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Hartwell Lake News

Volume 26, Number 2 • Spring 2024

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The Hartwell Lake Charity Run Will Celebrate 15 Years on the Water!

By Josh Overstreet

Boaters from all over the Southeast and beyond will converge onto the beautiful Anderson County facility, Green Pond Landing, to partake in the 15th year of the Hartwell Lake Charity

of Meals on Wheels – Anderson. “It is truly amazing to think of how the event has grown and changed to become the exciting weekend on the water it is today.”

The Hartwell Lake Charity Run began in 2010 as the Hartwell Lake Poker Run. Meals on Wheels –



Run, presented by Iron Harbor Self Storage and Old Stone Tractor.

“I can’t believe it has been 15 years of the Charity Run,” says Laurie Ashley, the executive director

Anderson and a committee of local boating enthusiasts organize the event annually to benefit the senior and disabled population served by the Anderson County nonprofit.

In 2022, the decision was made to rebrand to the Hartwell Lake Charity Run to highlight the charitable nature of the event.

“Last year, the event raised \$109,000 for the senior and disabled neighbors served by Meals on Wheels – Anderson,” says Ashley. “Every penny of that goes right back into feeding the recipients served daily by our organization.”

The weekend’s activities begin with Thursday night’s ticketed event, “Social on the Green,” presented by Crowe’s Corporate Promotions and First Bank featuring live music from Talbert Black, catered food, full cash bar, and boats on display for everyone to come out and see. For more details or to purchase tickets for Social on the Green, visit our website!

The Friday night Street Party will feature live music from The



Vinyl Junkies, catered food, cash bar, and local product vendors. Parking will be \$10 at the gate. Additionally, there will be an exciting live auction with all proceeds benefiting Meals on Wheels - Anderson. For more details about our catered dinner option on Friday night, please visit our website.



Saturday’s excitement begins with the 11:00 a.m. Boat Blast-Off that the community is welcome to come out and watch. There will be food, drinks, vendors and music going strong at Green Pond Landing all throughout the day. Parking will be \$10 at the gate.

For boaters wanting to

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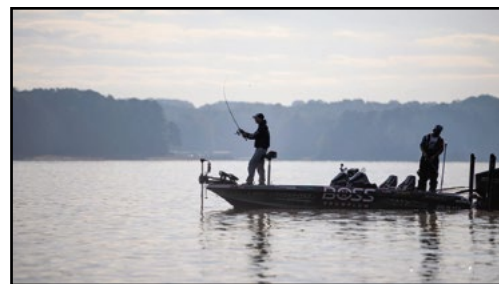
Bassmaster College Series 2024 National Championship Set for Lake Hartwell

B.A.S.S. officials announced that the 2024 national championship for the wildly popular Bassmaster College Series will be played out on the waters of Lake Hartwell in Anderson, South Carolina. The 2024 Strike King Bassmaster College National Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops will showcase the nation’s best college anglers Aug. 22-24.

Anglers will launch from and weigh in daily at Green Pond Landing and Event Center in Anderson as they scour the lake’s 56,000 acres of water and more than 960 miles of shoreline for three days to bring Hartwell’s biggest bass to the scales to claim the title of national champion.

“We’re so excited to host the

Bassmaster College Series National Championship in Anderson County, Green Pond Landing and Lake Hartwell,” said Visit Anderson Executive Director Neil Paul. “The leadership of Anderson County has provided us with a championship-



Above: Photo by Dalton Tumblin, B.A.S.S.

caliber facility in Green Pond and the resources to recruit events such as the national championship.

“The college angler is the future of our sport, and with the youth movement taking place among the Bassmaster Opens and Elite Series, there has never been a more exciting time to be a college angler,” Paul continued. “We look forward to welcoming the anglers, the teams, and their families to Anderson County, where the hospitality is second to none.”

Lake Hartwell is no stranger to Bassmaster events. In 2023 Hartwell hosted a Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX event, the Bassmaster Junior National Championship, the

Strike King Bassmaster High School Championship and the Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Championship presented by Lowrance. Later in 2024, the St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Lake Hartwell presented by SEVIIN will be held Oct. 10-12.

Playing host to four Bassmaster Classics, Lake Hartwell borders South Carolina and Georgia and is located on the Savannah River seven miles below the point at which the Tugaloo and Seneca rivers join to form the Savannah. Hartwell is regarded as one of the Southeast’s largest and most popular recreation lakes and boasts largemouth, smallmouth and a large number of 5- to 12-pound striped bass.

As many as 130 teams of anglers

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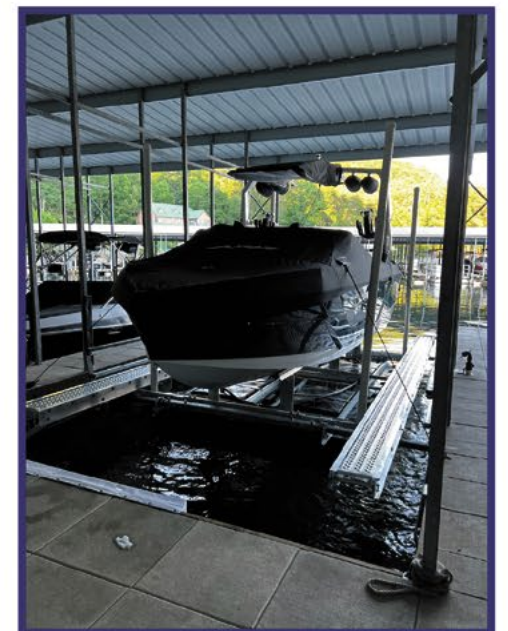
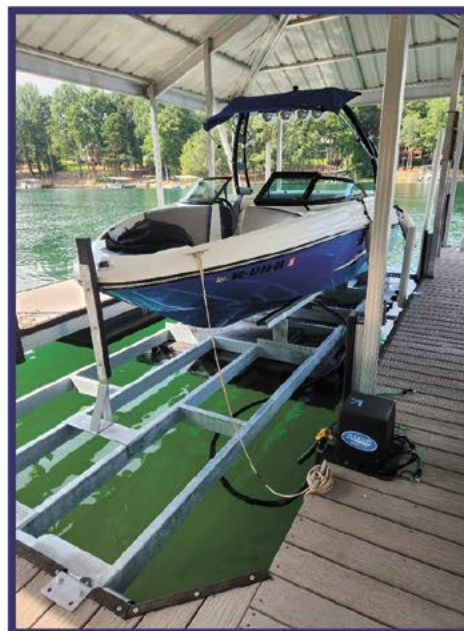


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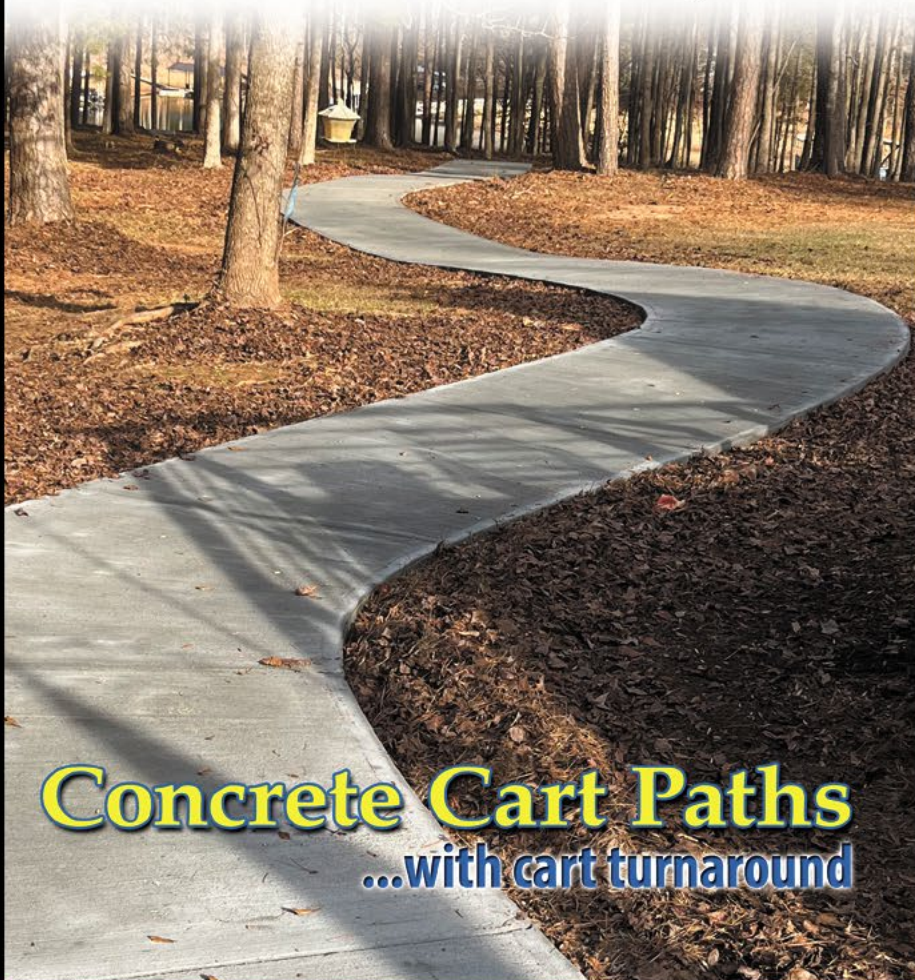
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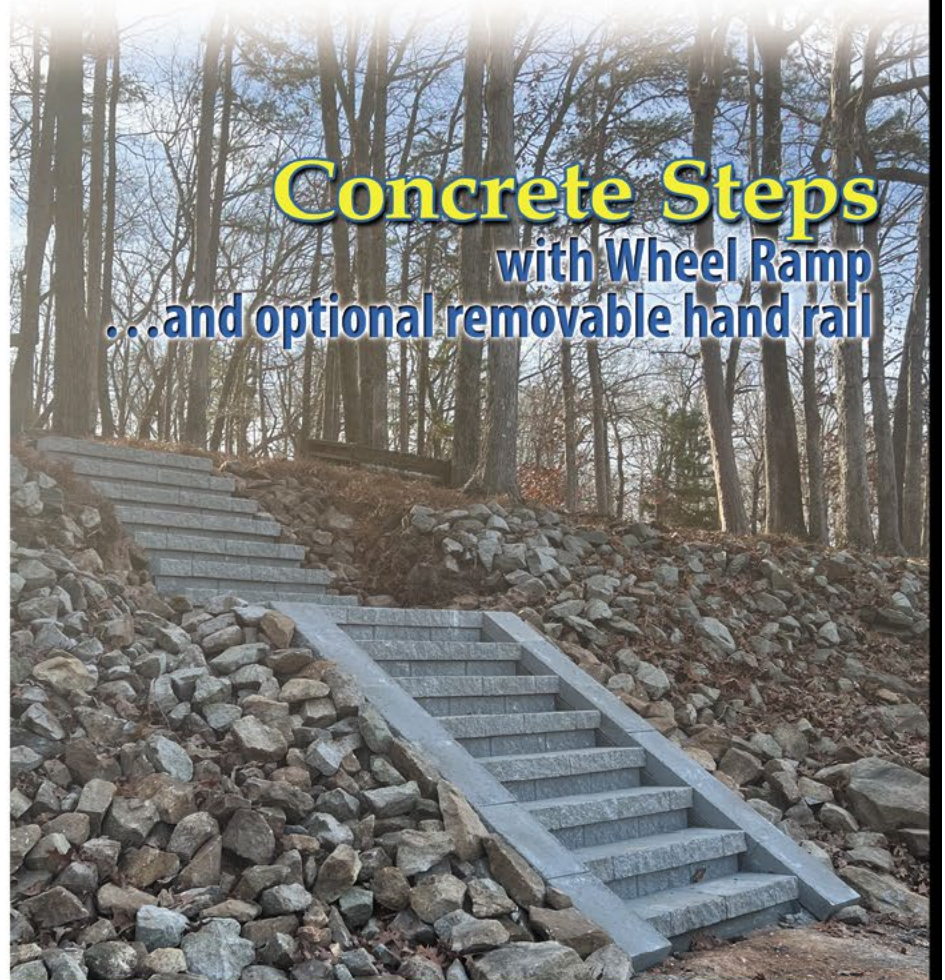
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The Hartwell Lake Charity Run Will Celebrate 15 Years on the Water! – continued from pg. 1

participate in the event, visit our website (listed below) or scan the QR code provided. A full schedule of events (including our mandatory Captain's Meetings) will be provided to you.

The final event for the weekend is the Hartwell Lake Charity Run After Party. All participating boaters and the community are welcome to hang out for catered dinner, drinks, live music from the Tailgate Homeboys and



a sunset send off to the 2024 Hartwell Lake Charity Run. For more details or to purchase tickets to the After Party, please visit our website.

"We really have a little bit of everything for everyone to come out and enjoy over the entire weekend," says Haley Daniel, the special events coordinator at Meals on Wheels - Anderson. "While this is a boating centric event, we

have plenty of good food, entertainment and activities for the community at large to come and enjoy at Anderson County's Green Pond Landing."

For information, registration and to purchase tickets to Thursday's and Saturday evening's events, visit HartwellLakeCharityRun.com, email info@acmow.org or call Meals on Wheels - Anderson at 864-225-6800. ■

Bassmaster College Series 2024 National Championship set for Lake Hartwell – continued from pg. 1

representing universities across the nation will compete in the event. Beginning this season, the Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops recently announced a new two-division format — the Legends Trail and the Lunkers Trail — with three tour stops each in an effort to help meet the booming demand for college teams

to compete. There will now be more priority placed on the Bassmaster College Team of the Year standings to qualify for both the National Championship and the College Classic Bracket presented by Lew's.

Qualifications are based on stops at Lake Murray in South Carolina, Kentucky Lake in Tennessee and Michigan's Saginaw Bay in the

Legends Trail, as well as stops at Clarks Hill Reservoir in Georgia, Tennessee's Douglas Lake and Sam Rayburn Reservoir in Texas in the Lunkers Trail.

"We are proud to offer collegiate anglers the opportunity to cap off their season with a shot at the national title on the waters of Lake Hartwell," said Glenn Cale, tournament

manager for the College, High School and Junior Series. "The fishery, community and facilities of Anderson certainly make for an unforgettable experience for these exceptional young anglers."

The 2024 Strike King Bassmaster College National Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops is being hosted by Visit Anderson. ■

The National Professional Fishing League (NPFL) Unveils Exciting 2024 Season Schedule

The National Professional Fishing League (NPFL) has revealed its eagerly anticipated schedule for the 2024 season, promising an exhilarating journey through some of America's finest bass fishing destinations. With a mix of familiar favorites and thrilling new venues, the upcoming season is set to captivate anglers and fans alike.

Kicking off the action-packed season is the first stop at Lake Logan Martin in Alabama, where the Coosa River sets the stage for a thrilling showdown on February 1-3. This picturesque lake boasts over 26 square miles of prime fishing grounds, promising an exciting start to the NPFL calendar.

But the excitement doesn't end there. Following the season opener, the NPFL takes a brief pause for the 2023 NPFL Championship, set to take place at Lake Amistad in Del Rio, Texas, from March 7-9. With a staggering \$200,000 total purse and a \$100,000 first-place prize up for grabs, the championship promises high stakes and fierce competition.

As the season progresses, the NPFL ventures into new territories, with stops spanning from South Carolina to Michigan and Florida. Anderson, South Carolina, plays host to stop number two at Lake Hartwell on May 16-18, offering anglers

another chance to showcase their skills on this renowned bass fishing destination.

The journey continues with stop three at Pickwick Lake in Counce, Tennessee, from July 11-13, marking the league's third trip to the Tennessee River in four seasons. With its abundant fish population, Pickwick Lake promises an exhilarating challenge for competitors vying for the top spot.

From Tennessee, the NPFL heads north to Bay City, Michigan, for stop four on August 29-31. Situated on the vast waters of Lake Huron, Bay City offers a unique fishing experience, with anglers contending with the elements as they battle for

supremacy on Saginaw Bay and its surrounding rivers.

The excitement reaches fever pitch as the NPFL returns to Florida for stop five on the legendary St. Johns River in Deland, Florida, from September 26-28. With its rich bass fishing heritage, the St. Johns River provides the perfect backdrop for the penultimate stop of the season, promising thrilling action and unforgettable moments on the water.

Finally, the season culminates in grand fashion with the much-anticipated finale at Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach, Missouri, on October

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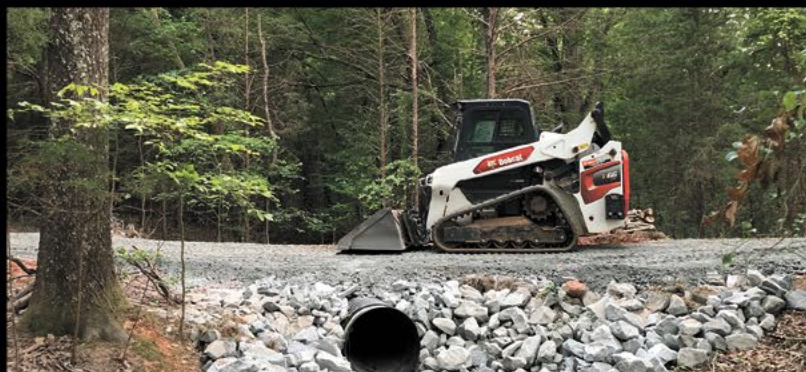
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The brainchild of a vision to provide unparalleled craftsmanship and service, Chapmans Landscaping, Inc has been instrumental in enhancing the beauty and value of countless homes throughout the upstate. With a keen eye for detail and a commitment to excellence, the team at Chapmans Landscaping, Inc approaches each project with dedication and passion, ensuring that every client's vision becomes a reality.

Owner and founder, Kevin Chapman, envisioned a company where customers could experience the overall quality of retaining wall construction and retaining wall replacement services. With a firm belief in delivering top-

living spaces that not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of a property but also elevate its value. Whether it's designing a cozy patio adorned with intricately laid pavers or constructing a sturdy retaining wall that withstands the test of time, the team at Chapmans Landscaping, Inc approaches each project with meticulous attention to detail.

What sets Chapmans Landscaping, Inc apart is their unwavering dedication to customer satisfaction. From the initial consultation to the final touches of a project, every step is guided by the client's vision and preferences. With a thorough understanding of the goals and needs of each project, the team ensures that every aspect is tailored to perfection.

Serving the Upstate South Carolina area, including Anderson, Seneca, and Clemson, Chapmans Landscaping, Inc has left a mark on the landscape of the upstate. Their expertise in retaining wall installation and replacement has earned them the trust and admiration of countless homeowners, who have witnessed their outdoor spaces transformed into picturesque retreats.

Beyond their impeccable craftsmanship, Chapmans Landscaping, Inc prides itself on its professionalism and integrity. Fully licensed and bonded since 1999, clients can rest assured that they are in capable hands every step of the way.

With a commitment to excellence that transcends mere construction, Chapmans Landscaping, Inc is not just in the business of building outdoor spaces; they are in the business of crafting dreams.

For those seeking to elevate their outdoor living experience, Chapmans Landscaping, Inc stands as a beacon of excellence in the realm of landscaping and outdoor construction. With a legacy built on trust, quality, and unparalleled service, Chapmans Landscaping, Inc continues to set the standard for outdoor craftsmanship in the Upstate South Carolina area. For more information and call Kevin at 864-449-7312, www.chamansinc.com. ■

CHAPMANS LANDSCAPING, INC. CUSTOMER QUOTES:

"Kevin did work for me in stages for about two years. He does great work. He did large rock steps to lake, retaining walls, sea wall, patio, irrigation so much I can hardly remember. I recommended him to friends and did work for them all. He even did work for my district manager so that should show the confidence I had in his work." Gaynell Silvers

"These guys are the best in the business, they transformed my backyard into a beautiful oasis, I highly recommend them. They exceeded my expectations and work very hard at what they do. I will definitely be using



them again soon." —Zack-Nicole Sizemore

"I was awestruck as I watched the professionalism, skill and attention to detail displayed by Kevin Chapmans team as they constructed two retaining walls at my home. I could not be more pleased with the finished product, nor could I recommend Chapmans any stronger. It is an amazing transformation!"

—Libby Cannon Danel

"We just had Chapmans Landscaping tear our old, rotted railroad ties and install a retaining wall at the top of our driveway. They did an awesome job and completed the project in one day. They even redid the retaining wall at the bottom of the driveway."

—Taylor Holladay

"We had a 25+ year old retaining wall made of railroad ties, covered with juniper and weeds! Champman's did an absolutely wonderful replacement! They worked extremely hard and left a beautiful block wall with river rock above. They were very professional, cleaned up every evening before they left, and kept us updated every step of the way!"

—Cindy & Randy Knight

See Ad Below



quality results, backed by an A+ rating from the South Carolina Better Business Bureau and 5/5 from BBB Accredited Business. Chapmans Landscaping, Inc has remained steadfast in its commitment to customer satisfaction for over two decades.

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Dianne Robison, a dedicated member of the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices C. Dan Joyner, REALTORS family, brings a wealth of experience and a deep appreciation for the Upstate's diverse communities to her role as a real estate agent.

Having spent her formative years in Greenville, Dianne's roots in the Upstate run deep. Her journey began with a childhood surrounded by the rich culture and vibrant energy of Greenville. Later, she expanded her horizons by marrying her husband, who hails from Anderson, further deepening her connection to the region.

However, it was her move to Lake Hartwell that truly ignited Dianne's passion for real estate. Immersed in the tranquil beauty of the lakeside community, she developed a profound love for the unique qualities that each area of the Upstate

possesses.

Joining the C. Dan Joyner team is a source of immense pride for Dianne, as she admires the impact the company has had on the community. Inspired by C. Dan Joyner's unwavering commitment to professionalism and client care, Dianne pledges to uphold these values in every interaction.

With years of experience in the real estate industry dating back to 2016, Dianne is well-equipped to guide her clients through the buying and selling process. Her dedication to her clients' best interests ensures that each transaction is handled with care and expertise.

Dianne's passion for Estate/Moving sales shines through her dedicated involvement and expertise in the process. Clients can trust Dianne to handle

continued on page 9

Brown Painting

With over 25 years of painting experience under his belt, David Brown, owner of Brown Painting, is a seasoned professional dedicated to bringing new life to homes and properties. For more than two decades, he has helmed his business, providing top-notch services to clients in South Carolina.

Specializing in both exterior and interior painting, David's expertise extends to pressure washing, drywall repair, popcorn ceiling removal, cabinet refinishing, staining, and more. As spring and summer approach, David emphasizes the importance of preparing homes, decks, driveways, and boat docks for the season ahead. His meticulous approach includes pressure washing surfaces to

ensure a clean canvas for painting.

David's commitment to excellence is evident in every project he undertakes. Utilizing Sherwin Williams paints, he ensures high-quality results that exceed expectations. However, he's always open to accommodating customer preferences regarding paint choices.

Licensed, insured, and bonded in South Carolina, David guarantees professionalism and reliability. With a portfolio of satisfied clients and excellent local references, he offers free estimates on all projects, regardless of size.

Whether it's a residential repaint or a commercial makeover, David Brown is ready to serve Lake Hartwell and surrounding communities. Contact him today to transform your space with precision and care. ■

See ad to right >>>



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The National Professional Fishing League ... - continued from pg. 6

24-26. Hosted by Central Missouri's Tri-County Lodging Association, this showdown promises to be a fitting conclusion to an unforgettable season of bass fishing excitement.

Brad Fuller, President of the NPFL, expressed his excitement about the upcoming season, highlighting the league's commitment to delivering a diverse schedule that showcases the best of bass fishing across the country. "We're thrilled to revisit some of the cherished stops from our history while also exploring exciting new venues,"

Fuller remarked. "It's of utmost importance that we leverage our schedule to continually expand the league's brand and introduce 'The League' to bass havens around the country."

With a lineup of iconic venues and thrilling competition in store, the 2024 NPFL season is shaping up to be one for the ages. As anglers prepare to embark on this exhilarating journey, fans can look forward to witnessing the drama, excitement, and unforgettable moments that only the NPFL can deliver. ■

Your Trusted Realtor... - continued from pg. 8

their Estate/Moving sales with professionalism and care, ensuring a smooth transition during life's pivotal moments.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Dianne's background in the dental field has instilled in her a keen attention to detail and a commitment to excellence. Her experience with renovations, rental properties, and antiques further enhances her ability to meet her clients' diverse needs.

For Dianne, real estate isn't just about transactions; it's about guiding her clients through life's transitions. Whether you're embarking on the journey of buying your dream home or selling a property, Dianne is committed to ensuring that you achieve results that move you - both figuratively and literally.

Life is a journey, and Dianne Robison is here to help you navigate the exciting path of real estate in the Upstate, one step at a time. ■ See ad on pg. 8

Hartwell Lake Seeks Volunteers for Earth Day

By MJ Kneiser, 92.1 WLHR

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, is seeking volunteers to help clean up around Hartwell Lake in recognition of Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2023.

Scout groups, civic organizations, church groups, schools, sports clubs, businesses, families and friends can volunteer to help keep the lake clean by gathering litter and other non-natural

debris along the shoreline and islands in and around Hartwell Lake.

"This year, we are excited to be partnering with Lake Hartwell Partners for Clean Water on the clean-up," said Hartwell Lake Chief Ranger Tanya Grant. "Lake Hartwell Partners for Clean Water is made up of government agencies and local organizations who promote source water protection for Hartwell Lake. Hartwell Lake is

continued on page 12



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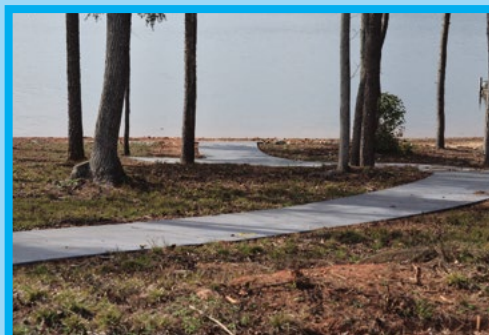


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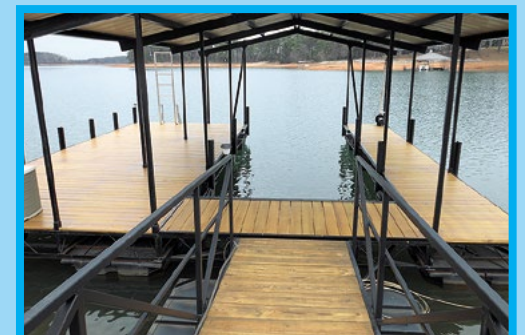


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Hartwell Lake Seeks Volunteers For Earth Day – continued from pg. 9

one of the top visited Corps lakes in the U.S., but the lake’s popularity and heavy usage also results in litter along shorelines, in coves, and on islands so we need the public’s help in keeping the lake clean.”

Hartwell Lake is one of the top visited Corps lakes in the U.S., but the lake’s popularity and heavy usage also results in litter along shorelines, in coves, and on islands so we need the public’s

help in keeping the lake clean.

That’s why they need a lot of volunteers and they ask that they sign up early.

There will be seven manned locations where volunteers can pick up bags and gloves as well as drop off collected trash:

- Hurricane Creek Boat Ramp
- Sadlers Creek State Park
- Lake Hartwell State Park

- Green Pond Landing
- Twin Lakes Boat Ramp
- Big Oaks Recreation Area
- Tugaloo State Park

Volunteers can arrive by boat or vehicle or make arrangements to start from home if they live on Lake Hartwell.

The clean-up will run from 9 a.m.-noon on April 22 and volunteers should sign up in advance.

To register, go to Lake Hartwell Partners for Clean Water or the Corps’ Hartwell Lake Website by clicking Hartwell Clean Up Day to view the clean-up flyer and register by QR code.

For questions, please contact Corps Chief Ranger Tanya Grant at 706-856-0300, ext. 0323 or Sadlers Creek State Park Manager Raymond Felton at 864-226-8950. Facebook and Twitter ■

9th District Congressman Clyde Demands Investigation, Audit Into USPS Distribution Center Debacle

By MJ Kneiser, 92.1WLHR

US 9th District Congressman Andrew Clyde is calling for an investigation and audit by the US Postal Service into what he calls the “failed transition and consolidation from local processing and distribution centers across North Georgia to the postal services’ new consolidated Atlanta Ga. Processing and Distribution Center in Palmetto, GA initiated earlier this year.”

In February, the USPS consolidated the Atlanta, North Metro, Augusta, and Macon distribution centers to the new Atlanta Regional Processing & Distribution Center in Palmetto.

Since then, the consolidation has caused letters and packages to be delayed and even lost with consumers complaining they have not received

important mail in a timely manner, if at all.

Additionally, many North Georgia voters who opted to use an absentee paper ballot for the Presidential Preference Primary never received their ballot and were not able to vote.

In Franklin County, Election Supervisor Tracie Creason said over 20 voters did not receive their requested absentee ballots until after March 12, the day of the Presidential Preference Primary.

Clyde’s letter, dated April 4, references the Postal Services’ “poor planning” for the transition and states that the result has “excessively disrupted mail delivery operations, causing my constituents immense trouble and grief in their daily lives.

“Since the transition and consolidation of processing and distribution activities from local PDCs across North Georgia into the Palmetto

facility on February 24, 2024, my office has received a nearly 90% increase in email and phone call messages from residents of North Georgia about USPS mail and package delays happening in the region. News reports detail how dozens of mail trucks have had to wait outside the new Palmetto facility. These mail trucks have led to obstructed traffic and led to traffic delays which has caused the Palmetto police to get involved.”

One resident in North Georgia told Clyde’s office that costly late fees are being assessed on their bills and their business’ “credit reputation” is in jeopardy due to checks sent through USPS in the mail arriving at their destination more than a month late.

Another rural resident told Clyde’s office she has not gotten her much-needed medications in the

mail on time since the transition to the Palmetto facility.

In his letter, Congressman Clyde is asking the USPS Office of Inspector General to audit and investigate what he calls thoroughly, “the disastrous situation currently unfolding in North Georgia” and provide a preliminary response within 30 days.

He is also demanding the Office of Inspector General provide updates on the audit and investigation every three months on the progress, findings, or preliminary conclusions.

Finally, Clyde is demanding the Inspector General publish a final report detailing their findings and conclusions in a briefing to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and the House Committee on Appropriations. ■

A Boater’s Guide to Solar Panels

Boating enthusiasts are no strangers to the allure of the open water, but with that freedom comes the responsibility of ensuring a reliable power source for essential onboard systems. In recent years, solar power panels have emerged as a

game-changer in the maritime industry, offering an environmentally friendly and sustainable solution to meet the energy needs of boats of all sizes. Let’s explore the benefits, considerations, and best practices for integrating solar panels into your

boating experience.

Solar power panels provide a myriad of advantages for boaters seeking independence and efficiency on the water. Here are some key benefits:

Sustainable Energy Source: By harnessing

the sun’s abundant energy, solar panels offer a renewable and environmentally friendly power source that reduces reliance on fossil fuels.

Cost Savings: While there is an initial

continued on page 13

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A Boater's Guide to Solar Panels – continued from pg. 12

investment involved in purchasing and installing solar panels, the long-term savings on fuel and maintenance costs can be substantial.

Silent Operation: Unlike noisy generators, solar panels operate silently, enhancing the tranquility of the boating experience.

Minimal Maintenance: Solar panels have no moving parts and require minimal maintenance, making them a hassle-free option for boaters.

Emergency Power: Solar panels provide a reliable source of emergency power, ensuring that essential systems such as navigation equipment and communication devices remain operational, even in remote locations.

When selecting solar panels for your boat, several factors should be taken into account to ensure optimal performance and compatibility with your vessel:

Type of Solar Panels: Monocrystalline, polycrystalline, and amorphous (thin-film) are the three main types of solar panels. Each type has its own advantages and considerations, such as efficiency, durability, and cost.

Power Requirements: Determine the energy needs of your boat, including the power consumption of onboard systems and devices, to accurately size your solar panel system.

Mounting Options: Consider the available space on your boat and the optimal location for mounting solar panels to maximize exposure to sunlight while minimizing interference with vessel operations.

Ensure proper wiring and installation of solar panels to optimize performance and safety. Marine-grade components and waterproof

connections are essential to withstand the harsh marine environment.

Follow these best practices to ensure a successful installation of solar panels on your boat:

Conduct a thorough assessment of your boat's energy needs and available space to determine the size and configuration of your solar panel system.

Choose high-quality solar panels and components designed for marine applications to withstand exposure to saltwater, UV radiation, and harsh weather conditions.

Install solar panels in a location that receives maximum sunlight exposure throughout the day, taking into account shading from sails, rigging, or other obstructions.

Use marine-grade wiring, connectors, and mounting hardware to ensure durability and reliability in the marine environment.

Test the system thoroughly before setting sail to ensure proper functionality and performance.

Conclusion

Solar power panels offer boaters a sustainable and efficient solution for meeting their onboard energy needs. By harnessing the sun's energy, boaters can enjoy cost savings, environmental benefits, and increased independence on the water. With careful planning, proper installation, and adherence to best practices, solar panels can enhance the boating experience while minimizing the environmental footprint of marine activities. Whether you're cruising coastal waters or exploring remote destinations, solar power panels are a valuable addition to any boat owner's toolkit. ■

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Spring Around Lake Hartwell

April 20, 11AM – 4PM, SC State Chili Cook-off Championship, \$5 Tasting Tickets, \$20 for Unlimited Downtown Belton

April 20, 8:30AM – 10AM, Exercise + Nutrition Seminar, Host Kyle McSherry and Ricardo Boye, Currahee Movement Collective, info@curraheemovementcollective

April 20, 11AM – 4PM, Baba Spring Plant Sales in Conjunction with H.P. and Belton Middle School FFA Program, Downtown Belton

April 20, 9AM – 11AM, Children's Storybook Breakfast, Featuring "The Dot", Tickets \$15, Register at unitedwayofanderson.org/story

April 20, 7AM - 1PM, Hejaz Shriner Circus, Anderson Civic Center, 3207 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Anderson

April 20, 10AM – 10PM, Planet Protectors Celebrating Our Earth, Anderson Mail Library, 300 North McDuffie St., Anderson

April 20, 11AM - 2:30PM, 14th Annual S.C. Chile Cook-Off Championship, Public Chili Tasting, Belton City Square

April 25, 10:30AM – 11:30AM, Whitners Lil'Play, Learn and Grow Together, Join Every Second and Fourth of Each Month, Ages 2 – 6, A little Younger or Older We Encourage You To Come, Anderson County Museum, 202 East Greenville Street

April 25, 6PM – 7PM, 5K Fun Run + Social, Currahee Movement Collective, 209 East Foreacre Street, Toccoa

April 25, 6PM – 7PM, Vegetable Garden Series: Fertilizers & Soil Amendment, Basic Vegetable Garden Classes, Stephens County Senior Center, 55 Rose Ln. Park Dr., Toccoa

April 26, 11AM – 12PM, Homeschool Cruise, Learning, Hot Dogs, Chips, Snow Cones, Games, Anderson County Museum, 202 East Greenville Street

April 26, 7:30PM, Josh Turner, Live at the Soiree, South Main Stage, Downtown Anderson

April 26, 4PM – 7PM, Kinetic Customer Appreciation Day, Food, Prizes, Hosted by Isaak Hill, Kinetic Community Consultant, 166 E. Tugalo Street, Toccoa

April 27, 9AM – 2PM, Spring Craft Market, Over 40+Local Vendors, Live Music, Anderson Farmers Market, 864-231-7275

April 27, 10AM – 4PM, The Schoolhouse Spring Festival & 1st Birthday, 2332 Mize Road, Toccoa

April 28, 1:30PM – 2:30PM, Love Our Veterans Benefit Hike, Live Music, 100% Benefits PTSD Foundation Atlanta Chapter, 2104 Yanah Bend Heritage Park, Toccoa, vfwauxiliary4346@gmail.com

May 2, 5PM – 7PM, Student Success Expo, Guest Speakers, Resource Information, Displays, Student Recognitions and More, Stephens County High School, Toccoa

May 4, 9AM – 2PM, Spring Craft Market, 40+ Local Vendors, Live Music, Anderson County Farmers Market, 402 N Murray Ave., 864-231-7275

May 4, 10AM – 4PM, Liberty Hall Fair & Market, Vibrant Tapestry of Unique Items For Sale, Liberty Hall Bed & Breakfast, 621 S Mechanic St., Pendleton

May 4, 11, 18, 25, 9AM – 2PM, Spring Craft Market, Over 40+Local Vendors, Live Music, Anderson Farmers Market, 864-231-7275

May 4, 10AM – 2PM, Free Paper Shredding Event For Residential Customers Only, Co-Sponsored By The Belton Lions Club, Anderson County Solid Waste & Recycling, 864-260-1001

May 5, 4PM – 7PM, Toccoa Symphony Orchestra: From Heaven to Earth, Toccoa Falls College, Grace Alford Center for The Performing Arts, www.toccoasympphony.org

May 6, 6:30PM – 8PM, Flower Arranging Classes by Emily Keys, Learn to Make Beautiful Arrangements with Found Backyard Items, Downtown Belton, Register by April 26, Call 338-7400

May 9, 10:30AM – 11:30AM, Whitners Lil'Play, Learn and Grow Together, Join Every Second and Fourth of Each Month, Ages 2 – 6, A little Younger or Older, Anderson County Museum, 202 East Greenville Street

May 9, 6PM – 7PM, Vegetable Garden Series: Tomatoes & Peppers, Basic Vegetable Gardening Classes, Stephens County Senior Center, 55 Roselane Park Drive, Toccoa

May 10, 11AM – 12PM, Home School Friday, Family Program, Anderson County Museum, 202 East Greenville Street

May 11, 11AM – 2PM, Champagne & Jazz Bruch, Woodburn House, 130 History Ln. Pendleton, www.pendletonhistoricfoundation.org/foundation-events

May 11, 10AM – 12PM, Pottery Workshop, Potter, Tea, Shopping, Local Potter Mikala Alewine, 42 Rice Lewis Gillard Way, Toccoa, www.whpotteryco.com

May 18, 10AM – 3PM, 2nd Annual Erskine Flower and Garden Show, \$5 Admission, Downtown Belton

May 18, 1PM – 5PM, North Main Commons Beer Fest., Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N Main St., Anderson

May 23 – 27, Friday 4PM – 9PM, Saturday 10:AM – 8PM, Soiree 2024, The Electric City, Downtown Anderson, Food, Art, Music, Kids Games and Free Admission, Go to DowntownandersonSC.com For More Information

April 11 & 25, 7PM – 9PM, Line Dancing Lessons, Free to the Public, All Skill Levels Welcome, VFW Post 5897, 114 E. Main Street, Lavonia

April 13, 10AM – 2PM, Spring Rabies Clinic, Microchipping, Kennel Couth, DHPP, FVRCP, Rabies, Northeast GA Animal Shelter, 870 Bear Creek Rd., Lavonia, 706-356-5363, Cash or Check Only

April 15, 5PM – 7PM, Third Monday, Artisan Walk, Local Arts & Crafts, Shopping/DDA, Downtown Royston, 706-245-7577

April 19, 4PM, Lavonia Police Department, Q & A With Touch-a-police-car After Book Reading, Lavonia Carnegie Library

April 19, 6PM, Ned Lucas Band, 516 N Main St., Anderson

April 19, 7PM, Alyce Drive @ Doolittle's, Live Music, Downtown Anderson

April 20, 10AM – 10AM, 5th Semi-annul Anderson Makers Market, Shop 100 Vendors, Rocky River Plantation, Anderson

April 20, 7:30PM, St. Mary's Sacred Heart, Wellness Walk & 5K, 367 Clear Creek Parkway, Lavonia

April 20, 8PM – 4PM, Lavonia Chamber of Commerce Spring Festival, Food Vendors, Merchandise Vendors, Bouncy Houses and More

April 20, 11AM, Tugalo Holler The Farrow's J Creek Cloggers, Vendors, Food, & Entertainment, Downtown Lavonia

April 20, 11AM, Lavonia Utility Workers, Q & A With Touch-Bucket-Truck After Reading

April 24, 8AM, Annual Golf Tournament, Highland Walk Golf Course, www.chamber@franklin-County.com, 706-384-4659

May 24, Cars & Guitars, Hartwell

April 26 – 27, Soiree, Art Festival, Food Vendors and More, Anderson

April 27, Les 5K Color Run, Guaranteed Shirt Deadline, Proceeds Benefit Lavonia Elementary School PTO

April 27, 9AM – 4PM, Spring Vintage Market, Pottery, French Farmhouse, Romantic Ventage Décor, Reclaimed, Rustic Cottage, Handmade Crafts, Downtown Lavonia, 706-356-0274 or 706-460-5224

April 28, 3PM, A Roman Spring Serenade, Rainey Fine Art Center, Anderson University, 864-231-6147

May 4, 10AM – 5PM, Lavonia Renaissance Festival, Petty Zoo by Lake Hartwell Wildlife Safari, Entertainment, Music, History, Vendors, Food, Lavoniadowntown.com

May 4, 6PM – 8:30PM, 2nd Annual Derby Day "Run for the Roses", BBQ Dinner, Silent, Door Prizes, Parade of Hats Contest, Cash Bar, Ky Derby Live, DJ, RSVP, spritridgerescue@gmail.com, 706-224-9769

May 5, 4PM, From Earth to Heaven, Toccoa Community Choir, Family Hymns, Song & Praise, www.tocoasympphony.org

May 24, Music on Main, 80's Night, Chris Hampton Band, For More Information Visit Lavoniadowntown.com

June 13, Vegetable Garden Series: Cucumbers & Melons, Basic Vegetable Garden Class, Stephens County Senior Center, 55 Roseland Park Drive, Toccoa

June 21, Music on Main, Country Night, Clay Page, For More Information Visit Lavoniadowntown.com

June 22, 10AM – 4PM, The Schoolhouse Summer Festival, The Schoolhouse Vendor Market, 2332 Mize Road, Toccoa 2024

April 29, Pre-fourth of July on Lake Hartwell

Split Creek Farm Excels at 2024 World Championship Cheese Competition

It is with great pride that we announce the exceptional performance of Split Creek Farm at the 2024 World Championship Cheese Competition. As the premier cheese event since 1957, this biennial competition draws cheese makers from around the globe to showcase their finest creations. This year, Split Creek Farm's dedication to quality and craftsmanship has been duly recognized, with our herbed Feta and traditional marinated Feta earning top accolades.

Their special batch of herbed Feta, crafted exclusively for this competition, achieved an outstanding score of 99.7 in its class, securing the prestigious title of #1 in the US and #2 in the World! This remarkable achievement underscores our commitment to excellence and innovation in cheese making.

Additionally, their traditional marinated Feta also garnered high praise, scoring an impressive 99.55 in its class. This exceptional result places it at #2 in the US and #3 in the World, further solidifying Split Creek Farm's reputation as a leading producer of artisan goat milk products.

One judge's comment perfectly encapsulates the essence of our award-winning cheeses: "Very good product. Very balanced overall and the cheese was at the forefront which is difficult with

oil and herbs." This recognition reaffirms our dedication to creating harmonious and flavorful cheeses that delight the palate and captivate the senses.

They extend our heartfelt gratitude to our loyal followers, cheese enthusiasts, and esteemed chefs for their unwavering support throughout our journey. None of this would have been possible without your encouragement and patronage.

As owners of Split Creek Farm, LLC, Jessica Bell and Sandra Coffman are deeply committed to upholding the highest standards of quality and authenticity in every aspect of our operations. With Jessica's extensive experience in goat husbandry and Sandra's passion for education and outreach, we strive to provide superior goat milk products that reflect the unique terroir of our farm.

Visitors are always welcome to experience the charm of Split Creek Farm firsthand. Our Farm Shop is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm, offering a selection of our award-winning cheeses, fudge, and milk. Additionally, self-guided tours are available on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm, providing an opportunity to explore their working farm at your own pace.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this momentous achievement and savor the exquisite flavors of Split Creek Farm's world-class cheeses ■

Lake Hartwell Restaurants Accessible by Boat

The Galley Restaurant: Located at Portman Marina, 1629 Marina Rd, Anderson, SC, 864-287-3215, Tues. - Sat. 5pm - 9pm, Sun. & Mon. Closed, www.galleyrestaurantportmanmarina.com. Waterfront dining serving fresh seafood, prime beef, specialty dishes, sushi. Outdoor dining is available & two private dining rooms for your special occasions. Accepting reservations & would encourage you to call ahead for weekends & holidays. **Buoy 79**

Boat House Grill: Located at Hartwell Marina, 149 Hartwell Marina Drive, Hartwell, GA, 706-376-5150, Thur. & Sun. 11am - 9pm, Thur., Fri. & Sat. Live Music, Fri., and Sat. 11am - 9pm, www.theboathousegrill.com, Live music & events every weekend, indoor & outdoor seating, a variety of games, and a sandy beach where the kids can hunt rocks or watch the fish! **Buoy MLLC8**

The Waterfront Grill: Located at 1600 Asbury Park Rd, Anderson across from the double bridges & across from Green Pond Landing. Low Country boil, crab legs, grouper, apple pie pork chops, turnip greens, burger, waffles, chicken & waffles, shrimp & grits, French toast, both indoor & outdoor setting, catering available, birthday parties. www.theshoresofasbury.com. Open 11am, 7 days a week. 864-844-9002.

Tilly's Tiki Bar & Grill: Located at Harbor Light Marina, 1476 Harbor Light Marina Rd., Lavonia, GA, 706-356-0727, Mon. - Wed., Closed, Thur. 5pm - 9pm, Fri. - Sat. 12pm - 9pm, Sun. 10am - 9pm, www.tillystikibargrill.com. Serving fresh seafood, steak, salads & sandwiches. Team Trivia weekly Sun. 6pm - 8:30pm, **Buoy T51**

J.R. Cash's Grill and Bar: Located at Big Water Marina, 320 Big Water Rd., Starr, SC, 864-309-0111, Fri. - Sat. 11am - 10pm, www.jrcashs.com. Serving fresh, scratch-made, classic American grill. Whether enjoying a legendary salad, oversized sandwiches, or a hug, fresh patty piled high with fixin's. Outdoor setting with a beautiful view of the lake. **Buoy 10**

The Grill at Clemson Marina: Located at Clemson Marina, 150 Clemson Marina Drive, Seneca, SC, 864-653-6767, Fri. & Sun. 11am - 9pm, www.clemsonmarina.com. Serving burgers to tacos & wings, po boys to chicken fingers, salads, wraps and grilled sandwiches in an open air, relaxed environment. Outdoor playground, offering top notch food under refreshing ceiling fans with stunning views of Lake Hartwell & Clemson University's Death Valley. **Buoy 89**

Pixie and Bill's: Located at 1058 Tiger Blvd, Clemson, SC, 864-654-1210, Mon. - Sat. 5pm - 9pm, Sun. closed, www.pixieandbills.com, Fine dining serving fresh seafood, natural hand-cut beef, pasta, pork, chicken, seafood, vegetarian & gluten-free. Opened since 1971, accepting reservations. **Buoy S98**

Waldrop's Restaurant: Located at 1141 Andersonville Road, Townville, SC, 864-287-3958, Breakfast 7am - 10:30am, Lunch 11am - 2pm. Scratch made biscuits, Jalapeno cheese grits, daily specials, burgers, signature sandwiches, salads & more. Across the road from **Buoy T10**

Your Pie Pizza: Tiger Blvd, Suite 100, Clemson, 864-642-6888 ■

Buy From Local Farmers & Markets

Spring has started and there's plenty of local produce available near where you live. These farms provide a portion of their weekly harvest for a fee. Contact the farm directly to find out hours, costs, when the season starts, etc.

Clemson Sustainable Agriculture Program

Clemson: www.Clemson.edu/sustainableag
(864) 656-5057, Kelly Gilkerson

Foothills Heritage Market

Westminster: farmoconee.org

Greenbrier Farms

Easley: www.greenbrierfarms.com
(864) 855-9782, Amy Bishop

Patrick Square CSA

116 Thomas Square Blvd. Clemson (864)
654-1500, Chris Hodge
Thursday 5pm-6m

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www.GibsonFarmsOrganicBeef.com
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Lavonia Farmers Market

Wed and Sat. (7am-11am)
1269 East Main St., downtown Lavonia
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Stephens County Extension Service

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Street in Toccoa.

Hartwell Farmers Market

Benson Street at Hartwell Sun
April through Dec Tues 12-4; Saturday 7-12
www.hartwellfarmersmarket.com
(706) 376-7505 Shirley Johnson

Anderson County Farmers Market

402 N. Murry Ave.,
June - November Tues, Thur, & Sat (8am - 1pm)
Sharon Nicometo (864) 231-1924

Anderson Jockey Lot & Farmers Market

4530 Hwy 29 N., Belton
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www.clemsonareafoodexchange.com
(Lance Howard, (864) 372-9004

Clemson Farmers' Market

Patrick Square Village Green
(578 Issaqueena Trail)
May 3rd - Sept 27th Thursdays
(3:00pm - 6:00pm)
Kathi Dimmock (864) 654-3918
Kathi.dimmock@att.net
www.clemsonfarmersmarket.org

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updates on facebook, (864)224-5441,
berryacresllc@gmail.com
Brett & Angie Edelen

Seneca Farmers Market

(Main St. at Norton Thompson Park)
May 31st - October,
Tues, Thur & Sat (6am - 12pm)
Ed Halbig (864) 885-2726

Six Mile Farmers Market

(At the old Fire Station, 102 S, Main St.)
Thur (4pm - 7pm)
throughout the summer months
James Hayes, (864) 650-5078
James_hayes@sixmiles.org

Westminster Tuesday Farmers Market

135 East Main Street
June - Oct. (4pm - 7pm)
Sandra Powell (864) 647-5316

3 Oaks Farm

1223 North Seed Farm Rd., Westminster
www.3oaksfarm.com
(864) 324-4231

Split Creek Farm

3806 Centerville Rd., Anderson
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www.splitcreek.com
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Annual Passes Now Available at Hartwell, Thurmond Lakes

By USACE, SAVANNAH DISTRICT

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, announces annual passes are now available at Hartwell, and J. Strom Thurmond Lake Project Visitors Centers.

In mid-January, some passes were

temporarily unavailable, but now supplies have been replenished, and the following passes are once again available at both locations: USACE Annual Pass, America the Beautiful Annual Pass, America the Beautiful Senior Annual Pass, America the Beautiful Military Annual Pass, America the Beautiful 4th Grade Pass, America

the Beautiful Lifetime Senior Pass, America the Beautiful Lifetime Military Pass, and America the Beautiful Access Pass. Currently, passes are not being sold at Richard B. Russell Lake.

Customers can also purchase America the Beautiful passes online by visiting <https://store.usgs.gov/recreational-passes>.

For more information, contact Henry Way, Chief Ranger, or the J. Strom Thurmond Project Office at 800-533-3478, or 864-333-1100.

For more information at Hartwell Dam and Lake, contact Tanya Grant, Chief Ranger, or the Project Office at 888-893-0678, or 706-856-0300 ■

Exploring the Thrill of Water Sports

As summer approaches, many of us are eager to embrace the warmer weather and spend more time outdoors. One of the best ways to enjoy the sunshine and stay cool is by partaking in water sports on the lake. From adrenaline-pumping activities to leisurely pursuits, there's something for everyone to enjoy on the water this season.

When it comes to water sports, most people immediately think of recreational boating. While boating is undoubtedly a popular choice, there's a vast array of other activities to explore. Whether you're seeking an adrenaline rush or a tranquil escape, water sports offer a unique opportunity to connect with nature and have fun in the great

outdoors.

For those craving excitement and adventure, there's no shortage of options. Water skiing, kneeboarding, parasailing, and wakeboarding are just a few of the thrilling activities that promise an adrenaline rush. These sports, which involve being towed behind a boat, are sure to get your

heart racing and leave you craving more.

If you prefer a more laid-back approach, there are plenty of leisurely activities to enjoy on the lake. Kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding offer a peaceful way to explore the water and take in the scenic surroundings. Snorkeling is another

continued on page 17







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Lavonia, GA 30553



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Exploring the Thrill of Water Sports – continued from pg. 16

popular choice, allowing you to get up close and personal with the underwater world beneath the surface.

One of the great things about water sports is that they can be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a complete novice, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Around the lake many offer equipment rentals, making it easy to try out new activities without having to invest in your own gear.

For those looking to add a touch of adventure to their summer vacation, whitewater rafting is an exciting option. Guided rafting tours offer the opportunity to navigate through thrilling rapids and experience the beauty of nature.

Of course, no list of water sports would be complete without mentioning swimming. Whether you're taking a dip in the lake or lounging by the shore, swimming is a classic

summer pastime that never goes out of style. It's a great way to cool off on a hot day and enjoy some quality time with friends and family.

In recent years, several new water sports have emerged, adding even more excitement to the mix. Stand-up paddleboarding, SUP yoga, and flyboarding are just a few of the innovative activities that are gaining popularity. These futuristic sports offer a unique way to experience the water and challenge yourself in new ways.

No matter which water sports you choose to explore this summer, it's important to prioritize safety. Make sure to wear appropriate clothing and protective equipment, especially for activities like whitewater rafting and waterskiing. With the right gear and a sense of adventure, you'll be ready to dive into an unforgettable summer of fun on the lake. So, grab your gear, gather your friends, family and get ready to make a splash! ■

Hampton Wildlife Fund Donates \$195,800 to SCDNR for Conservation Projects

By SCDNR

The Hampton Wildlife Fund has presented the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) with a check for \$195,800 to be used for state-wide projects during 2024. The total donated to SCDNR by the Hampton Wildlife Fund over the years now stands at \$4,574,970.

The Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund Inc. (Hampton Wildlife Fund) is a private, non-profit corporation which partners with SCDNR for the promotion of natural resources and natural resource education, which benefits the conservation of wildlife, marine and other resources in South Carolina. Funds are obtained solely through private donations and special promotional projects and fundraising events. Although some of the funds are donated to special projects run by SCDNR, they are not used to replace any of the department's programs already supported by state-appropriated money.

"Our mission is to raise dollars in support of SCDNR, the stewards of South Carolina's vast wildlife and natural resources and to be a partner in the agency's educational efforts," said Hampton Wildlife Fund Board Chair Alvin Taylor, who is a former director of SCDNR.

"We are committed to providing SCDNR with funding for Palmetto State citizen programs, especially youth programs," said Hampton Wildlife Fund Executive Director Jim Goller of Beaufort and a DNR retiree.

Public education of wildlife and marine resources management and conservation is a major thrust of the fund's purpose. Scholarships are annually awarded to South Carolina resident students who attend South Carolina institutions

of higher learning majoring in wildlife, fisheries, forestry, biology, zoology, marine science, environmental science or related fields, with one awarded annually in the field of law enforcement/criminal justice and one in the field of journalism. Since 1995, The Hampton Wildlife Fund has awarded more than \$1.1 million in scholarships to South Carolina students.

Projects supported and funded by the Hampton Wildlife Fund include:

- Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic
- Sassafras Mountain Overlook project
- SCDNR shotgun and archery shooting sports in schools' programs
- Operation Game Thief
- Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs youth fishing rodeos
- Take One Make One youth mentoring program
- Aquatic Education Program, Carolina Coastal Marine Education Program and Educational Vessel Discovery
- Tiger shark research and tagging in Port Royal, St. Helena sounds
- SCDNR Land, Water and Conservation Envirothon
- Camp Wildwood
- Bruce Rush Artificial Reef and the S.C. Memorial Deepwater Reef Project
- Bruce Rush Pavilion and Youth Archery Range, Anne Springs Close Greenway
- Hampton Wildlife Fund Adventure Center, Anne Springs Close Greenway

Find out more about the Hampton Wildlife Fund by visiting hamptonwildlifefund.org or visit on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/harryhamptonfund/>. ■

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What Do You Do When You See a Snake

By GADNR

As spring warms up, snakes are moving and Daniel Sollenberger's phone is ringing.

As state herpetologist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Sollenberger is a go-to for snake questions. In the spring, most of those questions center on two topics: What species is this and what should I do?

As for the first, seldom is the snake a venomous species, according to Sollenberger, a senior wildlife biologist with DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section.

Whether it's venomous, of course, is the worry or fear underlying most of the questions. Chances are it's not. Only seven of the 47 species native to Georgia are venomous and only one – the copperhead – usually thrives in suburban areas, which is where many Georgians live.

“With spring, a variety of wildlife species become active and visible in and around our homes, yards and gardens, including snakes,” Sollenberger said. “While seven of Georgia's snake species can be dangerously venomous to humans, the 40 other species are nonvenomous, completely harmless and actually protected by state law.”

Which brings us to the second question: What should you do, or not do, if you see a snake?

First, do not attempt to handle the snake. Give it the space it needs.

You can try to identify it from a distance. Resources such as <https://georgiawildlife.com/georgiasnakes>, which includes DNR's “Venomous Snakes of Georgia” brochure, can help.

Remember that snakes are predators that feed on small mammals, amphibians, insects and even other snakes. There is no need to fear nonvenomous snakes. Also, as Sollenberger mentioned, Georgia's native nonvenomous species are protected by state law. One – the eastern indigo – is even federally protected.

If a clearly identified venomous snake is in an area where it represents a danger to people or pets, visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/preventing-wildlife-conflicts> for a list of private wildlife removal specialists. Most bites occur when a snake is cornered or captured and defending itself.

Nonvenomous snakes such as scarlet kingsnake, eastern hognose and watersnake species are frequently confused with their venomous counterparts – coral snakes, rattlesnakes and water moccasins, respectively. Although pit vipers, which include all venomous species native to Georgia except for coral snakes, are often identified by their broad, triangular-shaped heads, many nonvenomous snakes flatten their heads when threatened, which can make their heads appear triangular-shaped. Also, some nonvenomous species have color patterns similar to venomous snakes.

The bottom line: While it's likely not venomous, use caution around any unidentified snake.

“To keep yourself safe and allow our native wildlife to thrive,” Sollenberger said, “give all snakes the space they require and the ability to

escape on their own.”

For more on Georgia's snakes, visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/georgiasnakes>. “Amphibians and Reptiles of Georgia” (University of Georgia Press) also provides a comprehensive reference.

Snake Insights

Venomous vs. poisonous: Venom is a toxic substance. But a key difference when the terms are used to describe organisms is how the toxin is delivered. Venomous animals inject theirs by biting, stinging or sticking – think venomous snakes, wasps and stingrays. Poisonous species, such as poison frogs, deliver toxins passively, such as when they're eaten or through skin secretions when they are touched.

Benefits: While some snakes eat rodents and even venomous snakes, others prey on creatures some Georgians also may not want near their homes. Brown and red-bellied snakes, for example, feed on snails and slugs, the bane of gardeners. Crowned snake species primarily eat centipedes.

Baby snakes? Snakes such as earth and brown snake species are small (usually less than 12 inches long) and homeowners occasionally mistake them as juveniles. The common concern here: Are the parents nearby? Some snake species are live-bearers and some are egg-layers. But most snakes do not exhibit parental care. If there are parents, they are not watching over their offspring.

Prevention: To reduce the potential for snakes near your home, remove brush, log piles and other habitat features that attract mice, lizards and other animals on which snakes prey.

Help Conserve Wildlife

From eastern indigo snakes to bald eagles, DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section works to conserve rare and other Georgia wildlife not legally fished for or hunted, as well as rare plants and natural habitats. The agency depends primarily on fundraisers, grants and contributions. That makes public support key.

Georgians can help by supporting the state's Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund. Here's how:

Buy a DNR eagle or monarch butterfly license plate, or renew one of the older plate designs, including the hummingbird. Most of the fees are dedicated to wildlife. Upgrade to a wild tag for only \$25! Details at <https://gadnr.org/license-plates>.

Donate at <https://www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com>. Click “Licenses and Permits” and log in to give. (New customers can create an account.) There's even an option to round-up for wildlife.

Contribute to the Georgia Wildlife Conservation Fund when filing state income taxes – line 30 on form 500 or line 10 on form 500EZ. Giving is easy and every donation helps.

Donate directly to the agency. Learn more at <https://georgiawildlife.com/donations>.

Purchase a hunting or fishing license. A one-day, \$5 hunting/fishing license returns to Georgia wildlife that fee plus about \$45 in federal excise taxes paid by hunters and anglers nationwide.

To see how your support helps wildlife, go to <https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/annualreport>. ■



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Fun Outdoorsy Date Ideas for Couples

By Sunshine Sol, Take Me Fishing

Ideas for fun outdoorsy dates for couples, whether they've been together for years, are newly official, just started dating, or are just talking.

Nature is one of the best places to spend time with your partner. Not only does it offer beautiful landscapes and stunning views, it's also refreshing, invigorating and, dare I say, romantic. There are endless activities to try and wilderness to explore when you plan a date in the great outdoors. Here are some fun outdoor date ideas for you and your boo to try out.

Go camping: Camping is one of the best ways to slow down, relax, and spend quality time with your partner. It can be a great bonding experience to work together to cook a campfire meal and spend the nights nice and cozy in the tent. State parks are great places to camp, but if you're looking for something a little more luxurious, glamping is also an option.

Kayak on a lake: Romance doesn't have to be landbound! Take your loved one out on the water to change up the landscape a bit. State parks offer boat rentals so you can get out onto the water with ease. Whether you choose to kayak separately or take on the challenge of sharing a canoe, this date will be one for the books.

Overlook hop on a scenic highway: For beautiful views with little effort, take a relaxing drive along the back of a mountain and stop at the overlooks to see what they have to offer. The fresh mountain air is invigorating and the views

are breathtaking. Be sure to take lots of pictures and compare notes to decide which overlook you both liked best - maybe you can come back for another date!

Picnic at an overlook: If your partner is a foodie and likes to dine with a stunning backdrop, a picnic at an overlook is a great date! Especially if you both already drove the highway and have a favorite overlook. Pack a picnic basket with all their favorite food and drinks, grab some blankets, and head up the mountain. Schedule the picnic at sunset for some extra romance!

Hike to a waterfall: Hiking is a great way to spend time with your partner, especially if you're both outdoorsy and match each other's pace. What makes hiking even better is the promise of an enticing dip in refreshing water at the destination. Nothing beats standing under a waterfall together and lazing around in the pools without a care in the world. It's nature's spa day.

Go fishing: What better bonding experience than catching some trophy-sized fish together? Fishing is a relaxing pastime made even better when shared with your significant other. It's easy to spend the whole day together and rack up lots of quality time.

Nature is the grand unifier and brings so many people together. Whether you and your partner are dating, just talking, a new couple, or been together for years, the great outdoors is a great destination for your next date. It allows you to slow down, live in the moment, and enjoy the quality time with your loved one in nature. ■



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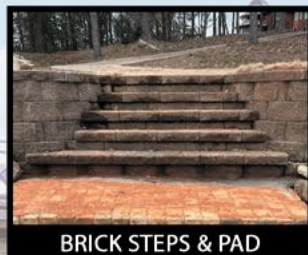
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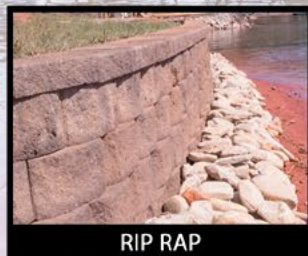
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