

## Grass carp may provide solution to problem

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risk over the next few years.

Dr. Wilde further indicated that her deepest concern centers around the algae that grows on hydrilla. The algae has been linked to an emerging neurological bird disease (AVM) that is killing bald eagles, waterfowl, and other wildlife such as mallards, ring-necked ducks, American widgeon, Canada geese, and great horned owls.

She emphasized that the research in this area is ongoing.

During her presentation, Dr. Wilde attributed the following statement to the corps: "Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy (AVM) is the most significant unknown cause of eagle mortality in the history of the United States."

Basically, it is believed that coots or water birds eat hydrilla containing the algae, which is believed to produce the neurotoxin that causes AVM, and the eagles then consume the affected coots.

"The algae represents a new species," said Dr. Wilde. "We have already run some trials using hydrilla, with and without the suspect algae. We are currently trying to determine the chemical structure of the neurotoxin present in the algae."

Clinical signs of AVM include:

- Waterfowl have difficulty walking, swimming or flying.
- Eagles may overshoot perches or fly into objects.

"However, not all birds with AVM display clinical signs," the researcher said.

Nevertheless, there have been 16 suspected AVM eagle deaths in Georgia in the past two years. The disease can only be confirmed by conducting an autopsy (necropsy) on the bird's brain.

"Since the disease was first documented in 1998 by Dr. John Fischer, director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Study, there have been over 50 bald eagle deaths at Clark's Hill Lake attributed to AVM," said Wilde.

Anyone spotting a dead eagle is asked to call Ranger Ken Boyd of the corps of engineers at 1-800-533-3478.

In other items of information, Dr. Wilde said that according to Rebecca Haynie, a biologist with the SCDNR, the triploid grass carp provide effective control of submerged aquatic plants.

"A total of 64,440 grass carp were introduced to Georgia's Lake Murray in June of 2003," stated Wilde. "No symptomatic birds have been observed and no carcasses have been recovered since 2005, when the hydrilla in the lake was eliminated."

The grass carp, which are sterilized, eat their body weight in hydrilla for about six or seven years.

At the present time, the corps performs limited chemical treatments on the hydrilla in Clark's Hill Lake, focusing on maintaining public access to swimming areas, boat ramps, and marinas.

Scott Hyatt, assistant chief of the corps' operations division for the

Savannah District, said, "We've been discussing the use of carp for a while now. It's probably the only effective way to control hydrilla on the main body of the lake since we can't get the contact time we need for the chemicals to be effective due to currents. However, at the present time, the states do not agree on an approach."

"The other issue to consider is carp are like goats," he continued. "They are not particularly discriminatory in the vegetation they eat, so we have to recognize that their use may also wipe out native aquatic plants and have an impact on other fish species that rely on these plants for forage or cover."

"What we need to do is budget enough money up front to replant the good vegetation when the carp die," suggested one local resident, who lives on the lake.

The corps' Aquatic Plant Management Plan for the lake is due for review. The plan analyzes known aquatic plant treatment options, sets criteria for the prioritization of treatment areas, and provides a mechanism for adjacent landowners to obtain a permit from the Savannah District for treatment in the vicinity of their property.

Hydrilla was first discovered in Clark's Hill Lake in the fall of 1995, and in 1996, the corps began aggressively treating the infestation. Despite these early efforts, hydrilla had spread to approximately 5,000 acres by 2001 and close to 7,000 acres by 2008.



### Ladies auxiliary wages war against germs

Members of the Thomas-Lane American Legion Post 597 Ladies Auxiliary recently presented LCES, LCMS, and LCHS with bottles of hand sanitizer. Pictured are: (l-r) LCES Principal Marilyn Bell; Glenda Norman, auxiliary member; Minnie Parks, second vice president; and Haroldean Harris, auxiliary treasurer.

## Chamber to host Ghostly Graveyard at the Welcome Center Sat. evening

The Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce and the Lincoln County Development Authority are set to present the "Ghostly Graveyard at the Welcome Center" from 5 until 8 p.m. Saturday, October 31.

- The event will feature:
- Ghost stories.
  - A pumpkin carving contest. All entries are due at the Welcome Center, located in the Blanchard House, by 12 noon on Friday, October 30. First and second-place prizes will be awarded.
  - A cake walk at \$1 per chance.
  - A dunking tank filled with all sorts of local celebrities.
  - Halloween photographs printed on site for \$2 each.
  - Face painting.
  - "Pin the Nose on the Witch."
  - A "Pumpkin Toss."

### Food pantry in need of fixin's for Thanksgiving

Volunteers with the Lincoln County Food Pantry are working hard to stock the shelves for the upcoming holidays.

Among the items needed for Thanksgiving are corn meal, green beans, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and canned yams.

From April through September of this year, the food pantry served over 25,000 pounds of food to 880 families in the county.

"We would like to thank the churches, the schools, and all those who have donated food and/or made monetary contributions to the pantry," said Travis Reid, vice president of the organization's board of directors. "God bless you, and we hope you have a happy Thanksgiving."

The drop-off points for canned goods and other donations are as follows:

- The Lincoln County Food Pantry on Firetower Road. The pantry is open every Thursday from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.
  - Mulberry C.M.E. Church, located at 5129 Double Branches Road.
  - The Lincoln Journal office at 157 N. Peachtree Street.
- For more information or to have a food pantry volunteer pick up donations at your home, contact Travis Reid at 706-401-3406.

### Means to emcee

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ter of Michee Ferguson; Rachel Perkins, daughter of Shannon Kneec; and Shelby Parham, daughter of Tina and Mark Saggus and Lucky Parham. Admission to the pageant is \$5 for high school students and adults, \$3 for middle school students and younger, and \$1 for those with Gold Cards.

The pageant is sponsored annually by the LCHS Chapter of the FBLA, the premier business association designed to help high school students bridge the gap from school to work. The organization's mission is "to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs."

Janet Dukes serves as the club's faculty advisor.

In her comments, Dukes expressed her appreciation to Goldman & Wengrow for providing the tuxedos for the two escorts assisting with the pageant.

Yummy treats and great prizes. Young and old alike are encouraged to come out for an evening of ghostly fun and fellowship! For more information, call the chamber office at 706-359-7970.



### T.J. & Friends to visit

Charlie Wright, who is fighting cancer, is shown with a \$500 check from the T.J. & Friends Cancer Foundation, based in Elberton. During the past 14 months, volunteers with the foundation have distributed a total of \$50,500 to cancer patients in the seven counties they serve. On Saturday, October 31, the foundation's "Fall for Friends" Motorcycle Ride will pass through Lincolnton. Local residents are encouraged to meet at the Monument on Washington Street at 12 noon to show their support for the group. For more information or to participate in the ride, call Darren Scarborough at 706-498-0339. Pictured with Wright is cancer survivor Emma Smith.

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### Getting in the holiday spirit

Using a pumpkin for bait in observance of Halloween, Nelson Brooks is showing trying to catch some of the pesky "hydrzilla" (hydrilla) growing in Clark's Hill Lake. Now that water levels are on the rise, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has estimated that the plant could spread to as much as 25 percent of the lake over the next couple of years.

**4th Annual HAUNTED HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR**  
Saturday Night  
October 31, 2009  
7 p.m. at the Eerie Guts House (Ernie Guthrie) on 125 Goshen Street Lincolnton, Georgia  
Come one, come all... You'll wish you hadn't!!  
Please bring a canned food item for our local food pantry!!!  
Anyone who would like to help call 706-401-1476.  
This event is free to the public.

Hayride for smaller children through The Pumpkin Patch  
Music and refreshments provided.