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Hartwell Lake News

Volume 26, Number 1 • Winter 2024

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Excellence in Arboriculture Clean Cut Tree Care, LLC Takes Root as a Double Winner

Established in 2018, Clean Cut Tree Care has quickly become a shining star in the tree care industry, earning prestigious accolades such as the People's Choice Award for Tree Care in Hartwell in both 2022 and 2023, as well as the esteemed title of Best in Georgia. Rooted in a commitment to professionalism and community relationships, Clean Cut Tree Care is not just a tree care service but a recognized leader in its field.

At the helm of Clean Cut Tree Care is Benjamin Brown, a proud United States Marine with four years of dedicated service to the nation. Brown's unwavering belief in the motto "service before self" has become the guiding principle behind the company's ethos. This commitment to selflessness and duty has undoubtedly contributed to Clean Cut Tree Care's



success and positive impact on the communities it serves.

Clean Cut Tree Care believes in the power of honesty, respecting people's time, and delivering on promises as the cornerstone of a successful business. By upholding these principles, the company not only builds a robust reputation but also earns the trust of the community. The consecutive wins of the People's Choice Award are a testament to the community's recognition of Clean Cut Tree Care's dedication to transparency and reliability.

To ensure the delivery of the best possible service, Clean Cut Tree Care has assembled a team committed to

excellence. With four ISA members on staff and one ISA certified arborist, the company has invested in expertise. Moreover, three team members are professionally trained climbers, equipped to handle any

Receiving the People's Choice Award for Tree Care in Hartwell for two consecutive years is a remarkable achievement for Clean Cut Tree Care. It reflects the company's consistent excellence and the trust it has



tree-related challenges with skill and safety. This dedication to a highly qualified team reflects Clean Cut Tree Care's commitment to providing top-notch tree care services.

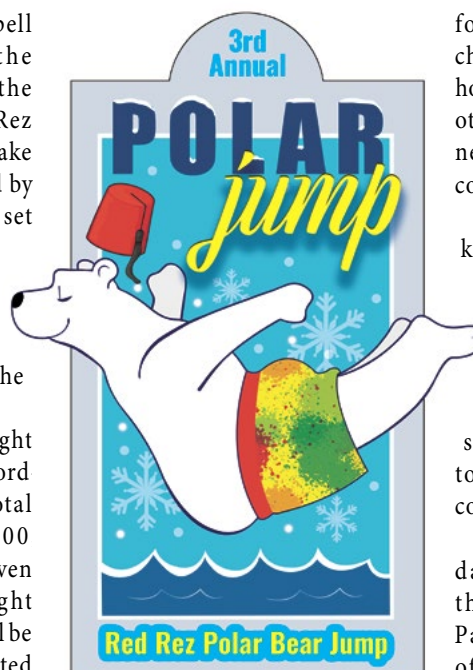
garnered from the local community. Adding the title of Best in Georgia further solidifies Clean Cut Tree Care's status as a leader in the state,

continued on page 6

Making a Splash for Charity: 3rd Annual Red Rez Polar Bear Jump 2024

As winter casts its icy spell over Anderson County, the excitement is palpable for the upcoming 3rd Annual Red Rez Polar Bear Jump, scheduled to take place on February 17th. Hosted by the Red Fez Shrine Club and set against the stunning backdrop of Big Water Marina, this event promises thrills, chills, and a generous dose of community spirit—all in the name of charity.

Organizer Benjamin Wright is gearing up for another record breaking year. "Last year's total raised an impressive \$6,500 and this year, we're aiming even higher—over \$8,000," Wright exclaimed. The funds raised will be split evenly, with half designated



for the Shriners hospital for children-Greenville, a beacon of hope for children in need, and the other half earmarked for planning next year's event, ensuring its continued success.

The day's festivities will kick off at 10 am with day-of registration and check-in, setting the stage for the main event. At 11 am, participants will take the plunge into the frigid waters of Lake Hartwell, symbolizing their commitment to making a difference in the community.

Registration for this daring adventure is open to the public, with a fee of \$30. Participants can pay the day of event or call to preregister.

Those interested in participating can visit the event waiver link bit.ly/PolarJump2023Waiver to download and complete the necessary form. Call Benjamin Wright at 864-359-0261 or email AndersonRedFez@gmail.com to complete the preregistration form and submit payment.

As a token of appreciation, all polar plungers will receive a commemorative t-shirt and medal, serving as enduring mementos of their icy feats for a good cause.

But the generosity doesn't end there. Big Water Marina and Campground, the gracious host of the event, will sweeten the deal with a raffle for a free half-day pontoon rental. For those

continued on page 6



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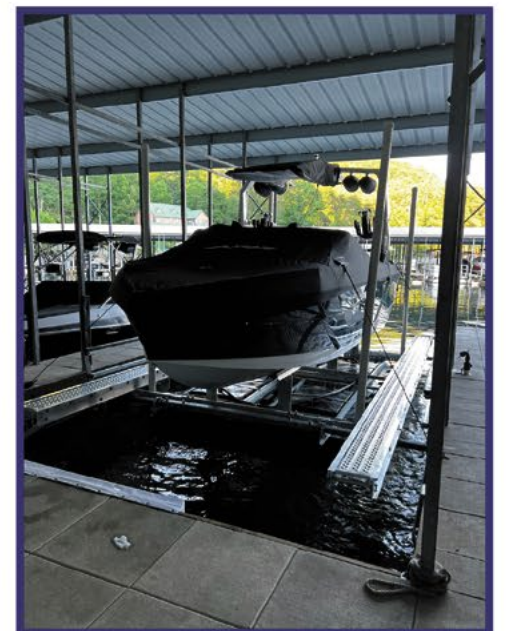
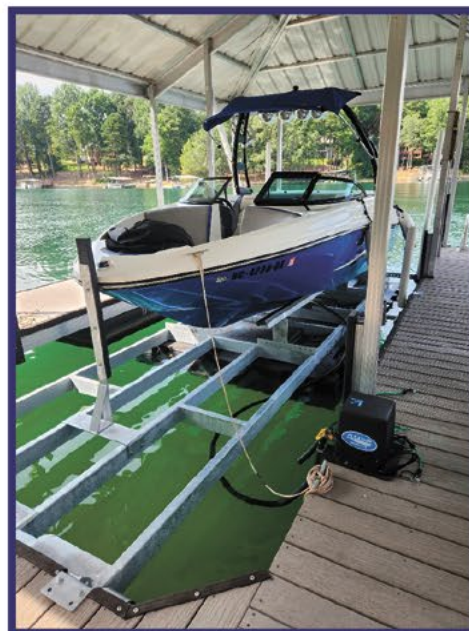


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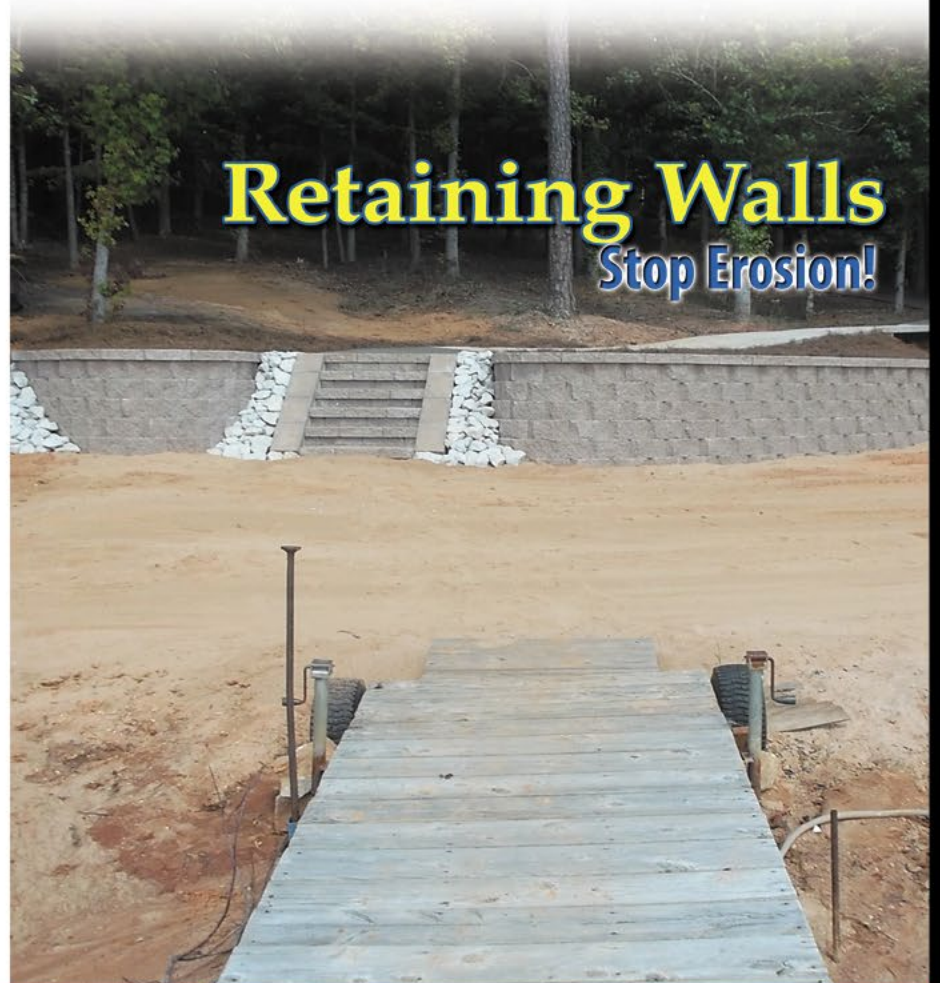
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Excellence in Arboriculture Clean Cut... – continued from pg. 1

showcasing its ability to deliver outstanding tree care services beyond regional boundaries.

As Clean Cut Tree Care basks in the glory of being a double-winner, the journey is far from over. With a commitment to service, a foundation of honesty, and a team dedicated to excellence, the company is poised for continued success. Benjamin

Brown's leadership, shaped by his military service, has set a standard that resonates not only in Hartwell but throughout the entire state of Georgia. Clean Cut Tree Care stands tall as a paragon of excellence in arboriculture, setting a high bar for the industry and inspiring trust and confidence in the communities it serves. ■

Making a Splash for Charity... – continued from pg. 1

eager to support the cause or learn more, inquiries can be directed to 864-359-0216. Additionally, stay connected and updated by visiting the Facebook event page and RSVPing at bit.ly/3FTnrU.

The 3rd Annual Red Rez Polar Bear Jump isn't just an opportunity to brave the winter waters—it's a chance to be part of a community-driven initiative that makes a meaningful impact. With each splash and each donation, participants and attendees contribute to the well-being of children and the success of future events.

As the countdown begins, Anderson County braces itself for a day of icy thrills, heartwarming generosity, and a shared commitment to making a difference. Let's dive in together on February 17th and make the Red Rez Polar Bear Jump an event to remember. ■



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At AAA Bobcat & Landscaping, we pride ourselves on being specialists in transforming outdoor spaces, particularly through the creation of gravel driveways and parking pads. However, our services extend far beyond, utilizing our state-of-the-art Bobcat loaders and excavators equipped with a variety of attachments for a wide range of tasks. From grading and power-raking yards for seeding or sodding to lot drainage, brush removal, post hole drilling for fences or tree plantings, and trenching for water and power lines, our team is equipped to handle projects that go beyond the



capabilities of traditional hand tools. As we like to say, when a wheelbarrow and shovel are just not enough, give us a call.

The inspiration behind AAA Bobcat & Landscaping traces back to the founder's love for working outdoors and engaging in hands-on projects. With a background in home construction, the founder earned a builder's license and

initially focused on building homes until the market slowdown in 2008. Leveraging expertise in construction, lot grading, and equipment operation, AAA Bobcat & Landscaping was established to assist customers with property projects that required more than manual labor. The transition from building homes to grading and excavation proved to be a successful and fulfilling move, with the business thriving for over 16 years.

AAA Bobcat & Landscaping serves the Upstate of SC and Lake Hartwell area. The founder, Barry Hedbloom, emphasizes a commitment to treating each project with the utmost seriousness, recognizing that many times, they are helping customers fulfill lifelong dreams. The dedication to detail and customer satisfaction has been a key factor in the sustained success of the business.

To get in touch with AAA Bobcat & Landscaping, interested individuals can contact directly via phone or text at 864-680-9969. Alternatively, communication is possible through email at bhedbloom@aol.com.

Reflecting on the journey of over 16 years in business, Hedbloom has not only mastered the operation of various equipment and attachments but has also discovered the joy of helping customers achieve their property goals and dreams. The business has become a source of excitement, reward, and fulfillment.

Looking to the future, AAA Bobcat & Landscaping envisions expansion by exploring

new opportunities around Lake Hartwell. The perfectly sized equipment at their disposal positions them well for tasks such as underbrushing, building cart paths, installing rip rap, and shoreline management work. The team is eager to collaborate with property owners and explore how they can contribute to realizing the unique visions and dreams of those in the Lake Hartwell area.

In conclusion, AAA Bobcat & Landscaping stands as a testament to the power of passion, expertise, and dedication in transforming outdoor spaces to help customers bring their property dreams to life. ■

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT AAA BOBCAT & LANDSCAPING

"I was in need of an experienced Bobcat operator that could navigate through a double gate to demo a pool. Barry came out promptly, was professional, knowledgeable about the process, came up with a solid game plan and provided a competitive price. Highly recommend him and AAA Bobcat & Landscaping Services." Jerry K.

"Barry did an excellent job in identifying my drainage issue and was able to rectify the problem in less than 2 hours. I would not hesitate to recommend him and will definitely call on him again in the future for other projects." Joseph F.

"Complete professional! Excellent at his craft and



Above: Gravel Driveway

was really quick! I would highly recommend this company for any leveling for a pool needs." Brad K.

"Barry did a great job. He returned my call right away and kept me informed until the job was complete, he also worked around my schedule. I highly recommend AAA Bobcat." Dennis C.

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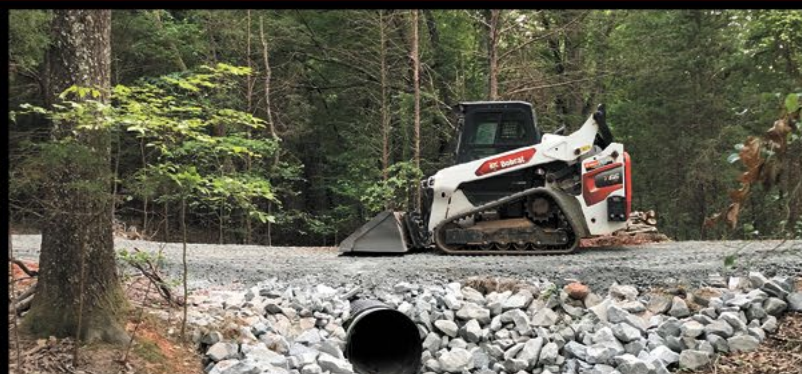
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Lakeside Luxury

You no longer have to travel the world to find the luxury and convenience for lake living now offered in Northeast Georgia. Few companies can compare to Southern Marine

Enterprise and how they are changing how we view lake life. Southern Marine Enterprise builds state-of-the-art docks that are beautiful to look at, along with outdoor living spaces that include patios, decks, fire pits and paths from the home to the lake that could be featured on HGTV or Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. The great news is you don't have to be rich to employ Southern Marine Enterprise. They offer superior quality and services while staying within your budget.

Jacob Trites, president of Southern Marine Enterprise, loves his community. He grew up in Franklin County and still resides there with his wife Kaitlyn, two children and a baby on the way in 2024.

Along with running Southern Marine Enterprise which proudly employs a team of 14 individuals - three of which are veterans or prior public safety. Jacob supports his community in the best way possible... by purchasing from the local manufacturers and suppliers thereby helping the local economy grow. Very involved in his community, Jacob is also a first responder fireman

and sponsor and den leader at Cub Scout pack 77 in Toccoa.

During the first 10 years, his company focused on restoration and rebuilding docks, then



Above: Trites Family Photo

in 2020 they began building new docks while expanding their services. Their success is a result of providing high-quality durable and innovative

solutions for docks and outdoor needs. Southern Marine Enterprise is committed to delivering exceptional customer service and providing reliable and timely installations. With clients on Lake Hartwell, Lake Burton, Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee, their work is now throughout North East Georgia, South Carolina and as far away as Tennessee.

They offer granite steps as a permanent solution for the ever-changing lake levels and your the ability to access the lake. They haul tons of rip rap both by Land and Sea (OKby Lake in 2024) all done in-house, which helps keep the expenses affordable. If you are in need of repairs, maintenance, dock monitoring, or dock moving services, Southern Marine Enterprise is your one stop shop. Their reputation is second to none. It is Jacob's and Southern Marine Enterprise's mission to create a legacy of exceptional work that is not only beautiful to look at, but will last generations and that every homeowner is proud to share.

Please visit their showroom at 399 Tugaloo State Park Road, Lavonia, GA 30553. For more information go to www.southernmarineenterprise.com or call 706-691-9860, Like them on Facebook: Southern Marine Enterprise ■

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Randy and Kathy Holloway

"We bought a used dock through Southern Marine. They remodeled it, installed a boat lift, and put in steps, rip rap rocks, and concrete pathway. Great price, excellent work, and done in remarkable time. I can't thank these guys enough!! Also using them to keep our dock moved in and out with lake level. Thanks again" The Potts

"Jacob and his crew breathed new life into our old tired dock. We had recently relocated to GA to retire on Hartwell Lake, the home we bought had a dock, but it was in tough shape. I had called several dock companies, some very well known names on the lake, Jacob at Southern Marine replied in a timely manor and followed up with a quote that included a detailed description of the work that would be performed. The Southern Marine team built us a new arched gangway, repaired a section of bent frame, changed out our floats, replaced all the decking bumpers and rub trim. My wife and I are looking forward to enjoying our dock for many years to come. I would say Southern Marine provided us with "white glove" service."
Douglas DeAngelis



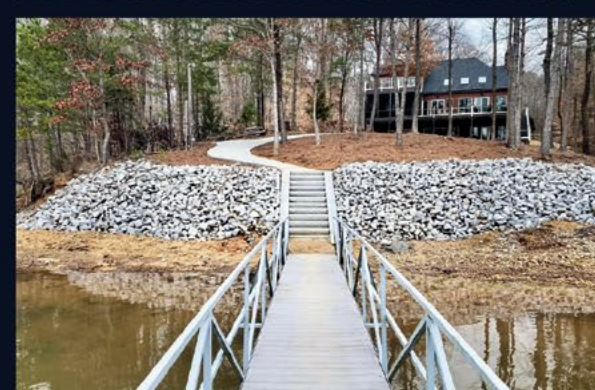
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Transforming Homes into Personal Retreats with Kyle Wimpey's Visionary Leadership

Are you yearning for a personal getaway right within the confines of your own home? Look no further than KW Windows, LLC, a company that has redefined the concept of home sanctuaries under the expert guidance of owner Kyle Wimpey. With a commitment to trust, excellence, and innovation, KW Windows, LLC stands as a testament to the transformative power of porch enclosures.

The philosophy of KW Windows, LLC is simple yet profound: build trust with the customer, deliver on promises, love what you do, and stand unwaveringly behind your services. These ethics have become the cornerstone of the company's success, shaping its trajectory from its inception with Pickens Siding & Windows, Inc., a business that has been proudly serving the upstate of South Carolina for over 45 years.

One of the standout features of KW Windows, LLC is its ability to seamlessly integrate functions and design into each porch enclosure. This commitment to marrying practicality with aesthetics has set the company apart from its peers, earning it the coveted title of #1 for "Best Design and Execution" among South Carolina Sunspace Dealers year after year.

Kyle Wimpey's leadership has played a pivotal role in shaping KW Windows, LLC into a trusted name in the industry. With a focus on understanding and exceeding customer expectations, the company has become synonymous with quality, reliability, and innovation.

KW Windows, LLC offers a diverse range of porch enclosure solutions, from the Sunspace

Weathermaster to Thermal Glass Sunrooms and Aluminum Screen Porch Enclosures. Each product is meticulously crafted to provide not just shelter but a space that seamlessly integrates with the unique design and functional needs of each home.

The company's commitment to excellence is echoed in the words of satisfied customers. Steven Alexander, a client of KW Windows, LLC, enthusiastically shares, "By far the best team I've ever worked with. They truly understood the look I was going for and completely nailed it. I would highly recommend them as a company; you simply won't find any better team!" Such testimonials highlight the company's dedication to customer satisfaction and its ability to bring clients' visions to life.

In today's world, where choices abound, KW Windows, LLC's stellar reputation is further reinforced by the overwhelmingly positive reviews scattered across the internet. These testimonials serve as a testament to the company's commitment to delivering not just porch enclosures but peace of mind, ensuring that the entire process, from consultation to installation, unfolds smoothly and efficiently.

Choosing KW Windows, LLC is more than a decision; it's an investment in transforming your home into a haven. Kyle Wimpey's leadership and the company's unwavering dedication to excellence make it a standout choice for those seeking not just porch enclosures but a personalized retreat within the comfort of their own homes. ■

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43 Years of Excellence in Waterfront Services

In the heart of South Carolina, Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair has been a trusted family business since its inception in 1981. Specializing in boat docks, the company has carved a niche for itself, providing a range of services that go beyond the ordinary. From float replacements to intricate wood and metal work, Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair has become a reliable name in the waterfront service industry.

Melvin Holbrooks, the founder of the business, was a true master of all trades, with a particular expertise in dock work. His passion for the water and dedication to his craft laid the foundation for a business that has thrived for over four decades. As the torchbearer of his legacy, Eric Holbrook, took over in 1999 and has learned the ropes over the years, continues to prioritize customer satisfaction above all else.

One of the key factors that set Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair apart is its willingness to take on diverse projects. While the primary focus is on boat docks, the team has never shied away from challenging requests. Over the years, the company has successfully customized docks, retrieved sunken boats, and many other things out of the lake. This adaptability and commitment to meeting customer needs have been crucial to the business's enduring success.

Listening to customers has been a guiding principle for Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair. Understanding their unique requirements and collaborating to bring their visions to life has been instrumental in building lasting relationships.

Whether it's a minor repair or a major overhaul, the team at Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair approaches each project with dedication and attention to detail.

In 43 years of operation, Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair has defied the conventional norms of business. Despite the absence of a brick-and-mortar storefront, the company has thrived solely on the strength of its reputation. Word of mouth from satisfied customers has been the driving force behind the business's growth. The philosophy is clear: the bottom line only truly matters when the vast majority of customers are not just content but delighted with the service received.

Contacting Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair is as easy as it gets. With a simple phone call to 864-221-6621 or an email to ericholbrooks@gmail.com, customers can connect with a team that values their needs and understands the intricacies of waterfront projects. The absence of a physical storefront hasn't hindered the business; rather, it has thrived on the trust and recommendations of a loyal customer base.

Looking ahead, the team at Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair is optimistic about the future. With the blessing of a successful 43-year career, the company aims to continue its legacy for many more years to come. As the phone continues to ring and emails pour in, Holbrooks Salvage and Dock Repair remains dedicated to delivering quality service and ensuring that every customer's experience is nothing short of exceptional. ■

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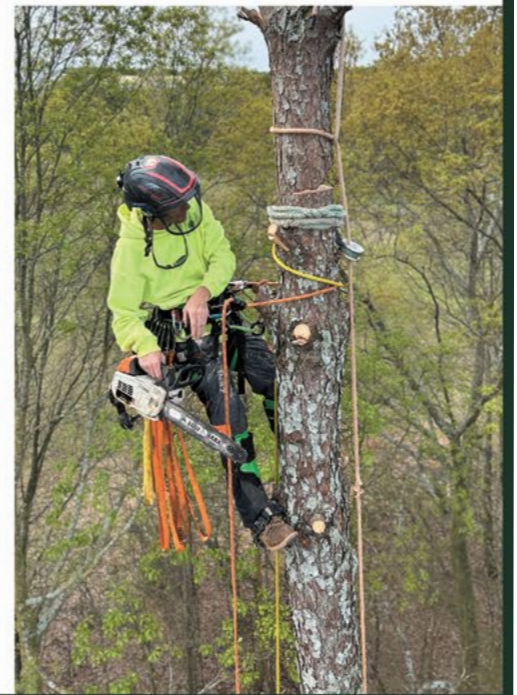


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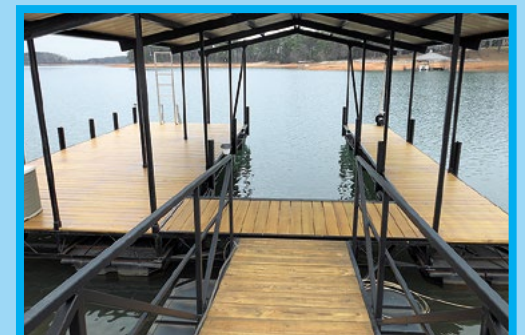


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Navigating Tradition on How to Christen a Boat with Style and Safety

Christening a boat is a time-honored tradition, rich with history and cultural variations. From Viking sacrifices to the British Navy's champagne-smashing ritual, the act of christening has evolved over the centuries. In today's world, with environmental concerns and safety considerations at the forefront, modern boat christening ceremonies have taken a more thoughtful and eco-friendly approach.

Gathering friends and family for the christening ceremony is a common starting point. Choose a picturesque location for the event, ensuring that the boat is securely tied to a pier or dock. This moment is not just about naming the vessel but also about sharing the joyous occasion with loved ones.

The choice of celebratory drink is a matter of personal preference. Whether it's champagne, wine, or another beverage, raising a glass to the new boat is a symbolic gesture that marks the beginning of its journey. However, breaking a bottle of champagne across the bow, once a common practice, is now viewed with environmental concerns in mind. Broken glass and carbon dioxide emissions are considered pollutants, prompting a shift toward more eco-friendly alternatives.

To maintain the symbolism of the christening ritual, consider using a green, leafy branch instead. Placing this branch in the boat signifies a wish for a safe return to land for both the vessel and its crew. This step pays homage to historical practices while embracing a more sustainable approach.

The heart of the christening ceremony lies in the naming of the boat. Choose a name that resonates with the spirit of the vessel and its future adventures. As the boat's name is announced, make a toast to its prosperity and pour a portion of the celebratory libation over the boat's bow. This act symbolizes bestowing good fortune upon the vessel and all who sail on it.

For those who wish to maintain a nod to tradition while ensuring safety, using a stainless-steel bow pulpit or cleat as the target for the bottle smashing is a practical compromise. Champagne bottles, known for their thickness, can be difficult to break, and attempting to do so on the hullside may result in gel coat damage. Placing the bottle inside a mesh bag

helps contain the broken glass, demonstrating a commitment to both tradition and responsible celebration.

The christening ceremony concludes with a boat ride, marking the official beginning of its aquatic adventures. As the vessel sets sail, it carries not only its name but also the blessings and good wishes bestowed upon it during the christening ritual.

In essence, modern boat christening embraces tradition while adapting to contemporary values. By incorporating eco-friendly practices and ensuring safety during the ceremony, boat owners can create meaningful and memorable experiences that honor the rich history of christening while looking towards a sustainable future on the water. ■

Dispelling Common Myths for Boat Owners

As winter sets in, boat owners face the important task of winterizing their vessels to ensure they are in prime condition come spring. However, misinformation often clouds the decision-making process, leading to potentially costly mistakes. Let's debunk some common winterization myths and uncover the facts that every boat owner should be aware of.

Myth: "If it doesn't get below freezing for a long period of time, I don't need to winterize my boat."

During the winter, boats can be idle for extended periods, making proper winterization essential. Failing to do so can trap moisture in the engine, leading to corrosion. Corrosion is as destructive as a frozen and cracked engine block. Professional anti-corrosion techniques

are a crucial part of comprehensive winterization.

Myth: "My fuel will be fine if it sits all winter. I'll just put some stabilizer in it come springtime, and it'll take away any problems."

Facts: Fuel left unused for an extended time can separate, and adding a stabilizer in the spring won't reverse the process. Stabilizers must be added in the fall to prevent fuel-related issues. Neglecting this step may necessitate draining and cleaning the fuel system, incurring unnecessary costs.

Myth: "I'll just leave a space heater on my boat, and that'll keep it warm enough so I don't have to winterize it."

Fact: Using a space heater on a boat is not only a severe fire risk but also unreliable. In case of a power failure, the heater may stop working,

putting the engine at risk of freezing. Relying on makeshift heating solutions is a gamble that no boat owner should take.

Myth: "If there's a warm day in January, I'll just go take the boat out for a bit. It shouldn't be a big deal since my boat was winterized by a professional."

Fact: Some marine service centers remove engine block plugs during winterization, placing them in a bag until spring. If owners are unaware of this, running the engine without the plugs can lead to catastrophic failure. Always double-check with your service provider and follow their recommendations diligently.

Myth: "I'll just run some regular car antifreeze through my engine, and that should keep in safe."

Fact: While using antifreeze is crucial, marine-grade antifreeze is necessary. Automotive antifreeze can damage engine components and pose environmental risks if leaked into the water. Always choose the appropriate antifreeze to ensure the safety of your engine and the environment.

In conclusion, winterization is not a task to be taken lightly, and relying on common myths can lead to costly mistakes. Properly preparing your boat for winter requires a combination of professional guidance and careful attention to detail. By dispelling these myths and embracing the facts, boat owners can navigate the winter season with confidence, knowing their vessels are safeguarded against potential damage. ■

Finding Your Dream Vessel at a Boat Show

For passionate seafarers and dreamers alike, a boat show is not just an event; it's a gateway to maritime ecstasy. The prospect of acquiring your dream vessel at such an exhibition is an exhilarating journey filled with opportunities and experiences that go beyond the mere purchase of a boat. Here's why attending a boat show is the key to unlocking your nautical dreams.

Boat shows are treasure troves of nautical wonders, showcasing an extensive array of vessels ranging from sleek sailboats to majestic yachts. As you wander through the exhibit halls, you'll encounter boats of various sizes, styles, and functionalities. This diverse collection allows you to explore and define the essence of your dream vessel, whether it's a nimble cruiser for weekend getaways or a luxurious yacht for extended adventures.

Manufacturers often use boat shows as a platform to unveil their latest and most innovative

models. This exclusive preview allows you to stay ahead of the curve, exploring cutting-edge designs, advanced technology, and improved features. Finding your dream vessel becomes even more exciting when you have the opportunity to be among the first to witness the newest additions to the maritime world.

Navigating the sea of options can be overwhelming, but at a boat show, you have access to a wealth of expertise. Engage with boat designers, manufacturers, and seasoned sailors who can provide valuable insights into the strengths and characteristics of each vessel. This expert guidance ensures that your dream boat not only meets but exceeds your expectations in terms of performance, comfort, and aesthetics.

Pictures and online descriptions can only convey so much. Boat shows offer the unparalleled advantage of stepping aboard and immersing yourself in the atmosphere of your dream vessel.

Feel the sleekness of the hull, envision yourself at the helm, and explore the intricacies of the interior. This hands-on experience creates a personal connection, allowing you to confirm that the boat resonates with your vision of maritime bliss.

Purchasing your dream vessel requires careful financial planning. Boat shows often feature financial institutions specializing in marine financing. These on-site experts can guide you through the financing process, tailoring solutions to your specific needs. With seamless financial assistance, your dream boat becomes not just a vision but a tangible reality within reach.

A boat show is not only about the vessels; it's a vibrant gathering of like-minded individuals who share a common passion for the open waters. Networking opportunities abound, allowing you to connect with fellow enthusiasts, share stories, and gain insights from experienced sailors. This

community engagement enhances the overall experience, providing a supportive network for your upcoming maritime adventures.

Acquiring your dream vessel at a boat show is not just a transaction; it's the beginning of a new chapter filled with unforgettable memories and boundless adventures. From the excitement of the purchase to the anticipation of future voyages, the entire process becomes a voyage in itself, creating a tapestry of experiences that will be cherished for a lifetime.

In conclusion, attending a boat show is not just about buying a boat; it's a holistic journey towards realizing your maritime dreams. With a diverse selection, expert guidance, hands-on experiences, and a supportive community, a boat show provides the perfect stage for discovering and acquiring your dream vessel, setting the course for a lifetime of nautical bliss. ■

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Why Winter Might Just be the Best Time to Build a Dock

As the winter season blankets the world in a layer of frost, most homeowners tend to put outdoor projects on hold. However, if you're considering building a dock, now might be the perfect time to make that dream a reality. While winter may seem like an unconventional time for marine construction, there are several compelling reasons why it could be the best season to embark on this exciting endeavor.

One of the primary advantages of building a dock in winter is the ability to maximize your recreation funds. During this season, families often allocate resources for vacations and recreational activities. Investing in a dock not only enhances the value of your property but also ensures that your waterfront activities are more enjoyable

and accessible throughout the year. Whether it's fishing, swimming, or taking the boat out, a well-constructed dock can significantly enhance your recreational experience.

Having your dock ready for use in spring is another compelling reason to start the construction process in winter. Designing a dock involves careful planning, customization, and oversight by engineers. Securing the necessary permits can be a time-consuming process, taking several months. By initiating the planning and manufacturing stages during winter, you can expedite the installation process and have your dock ready as soon as the warm weather returns. This proactive approach allows you to make the most of the boating season without unnecessary

delays.

Furthermore, building a dock during winter can offer a tangible boost to your property value. In recent years, homes with docks have seen a significant increase in value, making it a lucrative investment. Constructing a dock during winter not only adds aesthetic appeal but also enhances the functionality and overall appeal of your waterfront property. This boost in value can be particularly advantageous if you're planning to sell your home in the spring or summer, providing a solid return on investment.

It's important to note that the type of dock you choose plays a crucial role in determining the added value to your property. While a basic, self-built wooden dock may not contribute as

much, a high-quality floating dock designed with your property and usage in mind can significantly elevate your home's value. Factors such as existing structures, shoreline features, and the construction team's expertise all influence the overall impact of the dock on your property's worth.

In conclusion, winter presents a unique opportunity to capitalize on the benefits of building a dock. From maximizing your recreation funds and having the dock ready for spring to increasing your property value, the advantages of winter construction are undeniable. So, if you've been contemplating a dock project, don't let the cold weather deter you—embrace the season and set the groundwork for a waterfront oasis that will be enjoyed for years to come. ■



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Winter Around Lake Hartwell

January 12, 19 and 26, 7pm – 8pm, Entertainment Plus Food Trucks, Kitchen Emporium, 418 N. Main, St., Anderson

January 20, 10:30am – 12:30pm, Kids Birdhouse Crafting Class, 146 Race Street, Hartwell Art Center, Hartwell, to Reserve Your Space, \$35, (\$30 For Current Members of The Art Center

January 20, 6:30pm, Caleb Synan, Comedian, FCHS Theatre Department, Tickets \$10, Go to www.showtix4u.com/event-details/79314

January 26, 5pm -7pm, Art Swap Meet, 112 N. Forest Ave., Hartwell, Contact Brooke, 706-376-8117 for More Information

January 26-28, AKC Dog Show, T. Ed Garrison Arena, Clemson, All Day

January 27, 6pm – 9pm, Hart County Chamber of Commerce, Annual Awards & Nancy Ball, \$45 for Members, \$50 Non-Members, 2183 Goldmine Holly Springs Road, Royston, Contact Hart Camber Commerce, 706-376-8590

January 27, 10:30am – 11:30am Watercolor, Fantastical Animals Living in a Changing World A-Z, Author Sandra Bates, Leading a Watercolor Painting Class That Goes with Her Book, Class \$35, 6Yrs -11Yrs., RSVP With the Anderson County Museum

February 2, 9, 16, 23, 7pm – 8 pm, Entertainment Plus Food Trucks, Kitchen Emporium, 418 N. Main, St., Anderson

February 8, 7pm, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Swails Center, 2200 W. Main St., Royston, 706-384-4659

February 27, Meals on Wheels, Anderson Mardi Gras, Great Food, Music, Drinks, Silent/Live Auction, General Admission or VIP Tickets LIMITED AVAILABLE, \$75-\$750, The Bleckley Station, 310 S. Main Street, Anderson, 864-225-6800

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 7pm – 8 pm Entertainment Plus Food Trucks, Kitchen Emporium,

418 N. Main, St., Anderson

March 2, 8am – 9:30am, Celebrating Life After Loss, 5K Run/Walk To Remember, Weldon Memorial Park & Gazebo, 1269 E. Main St., Lavonia, Contact Shelia Finney, sfinney@pruitthealth.com, 678-230-983

March 16, Race for The Green 2024, Half Marathon, 5K and Kids Fun Run, Shaver Rec. Complex, Seneca, For More Information 864-885-2700

March 26, Lavonia Boat Show, Downtown Lavonia, For More Information 706-356-1926

For More Local Event Go To, Visitanderson.com

Sailing into Winter Excitement

As the winter months settle in, sailors at the WCSC (Western Carolina Sailing Club) are gearing up for the Frostbite Series, a pursuit start race that promises thrilling competition without the formality of traditional buoy racing. The upcoming WCSC Frostbite Race #4, scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 10:30am to 4:00pm Eastern Time, beckons sailors of all levels to embrace the chill and enjoy the camaraderie of winter sailing.

The Frostbite Series adopts a pursuit start format, setting it apart from the more conventional windward-leeward buoy racing. This approach utilizes government navigation buoys as course marks, offering a unique and engaging experience for sailors. Staggered start times based on PHRF ratings ensure that slower boats set off first, creating

a visually dynamic racecourse and eliminating the chaotic crowds typically associated with traditional starts.

The pursuit start format adds a delightful “fun factor” to the race, allowing participants to gauge their performance against others. It’s a straightforward concept: if you’re ahead of a boat on the course, you’re beating that boat. The first boat to cross the finish line emerges victorious, embracing the simplicity and excitement of this style of racing.

Beyond the adrenaline of the race, participants can look forward to a cozy post-race gathering. Warm up by the fireplace, bring your favorite adult beverage (BYOB), and engage in the lively post-race banter that adds a sense of community to

sailing events. Tony Bolan adds a savory touch to the post-race festivities by providing soup or chili, enhancing the warmth of the gathering.

The day kicks off with check-in and registration starting at 10:30am. Rick, the person with the computer, will be ready to receive your boat information to set up the staggered start times accurately. The skippers’ meeting, scheduled for 11:00 AM, is a crucial gathering where the course for the day will be decided, and the pursuit start process will be explained.

Sailors are advised to come prepared by downloading and printing essential documents such as the Sailing Instructions, Lake Map, and Buoy and Course List from the Frostbite Series 2024 folder on the Club website. These documents

hold crucial information, especially for those new to sailboat racing or the Club’s pursuit start races.

For those eager to participate or seeking more information, reaching out to Rick Fontenot, the event contact, at cowardlyliontri@gmail.com or 334-332-2025 is recommended. The WCSC Frostbite Race #4 is open to both members and non-members, with registration being recommended but free for all.

As winter settles over the cove, the WCSC Frostbite Race #4 offers sailors a chance to break free from hibernation and sail into the excitement of winter racing. Whether you’re a seasoned sailor or a newcomer, the Frostbite Series promises a unique and enjoyable experience that celebrates the spirit of winter sailing. ■

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 sense 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** ■

Conquering Cold-Weather Garden Challenges

Do you look at your garden at this time of the year and wish it were more alive? Well, as those of us who have their homes on the market have found out - there are ways to make your front yard look attractive even in the dead of winter!

One thing you don’t want is murky green garden paths. Regularly power-hose your paths and decks so that the slimy green mold can’t take hold! Also check for it at the base of your fences and house. If you live in a mild winter area, then you may need to keep cutting the lawn, but lift the mower slightly so that the grass is not cut so short in the winter.

If you are showing your home you will probably want to leave your potted plants in their ceramic containers on show. If this is the case, keep an eye on the weather forecasts and pop some bubble wrap over them if the weather is going to freeze.

One non-gardening way to pretty up a front yard while the plants hibernate, is to invest a few dollars in some inexpensive path lighting. The push-in mushroom lamps look quite effective when turned on and will give your front yard some definition.

Hopefully, you have already invested in a supply of evergreens, if not, now is the time

for you to examine your yard and decide where new trees should be placed. Remember to always include some of the blue fir, and there are bronze, yellow, silver and variegated evergreens to choose from. Many of us forget the brightness of berry evergreens like holly and rowan trees. (Sometimes referred to as mountain ash or Pyrus Americana).



Winter flowers are scarce and are all the more appreciated because of it. Among the choice is pink viburnum as well as winter honeysuckle and winter jasmine - all have blooms (and the last two smell delightful). Bedding plants such as winter pansies and winter heather also add color.

Apart from attractive tree bark, there is also a modern day fad for decorative cabbages in cream and purple, and these are a hardy decoration in the yard.

If you feel you can’t wait for your garden to wake up and come alive, then be sure to add some of the early bulbs into your planting plan. If your house is on the market, you can tell your prospective buyers that the new owner will be moving into a view of spring bulbs.

If you are not planning a move yet, then snow drops, daffodils and crocuses all come out in bloom very early and can be your reminder that spring is just around the corner. ■

Welcome to Camp Wildwood of South Carolina!

By SCDNR

Do you have a teenager who needs something exciting to do this summer? Are they on the cell phone too much and need to get outdoors? Sign them up for Camp Wildwood, South Carolina's conservation leadership camp.

The 2024 session of Camp Wildwood is set for June 16-22, 2024 at Kings Mountain State Park in York County. Camp Wildwood is for rising 10th, 11th and 12th graders, and its purpose is to help train the next generation of conservation leaders in South Carolina. Camp Wildwood is \$250 per week—one of the least expensive camps in the state—and some scholarships are available.

Registration has opened now by visiting <https://www.campwildwoodsc.com>.

Camp Wildwood gives participants a basic introduction to South Carolina's wildlife and natural resources and provides an understanding of, and commitment to, the wise use and management of those resources. Camp Wildwood provides youth with the opportunity to grow in self-confidence and to develop initiative and leadership skills in a challenging yet supportive environment.

Camp Wildwood activities include instruction in fisheries, forestry, firearm safety, orienteering, first aid and wildlife. Campers take classes at Camp Wildwood in wildlife, hunter education, fisheries and forestry. The hands-on classes are conducted outdoors by professional natural resources staff members.

A number of other traditional camp activities, such as swimming, kickball, volleyball, fishing, and nightly dances, are also part of the camp experience.

Camp Wildwood is made possible through the generous support of Garden Club of South Carolina, Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund, South Carolina Wildlife Federation and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

The 1st year program is the heart and soul of Camp Wildwood. Daily activities include instruction in fisheries, forestry, firearm safety, orienteering, first aid, soils and wildlife. The

hands-on classes are conducted outdoors by professional resource staff members. Afternoon activities include sports such as softball, swimming and volleyball.

Dances, campfires and skit night are some of the most popular evening activities. As in true "Wildwood Style" we don't show all our cards. There will be surprises around every corner to keep you smiling and having the time of your life!

Camp Wildwood is a community of people who live, learn and enjoy nature related activities together. Counselors live in the same cabins as campers, providing constant interaction between the camper and counselor.

The 2nd year program was developed back in 1977 to further the Camp Wildwood experience. Twenty campers from the previous year are invited back to attend a program based in the Upstate of South Carolina. The professional staff and counselors that select these 2nd year campers believe that they possess leadership, maturity and dedication, which if nurtured, leads to the wise use of natural resources.

During this week, the 2nd year campers will experience challenging but fun adventures. The goal is for them to gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their relationship with other people, and the natural world.

The Camp Wildwood 3rd year program is much different than 1st and 2nd year. The 2nd year campers from the previous year are invited to take place in this coastal excursion. The program teaches the campers about the coastal ecosystem while campers do hands-on activities such as fishing, exploring Botany Bay, touring the state aquarium in Charleston, and much more.

The experience of 3rd Year is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The campers grow very close throughout the week and embrace each other as family by the time the week is over. Many campers say the 3rd year program is the highlight of their Wildwood experience.

For more information about Camp Wildwood, visit <https://www.campwildwoodsc.com> or e-mail wildwood@gmail.com, TXT Only: (803) 609-7072. ■

Proposals for Georgia Wildlife - Viewing Grants

Georgia is offering a helping hand to projects that help people experience the animals, plants and natural habitats emphasized in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan.

The opportunity comes by way of the state Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Viewing Grants Program. The agency is now accepting proposals for 2024. The deadline to apply online at <https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewingGrants> is Feb. 6, 2024.

The grants are capped at \$3,000 per project and supported through the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund, which is managed by DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section.

Wildlife Conservation Section Chief Matt Elliott said the goal is to provide viewing opportunities that raise awareness of native animals not fished for or hunted, rare native plants and natural habitats – particularly those considered conservation priorities in the Wildlife Action Plan. This comprehensive strategy is focused on conserving Georgia wildlife and their habitats before these plants, animals and places become

rarer and costly to conserve or restore (<https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan>).

"DNR's wildlife viewing grants focus on the critical human element of wildlife conservation," Elliott said. "Getting folks outside to experience high-priority habitats and species is absolutely critical to developing a desire to conserve them, and it's important to people's overall well-being and health."

In a 2021 survey of about 1,000 wildlife viewers in Georgia, the services most respondents said they wanted from DNR included more information about the state's wildlife and where to see species, as well as more access to viewing sites (<https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewing>).

The six viewing grant projects approved last year varied from a bat call detector and other gear to inform people about bats in Forsyth County to a bird's nest-design viewing tower near Rising Fawn and interpretive signs along trails at Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center in Henry County.

Although the grants are small, the interest they

continued on page 16

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Annual Event Launches Lake Hartwell's Recreational Season

By Susan Martin

With plans finalized for the annual Lavonia Boat Expo, organizers look forward to seeing expo attendees.

"Bringing people into Lavonia to see what the town has to offer was the original idea for the boat show," said Susan Poole, chairman of the expo. Each year, the boat show grows with more visitors and Lake Hartwell enthusiasts.

"The Lavonia Boat Expo 2024 will usher in Lake Hartwell's boating, fishing, and recreation season on March 16. For the fifth year, the array of new boats and trucks takes place downtown on East Main Street at the gazebo."

Hosts of the expo include Gordon's Marine, N&C Marine, Lake Hartwell Marine, Lake Hartwell Marine Restorations, Southern Marine Enterprise and Ed Murdock Superstores.

"More than two dozen vendors will feature lake related products and services such as pontoon and personal watercraft rentals, shoreline and dock construction/maintenance, fishing tackle, lake properties, home décor, and sportswear," Poole said.

"Our dealers and vendors do well and return year after year. Downtown shops and restaurants offer special deals while establishing new customers."

Poole said most vendors have promotional items to give away and the dealers have held

drawings for prizes in the past. "Local merchants often contribute gifts for drawings at the hospitality table," she said.

In addition to the vendors and retail offers, expo visitors will have access to additional instructional and interactive exhibits.

"Boating safety is covered by TowBoatU.S. and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Campgrounds, marinas, and Tugaloo State Park will feature their amenities for leisure lake enjoyment. Members of The Blue Ridge Chapter of Antique and Classic Boats Society will display their crafts as they have done since the boat show's inception in 2019," Poole said.

"A popular satellite event will be a multimedia nature and wildlife art exhibit at nearby restaurant Sweet Combs of Honey. Paintings, crafts, and woodworking from local artists will be available for purchase. Children will enjoy the free concession of inflatables."

Expo visitors will also be able to participate in a 50-50 raffle to benefit the Lavonia Food Pantry.

"I especially like that we have raised thousands of dollars for the Lavonia Food Pantry from the raffles," Poole said.

The expo runs from 10 am to 4 pm on March 16. For more information see the Lavonia Boat Expo 2024 Facebook page or contact the Lavonia Welcome Center at 706-356-5725. Admission is free and Poole said there is plenty of parking. ■

Proposals For Georgia Wildlife-Viewing... – continued from pg. 15

tap is huge. About 1-in-4 Georgians, or 2.4 million people, took part in wildlife-viewing activities in 2011, spending an estimated \$1.8 billion, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey. Nationwide, the number of Americans involved in wildlife viewing surged from about 86 million in 2016 to 148 million in 2022, more than half of the population 16 and older, the Fish and Wildlife Service reports.

Grant proposals can include facilities, improvements and other initiatives that provide opportunities for the public – including underserved groups – to observe nongame animals,

plants and natural habitats. Notification of awards will be made by March 22, 2024. Visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewingGrants> to learn more and submit a proposal.

DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section is charged with restoring and conserving rare and other native species not hunted, fished for or collected through research, management and public education. The section relies largely on fundraisers, grants and contributions. Sales and renewals of DNR eagle, hummingbird and monarch/pollinator license plates are one of the leading fundraisers each year. ■

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3 Best Practices to Follow for Your Boat's Long Winter's Nap

By BoatU.S.

Across much of America, millions of recreational boats have been laid up for winter storage. With the boating season officially over, some boat owners may think they are free and clear for the next six months. However, Boat Owners Association of The United States offers three best practices for winter storage to ensure the off-season goes smoothly and safely.

1. If you haven't done so yet, read your marina, boat club or storage facility contract. Every page. Why? This document clearly specifies critical safety rules to live by over the winter. Don't assume that because you read one contract they're all the same. Different contracts apply to the specific type of winter storage you might have, such as outdoor, indoor or boats stored on a rack. Contracts also include work rules. Some common ones may include no work of any kind (most often for boats in rack storage but also sometimes for indoor storage), prohibiting outside contractors, no heaters or portable generators, or batteries must be disconnected. Why all the rules? There's no getting around the fact that vessels tightly stored together tee up an increased fire hazard. So, for the greater good of everyone in winter storage,

follow these rules to the letter.

2. Say "no" to power cords. While this best practice could have been included above, it deserves its own mention. Ask any marina owner what keeps them up at night over the long winter storage period and they will tell you one item at the top of the list is power cords. Undersized and multiple cords connected together are not only a potential source of ignition but make whatever they are plugged into, such as a battery charger or heater, another fire issue. If you need power to the boat to do some off-season work, check with your marina first. Some marinas may also require notification of any work you wish to do.

3. Visit your boat – safely. BoatU.S. recommends checking on your boat at least once during the off season, though more often is better. This will help ensure animals don't make a home and your cover or shrink wrap is still effectively shedding ice and snow. When visiting the boat, it's best to find a parking spot away from vessels on jackstands. Don't move or adjust jackstands, and never tie off a winter cover to them. If you need to use a ladder to climb aboard, tie it off at the top. If your boat is stored in the water, bring a friend with you so a slip off an icy dock doesn't go unnoticed. ■

Toccoa Educator Awarded Conservation Teacher of Year Grant

A Toccoa teacher's proposal to design and install a native pollinator garden earned her school a \$1,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Jina Harris, a third-grade teacher at The Learning Tree Academy's Outdoor Learning School, has received DNR's 2023-24 Conservation Teacher of the Year grant. The annual award goes to a kindergarten through fifth-grade public or private school teacher in Georgia who demonstrates exceptional energy and innovation in teaching life sciences. Funding is provided by The Environmental Resources Network, or TERN, friends group of the DNR Wildlife Conservation Section.

Linda May, outreach coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Section, said Harris was selected for her proposal Project Pollination: Buzzing and Humming.

"Cross-curricular creativity, hands-on outdoor activities, peer-to-peer teaching, sustainability and community engagement made her proposal rise to the top," May said.

For the project, the school's third and fourth graders will research plants native to Georgia's Piedmont ecoregion to then plan, install and manage a garden to attract a variety of pollinators. The garden will be used as an outdoor classroom, where older students will teach younger students about pollinators, native plants and biodiversity. Summer campers will work in the garden when

school is out of session, and proceeds from a farmer's market next fall will fund future garden projects.

Current funding will be used to buy native plants, trellises, interpretive signs, hummingbird feeders and a shade canopy. Local businesses will donate mulch and worktables.

Harris was grateful for the grant. "Thank you Georgia DNR for this amazing opportunity to create a native pollinator garden at Learning Tree Academy: Outdoor Learning School," she said. "This will provide countless possibilities for our students to explore, discover, observe and ponder the many wonders nature offers!"

The grant is coordinated and proposals are reviewed by Wildlife Conservation Section staff and a TERN board member. The primary mission of TERN, a nonprofit formed in 1992, is to help financially support the agency.

Through education, research and management, Wildlife Conservation works to safeguard and restore Georgia's native animals not legally fished for or hunted, plus rare plants and natural habitats. The agency also strives to increase public enjoyment of the outdoors.

Wildlife Conservation is funded largely by grants, direct donations and fundraisers, such as sales and renewals of Georgia's bald eagle and monarch butterfly license plates (<https://gadnr.org/license-plates>). ■

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A Panacea for Mental Well-Being

In the hustle and bustle of modern life, mental health awareness has emerged as a defining issue of our time. The stress and uncertainties we face take a toll on each individual differently, emphasizing the need for healthy and fulfilling ways to prioritize our mental well-being. As we celebrate World Mental Health Day, let's explore the therapeutic benefits of outdoor activities and discover five ways to focus on mental health.

In the fast-paced and demanding world we live in, mental health awareness has rightfully become a focal point of our collective well-being. The stress and uncertainty of life affect each individual uniquely, emphasizing the need for diverse and effective approaches to mental health care. From the serene benefits of fishing to the rejuvenating power of outdoor yoga and the calming wonders of boating, let's explore how embracing the great outdoors can contribute to our mental and emotional well-being.

Amid the myriad challenges we face, the simple act of casting a line into the water, fishing pole in hand, can offer profound mental health benefits. Celebrate the world of angling, and as you reel in your catch, value with both mental and physical advantages. Fishing serves as a meditative and enjoyable outdoor activity, allowing individuals to disconnect from stressors and immerse themselves in the calming embrace of nature.

Whether practicing yoga under twinkling lights, beneath a canopy of redwoods, or on a personal patch of grass, taking this mindful practice outdoors amplifies its therapeutic impact. Yoga, coupled with deep breathing and perhaps a mesmerizing sound bath, not only enhances physical flexibility but also clears mental space for thoughts of gratitude. As the body moves and breath synchronizes with the environment, a deep sense of connection to nature emerges, providing a holistic approach

to mental well-being.

Amid discussions of mental health awareness, the concept of self-care emerges as a vital component. Self-care routines come in various shapes and sizes, catering to the unique needs of the body, mind, and emotional well-being. From daily outdoor walks to establishing a dedicated skincare regimen, taking the time for self-care nurtures a holistic approach to mental health. It is a personalized journey of nurturing oneself, fostering balance, and building resilience.

Whether gliding alone in a kayak or toasting with friends on a pontoon boat, boating stands out as one of the finest activities for mental health. Achieving a "Blue Mind" occurs when individuals escape the routine, allowing the brain to reset and experience a profound sense of wonder found in the act of boating. The vastness of the water, coupled with the rhythmic movement of the boat, creates an environment that promotes mental rejuvenation and tranquility.

Fresh air and vitamin D have proven benefits for mental health. Bringing favorite indoor activities outside can amplify their positive impact. Whether reading, writing, painting, napping, singing, dancing, listening to music, or playing video games, doing what you love outside infuses joy into daily life. Nature becomes the backdrop for activities that not only bring happiness but also contribute to overall mental wellness.

As we navigate the complexities of life, it's essential to recognize the therapeutic potential of outdoor activities. From the tranquil waters of fishing to the invigorating embrace of boating and the mindful practice of outdoor yoga, nature provides a canvas for mental and emotional well-being. This World Mental Health Day, let's prioritize our mental health by immersing ourselves in the healing power of the great outdoors. ■

Association of Collegiate Anglers Announces 2024 Majors Event Schedule

2024 will mark the 19th season of college fishing's longest-running collegiate bass fishing tournament trail. The Bass Pro Shops Collegiate Bass Fishing Series will host three major regular-season events and the season-ending Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops.

The 2024 majors will kick off at Lake Hartwell, Anderson, SC, April 13-14, 2024 with the Hartwell Slam. This event will be a traditional five-bass limit format in which hundreds of the top student anglers in the country will be competing for valuable prizes, contingencies, and double points towards the 2023-2024 Bass Pro Shops School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia. The April timeframe of this event will be during one of the best windows of the year to go bass fishing on Lake Hartwell, and anglers will be catching fish in all phases of the spawn. The event will be hosted by Visit Anderson and held out of Green Pond Landing, which hosted the 2023 ACA Championship.

In 2024, the Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops will return to Pickwick Lake and Florence,

AL. College fishing's longest-running National Championship marks the end of the season out on the Bass Pro Shops Collegiate Bass Fishing Series, and is the final points-earning opportunity for the 2023-2024 Bass Pro Shops School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia. The 2024 Championship will be held at McFarland Park in Florence, AL on the shores of Pickwick Lake, and will feature extensive media coverage as the fans have grown accustomed to seeing at the Championship.

Then, to kick-off the 2024-2025 Bass Pro Shops School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia race, the ACA will return to Kentucky Lake in Henry County and Paris, TN with the popular Bass Pro Shops Big Bass Bash presented by Berkley. Featuring a two-day big bass format event that pays out 80 places with a total purse valued at over \$35,000, the Big Bass Bash is the ACA's longest-tenured regular-season event on the schedule. Schools will be driving from across the country to descend upon Henry County to vie for prizes and valuable double points for the Bass Pro Shops School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia.

The final major ACA event on the calendar

continued on page 19

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Association of Collegiate Anglers... - continued from pg. 15

for 2024 will be the AFTCO Collegiate Bass Open on Lake Dardanelle in Russellville, AR. Anglers are always filled with excitement and anticipation to arrive in Russellville, AR where teams will be able to earn double points towards the 2024-2025 Bass Pro Shops

School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia at this event. This fall event has grown into one of the most contested and highly attended events on the college fishing scene.

The Top 10 finishing anglers/teams at each of these ACA major events will automatically qualify for the coinciding Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops. Anglers finishing in the Top 10 at the Hartwell Slam will qualify to compete in the 2024 ACA

Championship. Those that finish in the Top 10 at either of the fall 2024 ACA majors will earn a spot to compete in the 2025 Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops. Stay tuned for additional details on this and other incentives for each event.

The 2024 season promises to be another great year out on the collegiate trail as the Association of Collegiate Anglers competes at several of the top fisheries in the nation and you can expect additional announcements in the future on exciting new programs and ways to promote and grow college fishing, so stay tuned. #WeAreCollegiateBass ■

Corps Seeks Twin Lakes Campground Park Attendant at Hartwell Lake

By USACE, SAVANNAH DISTRICT

Savannah, GA - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Hartwell Dam and Lake Project, is looking for an outgoing, active couple who would like to work as paid contract park attendants at Twin Lakes Campground in Pendleton, SC from April 1st through November 30th for the 2024 and 2025 recreation seasons.



Duties include managing a gatehouse, computer operations, and customer service. Attendants are provided a free, full electric, sewer and water hookup campsite.

Contracts are awarded to the lowest, qualified bidder. If possible, it's recommended those interested call, email or visit the park ranger to ask about qualifications and the scope of work to determine if it's a good fit.

If interested, please contact Hartwell Park Ranger Dale Bowen at: 706-856-0348 or thomas.d.bowen@usace.army.mil. ■



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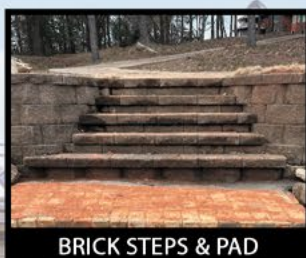


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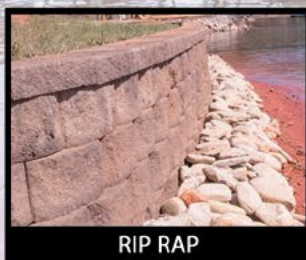
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