



Tourists On Lake Eufaula At 2 Million A Year, Corps Says



Jeff Knack
Photo by George Lampton

“Average visitation” to Lake Eufaula from 2000 to 2004 was more than 1.7 million per year, Jeff Knack, manager of the Lake Eufaula dam site office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, told us last week. And in Fiscal Year 2007, the figure on visitation was 2,010,768.

The economic impact of recreation was \$199,980,000 annually, (in 2002.) And Lake

Eufaula has over 250 housing developments adjacent to government property.

Asked questions about the Corps’ methods of counting, tourists, Knack said the Corps uses an “average, since the numbers can change drastically from year to year.”

The reason for a change is usually “weather dependent, such as floods or a drought,” he said.

“A good example is two years ago, the lake was so high” that some of the parks got flooded, and people could not use them.

Knack said that Lake Eufaula was authorized by the 79th Congress in the July 24, 1946 Rivers and Harbors Act. It was authorized for Flood Control, Water Supply, Hydroelectric Power and Navigation. Recreation was authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1944.

Construction was completed in 1964 at the approximate cost of \$150,000,000. President Lyndon Johnson came to dedicate it.

Knack said that Eufaula has 600 miles of shoreline and ranks 13th among Corps lakes in shoreline miles, but has 105,000 in surface acres, and ranks fourth in surface acres.

Real estate outgrants, such as utilities and structures on government property, total 851. Shoreline Management Permits total 3,651.

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McAlester Principal, Assistant, Explain Goals, Bills



Randy Hughes
Photo by George Lampton

McAlester School Principal Randy Hughes introduced his Assistant Principal Stephanie Holt, told the duties of his staff, and outlined his goals, to Rotary Club members.

Ms. Holt is over discipline for the 11th and 12th grades, takes care of the connection with North Central, leads the Site Council, and helps with

testing.

Jerry McCormick is a second assistant principal and is in charge of discipline over the ninth and 10th grades. He also is the head basketball coach, and heads the Safe School Committee.

Randall Peters is the third assistant principal. He handles attendance and substitutes, and teaches two or three hours of biology.

Hughes said his goals are technology, School Spirit, to “look at what the teachers wanted from me,” and “to let the students know that I really care.”

Hughes said he talked with students in the halls, “and takes an interest in them.”

But he said the teachers want him and his staff to “take care of tardies, get the kids out of the halls, and to make them accountable”

by serving detentions or punishment, when they get in trouble.

“School Spirit” is promoted by pep assemblies, “Buffalo Days,” and the “Wall of Fame,” with pictures of “our graduates who have gone on to make an impact in the world.”

The Technology Goal, is to “work to get every teacher with a computer that works and has one gig of memory. Hughes explained that the computers are 12 years old, “or older,” and need to be upgraded to “586 mb of memory.”

Also under the Technology Goal is creation of a Special Education Lab, with the help of Jim Pratt and Banc First.

Also under Technology, is the purchase of a ceiling-mounted projector in each class. Hughes said they would “bring in the outside world.”

Assistant Principal Stephanie Holt explained how Senate Bill 1796, passed by the 2006 Legislature, applies to McAlester Schools.

She had charts which showed details of changes in the past bills.



Stephanie Holt
Photo by George Lampton

McAlester Teacher of the Year Can Look in Their Eyes...



Tawana Pratt
Photo by George Lampton

The McAlester Teacher of the Year was born and raised in Caddo, near Durant, she told us April 14. And if she gets a chance to tell about some of her pre-school students, she may be at least the state teacher of the year.

She is Tawana Pratt, the wife of a bank president, and a new member of Rotary

Club. She also says she is going to Africa this summer, as a Christian educator.

One of her stories is about a 4 or 5-year-old who brought a

\$100 bill to “Show and Tell.” The boy was told by one of his parents to get a \$ 1 bill from the dresser, to take to school, to show his class.

Another was about a pair of earrings that came wrapped as a gift from another young pre-school student. As the teacher protested, the boy explained, “I didn’t think my mother wore them much any more.”

Some of the little girls in her class were talking about Mrs. Pratt’s perfume. “You smell better than flowers,,” said one. There were several other comparisons, until one commented, “You smell better than chicken.”

Mrs. Pratt still has a lot of faith in her pre-schoolers. I can take the most incorrigible student, she said, and look in their eyes, “and see hope and goodness.”

He Sees Little 'Gang Influence' Here

Lynn Edwards Tells About McAlester Girls, Boys Club



Lynn Edwards
Photo by George Lampton

Lynn Edwards told us last week that teenage members of the McAlester Girls and Boys Club "require more attention" than younger members.

Lynn said he did not see any serious gang problems in McAlester. But teenagers like to drive around. Fortunately there are some older members in the club, and they exert a good influence on other teenage members.

He told of taking several teenage club members to Pryor, to hear a Dr. Ballard, who had discovered the Titanic, after it sank.

He also told of a friend whose son told his parents that "this would be his last year" of youth baseball.

The feeling is not unusual, with 2,000,000 kids, ages five to 12 play Little League baseball, but only 24000 from ages 13 to 19 play.

Young people who play several sports, may start "specializing" in one sport by middle school.

Even good players have "hard choices" When they reach high school, with homework, team practices and new friends, he said.

The new coach gives constructive advice when the kids "messed up"

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The top of the dam is 612 feet; maximum pool is 604.96 and the "top of gates and flood control pool" is 597. Flood control storage is 585.0 to 597.0. Top of the Power Pool is 585.0. Power storage is from 565.0 to 585.0. The bottom of the spillway crest is 565.0.

Construction began, in December of 1956 and was completed in February, 1964. The dam is 3,200 feet long. Maximum height is 114 feet.

The dam is earthen, with a concrete spillway. The structure has 11 electrically operated gates, 40x32-feet.

The spillway capacity at maximum pool is 465,000 cubic feet per second (cfs.)

The bank full capacity below the dam is 40,000 cfs.

The channel capacity on the Arkansas River at Van Buren, Ark. Is about 150,000. The maximum discharge occurred May, 1990, at 234,939 cfs.

Pool size at elevation 597.0 is 147,500 acres. The total drainage area is 47,522 square miles.

The dam has prevented an estimated \$201,741,000 in flood damages through September of 2007.

Knack said that Lake Eufaula has three generating units. The rated capacity for each unit is 30,000 kilowatts. So the total capacity is 90,000 kilowatts.

The average annual output is 257,000,000 kilowatt hours.

The waters discharged during generating, is approximately 13,000 cubic feet per second. The kilowatt hours generated in Fiscal Year 2007 is 364,314,000. The revenue created by Fiscal Year 2007 generation is \$8,333,700.

and encouraged them when they succeeded.

The team usually won, and every ones of them went home feeling he had contributed.

And his friend's son changed his mind about quitting baseball.

Lynn said a recent Harris Poll of Boys and Girls Club "alumni" showed that 90 percent graduate from high school; 33 percent were the first from their family to go to college; 77 percent "learned leadership" 92 percent "learned how to help others do better"; 75 percent are now "involved" in their community; 81 percent said they learned "responsibility."

Eighty-five percent got a sense of "belonging." Eighty-six percent felt they learned to work with others successfully. Fifty-seven percent said they felt the club "saved their lives" although they may have meant in various ways.

There are presently 1,958 members of the McAlester club.

The club offers baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer, tumbling and T-Ball.

Next year will be the "Golden Anniversary" of the club, and an "Alumni Dinner" may be planned.

Lynn mentioned May 11 as the day "1,000 kids will turn out," to play baseball and softball.



The Eufaula powerhouse has a three percent down time for maintenance.

Electricity (from the Corps) is managed by the Southwestern Power Administration, and distributed by WPA, to rural electric co-ops.

Approximately 17,000 homes and businesses are on the grid that Eufaula Lake provides power to.

The authorized lake level that can be generated to, is 565.0.

Eufaula Lake has six Class A parks with approximately 400 campsites, and five Class C parks with approximately 60 campsites.

Visitor hours total 28,722,746 in Fiscal Year 2007.

There are two State Parks on Eufaula, at Arrowhead and at Eufaula. There are seven active marinas.

In addition, the city of Crowder has several parks leased, and open to the public.

Forty-two volunteers provided 15,162 hours of labor, for the latest year available.

Volunteer service has an estimated value of \$284,590.74.

The Corps of Engineers on Eufaula has a staff of 10 Rangers.

"Recreation deaths" at the lake in 2006 were five.

"Interactive Water Safety Programs were presented to more than 5,000 school children in 2006.

Lake Eufaula is the fourth largest Shoreline Management Program in the Nation. There are 132 miles of shoreline zoned for limited development. It is estimated that 20 to 25 percent of the shoreline are currently developed within the 132 miles.

Attendance, Visitors, Handshakers

There were 41 members present last week. Dean Roberts, Assistant Lake Manager for the U.S. Corps of Engineers on Lake Eufaula, accompanied the speaker, and was a guest.

Week before last, there were 49 present. No visitors.

On April 14 there were 41 attending. Karla Brock was a guest of Steve Brock.

On April 7, who can remember. We're lucky to have the program written up. But we do have who got the dollar! Money does that.

HANDSHAKERS—Last week, Mike Lowber gave the dollar to Brian Chadsey. The previous week, Robert Stillwell gave the lucky buck to

Jim Thompson. On April 14, Gene Walker gave \$1 to Shayne Javersak. And before that, who knows?

AND ON THE BIG POT, was that Lynn Edwards with the 4 of hearts, or Orlean Smith, or Fred Turner, with another lousy draw? Who knows how much is left?

Anyway, remember that the installation of officers will be on June 30 and it will be an evening meeting.

2009 Rotary Flags Committee

Memorial Day	May 25
Flag Day	June 14
Independence Day	July 3
Labor Day	Sept. 7
Veterans Day	Nov. 11
(See Sign-Up Sheet-Jim Thompson)	