

Understanding Drought Conditions in the Keowee-Toxaway River Basin

As I begin to write this article I can't help but think how tired I am of the drought. Based on data from Duke Energy's system of rain gauges, the period from 1999 through 2007 saw only one year 2003 with above average rainfall. The current drought appears ready to persist with 2008 trending toward below average precipitation for the year. When I refer to the Keowee-Toxaway (K-T) Project, it is really all inclusive of Duke Energy's generation assets, including Oconee Nuclear Station, Keowee Hydroelectric Station, Jocassee and Bad Creek Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Projects.

To understand the drought impacts on the K-T River Basin, you first need to understand the components that play a key role in defining the water resources in the basin. First, let's look at rainfall. As I write this June has ended with the Jocassee and Keowee Hydro Stations having recorded 0.37 and 0.91 inches respectively for rainfall in total for the month. The Clemson-Seneca Airport has received 0.46 inches and Greenville Spartanburg is showing only 0.12 inches for June.. For the year to date, Greenville is behind 9.45 inches. Remember, Greenville finished 2007 with a rainfall deficit of over 19 inches. All this is to say, the K-T River Basin is suffering from a significant rainfall deficit.

There are several key components that make up streamflow, including direct precipitation on the surface of the stream, surface runoff (overland flow) from rainfall and the baseflow, which is fed from groundwater. For our discussion, it is important to know that without rainfall, the groundwater is not recharged and if it isn't recharged, it will decline. A streamflow gauge acts to integrate all of the factors that can influence streamflow. A streamflow monitoring gauge on the Chattooga River (near Clayton, Ga.) has a long operating history and provides an important long term record as a proxy for what happens in the K-T River Basin. Figure 1 below shows a graphic representation of the previous 31 days of streamflow for the Chattooga River. Notice that the small triangles are representative of the median daily flow for the date over a 68 year period of record. The blue line is the streamflow, and you quickly recognize that it is generally declining and is below the median points. The blue line shows several small changes which are attributable to showers upstream. Today, the streamflow is at 152 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is below the previously noted record for the day dating from 1940. This decline in streamflow, with little apparent benefit from rainfall, is being fed by the baseflow or the groundwater and it is declining.

To see how groundwater has performed over the past 12 months, Figure 2 below shows a well in Oconee County (remember that water level is measured from the ground surface down). You will notice that from this same time period last year, the level declined and then in January 2008 began improving (based on precipitation driven recharge), but by April the recharge had ended and the well was once again declining. Note that from last year at this time to the present, the groundwater is over a foot lower. Thankfully, this is not a record low level for this well. Note also the current well position relative to the median data showing that the level is below the historical level.

Figure 1 USGS Streamflow Chattooga River near Clayton, Ga.

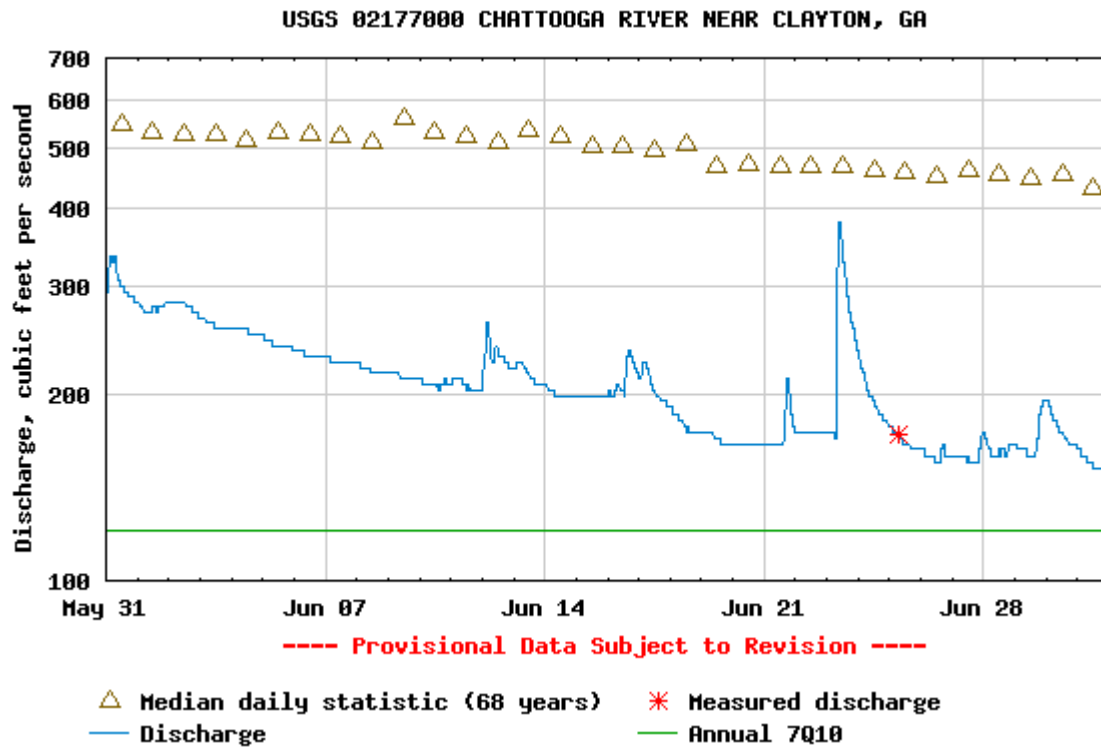
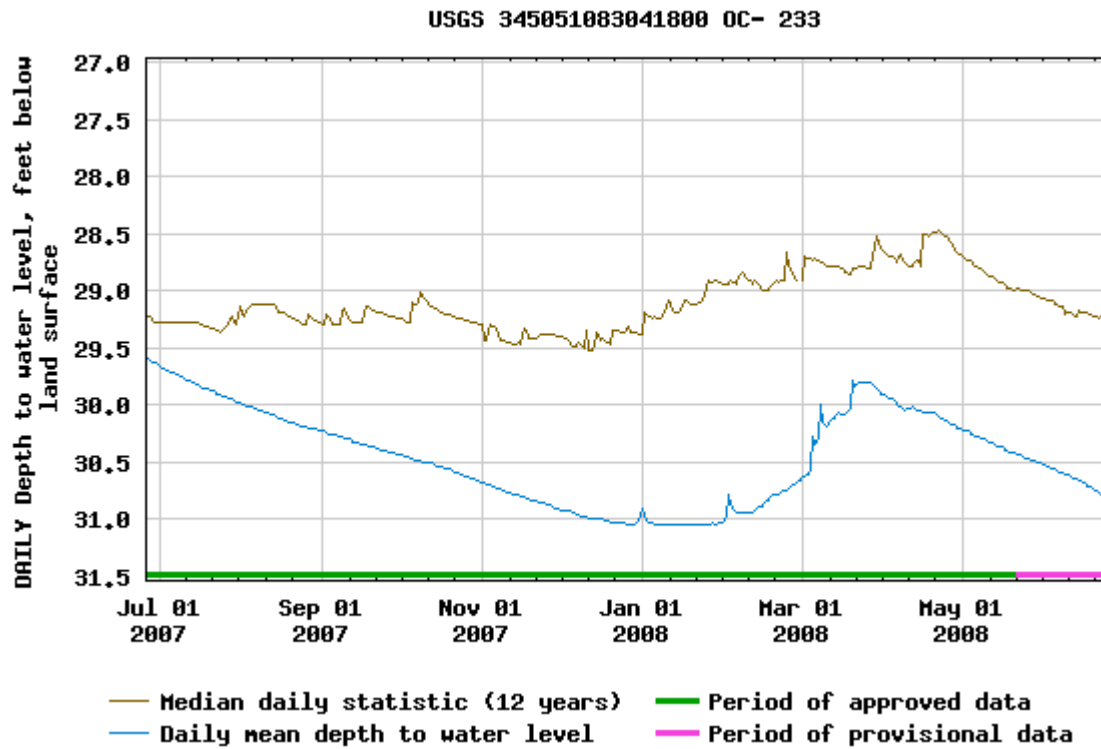
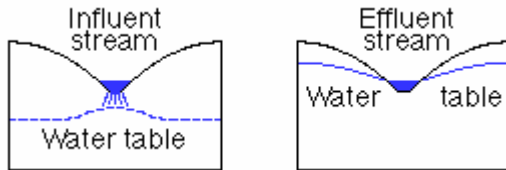


Figure 2 Groundwater Well USGS Oconee County, SC



The streamflow and groundwater picture Figure 3, Effluent and Influent Streams (<http://www.kgs.ku.edu/General/Geology/Sedgwick/gw01.html>), shows the critical elements of a stream gaining flow from the groundwater and one losing streamflow. I believe that we are nearing a time when the water table will drop below the bottom of the stream channel and the streamflow will feed (become influent) to the groundwater.

Figure 3 Influent and Effluent Streams



Drought conditions Normal conditions

I am not a meteorologist, but our summer precipitation is driven in large measure by convection and the afternoon showers typical of this area. Much of the moisture that supplies the convection process is drawn from the ground. As we all are aware, the ground is drying out, which produces less moisture to drive convection processes and thus a pattern of little rainfall and declining soil moisture drying out continues.

Another very important summer time factor is the evaporation from water bodies such as Lake Keowee. If we look at Clemson University Pan Evaporation data collected from 1955 to 2001, we see the average for July is 5.07 inches. Lake Keowee is currently at elevation 795.5 or 95.5 (local datum) and there is a corresponding lake surface area of approximately 18,000 acres. If 5.07 inches were to evaporate off the lake in July, it would be equivalent to about 124 cfs. This amount of evaporation today is almost equivalent to the entire streamflow of the Chattooga River (152 cfs) in today's drought environment.

Another tool that is helpful in evaluating drought conditions and integrates those conditions into a graphical representation is the US Drought Monitor (DM) which is available on the web (<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>). For the Southeast the DM Author in the June 24, 2008 report that the Keowee-Toxaway area has been classified as being in an exceptional (D4) drought which is the most severe category.

On June 30, 2008 the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources convened the South Carolina Drought Response Committee and moved five counties to an extreme drought category including Pickens and Oconee County. Though mandatory water use restrictions were not put in place you will recall that Duke is only allowing irrigation once per week on Saturday.

Pulling it all together, we can look at a simple water balance for the K-T. There are rivers and creek such as the Whitewater, Thompson and Toxaway flowing into Lake Jocassee, and Little River and Eastatoe flowing into Lake Keowee, which are at or near record low levels. There is a small amount of rainfall falling on the lakes; evaporation and transpiration from plants and shrubs hit a peak in July; lake neighbor water

withdrawals for lawn irrigation, just like municipal water withdrawals, are net losses from the Keowee-Toxaway River Basin. It all adds up to a net negative inflow. What that means is more water is currently leaving the K-T than is coming in, with an obvious result of declining lake levels. Lake Jocassee is currently about 26 feet below full pond. Under these current extreme conditions, Duke Energy is only releasing water downstream to Lake Hartwell when we have it to send to insure long term we have adequate water to meet Oconee Nuclear Station's operating needs.

What does the summer and fall precipitation picture look like? The old saying that "drought begets drought" has some validity to it. I think July and August are likely to be below average rainfall months and that it will take significant rainfall to come out of this protracted drought condition. Significant rainfall to me means tropical rainfall this summer or fall. Weather prognosticators note there is a higher probability for normal or above normal hurricane and tropical activity in the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts for this year, but there is no forecast to suggest that the K-T would see any rainfall from such storms this year.

Everyone can and needs to do their part. Conservation by everyone is a key element to extending water resources under these persistent drought conditions.

George Galleher, PE
Hydro Fleet Operations
Duke Energy
July 1, 2008

Pickens County 4-H₂O a Success!

by Marguerite Porter – Clemson 4H Extension

The Clemson Extension Office of Pickens County, Duke Energy and the Friends of Lake Keowee offered a 4-H₂O Pontoon Classroom program at Mile Creek County Park during the week of June 16th-18th. This is the first 4-H₂O Pontoon Classroom that has been offered in Pickens County since 2005. In total, 8 youth, ages 7-10, and 3 volunteers, participated in this experiential water resources educational event.

Lake Keowee served as an outdoor classroom where youth performed water quality experiments, collected aquatic animals, explored tributaries, and learned about and participated in water-related recreational activities. All participants really seemed to have fun. They enjoyed the water sampling and the experiments on the pontoon boat. And, of course, swimming

The goal of this program is to educate participants by providing hands-on activities and experiments that teach about water quality, aquatic biology, watershed management, and ecosystem preservation and restoration. This is a unique learning experience, because of the program's fun and adventuresome environment, the kids are eager to learn. By integrating classroom teaching methods with hands-on activities, the 4-H₂O Day Camp has successfully educated numerous youths. This program will ultimately benefit the entire community by enhancing environmental awareness.

The Pickens County 4-H program will offer another 4-H₂O program in the city of Easley July 22nd-24th, where youth will explore local streams and examine watershed health within an urban environment. If you want further information please contact the Pickens Extension Office.

For more information regarding youth and adult educational programming, contact your local Clemson Extension Office. Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Picture 1 Caption: Marguerite Porter, Pickens 4-H Agent, assists youth in their search for aquatic insects

Picture 2 Caption: Jurgen Kleinau, F.O.L.K.S. member drives the pontoon boat of the first day of class.

Picture 3 Caption: 4-H₂O volunteer, West Bishop, helps youth test the water of Lake Keowee for dissolved oxygen.

President's Corner

by Bill Graham

The FOLKS Mission includes concern for both the Quality and Quantity of water available to the Oconee/Pickens County area and also, as a member of the Lake and Watershed Association of South Carolina and the Savannah River Coalition, we are concerned about the drought situation statewide and within the Savannah River Basin.

In May of 2005 we conducted a forum on Water Policy Issues and the speaker was Dr. Stephen Draper, a widely recognized expert on these subjects. Following the forum he sent us a letter outlining his thoughts on what South Carolina should implement to put us in a strong position should we come to the Supreme Court over interstate water rights.

His comments were as follows:

In my opinion, FOLKS should apply itself to making sure that the State of South Carolina has adopted the laws and policies that will place it in a good bargaining position before the U.S. Supreme Court (which I might add would also add to her bargaining power in any negotiations with both Georgia and North Carolina). I discussed most of these briefly at the end of my talk.

(The specific details can be found on the FOLKS website:

http://www.keoweefolks.org/reference/draper_state_plan.htm

The accompanying photo is a collage of headlines from recent articles in the Seneca Daily Journal on this critical subject. As this drought of record deepens, the most egregious headline is "Lack of Urgency stalls water bill" which appeared on July 8th. Mike Massey, of the Lake Hartwell Association has been at the citizen forefront on the "water law" issue, worked on the committee chaired by Senator Don Bowen that developed the Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Act of 2008.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman William D. Witherspoon is reported in the Seneca Daily Journal as saying that "water related legislation would take on added urgency in the months and years ahead." The FOLKS position is that months are acceptable but that this Bill should be at the top of the heap in the next Legislative Session and that all energies be applied to getting it passed.

It is absolutely imperative that all branches of South Carolina government begin taking a much more proactive position regarding the very problematic issues associated with growth and the environment. History is a great teacher. We don't have to keep making the same errant decisions over and over, again and again.

Cane Creek 319 TMDL Grant

Update

By Bob Swank, Morris Warner, Matt Huddleston

Since our last update, DHEC has approved our request for additional resources in the Grant to evaluate three developmental fecal bacteria (FC) Source Identification (SID) techniques as to their potential for improving the efficiency of TMDL implementation by the rapid and accurate identification of the key sources upstream of any sampling location. Such information could then be used to target specific recruitment of cost-share participants in the implementation of controls at the critical sources earlier in the process. This capability is especially important to us as we enter our last 8 months of the Grant. At our DHEC site visit on June 18, 2008, we were told that there could be no extension of the Grant beyond January 31, 2009. This means that we must spend our grant "cost-share" dollars before that date, or send the money back to DHEC/EPA. We still have a lot of cost-share dollars to use, so specific participants, both for failed septic system repair and BMP installation will be intensely sought in our identified "hot spots" using SID information.

Now that the warmer weather is back and stream temperatures are up, we began our baseline and SID sampling on June, 13 2008 to confirm the "hot spots" we identified last summer/fall and ascertain the water quality status at the DHEC monitoring stations on Big and Little Cane Creeks. The good news is that Big Cane (dry weather) still appears to meet the SC fecal coliform standard, while Little Cane is slightly above the standard, about the same as we saw last fall. However, even with the ongoing repair work of the Walhalla Utilities Department on its sewer service lines since April 2007, the repair of some 12 failed septic systems to date (with 8 others approved for repair), and 1 goat operation BMP installation underway, combined with the draught and reduced livestock numbers seen in the fields of the two watersheds, we still observed "hot spots" in both streams.

The two "hot spots" in Big Cane and five in Little Cane will be the main targets of SID/cost-share participant recruitment, Sewer Service Line and Septic System Repair, and livestock BMP installation for the remainder of the Grant. We note that "pet horses" might be the problem at two "hot spots" in Little Cane, and we are taking a close look at that with the SID effort. In addition, we are negotiating with two cattle operators in Little Cane and talking to a third in Big Cane "hot spots" for possible BMP projects. To assist us in accelerating our cost-share participant recruiting, DHEC suggested at the June site visit that local radio public service announcements might be effective here in the Upstate. Our BMP/Septic System Repair Partners, Morris Warner (CU Oconee County Extension Agent) and Heather Stephens (NRCS), is meeting with DHEC staff to plan these announcements, so stay tuned to your radios for more information about how to participate in the Grant cost-share and help protect your streams and Lake Keowee before the money is gone!

Finally, let me plead once again to you, our readers. If you, or any person you know, is a rural homeowner/renter with a failing septic system, a Walhalla resident with a cracked or plugged sewer service line, or a cattle, goat, or horse owner whose animals are not fenced from streams adjacent to their property, please take note/ make them aware of this Grant funding opportunity before it is too late. Morris Warner (864-638-5889, ext 117) is the contact for more information on how to apply.

National Hunting and Fishing Day: AN OUTDOOR FAMILY ADVENTURE

by Jason Walls – Duke-Energy

Admission to the event is free.

When: October 4 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Duke Energy's World of Energy in Seneca, South Carolina. 7812 Rochester Hwy., Seneca, SC 29672 - For directions call 1-800-777-1004

Step Outside and experience many activities the outdoors has to offer.

Want to learn how to kayak, fish, shoot a bow and arrow, fire an air rifle, tie your own fishing flies, accurately cast a fly rod or cast a spinning reel? If so, instructors will be on hand for a variety of activities:

Air Rifle Shooting

Kayaking

Archery

Lake Fishing

Butterfly Gardening

Nature Walks

Camo Games

Retriever Demonstrations

Fly Casting

Take One Make One Trailer

Fly Tying

Wildlife Critters

Tree Stand Safety

There will be displays and exhibits from more than 25 conservation organizations to share how they protect and preserve our outdoors.

Spend an hour, spend the day, bring your lunch or **purchase** lunch from the onsite concessionaire. Make plans now to be at the World of Energy on Saturday, October 4 for a wonderful fun filled day outdoors.



FOLKS Forum – Thursday August 21, 2008

Keowee-Toxaway Drought Status

by George Galleher –

Manager Duke-Energy Hydroelectric Operations

George Galleher's responsibility for all of Duke-Energy's Hydroelectric Operations requires an extensive knowledge of the availability of the "raw material" – "water". He will discuss the current situation as well as projections. Please read the article in this Sentinel and increase your efforts to conserve water.

The forum will start at 7:00pm at the Duke World of Energy. Bring a neighbor.

5 counties placed in worst drought category

COLUMBIA (AP) — Drought conditions that have dried up waterways, increased wildfire danger and disrupted water-dependent crops have reached the worst level in five of South Carolina's counties, state officials said Monday.

The state Drought Response Committee voted Monday to upgrade Greenville, Spartanburg, Laurens, Pickens and Cherokee counties to extreme drought, directly increasing a county's bill by a national drought monitoring system to upgrade the ratings.

Earlier this month, federal officials put parts of five counties in the northeastern corner of the state in an exceptional drought — the worst category in the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Officials used the national designation along with several other factors in their decision

to — could have meant mandatory water restrictions, but the committee voted against it.

The group will meet again on Friday to discuss the situation and may decide to restrict water use, Mitchell said.

The committee also designated 14 counties as being in severe drought.

Twenty-one counties were listed as moderate drought, while the rest of South Carolina is in no drought, the least severe category.

Parts of the system are in reach as 39 inches below normal rainfall during the past 17 months, marking the driest period in more than 60 years, according to the National Weather Service.

Emergency officials say the drought has caused soldiers to increase above 40 percent.



Fisher

Forecast: dry Corps, Duke take steps to address local drought

By GREG OLIVER

Georgia might tighten water restrictions again

By WENDY BLAZENBERG
wblazen@dailyga.com

Lack of urgency stalls water bill

By CARLOS GALARZA
carlosg@dailym.com

Using Water Efficiently Is Easy, and It Saves You Money

Taken from US EPA WaterSense Website

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense>

1. Water When Needed, As Needed

It's estimated that more than 50 percent of landscape water use goes to waste due to evaporation, wind, or over-watering. If you have an in-ground irrigation system, set your timer to water in the early morning when winds are calm and temperatures are cool. If you don't have an automated system, remember to set your alarm! As you water, make sure to saturate the root zones and then let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently can result in shallow roots and disease.

2. Give Your Watering Methods a Tune-Up

Whether you water with a conventional hose-fed sprinkler or an automatic system, make sure you position your sprinklers or sprinkler heads properly. Are you watering more pavement than lawn? Keep in mind that different areas of your landscape have different water needs. With an automatic system, you may be able to schedule individual "zones." To avoid unnecessary water loss, inspect your system monthly. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, or hire a professional to do a system check for you.

3. Do More With Less

Consider using "micro irrigation" for watering plant and garden beds, as well as trees and shrubs. Micro irrigation includes drip, microspray jets, micro-sprinklers, or bubbler-style watering systems. Drip irrigation systems use 20 to 50 percent less water than conventional in-ground sprinkler systems by delivering a low-volume of water slowly. This minimizes evaporation, runoff, and overspray.

4. Look for "Smart" Technologies

Soil moisture sensors and weather-based controllers take the guess work out of water-efficient irrigation. These devices automatically adjust your irrigation schedule based on soil moisture or weather conditions so your landscape gets only what it needs when it needs it. On a moderate-size lawn, this can save up to 37 gallons of water per day. For a more inexpensive option, install a rain shut-off switch. Required by law in many states, this sensor will turn off your sprinklers in rainy weather and can be retrofitted to almost any system.

5. Reduce Demand

Use native plants in your landscape—they require less care and water than ornamental varieties. Using native plants that are adapted to your climate and require fewer watering can reduce outdoor water use by 20 to 50 percent. Additionally, using mulch around shrubs and garden plants can reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth. To improve water efficiency in your lawn, aerate the lawn periodically to encourage the movement of water to the root zone. Also, raise your lawn mower cutting height—longer grass blades help shade each other, cut down on evaporation, and inhibit weed growth.

Corporate Matching Gifts

by Ben Turetzky

Here is a way to make your dues and or contributions to the endowment fund multiply. Among the list of companies that have matched FOLKS' members contributions are: Pfizer Dominion Foundation, IBM, BellSouth, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. However, many companies encourage their employees to participate in a matching gift program. Through such programs, any donation made by an employee (or retiree in many cases) is matched by the company. The programs vary from company to company so check the link below to see if your company is included. If so, please contact the HR Department to get the details and any necessary forms:

<http://www.pacn.org/corpmatchinglist.htm>

Lake Jocassee

by Ken Sloan

I often hear people refer to Lake Jocassee as the hidden jewel of South Carolina – “hidden” being the key word. The lake is definitely off the beaten track, about three miles off Hwy 11 in northeast Oconee County in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Interestingly, relatively very few people in the upstate have ever heard of the lake and even fewer have been to it. So, to those of you are unfamiliar with our upstate jewel, this story is for you.

Lake Jocassee was built by Duke Power as a power generating lake in the 1960s and was completed in 1972. Its waters are derived from several rivers and streams, including the Toxaway River, Whitewater River, Thompson River and the Horse Pasture River. Surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Sumter National Forest, over 95% of its shore line is protected state owned land, primitive and unspoiled. The lake is well known for its many scenic water falls that are only accessible by boat. Many of our visitors compare its scenic splendor with places like Lake Tahoe, Hawaii, Costa Rica and other tropical paradises. During the spring, the shoreline is resplendent with Rhododendron, Mountain Laurel, wild Hydrangea and wild Azaleas. The fall foliage is spectacular and easily viewable as there is no traffic to contend with!

It is also well known as a world class fishery. The lake holds five state records and one world record for Bass and Trout. The South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources (SCDNR) stocks the lake annually with Small Mouth Bass, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout. Each year, anglers catch trophy Trout in the 6 – 12 pound range and Large Mouth Bass in the 10 – 14 pound range. Trust me, these are really big fish and the experience of landing something like is retained as a lifetime memory.

Many of our visitors often ask about bears. Yes, there are Black Bears, but you rarely see them because they will see or smell you first and will run in the opposite direction. Probably the most spectacular scene are the Bald Eagles which are quite prevalent from November through February. On several occasions I have actually witnessed an eagle gracefully soaring over the lake scanning the water for its prey and then glide down to the waters surface and simply grab a fish and fly up into a tree top for some fresh Trout sushi. We also have Peregrine Falcons which, according to SC DNR, recently nested in the area which is an extremely rare occurrence. Other wildlife that live in the area year round and are quite visible include, deer, pigs, turkey and of course all the typical varmints such as raccoons, squirrels and possums.

The Foothills Trail is a 78 mile trail system that stretches between Oconee State Park and Table Rock State Park and crosses over Lake Jocassee on three different locations. The hike between the access areas on the lake is between easy and moderate. Many hikers will take a boat shuttle across the lake and enjoy a moderate half-day hike between Laurel Fork Creek and the Toxaway River. On this section of the trail, you hike over the Laurel Fork Falls overlook which provides an outstanding view of cascading waterfalls flowing down into the lake. At the end of this section there is a picnic area complete with tables and fire pits located on the banks of Rocky Creek. After your half day hike, you can enjoy a picnic lunch while you dip your feet in this clean, clear creek and afterwards take a dip in the Toxaway section of Lake Jocassee.

Boat traffic is limited on the lake due to limited parking spaces at Devils Fork State Park. There are approximately 250 boat trailer spaces and once full, the rangers will not allow any more boats to access the lake. As a result, on our busiest day, you can still find a private cove or waterfall to picnic, relax, swim, fish and snooze at your leisure without interruption.

If you have not heard of or experienced Lake Jocassee, you owe it to yourself to pay her a visit. If heading south on Hwy 11 towards Walhalla, turn onto Boone Creek Road next to the BP gas station. Go one mile to the end of the road and turn right onto Jocassee Lake Road. Go 2 miles, pass the Jocassee Outdoor Center and you will run right into the lake. If heading north on Hwy 11 towards Table Rock.

If you do not own a boat you can rent one at the Jocassee Outdoor Center or you can charter a private tour of the lake where you will visit the water falls. The ultimate lake experience is in late spring when the wild flowers are blooming or in the fall to see the vibrant change of foliage colors. Regardless of when you visit, it will be a memorable experience.

FOLKS Business and Corporate Members

By Dick Millward

We are very proud of the expanding business and corporate membership in FOLKS. Under Dick Millward's leadership, a committee has been working hard to enlist their support. We appreciate their support and know that they will appreciate your patronage. When you do so, please thank them for supporting FOLKS.

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The Lake Company
Trees Unlimited/Shorescapes
Ware Properties LLC
WaterLinks Realty
Zone 7 Inc.

Summer Bass Fishing on Lake Keowee

- Bill Walker

June 24, 2008 Salem SC

The surface water temperature has now risen above 80°F in most places on Lake Keowee, and by the time you read this, in July/August, the temperature will have reached the upper 80s for the summer. Summer is the most challenging time to fish Lake Keowee, which is unfortunate, because it is the time many people visit Lake Keowee and, while they are here, try to fish. In order to have a chance to catch bass, you need to understand what they're doing.

The 80+°F surface water holds very little dissolved oxygen. And by mid summer this low oxygen surface layer can go down as far as 15-20 feet. The bass, especially the bigger ones that are more sensitive to low oxygen, spend very little time in this surface water. They prefer to spend more time in the deeper, cooler water that holds more dissolved oxygen. They do make forays into the shallows for food, but mostly in the very early morning when the water is the coolest during the 24-hour cycle, and even then only into the shallows that are very close to water that is 20 feet or more deep. And, they stay in the shallow only for a very short time before going back below 20 feet.

So if you want to catch summer bass on Lake on Lake Keowee, you have to fish where the bass are going to be! There are several approaches you can try with some chance of success:

- You can try fishing main lake shallow points near deep water at the crack of dawn with surface lures and shallow running crank baits. You not likely to get bass this way after the sun hits the water for the day.
- During the day, you can drag Carolina-rigged plastic worms, live worms, and minnows in 20-30 feet near shallow points and islands to try for the bass that are holding there between runs into the shallows for food.
- You can troll deep looking for suspended bass below the warm surface water. To try this, if you don't have downriggers, I'd use at least 2½ ounces of weight ahead of a 3-foot leader attached to a deep-diving crank bait. If you let out about 100 feet of line and troll slowly, you can figure your lure will be down about 30 feet or so. (After you lose a few lures passing over areas that are too shallow you'll get a better handle on how deep your lures really are for your rig and your trolling speed. Don't take it personally, losing lures that way happens to all of us while we are calibrating our rigs!) People have been successful doing this trolling along deep channels in 50 to 100 of water.
- Or, you can go to tail race of the Jocassee Dam where water enters Lake Keowee in the summer at about 70°F when the dam is generating power. There is more oxygen in the water there, and bait fish and the bass are often active for a few hours when the dam starts generating each day. The trick here is to use a lure that closely resembles the bait fish, because the bass there know exactly what they are looking for. Of course, with millions of bait fish there, you also want you lure to stand out just enough so the bass will go for your lure instead of the millions of bait fish.

Whatever you try, good luck! Summer is still the hardest time to catch bass on Lake Keowee.

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Any Interest in Lake Keowee Fishing Stories?

-Bill Walker

Is anyone interested in a column of readers' Lake Keowee Fishing Stories? If so, send in your stories, to the FOLKS Sentinel we'll try to edit them together into a column. As a short sample, here's one to the go with the accompanying picture.

On May 30, 2008 I was fishing in very dim light at the crack of dawn in quiet shallow main lake points in the North End of Lake Keowee (North of the route 130 bridge). I went to my first point, cut my main engine about 100 yards away, and sneaked in with my trolling motor. I selected a surface lure, and cast it out over the shallow point. When the lure hit the surface, the water erupted immediately. I felt the tug and set the hook. Right away I new I had something extra heavy on the line. I worked it in, and finally, when I go it close to the boat, I reached down and scooped it up with my landing net.

Turning back into the boat, I put down the landing net and turned on my headlamp to look at what I had caught. I was disappointed to find that I had not landed a new record bass for myself. Instead, I had just boated two Spotted Bass, one 15 inches and one 15 ½ inches, each hooked on one set of treble hooks on the lure. I quickly took the attached the attached picture.

I found this rare event particularly remarkable because only a month before the same thing had happened with the same lure at dawn on a different point. Only the last time it had been a 15 inch Spotted Bass and a 14 ½ inch Largemouth Bass! I hadn't realized that the two species of bass would hunt together.

Membership Update & Endowment Contributors

By Jim Hamilton, Membership Chairman

Welcome and thank you to the new members and those who have renewed at a higher membership level since the May-June 2008 Sentinel, through July 15, 2008. **If you would like to help increase our membership in your community by becoming a Community Contact, please call Maryjo at the office to find out how easy it is.**

We thank the **Cliffs Communities** for their first year dues sponsorship of new Cliffs Communities' owners and also thank **1st Choice Realty** for their novel sponsorship program where they sponsor clients and direct that the first year dues be apportioned 50/50 between the endowment and operating funds.

New Members:

Janet & Dick Clukay, Debbie & Bob DuBose, Steve Grant, Susan & Woody Hilscher, Brad Hollingshead, John Lake, William Morris, Diane Troy.

New Members Sponsored by 1st Choice Realty:

Sandra & James Armstrong, Nancy & Don Beebe, Maryann & Brian Gahagan, Ilene & Thomas Lund, Melissa & John Minahan, Lisa & Theodore Ravel, Meleanie & Charles Workman.

New Members Sponsored by The Cliffs Communities:

Dr. Donald Megison, Thomas Palentine, David Pleasance, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Stroman.

New & Renewing Patron Level Members:

Jennifer & Dennis Bausman, Lorel & Phillip Bolte, Marsha & Phil Bowers, Marlies Charbonniez, Charlotte & Charlie Curry, Sidney & George Davenport, Kathy & George Eichler, Joan & Don Erdman, Manny Fernandez, Patricia & Bradford Ferrer, Karen Grimm, Richard Hall, Vicki & Elliot Hansen, Doris & Ambrose Hartman, Pamela & Michael Hembree, Margot & James Holmquist, Edward Ingalls, Judith & Charles Kellner, Juanita & Roger Keranen, Tammy & Russell Larson, Phyllis & Richard Love, Barbara & Michael McGrey, Walker & Charlotte Miller, Barbara Rebel, Robert Walker, David Woodrow.

New Business Members:

Allstate Insurance – Greg Wales Agency

When you renew please consider stepping up to the next level:

Patron - \$100

Sponsor - \$250