FOLKS holds Earth Day and Lake Sweep events



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

This year the spring Lake Sweep week coincided with Earth Day (week) with about 100 boats out on the lake manned and womaned by at least two volunteers each sweeping the shoreline. Over the 20 years that FOLKS volunteers have been conducting the Lake Sweeps (spring and fall), the amount of material that is picked up has decreased as the shoreline has become developed. There are a few areas that are not readily accessible that have been historically abused and the major one of these is the "Jumping off Rock" area at Fall Creek Landing. Part of the Lake Sweep Team "captained" by Sue Mendenhall from Keowee Falls South has been sweeping the Fall Creek peninsula for three years. FOLKS erected a "please pack out your trash" sign, produced by Duke-Energy and shown in the last Sentinel, at the entrance to the peninsula and will request that Duke-Energy also post a "Rules of Island and Access Area Usage" sign since the team also noted that there were two camping tents in the area. "We had one island fire last year and it is time that the public starts abiding by the rules – particularly, no overnight camping at the access areas and the islands and no fires", noted Jack Lewis, Lake Sweep co-commander. One of the problems with the way the islands and access areas have been used in the past was that there was not an emphasis on letting visitors know what the rules are. Pictured is the Keowee Falls South team getting ready to head out for the sweep, front row, from left, Kathy Skidmore and Sue Mendenhall; second row, Bob DiBella, Paulette Kurek, Linda Hiatt and Scott Hughes; third row, Pat Hughes and Jim Hughes; fourth row, Steve Mendenhall, Stacy Dey, Pat Tompkins, Donnie Skidmore, Denice Kark, Julie Porrello, David Tompkins, Larry Scheidler, Gary Kark, Pete Porrello, Bob Hiatt and Jack Lewis. At the same time as the Lake Sweep, volunteers from the "Oconee Young Professionals" participated in the FOLKS Spring Lake Sweep at South Cove Park, gathering litter along the newly designated Cove Trail and in the common picnic area. Attendees included board members Derek Lunka, Alex Vassey, and Matt Macauley, along with Cohleen Vassey, and President Whitney Wright. Dave Goeckel, FOLKS board member, acted as host. They also erected the "please pack out your trash" sign. Afterward, lunch was provided by Sisters Restaurant at the FOLKS headquarters and the excess meals were donated to Our Daily Rest.