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Hartwell Lake News

Volume 23, Number 1 • Winter 2021

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DUE TO COVID-19,
PLEASE VERIFY EVENT DATES WITH VENDORS.

B.A.S.S. National 2021 Regional Championship Schedule Announced

By BASSMASTER

The 2021 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation schedule features five opportunities for grass-roots anglers to battle some of the country's best bass fisheries. Each regional championship will provide opportunities for everyday anglers to qualify for the TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Championship and a shot at one of three berths in the 2022 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk.

"As we've seen in the past with anglers like Paul Mueller and Brandon Palaniuk, who both won Elite Series events last year, the B.A.S.S. Nation can be the gateway to a stellar career in professional fishing," said B.A.S.S. Nation

Director Jon Stewart. "Once you reach the Nation Championship, you're fishing for a chance to fish in the Bassmaster Classic, and we're excited this year to offer even more chances for anglers to do that.

"We've put together a great, really unique schedule."

The schedule will kick off with the Western Regional at Lake Havasu in Havasu, Ariz., Feb. 3-5. This Western fishery, which offers a combination of crystal-clear waters and stark desert beauty, ranked No. 17 on Bassmaster Magazine's list of the Best Bass Lakes of the Decade.



During April, Nation anglers will take on the largest lake in Kansas during the Central Regional at Milford Lake in Junction City, Kan., April 21-23, just before the Southeast Regional heads to Lake Hartwell in Anderson, S.C., April 28-30. Hartwell has hosted three Bassmaster

Classics and six major B.A.S.S. events. The schedule will swing to the upper region of the United States with the Northeast Regional at Lake Erie/Presque Isle Bay in Erie, Pa., June 23-25. This smallmouth mecca ranked No. 3

on the Best Bass Lakes of the Decade list. "We are thrilled that Bassmaster has chosen to host its 2021 B.A.S.S. Nation Northeast Regional Championship in Erie," said Mark Jeanneret, Executive Director of the Erie Sports Commission. "The Erie region offers world-class bass fishing on Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay, as well as the accommodations and attractions that will make the tournament memorable for participants and their families. We are eager to welcome a full field of anglers to experience all that our community has to offer while competing in this prestigious event."

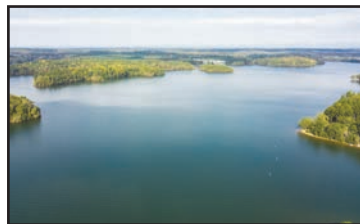
The final regular-season event, the Northern Regional, will be held on the Upper Mississippi River out of

continued on page 6

"Lake Hartwell is a Paradise."

By SCDNR

Those were the words that kept running through my head in October 2002 as I stared out the window of my new work home at the Clemson office of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). I had spent the previous 12 years working for SCDNR in Columbia on the second floor of the Rembert Dennis Building, where there are NO windows. Looking out the window at birds and boats and the beauty of Hartwell, it truly did feel like paradise.



Above: Lake Hartwell's beauty was captured from the air in this drone image taken by SCDNR photographer/videographer Alex Prince.

Having now been stationed at Hartwell for the past 18 years, my initial thoughts have not changed in the least. I have kayaked, fished, and swam in the lake where it meets our office, so my original concept of "paradise" was right on the money. Recreation seems

to be one of the main vibes at Hartwell. Fishing is so good there, in fact, that The Bassmaster Classic, sometimes referred to as "The Superbowl of Fishing," has been held at Hartwell three times, the most recent in 2018.

So, it was no surprise to me when Bassmaster named Lake Hartwell as one of its runner-up lakes for the Southeast region among the Best Bass Lakes of the Decade. In addition to Hartwell, Bassmaster named three other South Carolina lakes as some of the nation's best, based on tournament catch records and information on how agencies like SCDNR manage reservoirs for bass and other popular species. The Santee Cooper lakes (Marion and Moultrie) made the Top 25 in the U.S. designation, while Hartwell, neighboring Lake Thurmond and the

continued on page 6

WCSC Frostbite Series 2021

Welcome to the WCSC Frostbite Series for 2021! The Frostbite is a pursuit start race series open to all sailors and boats and is a great way to enjoy your club and your boat over the winter months without the formality of windward-leeward buoy racing.

If you haven't tried a pursuit race before, government navigation buoys are used for course marks, and boats receive staggered start times based on their PHRF ratings, so the slower boats start first, followed by faster boats. This eliminates all those crowds at the start. It also adds a "fun factor" to the race because you can see exactly how you're doing against the competition: the first boat to the finish wins, simple as that.

Traditionally there has been soup or chili served at the clubhouse after each race. Due to the pandemic, a

decision will be made for each race whether to do this or not. Please refer to the "Upcoming Events" section on the website home page (or click on the event on the website calendar) for the latest information at www.wcsc-sail.org.

Races are scheduled for 13 Feb, and 27 Feb. Skippers' meeting is at 11:00. At that time we will decide which course to sail and will explain

the pursuit start process.

All of the event documents, including Race Results and Season

continued on page 10



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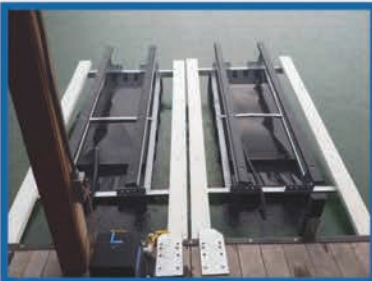
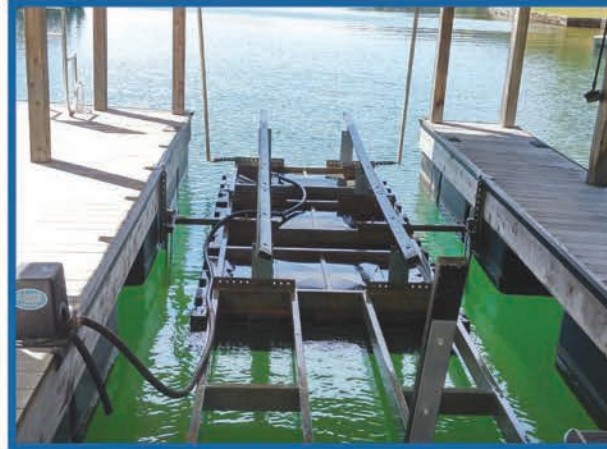
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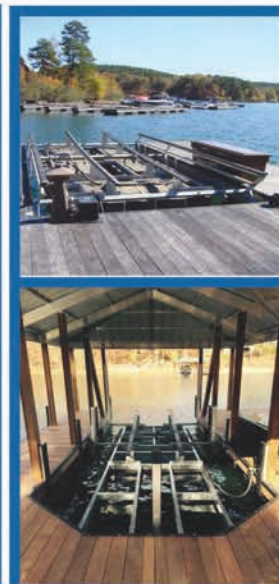


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Market Report

All Lakefront properties sold on Lake Hartwell (SC only) from January 1 to December 29, 2020 according to the Western Upstate MLS.
Search Criteria: Single Family \$200k+, Condos \$140k+, Lots \$90k+

Lakefront Single Family Homes

262 Sold in 2020

54 Median Days to Sell

\$434,000 Median Close Price

Lakefront Condos/Townhomes

34 Sold in 2020

50 Median Days to Sell

\$232,000 Median Close Price

Lakefront Residential Lots

76 Sold in 2020

186 Median Days to Sell

\$138,450 Median Close Price

Our 2020 Lakefront Sales

113 Wilderness Ln

\$1,027,000



Custom lake home with 3 levels of living space on 1.81 acre quiet lot.

203 Lakeview Dr

\$470,000



Updated 3BR/3BA home with 5 car garages, pool & covered dock.

368 E Lakeshore Dr

\$735,000



Spacious home with 2 master suites, rec room & covered dock with lift.

810 Holly Knoll Dr

\$585,000



Large 4BR split-level home with large screen porch and covered dock.

100 Lakehill Dr

\$299,000



Beautiful 3BR/2BA home with tie-up boat slip and sun porch.

20 Anchor Pt

\$202,000



3BR/2BA lakefront condo with incredible views from large deck.

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B.A.S.S. Nation 2021 Regional Championship... - continued from pg. 1

La Crosse, Wis., Sept. 1-3.

“The B.A.S.S. Nation means so much to so many different people,” said B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin. “Of course, for those anglers who aspire to fish professionally, it can certainly be a great stepping stone. For weekend anglers, it is a chance to compete for big money on a big stage. Beyond these Regional Beyond these Regional Championship events, there is such great camaraderie among B.A.S.S. Nation clubs at their local tournaments and youth events.”



The date and location for the 2021 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship will be released at a later date. The Championship tournament will be made up of qualifiers from all five regions, and the Top 3 anglers from the overall standings will earn a berth to the 2022 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk.

The winner of the 2021 B.A.S.S. Nation

Championship will also receive a cash prize, an invitation to join the 2022 Bassmaster Elite Series and use of a “Nation’s Best” wrapped, tournament-ready boat.

2021 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Schedule

Western Regional: Feb. 3-5, Lake Havasu, Havasu, Ariz.

Central Regional: April 21-23, Milford Lake, Junction City, Kan.

Southeast Regional: April 28-30, Lake Hartwell, Anderson, S.C.

Northeast Regional: June 23-25, Lake Erie/Presque Isle Bay, Erie, Pa.

Northern Regional: Sept. 1-3, Upper Mississippi River, La Crosse, Wis. ■

“Lake Hartwell is a Paradise.” - continued from pg. 1

Midlands’ Lake Murray were named to the Best of the Southeast list.

It is no accident that bass fishing is so good at Lake Hartwell. The SCDNR’s Freshwater Fisheries Section has worked diligently for years to help make that happen. Dan Rankin, SCDNR’s regional fisheries biologist stationed in Clemson, said the agency has been doing spring electrofishing on largemouth bass for decades, allowing biologists to collect a representative sample of all bass sizes that are in the lake. The surveys let biologists look at size distribution, age distribution, and mortality rate.

SCDNR has also done angler surveys, called “creel surveys,” where anglers are interviewed on the lake and asked about their success rate and how much fishing pressure is placed on largemouth bass.

Habitat improvement on Lake Hartwell has been an ongoing project for the past six years. The

habitat improvement project came about after the 2006 settlement with Schlumberger Technology Corp. for damages to the recreational fisheries in Lake Hartwell due to PCB contamination. The habitat project received \$2.8 million from this settlement. The first fisheries habitat improvement project on Lake Hartwell resulting from the Twelve Mile Creek PCB settlement got underway in 2014 at Cherry Crossing cove adjacent to the Clemson SCDNR office.

The habitat improvements on Lake Hartwell include concrete/rock/wood structures embedded on the lake floor in shallow and deep water, aquatic vegetation, cabled-down trees along the shoreline, bank stabilization, and gravel spawning beds. The project has since moved on to many other coves on Lake Hartwell.

“The expected benefits of habitat restoration include improved spawning success, an increase

in refuge and cover habitat for fish, improved forage activity and erosion control,” said Amy B. Chastain, SCDNR fisheries biologist and coordinator of the habitat improvement project. “We hope that this work will improve recreational fishing considerably in Lake Hartwell.”

Habitat enhancement on Lake Hartwell was first projected to run at least 10 years, according to Chastain, but the work will likely continue beyond that time frame.

Lake Hartwell was constructed between 1955-1963 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The lake was created by the construction of Hartwell Dam located on the Savannah River seven miles below the point at which the Tugaloo and Seneca rivers join to form the Savannah River. Extending



Above: The Lake Hartwell dam under construction in 1959 (photo courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

49 miles up the Tugaloo and 45 miles up the Seneca at normal pool elevation, Lake Hartwell comprises nearly 56,000 acres of water with a shoreline of 962 miles, and it provides drinking water for more than 40,000 residents of surrounding counties.

It was opened to the public for recreation in 1968, and Hartwell now hosts more than nine million visitors every year. It features 45 public boat ramps and more than 10,000 private boat docks.

The lake is named after Nancy Hart, who bravely defended her family during the Revolutionary War. One of Hart’s most notable stories: when British soldiers invaded her property, she tricked the Brits into letting their guard down, stole their muskets, and held them at gunpoint until help arrived. ■

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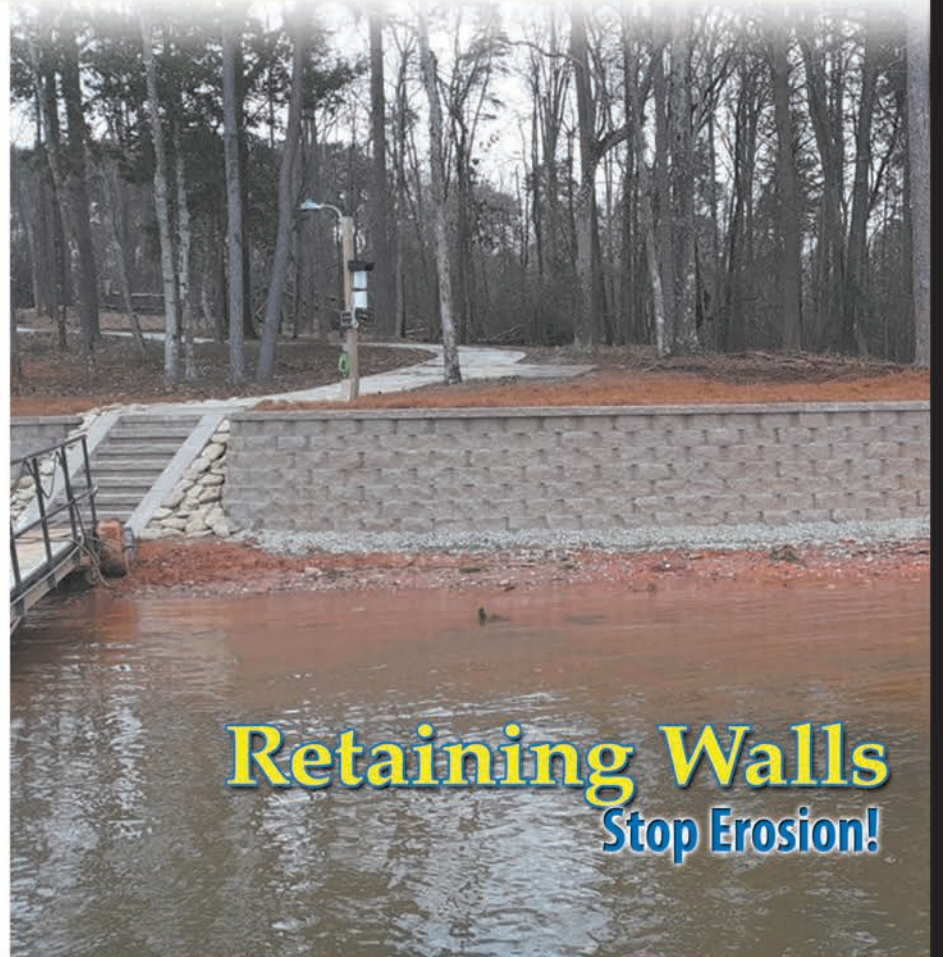
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"Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Phil. 4:8

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3761 Old Dobbins Bridge Rd., Fair Play, SC

3761 Old Dobbins Bridge Rd., Fair Play, SC - 4.5 acres w/lake access and 2-slip boat dock. The property is located minutes off I-85. This is a beautiful area of Hartwell Lake and there are no bridges to keep you from driving your boat or sailboat all the way to the dam. **\$185,000**



\$185,000

113 Pine Knoll, Fair Play, SC

\$250,000 SOLD!!!



113 Pine Knoll, Fair Play, SC - 3 BR/2 BA lakefront home. The living area is very open & spacious - wall of windows (newer windows) on the lakeside give you an amazing lake view. Lakeside deck is generous in size - lake view can be enjoyed anytime of year. Updated kitchen includes refrigerator, electric Jenn Aire stove, Maytag wall oven, dishwasher & trash compactor. Pull down attic storage plus single car/boat garage with front & rear doors. Also included are the 2 extra storage buildings. Walk to 2-slip covered dock is gentle. Dock has NEW METAL ROOF!! **\$250,000 SOLD!**



905 Shelor Ferry Rd., Fair Play, SC



905 Shelor Ferry Rd., Fair Play, SC - Have you been looking for that great lake lot with a great dock on great water w/a VERY close Corps Line? Look no farther - this lot has a gentle slope to a 2-slip covered dock just off the main channel - nice wide cove. Stick built home needs a little TLC. **\$225,000**



78 River Ridge, Martin GA



78 River Ridge, Martin GA. - Rustic Lakefront Home. Great little getaway - nice gentle lot w/covered slip dock on deep water. Home has wood burning stove, screened lakeside porch, finished basement. Nice area with protective covenants. Call to see today. **\$335,000.**



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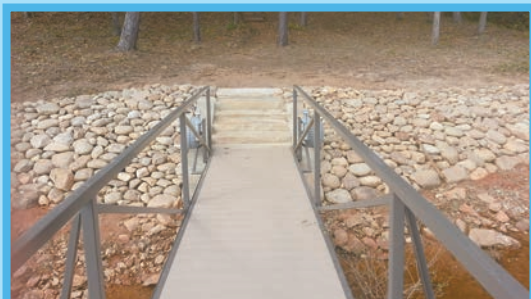
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Lake Hartwell Fishing Forecast Winter to Spring 2021

By Preston Harden

As we enter the depths of winter, most game fish are not feeding aggressively. As the water gets cold, fish metabolism slows. This is sort of like hibernation. There are exceptions. Some fish eat no matter how cold the water gets. Bass, hybrids and stripers slow down and do not eat much. They do not want a big meal as it is hard to digest with a slow metabolism. If you target these fish, use a small imitation or a small live bait.

The exception is crappie. They will feed no matter how cold the water gets. They move in to the major creeks by mid

January. They stage under deep docks and bridges and move shallower as the water warms in the spring. I like to fish a 1/32 oz. Jig with a tiny fluke. I like to fish it on 4 lb. test line. I work the jig very slow in the shade of a dock or a bridge. I do not get out on docks but I will get close and work my jig in the shade.

As we start to warm in late winter and early spring, most game fish move shallow. Afternoons are best as the water warms during the day and fish become more active later in the afternoon. Pick a warm afternoon and fish till dark. Small imitations worked slowly is the



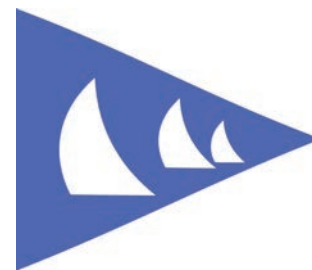
Above: Capt. Preston Harden on left with Chaz Odom from Athens GA. on right with a nice striper caught on a 1/4 oz. jig and zoom fluke. Caught on 1-6-21.

ticket. I like to fish a small zoom fluke on a scrounger jig head. As we move into late spring, the mornings become better and the fish become more aggressive. Spring means a shallow bite. ■

WCSC Frostbite Series 2021- continued from pg. 1

Ranking, can be found on the Club website.

Home > Membership > (you must log in) Club Documentation > Race/Regatta Documentation (click on the icon not the text) > Frostbite >



Frostbite Series 2021 (icon) You are advised to download and print the Sailing Instructions, Lake Map, and the Buoy and Course List (You must be logged in). If you are new to the Club's pursuit start races, you may wish to read A Beginner's Guide to the Frostbite Series. Questions or comments, contact Rick 334-332-2025 cowardlylion@charter.net ■

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Hartwell Lake Officials Remind Lake Neighbors of Upcoming Electrical Inspection Requirement

By U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District

SAVANNAH, GA - With the new year quickly approaching, officials from the Hartwell Dam and Lake Project remind adjacent property owners who have a Shoreline Use Permit authorizing electrical service on public land/water of the upcoming Feb. 1, 2021 deadline.

The most significant change of the revised 2020 Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is the requirement for an inspection by a state-licensed electrician of the electrical system on a dock or to a power pole located on public land every five years before renewal of the permit," Aaron Wahus, Operations Manager at Hartwell lake, said. "This new requirement will begin for permits authorizing electrical service expiring on or after Feb. 1, 2021."

Dock owners may now use solar DC power to provide electrical service to a dock. Solar power does not require recertification every five years.

"Not only is solar a clean, safe energy source, it also minimizes impacts to public lands by eliminating the need to trench-in traditional power lines," Sandy Campbell, natural resources manager at Hartwell Lake, said. "Solar power eliminates possible shock hazards for swimmers. It also eliminates inconveniences for dock owners needing to 'chase water' when reservoir levels recede."

The 2020 Hartwell Lake SMP, a summary chart highlighting the changes, and the electrical inspection form can be viewed and downloaded at: <https://go.usa.gov/xEt5j>.

For questions regarding this issue, please call the Hartwell Lake Office at 706-856-0300.

Share lines: The deadline approaches for electrical inspection of private docks in Lake Hartwell. Any Shoreline Use Permit for electricity to a dock that expires on or after 2-1-21 must be inspected by a licensed electrician. <https://go.usa.gov/xA3D4> ■

Hartwell Lake Officials Release New Shoreline Management Plan

By U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

A reminder that officials from the Hartwell Dam and Lake Project recently released the latest Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the reservoir.

"We felt like the previous SMP served the project well but needed minor clarification of some requirements. Also, this updated SMP incorporates information provided by residents, state agencies and others to set a more sustainable path for managing public land surrounding the lake," said Aaron Wahus, Operations Project Manager. "The most significant change is the revised SMP now requires an inspection by a state licensed electrician of the electrical system on a dock every five years before renewal of the permit. This new requirement will begin for permits authorizing electrical service expiring on or after February 1, 2021."

Dock owners may now use solar DC power to provide electrical service to a dock. Solar power does not require recertification every five years. "Not only is solar a clean, safe energy source, it also minimizes impacts to public lands by eliminating the need to trench-in traditional

power lines," Sandy Campbell, natural resources manager at Hartwell Lake, said. "Solar power eliminates possible shock hazards for swimmers. It also eliminates inconveniences for dock owners needing to 'chase water' when reservoir levels recede."

Additionally, utility rights of way and improved walkways are now considered supporting facilities for a dock, therefore can only be permitted if a dock is authorized. Property adjacent to Limited Development Areas (aka "green areas") with greater than 20 feet of shared boundary line that are "non-dockable," have until May 15, 2021, for approval of supporting facilities with installation due by expiration of the shoreline use permit.

The 2020 Hartwell Lake SMP and summary chart highlighting the changes and the associated Environmental Assessment can be viewed and downloaded at: <https://go.usa.gov/xEt5j>. All permit holders should receive a post card from the Corps informing them of the approval of the 2020 Hartwell Lake SMP with information on how and where to obtain a copy.

For questions regarding this issue, please call the Hartwell Lake Office at 706-856-0300 ■

BBB Warns of New Scam Aimed at Online Sellers

By MJ Kneiser, Reprint 92.1 WLHR, Lake Hartwell Radio

The Better Business Bureau is warning people of yet another online buying/selling scam.

If you are decluttering your home by selling unwanted items online, be on the lookout for buyers wanting to pay you more than the listed price.

If the offer seems "just too good to be true," it probably is.

This is how the Scam Works:

You post an item for sale online (BBB is seeing a lot of recent scam reports that mention Facebook Marketplace, but this applies to other services, as well).

It might be clothes, a vehicle, electronics, or

another item. You are contacted by a buyer who seems trustworthy, nice even.

They offer you more money than what you are asking for. The reasons vary. The scammer may claim they want to cover shipping or other fees for you "because you've been so helpful."

Or they may overpay through a digital wallet, such as PayPal or Cash App, claiming it's a policy of the service.

Or they may mail a check for more than the asking price and then insist it was by mistake.

In any case, once you are overpaid, the buyer will ask for their extra funds back.

After you've returned their money, you'll likely find the initial payment was false – the check will bounce or the buyer's online payment

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BBB Warns of New Scam Aimed at Online Sellers - continued from pg. 11

will be denied. You will have lost the money you "returned" along with the item you sold.

The Better Business Bureau offers some tips to keep you from being scammed.

1. Don't ship an item before you receive payment and make sure any payments you receive

are legitimate before you ship your item. If you ship before they pay, you will have no way to get your item back.

2. Don't believe offers that are too good to be true. Unless you are selling a rare or highly desirable item that several people are bidding on, you should

not expect anyone to offer to pay more than what you are asking. If someone tries to overpay you, consider it a red flag.

3. Look out for counterfeit emails. Scammers are skilled at imitating emails from popular payment services, such as Venmo or PayPal.

Examine all emails carefully. If an email comes from a domain that isn't official or contains obvious typos and grammatical errors, it's probably a scam.

Finally, report scams to the online marketplace. Be sure to report suspicious activity including dishonest buyers or sellers. ■

Sign Up for 2021 Polar Bear Plunge

By MJ Kneise, reprint from 92.1 WLHR

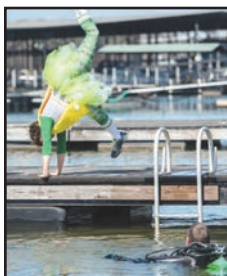
It's time for you to sign up to go jump in the lake...for a good cause, that is.

Sponsored by the Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence, the 25th annual Polar Bear Plunge will again take place at the Hartwell Marina on Saturday, February 27th. All monies raised will go toward victim services. Board Chair Teresa Neese is this year's event coordinator Neese says

sign up for the February event has started, but you can also wait until the day of the jump.

The minimum donation to participate is \$150 and Neese tells WLHR News it's probably a lot easier than you think to talk people into donating money to see you jump into freezing water.

And that can be done a number of ways such as getting a sponsor or putting something on your Facebook page encouraging people to pay a certain amount to



see you jump.

There will be prizes for costumes, the oldest Polar Bear jumping, the youngest Polar Bear jumping, and others as well.

And there will be a Grand Prize to the participant who collects the most money.

Also this year, the Polar Bear Plunge includes the annual Winter Festival,

which will feature good food and interesting items for sale.

Jump registration is from 11am to noon with the costume contest and jump at 12:30pm.

The Winter Festival begins at 11am and admission is free.

For more information or a jump registration form or vendor registration form, you can the offices of the Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence at 706-377-4884. ■

Winterization Myths vs Facts

By Eclipsemarine.com

Winterization is crucial in order to protect your motor during the off season - here are some reasons why!

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

Fact: During the winter, boats often sit unused for an extended length of time. If a boat is not properly winterized, moisture will be trapped in the interior components of the engine, which will cause corrosion. Corrosion (rust) in an engine is equally as destructive as a block that freezes and cracks. Proper winterization includes professional anti-corrosion techniques.

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 problem."

Fact: When fuel sits for an extended period of time, the components separate. Once separated, there is no going back. Adding a stabilizer in the spring will do nothing for your fuel as it must be added in the fall. You will then have to have your fuel system professionally drained and cleaned and start all over. This repair is costly and easily preventable.

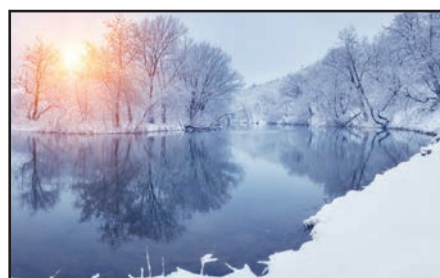
Myth: "I'll just leave a space heater on my boat and that'll keep it warm enough so I don't have to winterize it."

Fact: Not only is it an extreme fire risk, if there is a sudden, unnoticed power failure, the heater will

fail and your engine will be at risk to freeze.

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: Many marine service centers use a winterization technique in which the plugs are removed from the engine block. Often, they are placed in a bag for safe keeping until spring when the boat is "de-winterized," and customers are unaware. Running the engine without the plugs



can result in catastrophic failure.

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

Fact: While running antifreeze through a block and all of its components

is recommended, it must be a marine-grade antifreeze. Using automotive antifreeze can actually damage components of your engine and cooling system. It is also unsafe for the environment should it leak out into the water. ■

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Take Part in Youth Birding Competition T-Shirt Art Contest

By Georgia Department of Natural Resources Division

Hey, kids! Do you enjoy nature as well as creating artwork? Georgia's 15th annual Youth Birding Competition invites resident children and teens to celebrate birds through a T-shirt Art Contest.

Many famous ornithologists were bird artists when they were young, so perhaps you could be the next John James Audubon, Roger Tory Peterson or David Allen Sibley!

A winner will be picked from each of these age categories: primary (pre-K-2nd), elementary (third-fifth), middle school (sixth-eighth) and high school. One winner will be awarded the grand prize – their artwork will appear on the 2020 Youth Birding Competition T-shirt and they'll receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. The three other winners will each receive a \$50 Amazon gift card, redeemable for art supplies.

To encourage artists to also participate in the 2020 Youth Birding Competition on April 24-25, another award will recognize the best artwork from a member of a team involved in the competition (if a participant doesn't already place in the regular art contest).

Entering is easy. Participants must draw or paint a native Georgia bird that has not been previously featured on a Youth Birding Competition T-shirt (more details at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBCTshirtArtContest). Artwork may be created on paper or sheet canvas, at least 8-by-10 inches but no larger than 11-by-17 inches. Mail or deliver the artwork in a large envelope – flat, not folded – by March 6, 2020 (postmarked), to: GA DNR-WRD, YBC T-shirt Art Contest (Attn: Linda May), 2600 Hwy. 155 SW, Stockbridge, GA 30281.

On a separate piece of paper, gently taped to the back of the artwork, include the participant's name, school, age, grade level, mailing address, phone number, parent or teacher's e-mail address, and the species name of the bird depicted.

The illustrated bird must be a wild species that is native to Georgia. Artwork of exotic or domesticated species (such as European starlings, pigeons, yellow ducks, peacocks and parrots) will

be disqualified. Draw or paint the bird's features as accurately as possible. A simple background that provides habitat context is good to include, but make sure your bird stands out well and is the focus of the artwork. Also keep in mind that deep, contrasting colors scan best for a T-shirt.

Only one entry per person is allowed, and it must be the child's original artwork. Participation in the Youth Birding Competition on April 24-25 is encouraged but not required to submit artwork for the T-shirt Art Contest.

Competitors in the birding event can pick up their submissions at the April 25 banquet at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield (www.georgiawildlife.com/CharlieElliott), which is where select artwork will be displayed and the winners announced.

Artwork from children and teens who do not take part in the Youth Birding Competition can either be picked up at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center through May 16 during business hours or returned by mail (but only if a large, self-addressed envelope with at least six first-class stamps is included with the submission).

The 2020 Youth Birding Competition starts at 5 p.m. Friday, April 24, and ends at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25. Groups may use as much or as little of that time to count as many birds as possible throughout Georgia. Although teams may start birding anywhere in the state, they must turn in their checklists at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center by 5 p.m. that Saturday.

While judges examine and score checklists, participants will enjoy a live animal show followed by an awards banquet packed with prizes.

For more information on the T-shirt Art Contest, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/YBCTshirtArtContest. You can also contact art contest coordinator Linda May at (706) 319-0211 or linda.may@dnr.ga.gov.

Details on the 2020 Youth Birding Competition, including registering a team online for this exciting event (March 31 deadline), will be posted soon at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC. You can also contact competition coordinator Tim Keyes at (912) 262-3191 or tim.keyes@dnr.ga.gov. ■

Reminder to Keep Your Bird Feeders Clean

By SCDNR

Winter in South Carolina typically brings more chances for rain to the state, and with wet weather, it is common for mold or bacteria to form on wet bird seed both in the bird feeder and on the ground.

This moldy bird seed and uncleaned bird feeders can cause birds to become sick. Specifically, mold can cause fatal avian diseases.

The risk is greatly reduced when bird feeders are cleaned regularly.

If you have a bird feeder, keep this in mind:

- Seed feeders should be thoroughly cleaned at least once per month with one-part liquid chlorine bleach to nine-parts hot water. Allow the feeders to air dry completely, especially wooden feeders, before refilling with seeds. Nectar feeders need special care because of their design.

- Nectar feeders should be cleaned each time they are refilled. Clean feeders using four-parts hot water to one-part vinegar or nine-parts hot water to one-part bleach using a special bottle brush to clean small holes. Visually inspect the entire feeder for black mold. Rinse all parts of the feeder with water for at least three times and allow

it to air dry completely before refilling.

- Store food in a cool area in rodent- and water- proof containers. Dispose of any food that is wet, smells musty, or appears moldy.

- Inspect feeder for sharp points or edges that can scratch or cut birds. Even small injuries can enable bacteria and viruses to infect otherwise healthy birds.

- Use multiple feeders and spread them out over a large area to reduce crowding. While seeing several birds at a single feeder may look appealing, the potential for disease transmission between sick and healthy birds increases.

- Don't wait until sick or dead birds are seen before cleaning feeders. But if the situation should occur, it is best to stop feeding immediately. Remove the dead bird by wearing rubber gloves and placing the bird in a plastic, leak proof bag. Dispose of the sealed bag and rubber gloves in a normal trash receptacle out of reach of pets or scavengers. Wash hands immediately. Clean all feeders and the surrounding area following these guidelines and wait at least two weeks before rehanging feeders. ■

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Poster Contest Draws Attention to Georgia Nature Near Home

By GADNR

Teachers and students across the state are invited to celebrate wildlife and their habitats through art by participating in the 31st annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest.

The goal of this competition for grades K–5 is to generate knowledge of and appreciation for Georgia's biological diversity. The popular initiative is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia and The Environmental Resources Network, or TERN, friends group of DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section.

The 2020–2021 theme—**Nature is Everywhere!**—emphasizes native wildlife and plants close to home as well as far away. Many people think nature only exists in remote wilderness areas. However, students in the country, suburbs and even cities can find a variety of wildlife right outside their door. All that is required is to slow down, perhaps even sitting in one spot, and take notice.

As inspiration for their artwork, students can look for plants, insects, birds and other wildlife in their backyard or schoolyard. If neighborhood greenspace is scarce, ants and other insects can be observed on sidewalks. City, county and state parks are great places to discover nature, too – and most people have at least one park in their community.

After creating artwork based on this year's theme and within contest rules, participants will enter their drawings and paintings at the local school level. Top school-level entries then proceed to the state contest at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens. First-, second- and third-place winners will be chosen for four divisions: kindergarten, first and second grade, third and fourth grade, and fifth grade. The deadline for schools to submit digital

photos of state-level entries is April 9, 2021.

The top 12 state-level winners' artwork will be showcased on DNR Wildlife Resources Division and State Botanical Garden social media sites. Also, as a special perk for supporting this contest, each state-level winner's teacher and one parent will be eligible to receive a free DNR wildlife license plate, courtesy of TERN. For contest rules, awards, entry forms and other information, visit georgiawildlife.com/PosterContest.

DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section is charged with conserving animals that aren't legally fished for or hunted, plus native plants and natural habitats. Only a deep commitment to these natural resources will ensure their existence for future generations. The Wildlife Conservation Section depends primarily on fundraisers such as sales of eagle and monarch butterfly license plates, annual renewal of those and other wildlife tags—such as the hummingbird—the Give Wildlife a Chance state income tax checkoff and direct donations (georgiawildlife.com/donations).

Learn more at georgiawildlife.com/about/what-we-do, or call Wildlife Conservation Section offices in Social Circle (706-557-3213), Forsyth (478-994-1438) or Brunswick (912-264-7218).

Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest

Theme: Nature is Everywhere! Emphasis: Generate knowledge of and appreciation for Georgia wildlife and their habitats. Teacher instructions: Have students design artwork that includes native wildlife—animals, plants or both. Hold a school-level contest. First-place winners in each age division advance to the state-level contest. Deadline for state-level contest entries: April 9, 2021. Top 12 state-level winners' artwork will be showcased on DNR Wildlife Resources Division and State Botanical Garden of Georgia social media sites. Details: georgiawildlife.com/PosterContest ■



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