase II is beginning and will completely

transform the once lonely storage area into a bustling state-of-the-art learning area complete with fixed exhibits and classroom with Smart Board technology. Phase III is also in progress which includes exhibit planning and manufacture and the establishment of a native tree garden and trail adjacent to the EEC.

Recent work, including interior wall construction and sheetrock installation, is being provided by a diverse volunteer force. Volunteers include a retired Air Force Aeronautics Space Engineer, a Town of Wilkesboro Planning Director, and The New Century Scholars, a group of student's ages 12 to 18, volunteer helps them fulfill community service requirements needed to obtain an Associates Degree free through Wilkes Community College.

Ranger Jory Shepherd commented, "The staff at W. Kerr Scott have been preparing for the opening of the Environmental Education Center for several years by obtaining certification through the North Carolina Environmental Education Program." Ranger Shepherd was the first Kerr Scott ranger to receive her Environmental Educator certification in 2006. She is an inspiration to other rangers who are attempting to complete this certification and as a result two other rangers lack only a few hours to complete the program. Both Wilkes County and Yadkin County have endorsed the EEC, setting the stage for teachers to visit with their students for the day. Equipped with the ECC's Academic Guide, teachers will select from hundreds of topics and learning modules for their class to study for the day.

"As I approach the possibility of retirement," said Operations Manager Terry Ramsey, "I see this as one the most important things I could have ever been involved with in my career. Providing a lasting place for children and lake visitors to connect with the environment is crucial to solving our environmental challenges that lay ahead for the next generation"

Executive Director of Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake, Teresa Ford, continues to work with the Wilkes and Yadkin Counties School representatives to develop a K-12 state directed school curriculum for the EEC. "The Friends of the Lake members ask everyone to watch our progress as we see our dreams unfold to broaden the minds of all ages through our W. Kerr Scott Environmental Education Center" said Ms. Ford.



Fish for Free Statewide on July 4

RALEIGH, N.C. (June 23, 2008)– Along with watching fireworks and grilling out, celebrate Independence Day by indulging in another favorite pastime, fishing — no license needed! From midnight until 11:59 p.m., on July 4, anyone — resident or non-resident — can fish in any public water, including mountain trout waters and coastal waters, in North Carolina without a fishing license. So that anglers of all ages and skill levels have an excellent chance of catching fish, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission stocks a variety of fish in waters across the state, from trout in the mountains to striped bass and channel catfish in the Piedmont and coastal regions.

“The purpose of the free fishing day is to show people how much fun fishing can be,” said Kent Nelson, fisheries program manager for the Commission’s Division of Inland Fisheries. “It’s a great way to spend quality time with your kids outdoors and help them develop an interest in nature and conservation.”

To make finding a spot to cast a line easier, the agency has listed on its Web site, www.ncwildlife.org, nearly [500 areas](#) that are accessible to the public for fishing. More than 100 areas are managed by the Commission as either a Community Fishing Program (CFP) site or a Public Fishing Area (PFA), while others are managed by local parks and recreation departments, power companies, N.C. State Parks and other natural resource agencies. PFAs provide free fishing opportunities from the banks of North Carolina’s waters. The Commission clears the banks of underbrush and, in some cases, constructs universally accessible fishing piers, and installs fish attractors. CFP sites are intensively managed bodies of water receiving monthly stockings of catchable-sized channel catfish from April to September. Many sites also feature universally accessible fishing piers and solar-powered fish feeders. In addition, the Commission’s Tackle Loaner Program, available at many CFP sites, lets anglers borrow rods and reels free of charge for a day.

While the fishing is free on July 4, fishing regulations, such as size and creel limits, bait and tackle restrictions, and park use fees apply.

North Carolina residents age 16 and older who are interested in fishing the remaining 364 days of the year can purchase a one-year comprehensive inland fishing license (includes public trout waters) for \$20. A one-year license to fish in coastal waters is \$15; to fish in inland and coastal waters, a unified license is \$35 (includes public trout waters) and is valid for one year from purchase date.

•Call 1-888-248-6834, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday;

Encroachments

To prevent conflicts and overuse, experience has shown that management is necessary to coordinate the many activities and interests at Corps water resource development projects. The aim of shoreline management is to provide an opportunity for the optimum recreational experiences by the maximum number of people and assure compatibility among the recreating public, the environment, and project resources. The objectives are to manage private exclusive use in order to protect the shoreline, to establish and maintain acceptable fish and wildlife habitat, to preserve aesthetic quality and natural environmental conditions, and to promote the safe and healthful use of the project land and water. Consideration must also be given to possible conflicts of use between the general public and the owners of private property adjacent to project lands. The goal of management is to ensure a balance between the recreational user, the environment, and the conservation of project resources.

Use of public land by adjacent private property owners that would lead the public to believe public land is privately owned is called "private exclusive use". The Corps' policy at W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir is outlined in the *Shoreline Management Plan*. Community boat docks, private docks, vegetation modifications, steps, electric lines, and erosion control activities may be permitted, provided they meet the minimum specifications and have an approved permit, license or consent to easement issued prior to the start of any work. There is also no prohibition against pedestrian use of any public property at the project. Adjacent landowners have every right accorded to any other member of the public, plus the benefit of having an access point directly from their property to public land and water.

Adjacent Landowner Responsibilities

If you own land adjacent to government property, please remember it is your responsibility to abide by the terms and conditions of the shoreline management permits associated with your property. This means renewing or transferring the permit when the property is sold.

Encroachments & Trespass

What is an encroachment? An encroachment is a structure or improvement built, installed, or established which interferes or potentially interferes with real estate interests of the United States unless prior written permission from the District Engineer has been given. Examples of encroachments may include buildings of any type, roads, septic tanks, fences, patios or other structures that extend over, across, in or upon public lands and waters. The Corps also looks at the destruction, injury, defacement, removal or any alteration of public property including natural formations, historical and archaeological features, and vegetative growth when making encroachment determinations.

What is a trespass? A trespass is unauthorized transient use and occupancy such as, but not limited to, livestock grazing, mowing, planting, cultivation and harvesting of crops, placing or removing fill material, timber cutting, etc.

Why Worry About Encroachments & Trespasses?

Here are a few reasons for not using public land for private exclusive use:

Money: Incurring the expense to remove an item of encroachment or trespass from Government property.

Deed: Encroachments and trespasses are documented by the Corps and can be recorded in the county courthouse with the property deeds. Most lending institutions will not proceed with a loan if such a condition exists. Many adjacent landowners wishing to sell their home and property with a “cloud” on their deeds may be faced with delays and additional costs.

Legal Problems: Being subject to a citation. In cases when a landowner will not remove and refuses to take action to resolve the encroachment or trespass, a citation may be issued. The citation involves a monetary fine and may result in a mandatory appearance in a United States Magistrate Court.

Loss of Permit: Repeated trespass or failure to comply with requests to remove encroachments may result in the termination of any permit, license, lease, etc., including boat docks, steps, and vegetation alteration.

If You Have An Encroachment or Trespass

If you own property next to a US Army Corps of Engineers project and have items of personal property that are encroaching or trespassing upon public lands, please remove them. You may also contact the Visitor Assistance Center and make an appointment to meet with a member of the Shoreline Ranger staff. A Shoreline Ranger will meet with you on site, discuss the options available, and work with you to take action necessary to resolve the encroachment or trespass. In some instances, these meetings will prevent a landowner from making a costly and time-consuming mistake.



**Timber
Encroachment
2008**

MEET OUR STAFF.....



Crystal Dillard is the newest park Ranger at W. Kerr Scott. She has a lot of experience being a ranger. She worked at W. Kerr Scott in 1999-2004 as a Student Intern. Later she worked as a Law Enforcement Ranger at New River State Park. Crystal returned to WKScott in March 2008 and assumed the Lead Recreation Ranger Duties. She is dedicated to ensuring all visitors have a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience!

VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

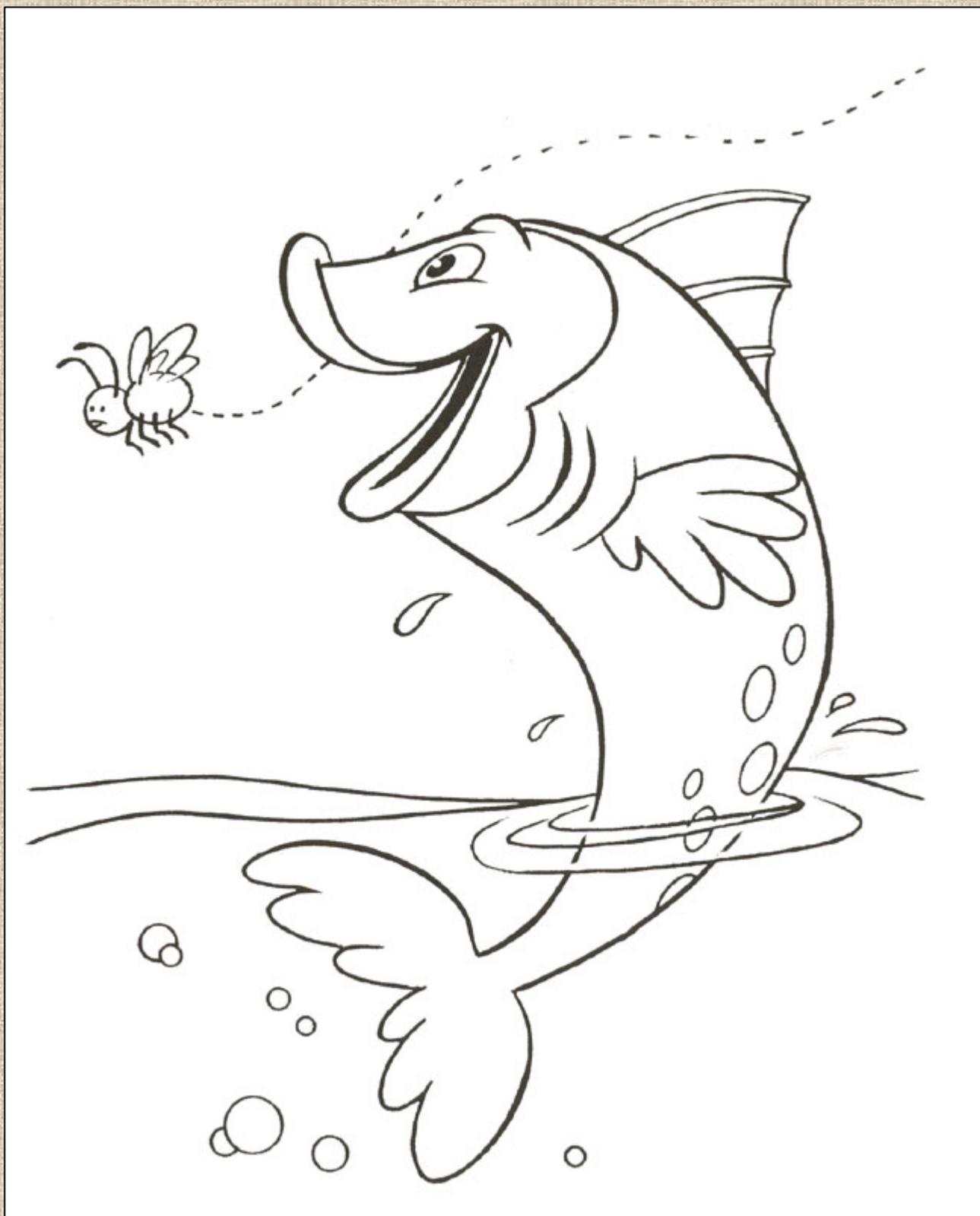
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse is a nationwide, toll free hotline number for individuals who are interested in volunteering their time with the Corps. By calling the hotline a potential volunteer can express interest in any Corps project nationwide. The Clearinghouse in turn, gives the individual a point of contact for the area they have requested, as well as written information about volunteer opportunities there. Callers should be ready to provide information about their interests, talents, and the locations they may want to volunteer.

The Clearinghouse also works from the opposite direction. Corps employees (Ex. Rangers) needing volunteers can call or send their volunteer vacancies to the Clearinghouse so the information will be available to anyone interested. The hotline serves as a match maker, pairing up skilled, enthusiastic workers with Corps employees who can use their services, providing both with a memorable experience. By providing such a valuable service, the Clearinghouse boosts the Corps of Engineers volunteer program as a whole. The Corps, which is the steward of almost 12 million acres of land and water, offers many volunteer opportunities in recreation and natural resources management.

To contact Volunteer Clearinghouse, call toll free: 800-865-8337

To volunteer at W. Kerr Scott, contact Ranger Bryant Curry at 336-921-3390; ext. 104

Kid's Page



Print and Color!

Native Plants at the Lake

Fraser Magnolia - *Magnolia fraseri*



Photograph by Jory Shepherd; Fort Hamby Park 2008

The Fraser magnolia (*Magnolia fraseri*), also called mountain magnolia, cucumber tree, umbrella tree is a fast-growing small tree scattered in the hardwood forests of the lower Appalachian slopes. It grows best on rich, moist, well-drained soils.

The very large showy white flowers and large coarse foliage make this an attractive ornamental; otherwise it has little commercial value. The lumber is mixed with associated hardwoods for saw timber and pulpwood, and the fruit is eaten by wildlife.

The blossoms open from May to June depending on latitude, elevation, and weather conditions. The solitary flowers are about 20 to 30 cm (8 to 12 in) wide; and they consist of six to nine white creamy petals. The fruit is an oblong, cone like aggregate of fleshy one- or two-seeded follicles, that ripen in late summer to early fall. At maturity, the red, drupe like seeds are about 1.5 cm (0.6 in) long.

Eye on the Environment

Honeybees ~ *Apis mellifera*



10 Quick Facts About The Honey Bee!

- #1. Honey Bees maintain one of the world's most efficient factories. The Beehive.**
- #2. Bees have been producing Honey the same way they do today for at least 150 Million years.**
- #3. There are three kinds of bees. The worker, drone, and the Queen. Each has it's own responsibilities inside the hive.**
- #4. Honey bees' wings stroke at about 11,400 times per minute, this is what makes their distinctive buzzing sound.**
- #5. It can take about 2 Million flower visits and over 55,000 KM of traveled distance for Honey Bees to make just a pound of Honey.**
- #6. The Queen Honey Bee can live up to 5 years of age. This is an incredibly long time by Insect standards. While drones and worker bees usually only live 4-6 weeks during active times.**
- #7. Honey is created as a food source for the hive to feed on through the long winter months when the flowers aren't in bloom and there is very little nectar to be collected.**
- #8. 80% of the pollination of the fruits, vegetables and seed crops in North America. is accomplished by the busy little Honey Bees.**
- #9. At the peak of the honey-gathering season, a strong, healthy hive could have a Honey Bee population of approximately 50,000 or more bees.**
- #10. Honey Bees could visit between 50 and 100 flowers during just one collection flight from the hive.**

Be Safe Around Water!



Ranger Ed Snyder stresses the importance of wearing a life jacket to young visitor.

Look before you leap. Parents and children should only dive head first into areas that are clearly marked for diving. Even if you're familiar with a lake or river, the conditions underwater tend to change, so go for a swim before your kids to make sure it's safe. When you dive in, make sure you're extending your arms over your head to protect your head just in case.

Keep an eye on the temperature. Your children might be fine in cold water depending on other factors, such as the wind, or whether it's sunny or cloudy out. But watch them for signs that the water temperature is too low. Look for shivering, a bluish tinge to the skin or an apathetic mood - at the extreme, swimming in too-cold water can lead to hypothermia. If you're swimming in the ocean, consider outfitting the kids in wet suits, which help retain body heat.

Be mindful of your surroundings. Most times, aquatic life isn't going to pose a danger to your children, but you should keep an eye out for potentially dangerous conditions, such as large patches of vegetation on the water surface, just in case. Kids could potentially get tangled in these patches and attract the interest of animal predators. Also avoid areas where birds are on the water eating fish; predatory animals often hover around areas where food is nearby.

Beware of the undertow. Talk to your children about how to react if they get caught in an undertow or rip current. The key is to stay calm, and since currents are strong but not very wide, swimming parallel to the shore, across the current, is the best way to come out of it. Teaching them to tread water while they call for help is another good safety measure.

Keep a watchful eye. As tempting as it may be to relax on the beach while your little ones swim, don't rely on floatation devices like water wings or rafts to keep your children safe. You should be swimming with them until they are strong enough to go it alone.

Calendar of Events

Until July 5	Tom Dooley Play at Fort Hamby
July 12-13	King of the Lake Bike Race
September 1	Day Use Swimbeaches Close for the Season
September	2 nd Annual Native American PowWow
October	2 nd Annual Junior Johnson Play “Moonshine and Thunder” Fort Hamby Park

Contacts



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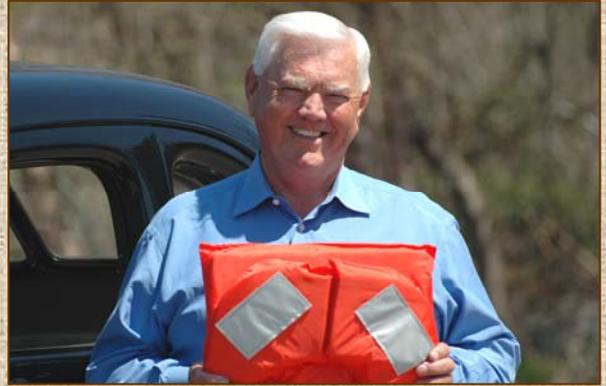


Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake
Teresa Ford, Executive Director
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Lake Shots



2008 Free Swim Lessons paid by W. Kerr Scott.



Junior Johnson – Water Safety Trading Card Photo



Mountain View Overlook



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.