



Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake, Inc.

499 Reservoir Road

Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697

336 921 3390

Sept. and Oct. 2009

by Teresa Ford, Executive Director

Friends Upcoming Meetings

Visitors Center
Tuesday, Sept. 15
Board Mtg. only 6:00 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 13
Board Mtg. only 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 20, Bluebird
Society Program
6:00-7:00pm and
Friends Member Meeting
7:00-8:00 p.m.
Free, please invite your
friends

Learning About the Beautiful Birds of Our Area

For those of us who have enjoyed Bluebirds throughout the spring and summer, fall is the time to prepare our yards for their nesting in spring. Join us at the Friends meeting on Oct. 20, to learn about nest boxes, types of plant material and other Bluebird facts.

(Content excerpted from the N.C. Bluebird Society website at: http://www.ncbluebird.org/html/ncbs_allaboutbluebirds.html)



Photo by Frank Ripp of Whispering Pines, NC

Bluebird Society of North Carolina To Present Program Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6 to 7:00 p.m. at W. Kerr Scott Visitor Center

The brilliant blue seven inch male Eastern Bluebird with his rusty throat, breast and sides and white belly sits high atop a dead tree or branch, TV antenna, or power line to hunt for the insects that make up two-thirds of his diet. He and his mate also eat wild berries, especially in cold weather when insects are not available. They rarely damage cultivated crops, and are very beneficial to farmers and gardeners. The young have spotted breasts until the fall molt when all bluebirds grow dull feathers for protection from predators. The males are bright blue again by spring.

As early as March or as late as June, the male bluebird locates a nesting site, establishes a territory around it, and sings to attract a female and warn other male bluebirds to stay away. Bluebirds are very territorial during nesting season and typically will not build within 100 yards of another bluebird nest. Once a female accepts a site, she will do most of the nest building. She builds a neat cup nest of dry grasses or pine needles. Nest building may take five days to three weeks.

The female lays one blue (or rarely white) egg each morning until three to six eggs are produced. Incubation begins after the last egg is laid. Thirteen to fourteen days later, after incubation, all will hatch within hours of each other. Both the male and the female adults tend to the nestlings. They feed the nestlings with soft insects graduating to coarser foods as the nestlings grow.

After the mating season is over, bluebirds give up their territories and flock together. North Carolina bluebirds do not migrate. They are joined by migrating northern bluebirds and roam the area looking for berries. The northern migrants usually move farther south after October. Bluebirds roost in pine tree stands and nesting cavities during cold weather.

Protecting, preserving and beautifying the lake as a treasured resource



Public Lands Day To Be Held Saturday, Oct. 10

7:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. (lunch served)

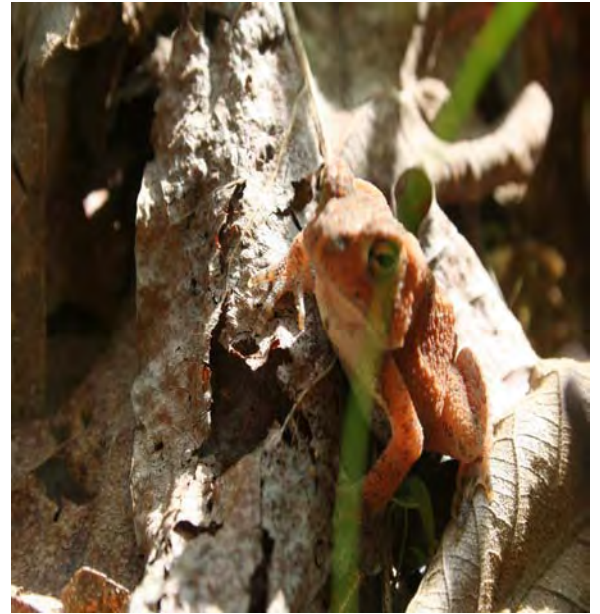
Meet at Dark Mountain Park

Public Lands Day at W. Kerr Scott Lake will be held Saturday, Oct. 10. While this event is usually held in Sept., offering this special event in Oct. will allow leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the Wilmington District to attend and participate in our event.

The goal of a Public Lands Day event is to bring together volunteers and management personnel from public land facilities to work collaboratively in cleaning up and beautifying public land.

National forests cover 193 million acres - equivalent to the size of Texas.

“Last year 120,000 volunteers worked in over 1,800 locations and in every state. Now, federal agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands. National Public Lands Day spearheaded a [1 million tree-planting initiative](#) in 2008. Volunteers across the country eclipsed that goal by planting 1.6 million trees between Arbor Day on April 25, 2008 and National Public Lands Day on September 29, 2008. Planting trees during National Public Lands Day presented a unique opportunity to educate children and adults about forest ecosystems, local tree species, how trees benefit people and wildlife, and how to plant them correctly.” (*Public Lands Day Website.*) <http://www.publiclandsday.org/>



Photos by Eileen Kerr

Projects and Events at W. Kerr Scott Lake to Celebrate Collaborative Work

Please plan to join Friends members, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Scout Troops, volunteers and other agencies in working on projects. Some of Oct. 10's activities include:

- Presentation/dedication of Environmental Education Center
- Spreading mulch on the Native Tree Species Garden
- Commemoration of work beginning on trail project connecting the Over Mountain Victory Trail
- Tree planting and much more
- Lunch cookout provided by U.S. Army Corps and Friends.

To volunteer, please call Teresa Ford



Friends' Sept. and Oct. 2009 Schedule of Events

* **Adopt-A Highway Cleanups:** 9/12, 11/7
Volunteers meet at Visitor's Center at 9:30 a.m.

***Take a Kid Fishing:** 9/26
Saturday, 11:30-4 pm, Visitor's Center. Free enrollment of first 100 kids. Volunteers are needed.

.Friends Board Meeting ONLY
September 15th at Visitor's Center @ 6:00pm

Volunteers are needed for all events. If you can help, please email or give Teresa Ford a call @ 921-3390 or cell 336-428-0561.
All help will be appreciated.

If You're Not a Member of Friends, Please Join Us, AND Members—Please Renew Your Membership.

Application to become a member of the Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please attach a check for \$25 per individual membership, made payable to Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake, Inc., and mail this form to:

Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake
499 Reservoir Road,
Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697

The Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake, Inc., Donations Form

Yes you can count on me for a gift to Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake, Inc.

I'm enclosing my donation of:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$500 \$1,000
 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please attach your check made payable to Friends of the W. Kerr Scott Lake, Inc., and mail this form to the address above.

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please let us know if your employer has a corporate donation matching plan. Any new membership or renewal will be good for calendar year of 2010.

Start a "Carbon Garden"

“Invasive species are a major threat to our national public lands -- they can alter whole ecosystems and destroy precious local plants and wildlife. As we work to root out these pests and weeds, we have the opportunity to replace them with natives that are better for the environment.

We all know that trees and plants breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out life-giving oxygen, and that is good for the atmosphere -- but which plants soak up the most carbon?" The top five trees in the Southeast that can draw the most carbon from the atmosphere (National Council for Air and Stream Improvement) are: Southern Red Oak, Loblolly Pine, Yellow Poplar, Sweet Gum and Cottonwood.

We can all make a difference for our public lands and in our private gardens. Plant a carbon garden today!

Excerpted from:

http://www.publiclandsday.org/managers/carbon_garden.htm



Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Project Update

By William Clark

In cooperation with Wilkes County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Friends of W Kerr Scott Lake restored seven acres of wetlands along the southwestern part of the reservoir and the mouth of the Yadkin River. This project included water control structures that allow for moist soil management of wetland areas for increased wildlife habitat and function. Educational and recreational opportunities will be available to handicapped individuals through the construction of an accessible pier.

The project's enhancement to habitat has an overwhelmingly positive correlation to improved water quality, reduction of erosive storm flows from the adjacent Yadkin River, and better storm water abatement into the reservoir-- a watershed supply source for the city of Winston Salem and the County of Wilkes. Construction began June 2009. The first seeding of grains and other food sources for waterfowl began in July of 2009. The initial flooding of the impoundment is scheduled for early November. Following the recommendations of biologists assigned to the management of the facility, there will not be any hunting activity permitted this season as the focus will be on establishment of a waterfowl feeding and resting area.

Special appreciation is expressed to all of the individuals in the community who made this project possible-- Blue Ridge Environmental Consults, Donald Baines Construction, Wilmington District --U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the people of Wilkes County, and the N.C. Division of Water Resources. A special appreciation is expressed for the vision and hundreds of hours dedicated to our environment provided by William Clark, Mark Luckey and by the Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake.

If you would like to support on-going efforts to maintain this resource, volunteer with special events at the waterfowl habitat area or help with special activities for the disabled, please contact:

Mark Luckey
405 Mountain Shadows Drive
Purlear, North Carolina 28665
msjluckey@yahoo.com

William Clark
125 Ivy Lane
Wilkesboro, North Carolina 286987
Clark125@aol.com

The waterfowl habitat improvement project has a significant environmental impact. Plants and soils in wetlands play an important role in purifying water, removing high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, and in some cases, removing toxic chemicals. Some wetland plants have been found to accumulate heavy metals in their tissues at 100,000 times the concentration in the surrounding water.

The diversity of creatures can be found in wetlands because of the uniqueness of wetland habitats. The plants, water and soils of wetlands provide homes to species of all sorts including mammals, birds, plants, fish, crustaceans and mollusks. Insects, invertebrates, bacteria, algae and decaying plants create a "wetland soup," a rich foundation for food chains that leads to incredible variety and abundance of larger creatures. In addition to the ring neck ducks, pintails, green wing teals, wood ducks, widgeons and mallards, this project will create a habitat that will draw other marsh birds, muskrats, fish, lizards and otters.



Take a Kid Fishing Day

Sept. 26

Free!

W. Kerr Scott Lake Reservoir

Visitor's Center

12 PM to 4 PM

Rain Cancels

Parents and Kids Alike

Join the Army Corps of Engineers
Rangers and Friends volunteers
for a free afternoon of fun!

- Pontoon boat rides on the lake
- Water-safety training
- Hot dog cookout
- Ice cream coupons
- Goody bags
- Prizes and much more

Bring your own rod and reel or use one that is provided. Bait will be provided. Pre registration is required by September 6, 2009. For more information Call: Teresa @ 336-921-3390

Sponsored by:

N.C. Fish & Wildlife
Army Corps of Engineers
Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake
Wal-Mart
Cook's

Pre-Registration form

Take a Kid Fishing Day

Please complete the following form and mail it to the address below. Forms must be received by Sept. 20, 2009

Child's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Number attending _____

Signature of parent or guardian

*Mail or bring to: W. Kerr Scott Lake Visitor's
Center, 499 Reservoir Road
Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697*