



The News Reporter

Lake Waccamaw

SUMMER GUIDE



Submitted photos: Clockwise from top left: Dan McCullen, Carrie Palmer, Marc Theriault, Jan Bartley, Nicole Campbell, Candace Bracey, Anita Harrell and Courtney Ward

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Lake Waccamaw summer 2023 events calendar

The first signs of summer at Lake Waccamaw will be a race Saturday at the Waccamaw Sailing Club and an equestrian show tomorrow and Saturday at the arena on the Boys and Girls Homes of N.C. Farm. The public may watch both at no cost. More opportunities to spectate — or participate — follow, right up to Labor Day weekend. Keep this calendar at hand, and keep checking *The News Reporter* and NRcolumbus.com for more details as the summer unfolds.

May–September: Boys and Girls Homes of N.C.

See horses and more at Benton/BTS Arena and Exhibition Center

BGHNC spokesman Ray Cockrell said BGHNC welcomes the public to attend any of the following shows at no charge, except the rodeo, for which tickets will be sold.

- May 27–28 Waccamaw Equestrian Show Series
- June 2–4 N.C. Palomino Exhibitors Association Show
- June 17–18 Waccamaw Equestrian Show Series
- June 23–24 Four Beats for Pleasure – Gaited Show
- July 8 National Barrel Horse Association District 04 Show
- Aug. 18–20 Thomas Linton Rodeo
- Aug. 25–27 Remote Control Motors
- Sept. 1–2 National Walking Horse Association Region 3 Show – Gaited Show

For more information, go to boysandgirlshomes.org, then select “get involved” and “farm & exhibition center.” Or call the Homes’ main phone number, 910-



A competitor ropes a calf during the 2022 rodeo held at the Benton/BTS Arena and Exhibition Center on the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina farm.

646-3083. Amanda Thompson is equine therapy and events coordinator.

June 24 “Let’s Go!” Grant H. Egley Memorial Run

Run or walk to fund a scholarship

Lake Waccamaw ultra-runner and healthy living advocate Grant Egley ran more than 68,000 miles before he crossed the finish line of life in January at age 90. He also helped start Take The Lake.

Egley’s friends and family sponsor these memorial 5K and 10K run/walks, with entrance fees benefiting the nursing program at Southeastern Community College.

- Start and finish at Elizabeth Brinkley Park
- 7 a.m. 10K start
- 8 a.m. 5K start
- Sign up individually or create a team by going to runsignup.com and clicking “Find a Race.” Enter Let’s Go* (Remember the asterisk!)

- Early registration is \$25 for the 5K, \$35 for the 10K.
- Cost increases after 11:59 p.m. on June 1.
- Entry includes a race shirt.
- See remote participation option and “Grant Challenge.”
- Donations are also accepted on the registration page from non-participants.

Independence Day celebrations

Sunday, July 2: Hear a patriotic concert

Hear a free joint performance by the Columbus Community Band and Southeastern Oratorio Society.

- 6 p.m.
- Leamon Rogers Chapel

Follow *The News Reporter*, NRcolumbus.com or the musical groups’ Facebook pages for additional information.

To join the singers for rehearsals in June, text Oratorio Chair Paul Pope

at 910-840-5833. You may also call; be sure to leave a message.

Monday, July 3: Wave at the boats

Tentative plans are underway for another Town of Lake Waccamaw Flo-tilla, Town Finance Officer and Town Clerk Meredith Parker said. Visit lakewaccamawnc.gov for details of the boat parade as they are decided.

Tuesday, July 4: Wave a sparkler

The Town of Lake

Waccamaw does not organize an official fireworks display. However, you may be able to see individual displays from private homes.

Dates and times TBA

Welcome the return of Take The Lake

Plans are underway for Take The Lake to return after its pandemic hiatus, and it’s now under the sponsorship of the Town of Lake Waccamaw, said Parker at town hall.

It’s never too early to start training for your fitness challenge. In past years Take The Lake has featured running, walking, swimming, paddling and bicycling events over the Labor Day weekend. Find out what’s in store for 2023 and how to take part at lakewaccamawnc.gov or takethelake.org.

Waccamaw Sailing Club

See sailboats race

The club is a volunteer organization sailing and racing since 1970, said club member Carol Lawlor. Races are the fourth Saturday of every month April through September.

- Coming race dates are

May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26 and Sept. 23.

- Start time is approximately 1 p.m.
- A potluck supper follows the race.
- Anyone with a boat is welcome to participate.
- There’s no charge to enter or watch, but bring a dish to share.
- For information, email carollawlor@msn.com.

The season ends with the Indian Summer Regatta, Oct. 6–7. Lawlor said that will include “two days of racing, dinner, cool stuff to buy and maybe a band.”

WSC expects around 40 boats from neighboring clubs to compete. There is a cost to enter the regatta but not to watch.

That’s not all, folks

See ads in this section or check with your favorite business, campground, church, club or nonprofit for additional events.

Note: Nonprofit organizations and government bodies whose events were left off this listing are invited to add them to the community calendar at NRcolumbus.com/submit.

For-profit businesses may reach ameliassasser@nrcolumbus.com for information about advertising.



During past Labor Day weekends, bicyclists have circled Lake Waccamaw or portions of it in a celebration of fitness and outdoor family fun.



The Town of Lake Waccamaw does not organize an official fireworks display on July 4. However, you may be able to see individual displays from private homes.

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Boat cleaning stations are a ‘proactive step’ against invasive species

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
josephwilliams@nrcolumbus.com

To combat any further spread of hydrilla and other invasive aquatic plant species, Lake Waccamaw State Park is now offering two boat cleaning stations for public use — “the first of their kind in North Carolina,” according to a news release from the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

The stations became operational earlier this spring.

Equipped with “various cleaning tools,” including shop vacuums, these waterless cleaning stations are designed “to collect debris and remaining water from boats” — and, along with that, any “buds or spores from invasive plants,” the release states.

“These state-of-the-art systems allow us to finally take a proactive step to re-

“By taking just a few minutes to clean their boats before and after deployment, visitors can help improve everything from overall water quality to the quantity and health of fish in our recreational waters,” said Brian Strong, Division of Parks and Recreation interim director.

duce the spread of this invasive weed in our state’s bodies of water,” said Brian Strong, Division of Parks and Recreation interim director.

Hydrilla was first discovered at Lake Waccamaw in fall 2012. The infestation spanned 960 acres. Beginning in 2013, the press release states, state agencies, research institutions and non-governmental organizations began using an herbicide to eradicate the invasive species.

According to the release, hydrilla has not

been detected in Lake Waccamaw since 2019. Nevertheless, “reinfestation remains a concern.”

That’s why the state has installed these boat cleaning stations and is asking lake-goers to do their part to reduce the likelihood of a resurgence.

“By taking just a few minutes to clean their boats before and after deployment,” Strong said, “visitors can help improve everything from overall water quality to the quantity and health of fish in our recreational waters.”

The two cleaning stations are located near the boat ramps on Canal Cove Road and Bella Coola Road.

The state parks and recreation division is responsible for maintaining the stations.

For more information about the cleaning stations, contact Lake Waccamaw State Park at 910-646-4748.



N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation photo

Lake-goers are encouraged to use two new boat cleaning stations at Lake Waccamaw State Park, like the one pictured here, to keep the spread of hydrilla and other invasive aquatic plant species in check.

Legends of the Lake

By BILL THOMPSON
billthompson@nrcolumbus.com

Most folks around here think the legend of Lake Waccamaw has to do with the creation of that body of water. But there are other legends.

I don’t go fishing very often because I’m a terrible fisherman. But one day last week was such perfect fishing weather, I found my old cane pole and some really thin grass trimmer wire, tied a .22 caliber bullet and a cork from a wine bottle to it, then placed an open safety pin at the end of all that and went down to Lake Waccamaw.

I put my little flat-bottom boat in the lake down at the Wildlife landing on the canal side. There was nobody there but me and I didn’t see anybody on the lake. I figured I’d have all the fish to myself.

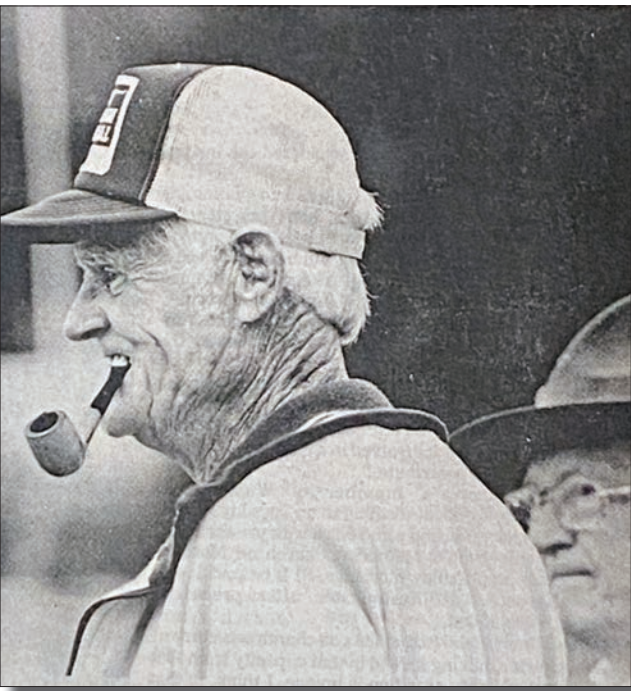
I rowed out far enough from shore to be past the end of most of the piers, put a large grasshopper on the safety pin hook and threw it into the lake. I had recently bought a little seat with a back on it to put in the bottom of the boat. I settled into that chair and just let the boat drift east toward Dale’s Seafood, hoping to get there in time for lunch.

I don’t know how long I had drifted before I saw some movement on one of the piers. As I got closer I saw it was Johnny McNeill out on his pier pruning the bountiful spring blooms that he had cultivated for so many years. I couldn’t see Johnny clearly but I knew he was the only gardener that would wear a seersucker suit and bowtie to tend his flower garden. He was my model of a Southern Gentleman.

The American flag was flying over the end of the pier and I could see somebody on the deck at the back of the familiar long cabin. I drifted a little closer to the pier and confirmed my guess that it was Frank Gault cooking something on a grill. I could see a little bit of smoke rising and could even smell the fish he was cooking. It wouldn’t be long before a crowd would gather on that pier to eat and laugh, listen to Frank and Johnny tell stories and probably tell some of their own.

As I rounded a little bend in the shoreline I saw a large group of swimmers headed toward Ms. Weaver’s pier, or at least where her pier used to be down in front of Boys and Girls Homes. I picked up the oar and began paddling to catch up with the school of swimmers. As I came between them and the shore I saw that Lee Greer was leading them. I knew it was Mr. Greer because he was swimming with a pipe filled with Sir Walter Raleigh tobacco, little puffs of smoke emerging as the legendary swimmer turned his head with each stroke of his arms. I don’t know exactly how many people Mr. Greer had en-

couraged to swim the width of the lake or how many he actually led himself. But it is a bunch, and that traditional challenge is still made every year and it seems that Mr. Greer is still encouraging the event.



Staff file photo

Organizer Lee J. Greer looks on as swimmers enter the water for the 1986 Labor Day Swim. Johnny McNeill, a sponsor of the event, is at right.

As I moved my little boat out of the way of the swimmers, I saw two boats moving slowly westward on the calm water. The engines were almost idling as I rowed over to them. It looked like they had a rope of some kind stretched between the boats as they slowly moved along.

When I got close enough to see, it was apparent that Harry Smith and Ellery Hobbs had caught something and were easing it toward shore. Must be a really big fish, I thought. Then I saw that it was a large alligator with a loop from each rope pulled taut around its big head and Harry and Ellery pulling and tugging as they slowly moved down the lake.

“This old guy got out last night,” explained Ellery. Ellery owned Hobbs Harbor, a bait shop, boat rental, and snack bar about half way down the north side of the lake on the bluff of Lake Shore Drive.

“Me and Ellery got our aquatic lassos and chased him almost to the dam ‘fore we pulled up on each side of him, dropped the ropes over his head and started right on back where he came from,” added Harry. He owned and operated The Anchorage Club not far from Hobbs Harbor and hosted hunters and fishermen year round. The two men were friends who often got into contests to see who could tell the tallest tale. The competition usually ended in a tie.

Just as I turned from the captured gator I felt a tug on my fishing line. I don’t know what kind of fish I had nabbed, but it must have been a big one; they always are. Unfortunately, there was no fish there. It must have been a dream.

Yep. Musta been a dream.

LONG AGO AT THE LAKE



Photo contributed by the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum

Lounging around on the shoreline of Lake Waccamaw has long been a popular pastime. Seen here, a party of nine — dressed to the nines, no less — sit in the sand by the lake.

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Carriage house renovation reveals architectural features ‘covered up for decades’

Upfit will return BGHNC president to campus

By **DIANA MATTHEWS**
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A nearly 100-year-old building that has served as the president’s house at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina is on its way to reclaiming some of its historic identity, thanks to a decision by the BGHNC board of trustees to repair and restore it.

“We want to preserve the history of the house,” Board Member Nancy Sigmon said. There had been discussion of moving and replacing it, she said, but “We wanted to keep it here.”

Board Chair Pete Locklear described the BGHNC board as being “very excited” about the restoration, especially after a recent tour showed the condition of the house.

While removing damage and evaluating the underlying structure, contractors have exposed original features that have been hidden for decades, Board Member Jess Hill said. Those include horizontal bead board wall surfaces and one-inch-wide hardwood floorboards that have never been sanded or finished. The spacious and high-ceilinged living room once stored cars or carriages. Marks in its walls still show the hinges that supported the original heavy wooden doors.

Hill called the house “a vital part of town history. This is something that we need to save and utilize. It’s a part of the Homes’ history, and it’s part of Lake Waccamaw history.”

So far, contractor Richard Capps has determined that the structure is “absolutely sturdy,” said current BGHNC President Marc Murphy, who showed the empty house to *The News Reporter* in April.

Murphy said he hopes the public will be able to see the results at an open house after the work is done. And then it will once again

serve as a place where the residential facility’s leader can interact with campus youth, staff, supporters and friends.

Neighbors

“I love to walk across the campus and hear the kids say, ‘Hey, Mr. Marc,’” said Murphy, who stepped into the role of BGHNC CEO in February. He and his family currently live off campus while the carriage house is being renovated. When the house is livable again, his workday commute to Flemington Hall will be a three-minute stroll down the sidewalk — or a little longer on those occasions when he stops to pick up a piece of litter or respond to greetings from some of the BGHNC residents.

On the other hand, “Depending on the urgency of the day,” Murphy said he might race to his office “in about 35 seconds.”

Murphy said he looks forward to living on campus, as previous BGHNC directors have done for generations. When off duty, he’ll be able to step out his back door and see the nearby girls’ cottage, the emergency shelter, the gymnasium and children playing on the lawns.

Having the president live on campus “is important messaging,” Murphy said. “We’re part of this neighborhood and community.”

Built 1923–25

The president’s home was once a carriage house behind Flemington Hall, the home of the F.B. Gault family, which became the headquarters of BGHNC. Blueprints from 1923 show bedrooms above the carriage area.

A story by Robb Cross in the spring 2015 issue of *954 Magazine* told how Gault, owner of the North Carolina Lumber Company, set aside his company’s choicest lumber to build his grand summer home south of the railroad, overlooking the shore of Lake Wacca-



Staff photo by Diana Matthews

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina President and CEO Marc Murphy descends the twisting stairs of the carriage house where he hopes to live in a few months.

maw.

The two-story transitional Federal-style house was named Flemington Hall as a nod to the original name of the village of Lake Waccamaw, in honor of L.J. Fleming, who put the railroad through in 1853. Gault, a civil engineer, acted as his own general contractor and completed construction in 1925, Cross wrote. It has been expanded since that time.

Gene Clare Gault, whose late husband Frank Gault grew up in Flemington Hall, remembers three bays in the carriage house but doesn’t remember anyone living upstairs, Hill said.

Boys Home of N.C. acquired the property in 1954. Director Rube McCray and his family lived upstairs in Flemington Hall. In 1963, the carriage house was moved a couple of lots up Flemington Drive and set onto a higher foundation, with a porch added and French doors replacing the

wooden doors to the carriage bays.

BGHNC presidents, or campus directors, lived in the house with their families from the 1960s until 2022. Early last year, “There were septic issues that needed to be addressed,” Murphy said. BGHNC moved then-CEO Ricky Creech and his family out and began that project plus other repairs that had been needed for a long time,

Murphy said. Creech died in July 2022, and Ray Cockrell served as interim president through January.

Murphy recalled that, “The first time I came in here, it was a rainy day. Water was coming down the wall from a leak no one was able to see.”

As contractors started digging in, BGHNC leaders realized the repairs gave them an unprecedented opportunity “to upgrade the

entire building,” Murphy said. But first they needed to make sure the house was solid enough to invest that much effort and money on.

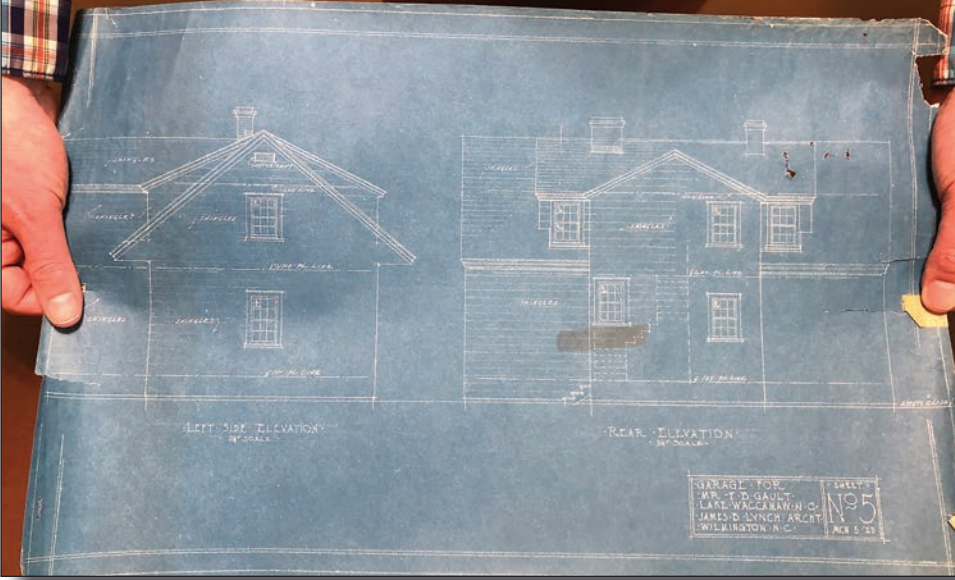
BGHNC hired contractors to do enough initial interior demolition to expose the house’s structure. That stage of work was complete early this spring. Removing layers of sheetrock and undoing surface changes made over the past 59 years

▶▶ SEE **CARRIAGE** 6C



Staff photo by Diana Matthews

BGHNC Trustee Jess Hill stands outside the carriage house with Murphy.




Staff photo by Diana Matthews

Murphy holds a plan from 1923 showing the carriage house’s rear elevation.



Contributed by Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina


The carriage house was moved up Flemington Drive to become a home for the president of the Boys Home in 1963.



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Friday night suppers are a 25-year tradition

By **DIANA MATTHEWS**
dianamatthews@nrcolumbus.com

In 1998, John McNeill began holding weekly fish-fry socials at his Canal Cove home, with the help of his good friend Frank Gault, according to board minutes of the Rube McCray Memorial Library, which benefited from donations accepted at the socials. Today, both men have died, but the library and the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum both benefit from the tradition, which continues in the form of a potluck meal.

“Friday Fest” began as “a way to get people together,” said Donna Egle. McNeill and Gault especially wanted to “help the people who came here just for a few weeks at a time to meet other people,” she said.

The original Friday night pierside gatherings lasted May through October. Nowadays 30 or more people gather on the second Friday of each month year-round inside the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum.

Participants bring a dish to share and a freewill donation. “Host” couples take turns setting up and supervising the gatherings.

Museum Director Karen Gore said other social activities at the depot are Rummikub every Monday at 1 p.m., bridge on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. and bird club the fourth Tuesday at 10 a.m. Acoustic music jams are the third Saturday monthly year round.

“There are plenty of things to do here if you’ll do them,” said Ann Fox at the May 12 supper. The way to make friends is to try whatever activity is available, she said — “It may not be your favorite thing, but you’ll meet people. That’ll open doors and lead to other things.”



Staff photos by Diana Matthews



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10 tips for getting along with (steering clear of) alligators

By **DIANA MATTHEWS**
dianamatthews@nrcolumbus.com

Simply seeing an alligator in the wild is no cause for alarm. And that's a good thing because on a hot summer day, you can lose count if you're gator spotting in the canal at Lake Waccamaw.

Despite their intimidating appearance, alligators are naturally fearful of people and will seek to avoid them. However, that natural fear can disappear if humans feed alligators, whether intentionally or unintentionally, according to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Here are 10 tips the Commission wants you to follow when it comes to alligators.

1. Don't feed gators, ever

An alligator that looks to humans as a source of an easy meal becomes a nuisance — and even a public safety issue. That's why NCWRC wildlife biologist Alicia Wassmer reminds the public that it is illegal to feed, touch, harm, harass or poach an alligator in North Carolina.

2. Leave no food within a gator's reach

To keep from unintentionally attracting alligators, people should not feed other animals — including ducks, geese, fish or turtles — in waters where alligators live.

(Aside from attracting alligators, feeding waterfowl “causes them to gather in unnaturally large groups and increases transmission of diseases between animals,” she said. And never feed bread to wildlife. Wassmer said it's “nutritionally poor for wildlife and is known to cause a wing deformity in birds.”)

3. “Food” includes bait and fish scraps

“If an alligator becomes attracted to your fishing lure, don't continue to cast in its vicinity, and move to a different spot to fish if necessary,” Wassmer

said. Anglers should always take their fish scraps with them or dispose of them in a trash receptacle rather than throwing them into the water, especially in places frequented by people, such as boat ramps.

4. Protect children and pets

Never leave a child unattended near any body of water.

Keep pets on a leash. Do not allow pets to swim, drink or exercise in or near waters where alligators have been seen.

5. Look out for peak gator places and times

Be mindful in and around waters where alligators have been seen. Be especially mindful during the hours from dusk to dawn, when alligators are most active.

6. Keep your distance

Never approach an alligator — no matter what its size, Wassmer said.

“People should enjoy the opportunity to see an alligator but remember to observe them from a safe and respectful distance, regardless of their size,” Wassmer added. “For their own safety and out of respect for nature, people should always keep a distance of at least 50 feet from any alligator in the wild.

“For reference, the length of a full-size school bus is about 35 feet long, so you could picture about one and a half buses between you and the alligator.”

7. Inform your visitors

Most Columbus County residents know the above rules already. But Wassmer said visiting friends and relatives or temporary renters often don't realize the danger. She recommends that hosts spell out the above tips to newcomers so that humans can safely coexist in the same habitat with alligators.

8. Know when to worry

Alligators rarely pose a threat to humans. In instances when an alliga-



Staff file photo by Justin Smith

Officers with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission restrain an alligator after removing it from under a home on Canal Cove Road at Lake Waccamaw in 2019.

tor is seen in an unusual place, such as a pond or ditch, it will more than likely move away on its own within a few hours to a couple of weeks, the NCWRC release said.

However, on rare occasions, alligators can end up in situations that require human intervention, such as when one becomes trapped in a swimming pool or wanders into a public road and refuses to move. In those cases, only an authorized Commission employee or individual with appropriate permits issued by the Commission can remove it legally.

9. Ask an expert

Anyone with questions or concerns about alligators can reach one of the wildlife biologists who staff the Commission's N.C. Wildlife Helpline toll-free at 866-318-2401 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday–Friday. Visit the agency's

website, ncwildlife.org, for more about alligators and other wildlife.

10. Call a hotline

To report instances of poaching, harming, harassing or intentionally feeding alligators, call the Wildlife Commission's enforcement hotline, 1-800-662-7137. Instances of poaching also can be reported through the agency's Turn-in Poachers program.

About the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Established in 1947, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is the regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws. It provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities.

CARRIAGE

Continued from 4C

“let us see what's behind the walls,” Murphy said. In the process, the contractor didn't find any foundational problems and gave his verdict that the carriage house was “as strong as a tank.”

“That's what we needed

to hear so we could move forward,” Murphy said.

Time capsule

A peek into a small crevice in one of the bedroom walls shows the layers of renovations that have occurred during the nearly 60 years that the carriage house has been a residence. A top layer of gypsum sheetrock covers a

flimsy layer of dark brown plywood paneling, and underneath that is the glossy rich-colored bead board wall.

Nowadays “People are paying good money for what was covered up” in the '60s and '70s, Murphy and Hill agreed.

The narrow floorboards are unfinished, having

also been “covered up for decades,” Murphy said. Before the tearing-out, the house “looked like a relic from the early '80s,” he said, but he hopes the renovation will allow some of the house's “original design and charm” to shine, while modernizing some of its practical features.

The plan, he said in April, is to add a bathroom and at least one closet and keep the historic appearance from the outside. The laundry room and an adjacent bathroom will swap places. The master bedroom will be next to the kitchen instead of upstairs and will occupy an area that was formerly sunken lower than the rest of the first floor. That will improve “accessibility for all types of needs,” Murphy said.

As far as purely cosmetic updates, Murphy said he would “love to get rid of” the once-trendy textured ceiling plaster in the living room,” but it all comes down to budget.

Priorities

Murphy said in April that the BGHNC board would take the condition of the house into account and decide what steps to follow next. “Funding is still an ongoing discussion,” he said. The organization had some money on hand that might be usable for the carriage house, but, when it comes to asking supporters for donations, “Raising funds for kids is the first priority.” He

said the Homes are mindful “not to spend too much money [on the president's house] when we need it for youth programs.”

In mid-May, Murphy reported that the board had voted to commit to moving forward with the project, using some money already on hand and “a donation of other properties,” and had not yet needed to solicit any donations specifically for the renovations.

The CEO said he was “grateful” that BGHNC had “funds to get started,” and he predicted that, “It's going to be a beautiful restoration of a historic house.”

Locklear, the board chair, said that, “We've put a lot of prayer into this,” and, “we've got a firm commitment from the board to see this project through with the Lord's help.”

Locklear estimated that the price of the work may be “north of \$200,000” but said exact numbers were “somewhat fluid. Capps, the contractor, “is doing an excellent job,” he said. “He's very mindful that we have limited funding” and is trying to use resources wisely.

“The board recognizes that it's important that the CEO live on campus as much as possible,” Hill said. Repairs to the long-time presidential home will make that possible again.

In the past month, the builders have framed out the bathrooms and closets,

found some replacement shingles and “started some restoration,” Murphy said. “Now we can see what it's going to look like.” The master bedroom is now level with the rest of the first floor. The builders resolved the septic issues and dealt with walls that lacked insulation.

Completion should be around Sept. 1, weather permitting, Locklear said.

‘Centerpiece’

Murphy, who put his previous home in Asheville on the market in April, said he is “glad to be back” at Lake Waccamaw, where he was a teaching parent in the Optimist Cottage from 1996 to 2006.

Murphy said in April that the carriage house, once owned by the prominent Gault family, was “equally important to the town and to the Boys and Girls Homes, which is the centerpiece of town.”

Months ago, when Lake Waccamaw residents first saw a dumpster being filled with waste materials outside the carriage house, “I think they were afraid we were going to demolish it,” Murphy said. “We have no interest in destroying a piece of the history of Lake Waccamaw.” The repairs are meant to ensure that the house “can stand another 100 years.”

The date of the open house will be announced when restoration is complete.

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Each Sunday Morning at

9:00am

Beginning May 28 and

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Lake Waccamaw

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Lakeside Ministry

Speakers Schedule 2023

| | SPEAKER | SINGER |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------|
| May 28 | Matthew Tarpley | Dave Heller |
| June 4 | Mark Player | Anna Harris |
| June 11 | Rusty Davis | Hannah Battley |
| June 18 | Willard McPherson | Terri McPherson |
| June 25 | Billy Roy | Crossroads Singer |
| July 2 | Anthony Rowell | New Mt. Zion Singers |
| July 9 | Danny Williams | Lauren Edmund |
| July 16 | Ben Worthington | Melissa Rogers |
| July 23 | Randy Hunt | Maddie Hunt |
| July 30 | Luis Martinez | TBA |
| Aug 6 | Warren Hill | TBA |
| Aug 13 | Jeremy Simmons | TBA |
| Aug 20 | Ronnie Wilson | Rhonda Grice |
| Aug 27 | Vinay Mehta | Vinay & Wendy Mehta |
| Sept 3 | Dave Heller | Dave Heller |

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New literary collection at Lake library spotlights N.C. stories and authors

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
josephwilliams
@nrcolumbus.com

Whether you'd prefer reading a book indoors or while soaking up the sun lakeside, consider stopping by the Rube McCray Memorial Library at Lake Waccamaw this summer to check out its newly unveiled N.C. Literary Collection.

Standing there to greet you will be Kim Holmes, the library's manager for the past 23 years, and assistant librarian Kim Creech.

Partially funded through a Columbus County Community Foundation grant, the library's N.C. Literary Collection significantly expands the library's assortment of books about North Carolina and books by North Carolinians.

With over 200 volumes, the collection offers a sweeping overview of the Old North State. The books span genres from biographies of North Carolina's noteworthy sons and daughters to children's books and everything in between.

The library already had dozens of books that fit that description, but the recent grant funding allowed the library to add to the collection and concentrate it in one section of the library.

You may even recognize a name or two from Columbus County among the authors represented on the collection's shelves. In fact, the collection was first unveiled at a special event to celebrate several of the county's authors at the library's Local Authors Showcase, held April 30.

Since then, "We've al-

ready got people coming through and checking it out,” Holmes said. “It’s just wonderful,” she said. “I’m very impressed with it.”

Holmes herself has been impressed by a few books from the new collection, too. For any curious visitors, she recommends Danny Bradshaw's "Ghosts on the Battleship North Carolina"—a compilation of a few ghostly encounters reported to have taken place onboard the historic World War II battleship — "because, you know, there was al-

With over 200 volumes, the N.C. Literary Collection offers a sweeping overview of the Old North State. The books span genres from biographies of North Carolina's noteworthy sons and daughters to children's books and everything in between.

ways a rumor she was haunted," Holmes explained.

Holmes invites visitors to stop into the Rube McCray Memorial Library and check out the N.C. Literary Collection stacks for themselves anytime during the library's operating hours.

Summer reading program

Although it's the latest addition, the N.C. Literary Collection isn't the library's only attraction. Specifically for younger school-aged children, the Rube McCray Memorial Library also offers a summer reading program in July.

Designed with 4- to

12-year-olds in mind, the program's sessions consist of Holmes reading "a small story" to the children, followed by relevant games and crafts. Holmes said when preparing the program each year she tries to focus on local subjects as often as she can.

Although this year's schedule has yet to be finalized, Holmes says that the library's summer reading program will be held each Wednesday in July, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sessions last about an hour.

The library also hosts monthly story times for the same age group year round, with sessions held every third Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Parents and guardians are welcome to sit in for either program. Holmes asks that they at least stay on the premises with their children for the duration of the session.

No registration in advance is required for either the summer reading program or the monthly story time. Both events are free to the public.

How to get a library card

To access most things offered by the library, however, you of course need a library card.

And to get a library card, Holmes said, you just need to share a few



Staff photo by Joseph Williams

Library Manager Kim Holmes invites visitors to visit the Rube McCray Memorial Library this summer and check out its newly unveiled N.C. Literary Collection, pictured behind Holmes here.

pieces of information.

Library card applicants must present a form of identification, such as a driver's license, as well as provide their address, telephone number and a reference's contact information — and that's it.

"Once we get that information, it doesn't take but just a few minutes to get it in the system."

Holmes said. Before long, "They've got a library card in their hands, ready to use."

Your first library card is free. Replacements are \$4.

And even if you get your library card at Rube McCray, Holmes said, it's usable in all of the county's other libraries, including its four other

branch locations as well as the Carolyn T. High Memorial Library in Whiteville.

The Rube McCray Memorial Library is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and closes early at 5 p.m. on Fridays.

The library is located at 301 Flemington Drive at Lake Waccamaw.

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LONG AGO AT THE LAKE



Photo contributed by the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum

To this day, people enjoy cruising around Lake Waccamaw in personal watercraft of all kinds. Pictured here is Samuel Chatham Potts' famed steamship, The Bohemian Girl, which would ferry people around the lake for a fee.

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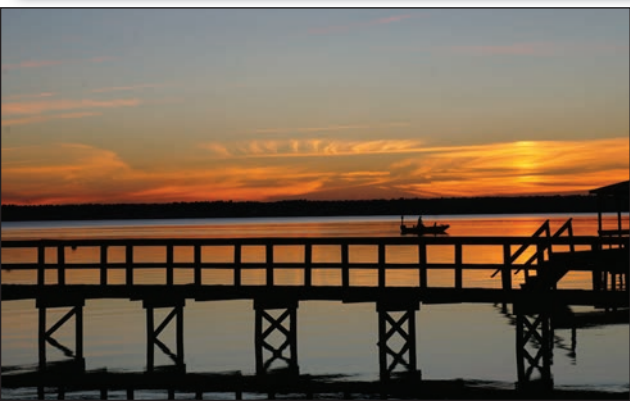
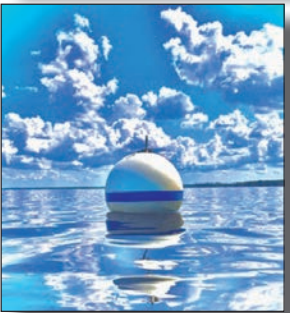
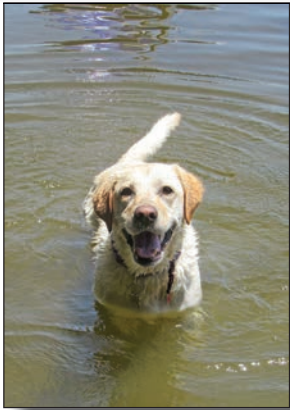
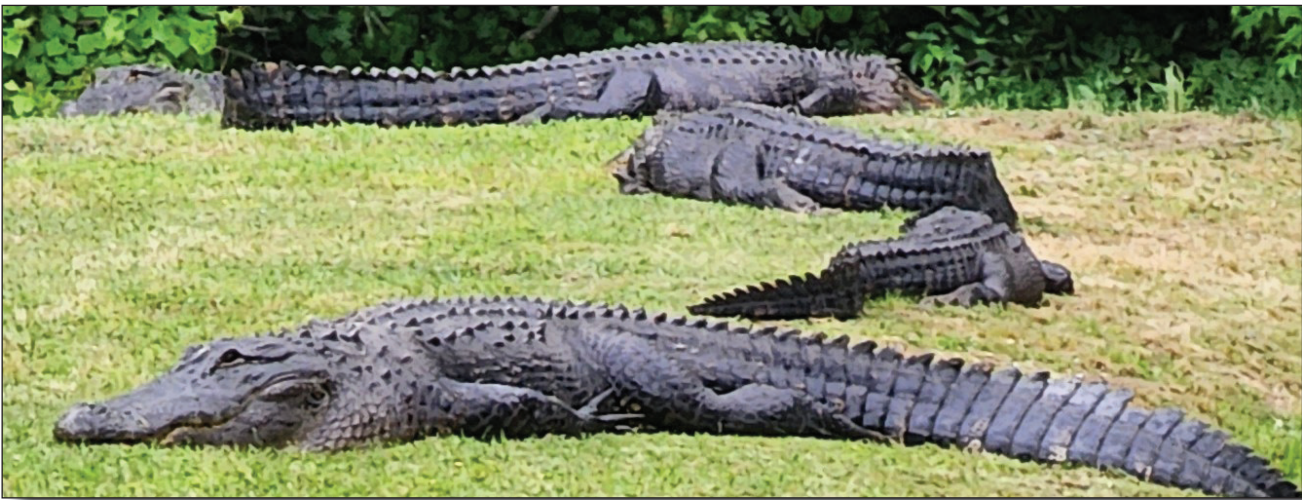
New hours beginning June 1

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Sat 8am - 12pm

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Submitted photos: Clockwise from top left: Anya Bryant, Penny Grainger, Clara Palmer, Mindy Caines, Gina Moore, Ron Davis and Suzanne Blackmon; center photo, Christy Conner.



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