



Students learn about Lake Gaston

BY MOIRA UNDERWOOD

I had a wonderful education experience at the LGA's Lakeside Learning Day last Tuesday, April 19, when 40 6th grade students from William R. Davie Middle school came to learn about Lake Gaston from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Edward's Beach in Henrico, NC.

Due to preplanning, the students arrived already divided into six groups to enable rotation through the six presentations that were lined up for them. But first came a welcome and a scavenger hunt to get their day off to a great start.

Then the students went by group to each of the presentation tables that were numbered one thru six, and rotated until each group had had their turn at each of the presentation tables: 1. Dominion Water + Energy = Electricity - Jeff Dowhan; LGA; 2. Lake Plants – Steve Hoyle, NC State University Aquatic Plants Management; 3. Piedmont Wildlife - Casey Williams, NC Wildlife Commission; 4. What's in Lake Water - LGA Al Potter; 5. Law and Order on the Lake – Officer Zack Antill, NC Wildlife Commission; and 6. Being Safe Around the Water - John Dykeman, Lake Gaston Water Safety Council.

Each group of students had a teacher and a LGA director, so I had the opportunity to experience each of the presentations. My most favorite was learning all about the Piedmont Wildlife that Casey Williams talked about using the exhibits of pelts, skulls, paw prints, etc. she had on display. She was very informative and helped the students think through their answers to the questions she put to them.

A cook-out for lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers, etc. was provided by the school, cooked by the teachers, and enjoyed by all.

In addition students learned to cast a fishing rod, with a worm on the end, and some fish were caught. And Wakeboard World Champion Adam Fields gave a wakeboard show – truly amazing!

We also had LGA members who volunteered to help with the presentations and organization of the event.

LGA Lakeside Learning Day topics are aligned with the school curriculum in the areas of preservation and conservation. Apparently, experiences out of the classroom provide a deeper level of learning.

Turning to some other LGA happenings during April ... Resolutions have been sent to all five county Commissioners/Supervisors requesting them to support the LGA's annual Lake Clean-Up Day which will be June 4.

LGA's 3rd Annual Community Shred event will be this Saturday, April 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Roanoke-Wildwood VFD parking lot. Event is free for LGA members and

the public, no need to remove staples or paperclips, but no three ring binders. Commercial grade shredding will be done while you are there.

(Editor's note: Moira Underwood is Lake Gaston Association's Executive Director and will be coming to you every month. She can be reached at ExecDir@lakegastonassoc.com or (252) 586-6577, or toll free 1-888-586-6577, or LGA, P.O. Box 656, Littleton, NC 27850.)