

FOLKS eyes drought status

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FOR THE JOURNAL

SENECA — It may have rained, but Friends of Lake Keowee Society is still focused on the area's drought potential.

A forum scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Thursday will discuss lake levels and water conservation.

The meeting will be held at the Duke World of Energy on S.C. Highway 130.

"It rained very hard on Tuesday but, in spite of the up to six inches in some areas of the watershed, we are still in a time of concern about another drought," FOLKS Executive Director Ben Turetzky said. "Lake Jocassee is down about 15 feet and Keowee and Hartwell are down three to five feet, and we are entering the normally low rainfall winter season."

The South Carolina Drought Response Committee recently maintained the incipient drought status for much of the state, including Oconee and Pickens counties.

The committee will meet again in early January to consider the situation again.

"It is important that we all keep abreast of lake level conditions and keep water conservation at all times foremost in our minds," Turetzky said.

Light refreshments will be served at 6 p.m., followed by an informal discussion.

For more information, call Turetzky at (864) 903-4692.