Celebrating the great outdoors

BY STEPHANIE JADRNICEK
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SENECA — The earliest and most vocal supporters of conservation, hunters and anglers recognized that rapid development and unregulated uses of wildlife threatened the future of many species.

President Theodore Roosevelt led these early conservationists, calling for laws to restrict the commercial slaughter of wildlife and urging sustainable practices in hunting and fishing.

National Hunting and Fishing Day was signed into law in June 1971 by President Richard Nixon, who urged people to wisely use natural resources and ensure the proper management of these resources for future generations.

Duke Energy's World of Energy will host its 10th annual National Hunting and Fishing Day event Saturday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The free family adventure is open to the public and held on the grounds at the World of Energy.

Clemson University firearms instructor Hubert Cox has been involved in South Carolina's celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day for more than 10 years.

"National Hunting and Fishing Day was observed exclusively in Columbia for several years — it was put on by the Department of Natural Resources," he said. "To my knowledge, this is the only observation of National Hunting and Fishing Day in the Upstate."



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The World of Energy's National Hunting and Fishing Day event gives kids the opportunity to try activities such as archery and kayaking for the first time.

Nearly every conservation group in the state will be represented at National Hunting and Fishing Day. Cox will set up an air rifle shooting range on behalf of Clemson University 4-H Shooting Sports.

"The purpose of the day is to help urban folks become more aware of what we do in the outdoors," Cox said. "Some kids have never shot an air rifle or been in a kayak. This gets them outdoors for one day instead of sitting in the house on the sofa. It gives them a chance to learn about things they wouldn't ordinarily have the chance to see."

To celebrate the 10th annual event, bass angler Martha Goodfellow will be on site teaching interactive demos throughout the day. Goodfellow has fished in numerous tournaments throughout the South, capturing third place in Texas on Lake Ray Hubbard during her first tournament as a pro.

She finished the lady bass angler season qualifying for the championship on Alabama's Lake Guntersville, where she placed second in the event. In her spare time, she serves as director of the South Carolina Couples Series division of American Bass Anglers.

In addition to interactive demos with Goodfellow, National Hunting and Fishing Day activities include archery, air rifles, rock wall climbing, fly tying and casting, kayaking and fishing on Lake Keowee. All activities are free, and all gear is provided.

"Clemson Extension and the Clemson 4-H Shooting Sports program are proud to be partners for the past 10 years with this celebration of hunting and fishing and the outdoors," 4-H natural resource specialist Rick Willey said. "We look forward to this event every year. It is a great opportunity for the community to come and enjoy the great outdoors in a safe, educational environment with family and friends."

For more information, call 800-777-1004, option 1, or visit duke-energy/worldofenergy.com.