

Sweeping away trash on Lake Norman another year!

It's time for the Lake Norman Clean-up!!!

For three years now, **SOLO**, the Save Our Lake Organization of Lake Norman, (it's a 501c3 environmental nonprofit organization) has been sweeping up lots of Lake Norman's trash. So far we have picked up over 4,000 pounds of debris from just a few Islands on the lake.

The **NC Big Sweep** is an annual event focused on cleaning up North Carolina waterways with over 100 counties participating each year (NCBigSweep.org). In 2007, **Big Sweep** volunteers cleaned up 177 miles of the Catawba River basin retrieving 148,464 pounds of trash and debris. Last year **SOLO** covered 3.5 miles of Lake Norman's "islands' shoreline" and collected almost 1,800 pounds! Over 500 pounds per mile is tremendous amount of refuse left out there!

This year's **2008 Big Sweep** event will Bigger and Better than ever! It will be held on Saturday October 4th from 9:00am-12:00, with several locations on Lake Norman for cleanup volunteers to meet. **SOLO** volunteers, Captain Craig Price, and Charlotte Mecklenburg water quality control Erin Oliverio will be combining forces this year. Hopefully, together we will be able to cover more shoreline and cleanup many more of the 98 Duke Power islands on Lake Norman. Their existence is seriously threatened by continuous shoreline erosion, trash left and debris washed up on them. This year, Iredell County Solid Waste facility is nice enough to pick up and dispose of all the trash we collect.

Everyone should realize it's a #1 priority to take care of Lake Norman and the Catawba River! In our efforts to achieve this goal, we hope to make this an annual Lake Norman cleanup event, and send out the big message "Don't litter around the lake or on the islands and take your trash home with you."

Just this year, the Catawba River was named as the #1 most endangered River in our nation, up from #13 last year, by American Rivers, a national river advocacy organization. This is the 1st time in NC history that any river in NC was declared the number one most endangered river. It's obvious that the Catawba River and its

11 lakes in NC and SC are suffering from population growth and development, overuse and misuse. Join us to help counteract these conditions to prevent our lake from deteriorating further.

As the development around the Charlotte region continues, more recreational demand is placed on the Catawba River and its lakes. It provides drinking water for millions of people across two states, supports 11 hydropower plants, 4 coal plants, and 2 nuclear power facilities. There are several paper plants, textile factories and chemical facilities that rely on this river to operate their businesses. Every year more sewage spills into Lake Norman polluting it. Furthermore, counties, cities, and towns threaten to remove water from the Catawba River basin for their water source, water that will never return. "Our real motivation is to do our part to protect this river, the water in it and to keep it clean." For now, Lake Norman is pretty clean, but if current trends continue, the Catawba River basin will be in serious trouble.

To make the lake Norman Clean up event a success, we need lots of volunteers, lake lovers, scout troops, families, and some with a few boats to help transport people to the cleanup locations. The more volunteers who join in, the cleaner the lake will become! Grab your boots and gloves, come out for a fun time with friends and neighbors, do your part to Keep Lake Norman and the Catawba River clean and beautiful!

For more information or to volunteer contact: Lincoln county contact Captain Craig Price at Craig@fishonlakenorman.com or (704)996-0946.

Catawba and Iredell County contact Jill Feldmeyer at Saveourlake@charter.net or (704)458-1163 and in

Mecklenburg County contact Erin Oliverio at Erin.Oliverio@mecklenburgcountync.gov or (704)336-5595.

Lake Hickory Area contact Jim Carr at jocarr@charter.net or (828)322-1225