Seneca Daily Journal

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Fall lake sweep this Saturday

Staff Reports

SENECA — Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) will conduct the fall version of its twice-annual lake sweep this Saturday.

The organization has been sweeping the lake of debris and litter since its inception in 1993.

This fall's event happens to coincide with the annual Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, the world's largest volunteer effort of its kind on behalf of a healthy, trash-free ocean.

Last year, nearly 400,000 volunteers collected more than 6.8 million pounds of trash in 100 countries and 42 U.S. states during the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup.

"As we all know, here in the Upstate we do not have an ocean shoreline to clean up but we do have our Upstate lakes. About two weeks ago we had two visitors at the FOLKS Office. They introduced themselves and filled us in on their plans," said FOLKS Executive Director Ben Turetzky.

Al and Robbie Griggs operate the Cygnus Scuba Dive Shop in Flat Rock, N.C. There is also a relatively new dive club out of Hendersonville, N.C., called Divers of Carolina. Turetzky said the club is coming down to "sweep the bottom" — operating out of Fall Creek Landing early on Saturday morning. "Logistic support for what we believe will be a 'big haul' is being provided by a barge from Kroeger Marine, and the Lake Jocassee Dive Shop LLC will provides free refills to those divers needing them," he said.

Duke Energy, FOLKS and the Salem Subway Store will be providing sandwiches to the Henderson Club.

"One of the tag lines that DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) uses is 'It's your lake – watch out what you put in it.' If everyone would take that to heart and modify it to include both in it and on its shores, eventually FOLKS could stop doing lake sweeps and devote our time to other lake-protective endeavors," Turetzky said.



Special to the Daily Journal/Messenger

This underwater photo shows a pile of cans collected below the falls on Lake Keowee.