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# Hartwell Lake News

Volume 21, Number 1 • January – April 2019

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## 30th Annual Lake Hartwell Antique Boat Festival

This festival marks the official kick off of the lake season! Take a walk back to the lake days of yesteryear at Lake Hartwell on Saturday, April 13th in Hartwell, Georgia. For the 30th year in a row the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society will hold the Lake Hartwell Antique Boat Festival at Hartwell Marina. With the help of the Hart County Chamber of Commerce, the festival will feature an arts and crafts show, a cruise-in with antique and classic cars, music, food, and kids' activities. The highlight of the festival is the 50 plus hand-crafted

boats on display. Each of the boats has been meticulously restored by their owner, a result of many hours of

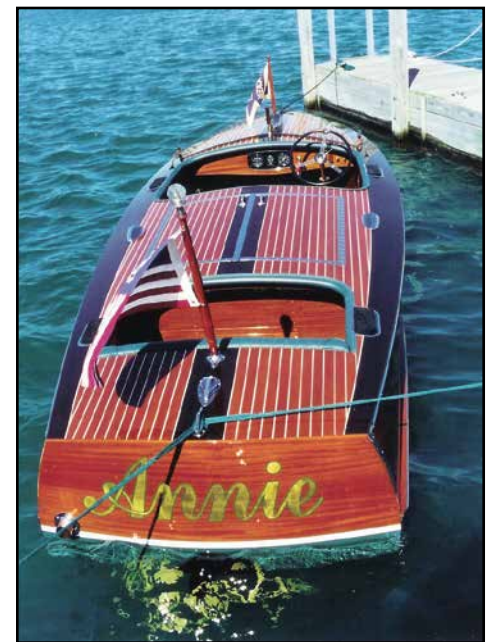


sanding, painting, and work. Owners are excited to tell the stories behind their boats and show them off to admiring attendees.

Come join the thousands who

come out to see and experience this fun and free event. The festival goes from 10-3pm on Saturday and parking for the public is available at the Marina. A shuttle bus can take you to the main docks for all the activities. Hartwell Marina is located just minutes from downtown Hartwell at the end of North Forest Ave.

The Art and Craft show is open to vendors from all over region, just contact the Hart County Chamber to reserve your space at 706-376-8590, go on-line a [www.hart-chamber.org](http://www.hart-chamber.org) or email [hartchamber@hartcom.net](mailto:hartchamber@hartcom.net). ■



## Pro Watercross Lake Hartwell Tour Stop

By Pro Watercross

Lake Hartwell's Tugaloo State Park, situated on a scenic wooded peninsula in Franklin County, will once again host the Pro Watercross National tour, according to a statement this morning by Jennifer Handler, CIO of Pro Watercross.

"The Georgia stop on the tour has been a racer favorite since we first came to Lake Hartwell in 2010, and I am very proud to announce that we have just entered into a three-year partnership with Franklin County," Handler said. "The mid-summer 2019 tour stop in Georgia will see a return to the Mega Ramp at Tugaloo State Park, and I am looking forward to coming back to this exemplary venue. It is a spectacular site, with a good layout and arrangement for racing, and it is a beautiful location with plenty of nearby attractions for fans and race families."

Pro Watercross' last visit to Tugaloo State Park was in 2012. In recent years, Long Point Recreation Area near Hartwell, GA, has served as the Pro Watercross' Georgia host.



"When we heard that Pro Watercross' arrangement with Hart County was coming to an end, we started talking about pulling the event back to Franklin County," said Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tonya Powers. "When we look at larger Georgia events in terms of tourism, this is a great event for our purposes, so we jumped on that opportunity and are very happy to have Pro Watercross coming back to Tugaloo State Park."

Tugaloo State Park's six-lane mega ramp has made the park a popular site for large fishing tournaments, as well as recreational boating, and the ample

*continued on page 6*

## Clemson Scientist Working to Protect Future of Rare and Popular Sportfish

By Steven Bradley, Clemson University, Media Relations

CLEMSON, South Carolina — Bartram's Bass are a rare catch for fishermen to land on their hooks and a Clemson University fisheries ecologist is working to ensure that thrill continues to be possible for outdoor sportsmen.

Black basses are the most popular freshwater sportfish in the United States, and the Clemson area is home to one of the rarest of all: Bartram's Bass. Historically known as Redeye Bass, Bartram's Bass was recently determined by scientists to be a unique species that occurs in — and only in — the Savannah River basin in western South Carolina and eastern Georgia. But due

to hybridization with invasive species and habitat degradation, Bartram's Bass face an uncertain future.

In collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the



Above Photo: Clemson University fisheries ecologist and assistant professor Brandon Peoples. Image by Clemson University

Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership, Clemson assistant professor Brandon Peoples' research seeks to determine habitats where pure Bartram's Bass still remain and what it is about those areas that makes them resistant to hybridization.

"That's important information to have because Bartram's Bass doesn't live anywhere else in the world,"

Peoples said. "Bass can hybridize naturally in their native range. However, if we lose this unique genetic lineage

*continued on page 6*

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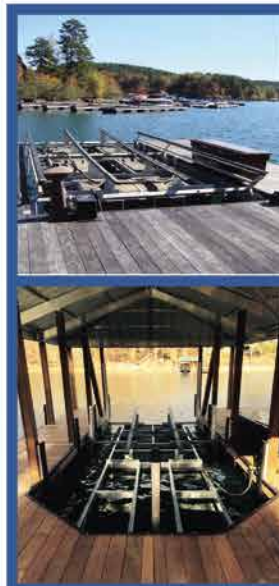
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### Market Report

All Lakefront properties sold on Lake Hartwell (SC only) from January 1 to December 14, 2018 according to the Western Upstate MLS.

#### Lakefront Single Family Homes

**230** Sold Since January 1st  
**134** Average Days on Market  
**\$371,355** Average Price

#### Lakefront Condos/Townhomes

**50** Sold Since January 1st  
**74** Average Days on Market  
**\$158,787** Average Price

#### Lakefront Residential Lots

**64** Sold Since January 1st  
**203** Average Days on Market  
**\$110,562** Average Price

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**416 Old Knox Bridge Rd**  
**\$115,000**



Cozy 1BR/ABA cabin on Lake Hartwell

**303 Manitowoc Dr**  
**\$349,000**



3BR/2BA lakefront home w/ dock in Chickasaw Pt

**Lot 30 Lakewind Ct**  
**\$69,900**



1.83 acres on Seccession in upscale Bridgepointe

**127 Upper View Terrace**  
**\$230,000**



0.68 acre lot with dock in McClain Point

**1028 N Shore Dr**  
**\$239,000**



0.72 acre lakefront lot in North Shore subdivision

**Lot 6 Holly Knoll Dr**  
**\$180,000**



0.6 acre lakefront lot in Emerald Point

**2011 Shelter Pt**  
**\$187,000**



2BR/2BA condo Stone Creek Cove

**6A Hartwell Villas**  
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# Letters to the EDITOR

**This time of year, we hear a lot about recycling Christmas trees for fish habitat by putting them in ponds and lakes. Does this really work and how is the best way to do it? —Melissa Dunne, Anderson**

Well Melissa, according to many wildlife experts Christmas trees do provide important hiding places for

smaller fish and spawning areas for perch, bream, crappie and other species. The best way to prepare a tree for submersing in water yourself is to drive some spikes in the base of the tree and place the tree in a concrete block, then pour concrete mix

into the opening in the block. Let it set-up and then lower the tree and block into water deep enough to fully cover the top of the tree. There are videos online to fully explain how to do this. The fish find it fast and the more trees the better. If that is too much trouble you can tie

multiple trees together and attach concrete blocks or other weigh and sink the trees on their side. Most years discarded trees can be dropped-off at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locations and some boat ramps. Check with the Corps about current locations. Be sure and remove all decorations before dropping-off the trees. ■

*Editor's note: The Hartwell Lake News is interested in your comments and suggestions about the lake. We are starting a new feature LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. Please send your comments by email to: [info@hartwellakenews.com](mailto:info@hartwellakenews.com). Please include your name to any comments or your letter will not be accepted for publication.*

## Pro WaterCross Tour Stop – continued from pg. 1

parking and easy launch access also make it a perfect site for watercross racing, Handler said, adding that the Hartwell stop on the tour, regardless of the specific location, has always been well-attended, both in terms of participants, and fans.

“The economic impact - what this event does for Franklin County - is huge,” Powers said. “The money that comes into the county, the boost for downtown, for shopping, for hotels and restaurants - it is a major impact, and we would obviously like to see that grow even more over the coming three years.”

Pro Watercross will release the dates for the Hartwell race, along with the complete schedule for the 7-stop 2019 tour, in an announcement coming soon, Handler said.

“We are finalizing the last details for the 2019 tour and will have an announcement of all the stops and the schedule soon,” she said.

Handler and the Pro Watercross staff have had a busy off-season, working on completing plans for new Pro Watercross Rec Tours on both the east coast and the west coast, as well as implementing some exciting changes to the PWX tour, with additional stops and some new race classes.

“There are a lot of exciting changes and new components to our tour in next year, and we want to make sure everything is in place and set to go before we make that announcement, but I promise you, the 2019 Tour is going to be worth the wait; 2019 is going to be a banner year for Pro Watercross, and for the PWC community as a whole.”

For more details on 2019 Pro Watercross Tour events, as well as all of the excitement planned for 2019 across all of the Pro Watercross divisions, visit [www.ProWatercross.com](http://www.ProWatercross.com) or look for us on social media @ProWatercross and don't forget to tag your posts and pictures with #ProWatercross. ■

## Clemson Scientist Working to Protect Future – continued from pg. 1

of Bartram's Bass in the Savannah, then there's nowhere else to get them from. They're just gone.”

Named after famed American naturalist William Bartram, who came through the area in the late 1700s, Bartram's Bass thrived in reservoirs such as lakes Jocassee and Keowee until the mid-1980s prior to the intentional introductions of other bass species, such as Alabama Bass, or Spotted Bass, into some of those reservoirs.

A larger and more aggressive species, invasive Alabama Bass tend to hybridize with Bartram's Bass and scientists are learning that throughout much of their range — the Savannah River basin includes all the reservoirs from Thurmond Lake to Lake Jocassee — Bartram's Bass are being replaced by Alabama Bass and hybrids.

While preserving Bartram's Bass matters to those for whom fishing is a favorite recreational pastime, it is an equally important tool for

scientists to use in understanding the water quality in the Savannah River basin.

Peoples' project is an important step toward implementing conservation strategies that will benefit not only Bartram's Bass, but also overall water quality and aquatic ecosystems as a whole.

The research takes an innovative approach of using detailed life history parameters of key species to define priorities for land restoration and conservation. It also will fill critical knowledge gaps in the life history and ecology of a species that lives nowhere else in the world but in the Savannah River basin.

The Department of Natural Resources and Peoples' team have sampled around 150 locations in the Savannah River basin; so far the largest Bartram's Bass they've landed is only about 14 inches and the oldest about 10 years old. The long

*continued on page 8*

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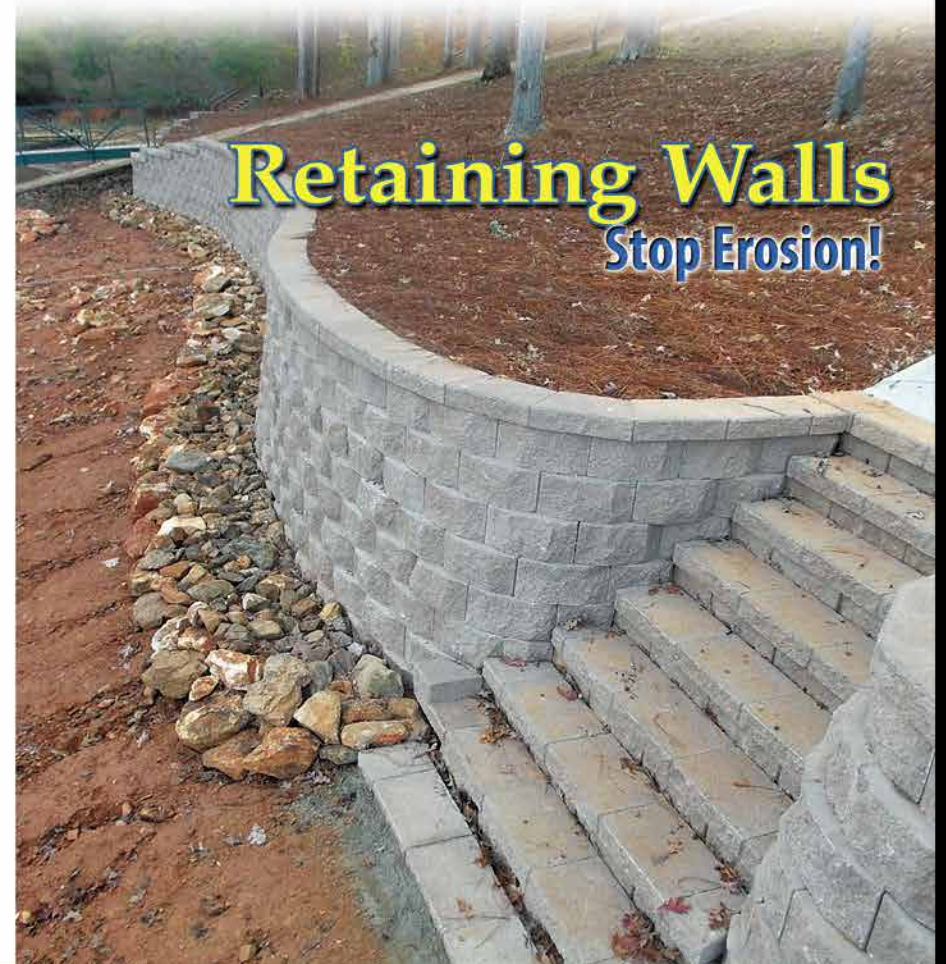
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**Clemson Scientist Working to Protect Future – continued from pg. 6**

lifespan and slow growth of Bartram's Bass makes the species particularly vulnerable to threats since it takes the populations so long to replenish.

"Bartram's Bass could be an important sentinel species for a couple of reasons," Peoples said. "One reason is that they're endemic to the Savannah, so they are obviously a conservation priority. And secondly, they're a sport fish. Don't let the size fool you, they're fun to catch and live in beautiful stretches of river. Preliminary evidence suggests the presence and hybridization of Bartram's Bass is related to the amount of forested land cover in a watershed. Coupling these variables with estimations of their growth rate as indicators of ecosystem health can help us prioritize areas for restoration to benefit all species, not just Bartram's Bass."

As the principal advocate for and steward of the state's natural resources, the Department of Natural Resources is charged with conservation of native species such as Bartram's Bass, which is listed among the highest conservation priority species in South Carolina's State Wildlife Action Plan due to its reliance on a high-quality aquatic habitat and clean water, as well as threats from invasive species.

"SCDNR has been collaborating with Clemson University for over the past two years as partners on a project to identify hybridization rates and spatial dynamics of native populations of Bartram's Bass interacting with introduced populations of Alabama Bass," said Mark Scott, adjunct faculty in the agency's Clemson field office. "Clemson's research to define spawning requirements and describe other elements of bass life history will contribute to our understanding of where Bartram's Bass are thriving and where there are problems due to interactions with non-native species. This joint research effort is critical to conservation and management of Bartram's Bass going into the future."

Peoples' work with SCDNR and the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) began in 2016 as part of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Native Black Bass Initiative, which recognized that many endemic black bass species in the Southeast were experiencing similar threats from habitat loss and genetic deterioration.

"Hybridization is a threat to almost all the endemic black bass species in the Southeast, not just Bartram's Bass. NFWF recognized that problem and the Upper Savannah River basin was a key priority area," Peoples said.

Vance Crain, Native Black Bass Initiative coordinator for the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership, said Peoples' research allows the partnership to fill critical information gaps for the conservation of such species as Bartram's Bass.

"Understanding the role introgression or habitat degradation play in the conservation of endemic species is vital for scientists and natural resources managers to effectively protect or improve aquatic condition," Crain said. "Through SARP's partnership with Clemson, we are better able to understand key life history requirements and make informed decision on specific management actions. The Bartram's Bass has been identified as a keystone species by the Native Black Bass Initiative, being an indicator

for overall aquatic resource health, and where the protection of healthy habitats ensures conservation of not only Bartram's Bass but a host of other species. This partnership with Clemson not only helps Bartram's Bass but also the watershed in which it resides, and it allows SARP to effectively allocate its limited dollars, ensuring the greatest benefit for the species and aquatic resource."

The initial project had two goals: first, to understand what habitats Bartram's Bass need to successfully reproduce and, second, to understand where in the Savannah River Basin, both in South Carolina and Georgia, genetically pure Bartram's Bass remain. That research, in turn, led scientists to a number of other questions, such as understanding the growth of Bartram's Bass.

Peoples' current research seeks to quantify variation in growth rates — a key component of individual fitness — of Bartram's Bass throughout the Savannah River basin, identify the watershed-scale factors that control growth rates of Bartram's Bass and identify key locations and implementation strategies for stream restoration.

Based on those results, they will use the South Carolina Stream Assessment tool to model potential restoration alternative scenarios that maximize key locations and strategies for improving growth of Bartram's Bass.

"Identifying what factors make good strongholds for pure Bartram's Bass and where they are heavily hybridized will be important for several reasons. First, it will let us build a predictive map of where to look for new populations. Second, it can help us identify impacted areas that may be good candidates for restoration. Finally, it can help us identify locations for collecting broodstock for supplemental hatchery stocking. This approach has been used to restore other endemic bass, such the Guadalupe Bass in Texas," Peoples said.

Stream restoration typically involves reforesting riparian areas, ensuring there's a buffer around the stream to protect water quality. The encroachment of non-natural land use, such as urbanization and suburban housing developments, can allow more sunlight to enter the stream and increase the water temperature as well as allowing sediment to enter the stream and negatively affect many stream organisms that have to rely on gravel and rock bottoms.

Other aspects of stream restoration involve restoring connections through dam removal. Small mill dams and other impediments can cause populations to become isolated and potentially dwindle out. However, restoring connectivity may also let invasive species access upstream habitats. So conservationists must always weigh the costs and benefits of any action.

"Clean water is important for everyone and everything," Peoples said. "Sport fish need clean water and good habitat just like invertebrates and non-game fish. It's important to think about water resources from an ecosystem perspective that includes services to people through drinking water, recreation, etc. We need clean water for everything, and the species that live in that water are the first responders indicating changes in water quality and quantity." ■



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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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**252 Horseshoe Bend Dr., Westminster, SC**



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**121 Shook Lane, Westminster, SC**



**\$270,000**

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**679 Parkertown Heights, Lavonia, GA**



**\$165,000**

Great little deal on Lake Hartwell. 2BR's/1BA Block home. Huge lakeside decking. Close Corps line & covered slip dock in place. Home has all new windows, new roof, decking is new. Ceiling on inside is new. New bathroom cabinet & sink in box and ready to be installed. Tile for bathroom floor ready to be installed. All furniture & appliances included.

**124 Chauvin Ct., Lavonia, GA**



**\$195,000**  
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Affordable Hartwell Lake Home. 3BR's/2BA's. Neat, pristine, well maintained. Platform dock in place. Verbal approval from Corps Ranger for a covered slip dock. All on one level - huge master BR w/private bath - French doors give access to private porch off master w/beautiful lake view. Open floor plan - kitchen, dining & family room includes fireplace w/gas logs. Also, access lakeside decking from family room. Matching storage building to house tools and lake toys. 3 Lots Included. Privately located at end in cul-de-sac.

**Lot 27 Overlook Dr., Fair Play, SC.**



**\$165,000**  
**UNDER CONTRACT!**

This great Lake Hartwell lot is located just minutes off of I-85 in Edgewater Hills Subdivision. Edgewater Hills has paved roads, streetlights & underground utilities. The cul-de-sac lot has mixed hardwoods & a perfect grade for home w/a walk-out basement. The lot has a premium, max-size dock w/Brazilian hardwood decking, hip roof, cupola & 60' walkway. Enjoy the long view of one of Lake Hartwell's main channels. 125' of lake frontage & the shoreline has been beautifully rip-rapped w/granite stone. \$165,000.

**Lot 32 Creek Rd., tFair Play, SC.**



**\$149,000**

Seminole Point is a beautiful area of homes & lakefront. Lot is just under 1 acre (.90) with 137' of lakefrontage. Nicely sloped lot - not steep but not flat w/close Corps line. Lot should afford a really nice view. Covered Dock in Place Included!

**126 Friendship Rd., Seneca, SC**



**\$45,000**

Hartwell Lake Lot in beautiful Friendship Point Subdivision. Platform dock included in sale. Very close Corps line. Lot has nice slope which would work well for a walk-out basement home. Conveniently located.

**313 Lee Rd., Fair Play, SC**



**\$319,900**

3BR/2BA. Amazing little piece of Hartwell Heaven! This little gem is larger than it looks. Tucked away & private with awesome deep water. Located as you're just about to exit the cove but still protected - please watch the drone video (<https://vimeo.com/293473776>) to get the full effect. House has been totally remodeled - roomy kitchen - large family room & 3 nice sized bedrooms. Great yard area for play/family time & easy walk to covered slip dock. Nice decking and beautiful views of Hartwell.

**302 Gumlog Rd., Lavonia**



**\$45,000**

Unrestricted lake lot on Lake Hartwell. Utilities in place. There was an older mobile home on the lot which has been removed. The septic, water & electricity have been run to lot. The mobile home sat on a concrete storage area - the concrete is still in place. Bring your mobile, camper, or build a cabin. Platform dock in place.

**CHICKASAW POINT LOTS**



- 109 N. Arrowhead** LF – not dockable **\$12,000**
- 210 Pineneedle Dr.** LF – not dockable **\$10,000**
- 103 Indian Ct.** LF – Dock-in-Place - Close Corps Line **\$50,000**
- 136 Indian Hills** LF – Dock in Place **\$130,000**

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## Ambassador to National Recreational Tour



Pro Watercross is pleased to announce that with the launch of the 2019 National Recreational Tour, it is announcing the position of National Recreational Ambassador and welcoming Kenny

Koonge to the Pro Watercross family.

A familiar figure within the recreational segment of the personal watercraft (PWC) community, Kenny is well known for his passion, his forward thinking and his willingness to support his fellow riders. That enthusiasm and progressive attitude played a large part in Pro Watercross' recent decision to appoint Kenny as the National Recreational Ambassador.

"The new Pro Watercross Recreational Tour,

which was just announced last week, is generating a lot of excitement and enthusiasm in the PWC community, among both racers and enthusiasts," said Pro Watercross CIO Jennifer Handler. "We felt that it was extremely important to find an individual with the right qualifications, dedication and attitude to help guide the growth of Pro Watercross' recreational division, and to serve as a liaison for the public, for PWC enthusiasts, and for Rec Tour promoters. We have every faith that Kenny is the right choice for this important role."

"This new role with Pro Watercross will encompass a wide variety of tasks and projects, but my main mission, at each and every Rec Tour stop, will be to work with the participants of the event to make sure that they are happy with the event itself," Kenny said.

Kenny has long had a passion for adrenaline-fueled watersports. Joining forces with other Jet Ski enthusiasts with a similar mission-focused drive, Kenny became the ride director for Take Point Now. Take Point Now was formed to raise awareness for wounded veterans and to support

its recently-formed research foundation in its effort to assist veterans returning from active duty. When asked to participate with the Take Point Now organization, Kenny recognized the opportunity to help out a great cause and be part of something bigger than just a weekend ride.

Kenny is also a staunch supporter of the March of Dimes Bay Swim event, and he has taken the lead for all the jetski volunteers who provide safety and rescue services to the swimmers who attempt the long-distance open swim across the Chesapeake Bay.

Kenny also serves as an integral part of the Watercraft Network radio show. He hosts a segment called the "Take Point Now Recreational Ride Report." This has fast become a very popular segment and is bringing a new, inspired collaboration across the country.

"Kenny's passion and innovative ideas led to his selection as the National Recreational Ambassador, and this position will enable to him to continue to promote collaboration within the recreational watercraft community

and cross-promotion with other sectors of the PWC community. Kenny will continue to fuel the 'United We Ride' movement that has begun to gain momentum, and as Ambassador, he will be supporting and enabling the success of all the recreational ride groups," Handler explained. "Furthermore, Kenny's commitment to PWC rider safety and environmental stewardship will be key in future endeavors."

Kenny has plans to attend every 2019 National Recreational Tour event. Make sure to catch him on the water or the beach and join in his live social media broadcasts.

Anyone interested in becoming part of the National Recreational Tour can reach out to Kenny at [kenny@prowatercross.com](mailto:kenny@prowatercross.com).

For more information about the 2019 National Recreational Tour and to keep up with all the Pro Watercross news go to [www.ProWatercross.com](http://www.ProWatercross.com) or look for us on social media @ProWatercross and don't forget to tag your posts and pictures with #ProWatercross. ■

## 23rd Annual Polar Bear Plunge Invites You to Jump in the Lake

Each year the Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence highlights the importance of recognizing what constitutes domestic violence.

On February 23 the Council will hold its 23rd Annual Polar Bear Plunge during the Winter Festival at the Hartwell Marina in Hartwell, Georgia. Gates open at 10:30 a.m. with the Jump

scheduled for 12:30 p.m. The Council is looking for vendors, especially those featuring kid-related winter activities; ice fishing, face painting, bounce houses and food. For more information contact the Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence at 706-377-4884. Proceeds will help support domestic violence victims.

Domestic violence is sometimes described

as family violence, intimate partner violence, or teen dating violence and is a widespread problem across the country, say domestic violence counselors. Persons using abusive tactics to compel submission of one person to another in an intimate relationship may use physical and sexual violence, isolation, intimidation and stalking behaviors to achieve their goals.

Throughout the month of February the Domestic Violence Council, along with other groups nationwide, will come together to highlight the need to educate young people about dating violence. It is important to teach healthy relationship skills in the teen community so the cycle of abuse can be prevented, say those familiar with domestic violence. ■

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## Corps' Hartwell Lake Project Accepts Christmas Trees for Recycling

**By U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hartwell Lake Project Office will accept natural Christmas trees (no artificial trees) for recycling Dec. 26 through Jan. 25, 2019.

The recycled trees will be used as fish attractors in Hartwell Lake. Trees will be tied in bundles, weighted with concrete anchors, and then submerged in various locations marked with fish attractor buoys. All ornaments and tinsel must be removed before dropping off the trees.

Christmas trees can be dropped off at designated donation sites at Big Oaks and Poplar Springs boat ramps in Georgia and Twin Lakes and Friendship boat ramps in South Carolina. Mount Lebanon Elementary School located in Pendleton, South Carolina, also serves as a drop-off location from Dec. 26 through Jan. 18, 2019.

Donated trees can be picked up by fishermen any time for personal placement. Trees should be anchored in 8-12 feet of water. Do not place Christmas trees in the main lake channel or around private docks.

"Small trees and brush provide cover for fish, particularly as nursery areas for juvenile

fish," said Corps Natural Resources Specialist Jess Fleming. "In addition, they provide habitat for aquatic insects which serve as an essential food source during the early developmental stages of most fish species."

For more information, contact the Hartwell Lake Operations Project Manager's Office toll



Photo Credit U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

free 888-893-0678, or visit their website at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell>. For a list of fish attractor locations and GPS coordinates, visit them online at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell/fishing.htm>.

Share lines: Don't toss that real Christmas tree into the landfill. Let us recycle it as a fish attractor in #LakeHartwell. Find a nearby drop-off point here: <https://go.usa.gov/xEczm>. This is REAL NEWS but please no FAKE TREES. Real ones only. ■

## Firewood and Uninvited Guests

**By Denise Attaway,**  
Clemson University, College of  
Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences;  
Public Service & Agriculture

CLEMSON — The winter holidays are here, and some folks may have visits from unexpected and unwelcomed guests.

These guests are insects that can enter homes through firewood, as well as Christmas trees and even pets. Clemson Cooperative Extension entomologist Eric Benson said one way to cut down on the number of these uninvited guests is avoid bringing firewood inside before the wood is to be burned.

"Insects that use wood as food or a resting place will emerge indoors and worry many people," Benson said. "Insects such as long-horned beetles, other wood-boring beetles, wasps, some moths and several other small insects may fly around indoors and be attracted to lights and windows."

Don't fret if you see these insects inside your home. Benson said they generally are just nuisance pests coming from the firewood.

"They should not infest any furniture or structural wood in a home," he said.

Cinara aphids, which are very large brown aphids, can often be brought indoors on Christmas trees. Even though they are plant feeders, many people think Cinara aphids are

ticks and can cause great concern when several hundred are seen walking around the holiday tree. To help ensure this doesn't happen to you, Benson has some tips.

"Inspect Christmas trees carefully," Benson said. "If any sooty mold or honey dew is observed, do not buy the tree. These are indications of aphids or scale infestations and, with them, you can get ladybeetles."

Other insects, typically outdoor nesters or plant feeders, may be brought into homes on potted plants moved indoors to avoid freezing temperatures outside. Sometimes fire ants or Argentine ants nesting in outdoor pots get inside homes this way.

As a final cool-weather precaution, Benson said it is important to make sure pets are free of fleas. Bathe and treat pets before bringing them inside, he said.

To make sure there are no unusual insect guests coming inside over the holiday, Benson reminds folks to check for and remove insects before bringing firewood or Christmas trees inside. If insects are found once trees or firewood are brought inside, bring them back outside and remove any insects detected or vacuum or sweep them up. If found early, many insects can be removed without using insecticides or other chemical treatments. ■



Photo Credit BugGuide.net

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## What is a One Day Boat License?

By Andy Whitcomb,  
TAKEMEFISHING.ORG

Don't own a boat yet but want to learn how to boat? Are you traveling and interested in renting a boat? Then you should look into a one day boat license.

Boating license terms vary quite a bit depending on your state. For example, you may find that a "one day boat license" may not even exist in your state but that you can earn something like a "boater education certificate."

This will prove that you have succeeded in finishing a boat safety course, but because it may not need to be renewed, it still isn't technically a boat license.

Visit your state's official web site to learn the specific laws and regulations regarding boating and any information that might be related to a one day boat license course. That site should provide a list of entities that offer such training and let you know what is legally required to shove off for a day. State requirements usually depend on age of operator and horsepower of the boat motor.

Most states require training before operating

watercraft, but if not it is good idea anyway to help prevent accidents for yourself and others. One boater education site stated that the U.S. Coast Guard has reported that about 70% of the accidents are caused by errors by the boat driver. And according to the American Boating Association, "a 1997 study estimated that 84% of PWC (personal watercraft) operators (including renters) had received no boating instruction whatsoever. PWC injuries account for 36% of all reported boating injuries.

The best way to be sure you can legally operate a boat in any state is to complete a boat operating course, for a one-day boat license or longer, in your state. A good place to start is the same site you use to register your boat. You may find that the paperwork is transferable and that for rentals, you might not even need it with you as long as you sign paperwork stating it has been completed. But there is a wise saying: "it is better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it." Most importantly, the additional safety information learned from this course will help keep you and your passengers safe. ■



## Recruiting Fishing Partners is Easier Than You Think

By Alycia Page,  
TAKEMEFISHING.ORG

Recruiting fishing partners for a day of casting lines can be a tough task for anglers of all skill levels. If you're new to fishing and boating, you may find that your friends aren't into it. If you've been fishing your entire life, you might face the rotating door of scheduling conflicts; one buddy has to work, the other has her son's birthday, and the last guy talked your ear off all day so you're not calling him again. When fishing with friends you just met, be prepared to encounter memorable experiences of all kinds; great memories to last a lifetime, an accidental hook to the face, or even someone who forgot to buy their fishing license.

You'll find that the best fishing partners are the ones who have a similar fishing style as you. Maybe you're the hardcore, dawn-to-dusk, no-time-to-eat kind of enthusiast. Or maybe you prefer to leisurely hit the outgoing tide for a few hours, catch and release a few good ones, then take in a relaxing sunset. Whatever your approach, it's smart to ask a few questions before committing to

extended bouts of time on the water with someone.

If you're in search of new fishing partners, start with people you know. Family members are the best choice because you get to spend quality time making memories in the outdoors. Ask around within your tackle shop circle or even your co-workers. Fishing seminars are always filled with knowledge-seeking anglers looking to improve their cast, find more fish, learn fishing safety tricks, and meet other like-minded fisher-folk. Volunteer at a local fishing event.

You might even have some luck on a fishing forum. Just remember to shoot for quality over quantity. Finding new fishing buds is like dating. You may have to deal with some crappy pair-ups until you find an angling friend that complements your unique style of pursuit. Don't get discouraged! Before you know it, you'll be fishing with friends that you enjoy spending time with and might learn a few things from each other. Now, get your fish on! ■



Photo Credit Alycia Page

## Catching More Than Fish. The Value of This Sport for Young Women

By Kaitlin Barnhart,  
TAKEMEFISHING.ORG

I'm ecstatic when I see a young woman out fishing because I know she is gaining imperative experiences that will impact more than just her ability to reel in giant fish. This time she spends fishing can influence not only how this young woman feels about herself, but how she goes about handling the life ahead of her. Here are three of many reasons fishing is incredibly valuable for young women:

1. FISHING BRINGS HER TO ADVENTURE

One of my favorite moments is when I bring teens to the river in the Fall and they put on waders on for the first time. After their initial comments about how weird they look, most teens are enthralled with the magic of being able

to walk in the water and the freedom that's found with waders. The entire day of fishing is filled with new adventurous moments, where the angler has to make choices and learn from their mistakes in order to successfully trick a fish. When a young woman is challenged by adventure she learns to fight fears, overcome obstacles, and she leaves the river feeling braver and more capable of handling other areas of difficulty in her life as well.

2. FISHING GIVES HER MENTAL REST

Studies show that when youth spend time in nature, it reduces their stress level, calms anxieties,

and encourages positive thinking. While focused on matching the hatch, or netting trout, young women are distracted from dwelling on problems they are facing at school or home. This time in nature improves cognitive functioning while also allowing the teen to unplug from their chaotic world, and find a healthy coping mechanism in the sport of fishing.

3. FISHING GIVES HER NEW PERSPECTIVES

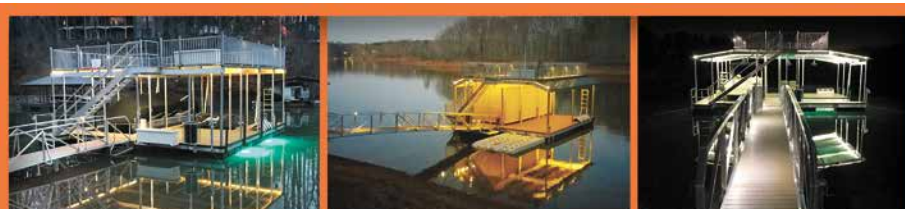
Fishing provides hands-on learning opportunities for youth, and offers them a front-seat to the nature show, which they may have only read about in books. When teens discover the beauty of the great outdoors, this new space becomes a place of value to them.

Their perspectives of themselves can also be influenced by fishing, as they learn new skills and build self-esteem through successes. Developing an identity of a female angler can lead to a future full of adventure and valuable experiences.

Teenage girls receive much from time fishing in the outdoors, but the outdoors receives much from her as well. In a world full of technology and entertainment, it's difficult to educate youth on how to care for the environment because for most, it's a place they have not connected with and do not understand on a personal level. The more youth who are anchored in the outdoors, and find value in this great playground we all enjoy, the more future advocates we have to care for it. ■



Photo Credit Kaitlin Barnhart



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## DNR Announces New Round of Wildlife Viewing Grants

By GDNR,  
Wildlife Resources Division

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. – Wanted: More projects that need a hand helping Georgians enjoy and better understand animals, plants and habitats emphasized in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan. The state Department of Natural Resources is again seeking proposals for its Wildlife Viewing Grants Program. Private, public and nonprofit organizations, including local governments, can apply. The deadline is Feb. 1, 2019.

Projects approved last year, the first time the grants had been offered since 2009, varied from bat boxes along the Oconee Rivers Greenway in Athens-Clarke County to an observation platform at Okefenokee Swamp Park and outreach encouraging responsible wildlife viewing on St. Simons Island beaches.

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

Wildlife Conservation Chief Dr. Jon Ambrose said the goal is to provide viewing opportunities that increase awareness and appreciation of native animals not fished for or hunted, rare native plants and natural habitats – particularly those that are conservation priorities in the State Wildlife Action Plan. Georgia's Wildlife Action Plan, developed by the Wildlife Resources Division with input from more than 100 organizations, is focused on conserving wildlife and their habitats before these animals, plants and places become rarer and costly to conserve or restore. The plan also stresses the importance of education and outreach in conserving the state's natural heritage.

"These grants help connect people with wildlife and natural habitats in need of conservation," Ambrose said. "That connection is critical not only for wildlife but also for the well-being of Georgians. Research shows that conservation of natural environments is an important factor

in maintaining human health and quality of life."

The plan and the grants suit a state where wildlife viewing is big. According to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey, about 2.4 million people in Georgia took part in wildlife viewing activities from photography to bird feeding in 2011. The survey estimated related spending at \$1.8 billion.

Started in 1999 to support wildlife viewing and education projects, the grants program was sidelined in 2009 by recession-era cutbacks. The Wildlife Conservation Section revived it in 2017 with help from the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation. While the current focus is on viewing opportunities, the hope is to add the original program's educational component later.

Proposals can include facilities, improvements and other initiatives that provide opportunities for the public to observe wild animals, plants and natural habitats. Notification of awards will be made by Feb. 28. Details, including how to apply, are available at [www.georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewingGrants](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewingGrants). DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section is charged with restoring and conserving rare and other native species not hunted, fished for or collected and natural habitats through research, management and public education. The section depends largely on fundraisers, grants and contributions. Sales and renewals of DNR's eagle and hummingbird license plates are the leading fundraiser.

### Wildlife Viewing Grants at a Glance

- Project proposals should provide public opportunities to observe native wildlife and natural habitats, with an emphasis on species considered conservation priorities in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan ([www.georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan)).
- Deadline to apply: Feb. 1, 2019
- Grants are limited to \$3,000 each. Funding is provided through Georgia's Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund.
- Details: [www.georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewingGrants](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewingGrants) ■

## Keep Georgia Deer Herd Free of Chronic Wasting Disease: What You Can Do

By GDNR,  
Wildlife Resources Division

Preventing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from entering Georgia is an ongoing effort. Hunters can help reduce that risk by understanding current regulations that prohibit the importation of live cervids (member of the deer family) and restrict the importation of certain cervid carcass parts from known CWD-infected states.

"The potential introduction of CWD poses a serious threat to Georgia's economically and culturally valuable white-tailed deer resource," explains Charlie Killmaster, state deer biologist for the Wildlife Resources Division. "We encourage hunters to be knowledgeable of and to abide by current importation regulations and restrictions."

CWD is a contagious neurological disease affecting deer, elk and moose, and belongs to a group of diseases known as transmissible spongi-

form encephalopathies, which is the same group of diseases affecting some domestic animals, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy or "mad cow disease."

This fatal disease attacks the nervous system of cervids and to date has been detected in 23 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces.

Infected animals develop a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brain, which results in extreme weight loss, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions and eventually, death. Though scientific investigations are ongoing, current research suggests that the agent responsible for the disease may be spread both directly (animal to animal contact) and indirectly (soil or other surface to animal). Currently, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk for humans.

### What Are Current Regulations?

According to current hunting regulations, importation of any live cervid is prohibited.

continued on page 16

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**Keep Georgia Deer Herd Free of Chronic Wasting Disease: What You Can Do— continued from pg. 15**

In addition, importation of any whole cervid carcass or carcass parts from any state with a documented CWD case is prohibited with the following exceptions: boned-out meat, commercially processed meat, meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, clean skull plates with antlers attached, clean antlers,

finished taxidermy heads or clean upper canines (buglers, whistlers, ivories).

All Georgians can help by reporting any known illegal importation of deer species or carcasses to the department at 1-800-241-4113.

“Anyone interested in wildlife – hunters, wildlife watchers and processors, among others

– are encouraged to help keep Georgia’s quality deer herd CWD-free,” says Killmaster.

**What is Georgia Doing?**

Since 1998, the division has been testing suspect and hunter-harvested deer for evidence of CWD. To date, more than 6,000 deer have been tested with no confirmed positives. The

states nearest to Georgia with a confirmed case of CWD are Mississippi, Illinois, West Virginia and Virginia.

Any hunter who observes or harvests a deer in Georgia that exhibits CWD symptoms should immediately call a local Wildlife Resources Division office or call 1-800-241-4113. ■

## U.S. Forest Service Teams Up With SCDNR and S.C. Forestry Commission on 10-year Conservation Partnership

### Federal/State Collaboration will Protect and Manage Natural Resources on the State’s Two National Forests

COLUMBIA, S.C. —The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) have entered into two wide-ranging agreements that will allow the agencies to work together in providing long-term active forest management on federally owned forestlands in the Palmetto State.

The agreements, called Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Contracting, are products of the U.S. Congress’ 2014 Farm Bill and the Agricultural Act of 2014, respectively, and empower the USFS to contract with state agencies

and other non-governmental entities to perform large-scale land management services, such as timber harvesting, wildlife habitat improvement and watershed restoration, among others, on South Carolina’s two national forests.

Covering more than 630,000 acres, the Sumter National Forest in the upstate and Francis Marion National Forest in the Low Country also constitute the largest single property ownership in SCDNR’s Wildlife Management Area program (WMA).

“We are particularly excited about the prospects of using these agreements to move

habitat restoration forward in a timely and efficient manner on those Forest Service lands that lie within our S.C. Bobwhite Initiative focal areas,” said SCDNR Director Alvin Taylor. The S.C. Bobwhite Initiative is a statewide effort to restore habitat for bobwhite quail and similar declining song bird species.

Originally developed to provide public hunting areas across the state, the WMA program has evolved to a more multiple-use focus that provides opportunities for all wildlife enthusiasts.

“This is a great first step in what will be a long-term partnership that benefits all three agencies

and the public,” said State Forester and SCFC Director Scott Phillips. “With the Forest Service wanting to accelerate management activities on its lands and SCDNR continually working to achieve its wildlife objectives, the Forestry Commission is the natural partner to provide its forest management expertise in this effort.”

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests’ Forest Supervisor Rick Lint added, “I am looking forward to furthering resource management and our public service alongside the Forestry Commission and Department of Natural Resources with these agreements.” ■

## Annual SCDNR Survey Shows Slight Decline in 2018 Wild Turkey Harvest Numbers

By SCDNR

While remaining the state’s second most popular game animal (behind only white-tailed deer) South Carolina’s spring turkey harvest was

down about 6 percent in 2018, when compared with 2017, according to the most recent numbers from the S.C. Department of Natural Resources’ annual mail survey of Palmetto State Turkey hunters.

The survey was sent to 30,000 individuals

who received a set of 2018 Turkey Transportation Tags which are required in order to hunt turkeys in South Carolina. Based on the survey results, an estimated 16,145 adult gobblers and 1,794 jakes accounted for a total harvest of 17,939 birds in 2018, compared with 19,171 birds estimated taken in 2017. Approximately 50,772 hunters participated in the 2018 spring turkey season in South Carolina, versus 52,429 in 2017. While down, those numbers are still higher than they were in seasons prior to 2016.

“Keep in mind that legislative changes that went into effect in 2016 provided an earlier starting date and increased number of days in the turkey season in 34 of 46 South Carolina counties,” said SCDNR Assistant Big Game Program Coordinator Jay Cantrell. “The effect of this season change was a 50 percent increase in opportunity (days) for the majority (74%) of the state, so although the harvest was down slightly in 2018, the harvest under the 3 years of the new season framework has consistently been higher (18%) than in years prior to those changes.”

Unfortunately, it’s likely that this increase in harvest since 2016 is best explained by an increase in hunter effort (numbers of days hunted), rather than an increase in the overall turkey population, according to Cantrell. More hunter effort (which increased when the season was lengthened in 2016) can increase harvest numbers, to a point, regardless of the number of turkeys on the landscape.

Statewide, turkey production, however, as measured by the SCDNR’s annual Summer Turkey Survey, has been decreasing since before the new season was implemented. In fact, recruitment of new poults during the last five years has been the lowest of any five-year period since the harvest survey began in 1982. Typically, low recruitment is followed by decreasing harvest, and good recruitment is followed by increasing harvest. With recent turkey production being low, it seems clear that increased


hunter effort, rather than increased turkey numbers, is the driving factor behind the increase in harvest that has accompanied the longer season

“Again, the new (in 2016) season dates increased opportunity for hunters in 34 of 46 counties by 50 percent,” added Cantrell, “and the data clearly indicates that hunters have taken advantage of that additional opportunity.”

According to the survey, the top counties for total turkey harvest in 2018 were Williamsburg, Berkeley, Orangeburg, Fairfield, and Colleton. However, because counties vary in size, a better method of comparing harvests between counties is the harvest per unit area, turkeys harvested per square mile for example. Using this method, the most productive counties were Union, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Anderson, and Fairfield. The average turkey hunter spent about six days in the field, with a success rate of about 23 percent in harvesting at least one gobbler. Hunter opinion on the turkey population in the mailed survey indicated that it was viewed as decreasing, and this opinion has been consistent the last few years.

The SCDNR has also begun a new voluntary online survey targeting “avid” turkey hunters in the state to help biologists better understand the dynamics behind these harvest numbers. As a group, these hunters spend more time afield during the turkey season and have a significantly higher success rate than the average participant in the mailed survey. Through this augmented survey approach, SCDNR biologists hope to better understand the demographics, experiences, techniques and opinions of dedicated turkey hunter in South Carolina. The information collected in both of these surveys, as well as biological and harvest data, will help biologists evaluate trends and make more informed management recommendations with the ultimate goal of maintaining sustainable, quality turkey hunting into the future. ■



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## Hartwell Lake Fishing Forecast Winter to Spring 2019

By Preston Harden

As we enter January, we are still in El Niño. The lake is at full pool and the fishing is good. Hybrids, stripers, and bass are still active. If the water temperature gets below 48°, they will shut down. Then it is crappie time.

Crappie move into the major creeks mid-winter. They will eat even in cold water. They hang around docks, bridges, and brush piles. Look for them in 15 to 30 feet deep water. They will move further back in the Creeks, as we move into spring and the water starts to warm. Tiny jigs with soft plastics on light line will catch them. Work the jig very



slowly. Crappie minnows fished with a slip float and sinker will also work. A slip float is stopped at the proper depth with a rubber stopper or a piece of thread. Crappie are the

best eating fish in the Lake. They taste better when the water is cold.

By March, the water starts to warm and the hybrids, stripers, and bass become active. They move shallow in the afternoon as the water warms. They like to get on the windblown banks in the creeks. I start late and fish till dark. I fish a small jig head and fluke to imitate a threadfin Shad. By April, they will eat blue back Herring on a free line with no weight. I like to fish them around Shoals, points, and others shallow structure. Fishing gets better as the water warms with May and June possibly my best months. ■

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## Clemson Alumnus Wins \$10,000 for Farm Efficiency App

By Denise Attaway, Clemson University, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences; Public Service & Agriculture

CLEMSON – The knowledge Spencer McLeod acquired during his years at Clemson University and experience he gained working on his family’s farm in McBee sparked him to create a mobile app he hopes will soon help increase farm efficiency.

The app, AgriLinx, was built to help farmers keep track of activities on their farms. It earned McLeod the \$10,000 top prize in Clemson University’s 5th Annual Pitch Smackdown hosted by the Arthur M. Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership in early November.

“Profitability in the agriculture industry is being driven more and more by efficiency,” McLeod said. “Ultimately, AgriLinx focuses on making operations efficient.”

McLeod graduated from Clemson with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural mechanization and business in 2012, and a master’s degree in business administration in 2014. After completing his degrees, McLeod returned to work on his family’s 7,500-acre farm. He began working on the AgriLinx app in April 2017 and started testing the system in May of 2017. Currently, the app allows users to view and control irrigation management, track equipment and track labor.

The system includes a LORA network, or low-power, wide-area wireless technology, that

collects data from remote devices called nodes. These nodes have Global Positioning System (GPS) capabilities and can connect to a new cellular technology from Verizon called LTE Cat M1. The nodes can be placed strategically around a farmer’s field to collect and store data for irrigation management, equipment tracking and labor tracking, allowing farmers to make more informed operational decisions.

McLeod hopes the app will help farmers determine the best times irrigate their crops. By using precision irrigation, over-irrigation is reduced, and yields are increased because water is applied only when needed. The AgriLinx platform exists in the cloud where the data is stored. This system could be available to a small number of farms in January 2019.

McLeod said the education and experiences he gained while at Clemson proved valuable in helping him develop AgriLinx and win the Pitch Smackdown.

“The network of people that I was able to develop and continue to develop at Clemson has been an immense resource to drive this venture,” McLeod said. “My undergraduate studies gave me the problem-solving and analytical skills to develop the idea and work through the technical obstacles. The MBA program allowed me to form this unique idea into a viable business model.”

Matthew Klein, a lecturer for the Clemson MBA program and a judge for the Smackdown,

*continued on page 18*



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**Clemson Alumnus Wins \$10,000 for Farm Efficiency App – continued from pg. 17**

said it was a compilation of several things that drove McLeod to win this year's competition. Klein taught McLeod while he was a student in the master's program.

"Spencer grew up on a farm, so he knows the industry," Klein said. "What set his project apart was that he installed this system on his own farm and was able to show how his farm benefitted from having this system. His system also was attractive because all users have to do is 'plug and play'. Users can keep their data. They don't have to worry about proprietary claims and things such as that."

McLeod plans to use the money he won from

the 2018 Pitch Smackdown to finalize development and purchase inventory.

The Clemson Pitch Smackdown is held annually for Clemson students, faculty and alumni. Individuals, as well as teams register for an opportunity to pitch their ideas. These ideas can be anything from a concept

to a fully developed product. The 2018 Pitch

Smackdown drew more than 40 entries of which 20 entrepreneurs were selected to pitch their start-ups

with hopes of winning some of the more than \$30,000 in cash prizes. Those competing in the final round were required to conduct a 4-minute presentation, followed by a 6-minute question and answer session.

The estimated time of completion for each entry

was 3 to 5 minutes. Other winners of the 2018 Clemson Pitch Smackdown can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2018PSW>

The Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership is a Clemson University program that supports academic research and service programs involving students and faculty from all colleges on campus. Spiro IFEL extends the work of the university to the community through project-based activities with inventors, entrepreneurs, and established companies representing an entrepreneurial spirit on the Clemson University campus. ■



Above Photo: Clemson CAFLS alumnus Spencer McLeod of McBee wins Clemson's 5th Annual Pitch Smackdown with an app he created to help farmers track activities on their farms. Image Credit: Clemson College of Agriculture Forestry and Life Sciences

**Clemson to Launch Weekly Farm Market and Expand Research at Campus Farm**

By Jonathan Veit, Clemson University, College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences; Public Service & Agriculture

CLEMSON — Clemson University will expand its sustainable and organic farming research and launch a weekly farm market on its most historic agricultural land.

Calhoun Fields, or The Bottoms as it is commonly known, lies between Hartwell Lake and Perimeter Road on the Clemson University campus and is the location of Clemson's Student Organic Farm and Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA). It is also land that was first farmed by Cherokee Indians, then by John C. Calhoun and Thomas Green Clemson.

The Community Supported Agriculture Program will be replaced by a weekly farm market at the Student Organic Farm. The market will launch

May 3, 2019 and be held every Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. through November.

David Robb manages the farm and is a graduate student in Clemson's plant and environmental sciences department. In a recent email sent to CSA members, Robb said replacing the CSA with a farm market would allow more acreage to be used for the university's already robust organic and sustainable farming research. Robb also said the farm market would have a wider impact.

"CSA shares were expensive and committed people to finding uses for a large amount of produce week after week for two 14-week seasons. The farm market will be more affordable for a wider public, including students. People will be able to just swing by on Fridays and buy what they want. The change will also allow us to use more acreage for important research," Robb said.



Clemson's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences has been awarded several grants from the USDA to support its efforts to find new crops for southeastern U.S. and South Carolina growers to produce.

Clemson professors Dil Thavarajah, Rick Boyles and Stephen Kresovich, received a nearly \$1 million grant from the USDA to develop pulse and cereal grain crops that can be grown organically in South Carolina and to help South Carolina farmers benefit from growing them. Thavarajah, and Kresovich also received a \$150,000 seed grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study how growing lentils in different locations can bolster the plants' nutritional quality, which could be a key in fighting food insecurity.

"The changes taking place at Calhoun Fields are an example of Clemson's continued commitment to its land-grant mission of teaching, research and Extension in the agricultural sciences. What we learn there will ultimately help South Carolina farmers grow more food more efficiently in the race to feed a growing world population," said Paula Agudelo, interim associate dean of research and graduate studies for the college.

Crop variety trial research at Calhoun Fields is already helping feed local communities suffering from food insecurity. In collaboration with Greenville Health System and Clemson University, Greenville-based nonprofit Feed & Seed created the Farm to Belly program. The program was designed to educate and encourage healthy eating habits in children as young as three years of age by introducing them to fresh vegetables and fruits – not only by taste, but by learning how to cook at home with their families. More than 180 children and their families participated in the program at the North Franklin Road Head Start Center in its first year. It has grown to nearly 400 families

participating across four schools through 2021.

Calhoun Fields is a proving ground for some of the vegetables provided through the Farm to Belly program.

"Our primary motivation is to determine what products will grow that will be the most interesting to families in need. We can test that they can be grown locally at the organic farm. They're collecting all the data, so we'll have all the information to grow these specific carrots or these specific Detroit dark red beets and go to other growers and show them how to grow the carrots and beets," said Mike McGirr, Feed & Seed executive director.

McGirr said more than 40 percent of Upstate farmland is fallow and he sees research being conducted at Calhoun Fields as an incubator where farmers can learn how to grow new crops that will help them enter new markets.

"For example, the opportunity for people to do specialty grains for livestock feed, for human consumption, for the beer industry is unlimited. We need a place where small measurable data can be collected in tiny little plots, and that place is Calhoun Fields," McGirr said.

Calhoun Fields is part of the Simpson Research and Education Center (REC), which consists of the research farms located on and around Clemson University's main campus, including: Calhoun Fields, LeMaster Dairy Cattle Center, Morgan Poultry Center, Musser Fruit Farm, Simpson Beef Cattle Farm and the Starkey Swine Center.

The Simpson REC is one of six Clemson Research and Education Centers strategically located throughout the state according to the state's distinct soil and climate regions. These RECs, collectively known as the Clemson Experiment Station, are a part of a nationwide system of scientists working to improve the quality of life for people in their home state, nation and the world. ■

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