



In the Community

Badin School teacher selected to attend Environmental Issues

Workshop in Colorado



The Alcoa Foundation has selected a Badin School teacher as one of 15 educators across the United States to attend a teacher development workshop at The Keystone Center's Key Issues Institute in Colorado. The workshop is designed to give teachers the skills to explore current environmental issues with their students.

Natasha T. Wall, a 6th and 8th grade reading and language arts teacher at Badin School, was nominated for the program through Badin Works. She is attending the program from July 25 – August 1.

Alcoa Foundation awarded a \$45,000 grant to The Keystone Center so 15 educators who teach in communities that are home to Alcoa locations could attend the workshops. The grant is part of Alcoa Foundation's commitment to investing in the quality of life of Alcoa locations worldwide.

"I am excited and grateful to Alcoa Foundation to be part of this program that will enhance my teaching abilities and prepare me to help my students become critical thinkers," said Wall. "Through studying the scientific process in the context of an environmental issue, my students will not only gain insight about the world around them, but they will develop the skills to analyze situations and develop solutions to the issue at hand."

Within the context of a scientific investigation, teachers will spend a week in classroom lessons as well as field activities exploring the environmental aspects of a simulated issue. So that the teachers can bring the lessons home to their communities, participants receive the simulated curriculum, instructional materials, computer software programs, lab kits and on-line support with other educators and instructors.

"The teachers that come to the training bring a cadre of experiences and issues relevant to their communities," said Dan Schroder, Key Issues Program Director at The Keystone Center. "Past participants have addressed diverse issues, including water quality, wetlands and solid waste management in their respective communities."

Yadkin Relicensing News

Relicensing Update

As Alcoa-Yadkin prepares to file its license application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in April 2006, it is holding a series of voluntary settlement negotiations meetings with organizations representing recreational lake users, state and federal agencies, environmental groups and other stakeholders. We will provide regular updates on the progress of those meetings in this space.

Following the presentation of an initial settlement proposal by Alcoa-Yadkin in June 2005, no formal negotiations sessions were held in July. Stakeholders were encouraged to take time to review the proposal and develop counterproposals for discussion in August 2005.

Meanwhile, Alcoa continues to move forward with plans to issue in September 2005 a draft license application for public comment. This is one of several milestones required by FERC during the relicensing process. Before the final license application is filed, Alcoa-Yadkin will hold a series of public meetings to provide individuals with an opportunity to share opinions and ask questions. The finalized license application will be submitted to FERC no later than April 30, 2006.

Did You Know?

Around the Lakes

High Rock Lake hosts ESPN Outdoors Bassmasters fishing tournament

High Rock Lake has earned a reputation as one of the nation's best spots to fish for largemouth bass. After winning the ESPN Outdoors Bassmasters Tournament (Virginia/North Carolina Division) on July 24, Jimmy Cannoy of Martinsville, Virginia would certainly agree.



The Virginia angler earned \$4,477 with a five-fish catch that totaled 17 pounds, 15 ounces. Sam Cole (Lexington, NC) took second place with a catch totaling 16 pounds, 3 ounces and Steve Sink (Winston-Salem) finished third with a catch weighing 15 pounds, 7 ounces. The largest catch of the day, a 6 pound, 2 ounce bass, belonged to Tom McDermott (Madison).

High Rock Lake has hosted a number of national bass fishing tournaments that attract fisherman from around the country. The ESPN tournament attracted a field of 135 boaters, plus several non-boaters, from North Carolina and Virginia. The event attracted a large crowd at Southmont Boat Access Area as spectators watched the official weigh-in.

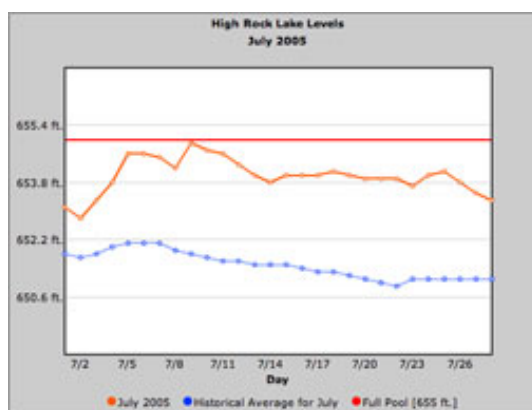
Improved lake level information now available on Alcoa-Yadkin web site

Want to find out the current lake levels at High Rock or Badin Lake? Interested in tracking how water levels have fluctuated during the past 24 hours... or the past 30 days? Looking for a better explanation about why lake levels fluctuate? You can find all of that information and more at [Alcoa-Yadkin's updated web site](#).

The enhanced web site is designed to provide as much detail as possible about current lake levels, including hourly lake level measurements and a daily forecast. You can click on a specific reservoir for more detailed lake level information, including interactive charts that show how water levels have changed during the day or throughout the month.

"We recognize the importance of keeping lake residents and recreational users updated about current lake conditions. This new site includes a comprehensive set of data and exciting new features to better track water levels," said Gene Ellis, Alcoa-Yadkin licensing and property manager.

The updated information has already begun to receive positive reviews. The SaveHighRockLake.org web site said, "Alcoa-Yadkin listened to what many of us told them and have made many of the pages much more useful and informative."



The Uwharrie National Forest was purchased by the federal government in 1931 during the Great Depression. President John F. Kennedy proclaimed these federal lands the Uwharrie National Forest in 1961. It is one of the most recently formed forests in the National Forest System.

Explore! Take a Hike.

In each issue of The Yadkin Report, we'll highlight a popular hiking trail, campground site or other favorite spot around the lakes. We'd love to hear about your favorite spots. [Click here to recommend a trail or site.](#)

DAN NICHOLAS PARK

Dan Nicholas Park, the largest and oldest park in the Rowan County Park system, is a favorite spot for visitors to High Rock Lake. The park, located a short distance from the Dutch Second Creek Landing, features three easy hiking trails. The trails include a short nature trail located behind the Nature Center to a two-mile trail that provides the perfect setting for a stroll around the park.

The park is located 8 miles southeast of Salisbury on Bringle Ferry Road. Admission is free.

Tip of the Month

How boaters can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

Boaters should be aware of a new safety concern: carbon monoxide poisoning. New studies show that carbon monoxide — a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can block oxygen flow — has killed at least 93 boaters and sickened nearly 400 others.

The danger of carbon monoxide on boats was recently discovered during an investigation of incidents involving houseboats at Lake Powell in Arizona. Additional investigation has turned up greater numbers of deaths and poisonings across the nation.

On a boat, carbon monoxide can come from the exhaust emissions of the engine or a cook stove or heater. Boaters can run the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning on the water in several ways:

- When passengers hang onto the swim platform at the rear of the boat and allow themselves to be pulled through the water until the boat's wake builds enough to allow body surfing. "Teak surfing," as it's called, puts passengers close to the exhaust.
- When passengers hang onto or sit on a swim platform or rear transom and so are near the source of the engine's exhaust.
- When faulty or poorly maintained seals between decks or faulty exhausts allow carbon monoxide to build up inside the cabin. Unlike autos, recreational boats are not required to have catalytic converters, which can cut carbon monoxide emission by more than 90 percent.
- When boats are moored close together and one has a generator engine running.
- When the "station wagon effect" generates air currents that pull exhaust gas into the cabin, much as auto exhaust enters through an open rear hatch.
- When cooking or using fuel-burning heaters in the cabin or galley.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported last year that carbon monoxide concentrations as high as 27,000 parts per million had been measured in the stern of boats involved in carbon monoxide poisonings. The World Health Organization sets a limit of 87 parts per million in any 15 minutes period.

What you can do?

Experts advise boat owners to follow these steps to minimize exposure to carbon monoxide:

- Inspect the boat's exhaust system regularly and keep it in good repair. With a houseboat or other craft that uses a gasoline-powered generator, be sure the generator works properly.
- Be sure that fuel-burning stoves and heaters are functioning properly and vented correctly. Better yet, always use stoves outdoors.
- Have a marine quality carbon monoxide alarm on board.
- Don't let passengers teak surf, and keep passengers off the swim platform at the stern when the engine or generator is running, to minimize exposure.
- Some authorities advise keeping a forward hatch open to promote a fore-to-aft airflow that will minimize the "station wagon effect" (though this advice is not based on "testing").



This electronic newsletter is designed to keep the community informed about important issues related to the relicensing of the Yadkin Project.

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Balancing Energy Generation, Recreation *and* Environmental Resources