'Girly Girl' lands a big boy

OUTDOORS

By Scott Keepfer
STAFF WRITER
skeepfer@greenvillenews.com

EASLEY – Without apology, Brittany Stack is what is known as a "girly girl."

Brittany, a 24-year-old fashion store manager, is more consumed with things such as hair, make-up and nails than rods, reels and bait.

Her fiancé, Jeremie Owens, says he's never seen her wear the same outfit twice – and he's known her for five years.

Brittany, a former sorority girl at Clemson University, also likes black-and-white movie classics featuring Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe and wears make-up even as she's lounging around the house in her pajamas, "just in case somebody shows up," Owens says.

She drives a pink Volkswagen Beetle, for goodness sake.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Brittany Stack bested her fiance's catch with this 30-pound, 5-ounce flathead catfish.

That's why a good many of Brittany's Facebook friends have been somewhat taken aback by her latest profile photo – an image of Brittany grinning from ear to ear while cradling a 30-pound flathead catfish like a precious baby.

"I believe it has made her year," Owens said. "She keeps rubbing it in my face. She's had a lot of fun telling all of my buddies about it."

The story is worth retelling, again and again.

Brittany and Jeremie were fishing at Lake Keowee last Saturday night with two friends and two dogs aboard a pontoon boat. They were crappie fishing, but when the bite died down in the wee hours of the morning, Jeremie decided to move to deeper water and toss out a couple of catfish rods tipped with cut bait.

They had been fishing for about 45 minutes when Jeremie's reel began to scream. Half an hour later he was hoisting a 28-pound, 12-ounce blue catfish aboard the boat.

Then Brittany's rod got a hit, interrupting her late-night book-reading session.

"She said she just wanted to catch one or two fish," Jeremie said. "She got one, alright."

The fish initially swam directly toward the boat, so Brittany thought he had a smaller fish.

"Aww, I've got a small one," Brittany told Jeremie. "I wanted one bigger than yours."

Little did she know the dimensions of the fish 60 feet below the boat, but she soon found out. Within minutes she could hardly keep the rod tip out of the water and began complaining that her arms were getting tired.

"It got to where she could hardly lift up anymore," Jeremie said. "Thank goodness it only took about 10 minutes, but she did a great job."

When Brittany's fish was netted, it broke the net and triggered plenty of excitement.

"There was a lot of screaming and then it was,

at Keowee



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Jeremie Owens shows off his 28-pound, 12-ounce blue catfish at Lake Keowee.

'My fish is bigger than your fish,' " Jeremie said. "Immediately she said, 'This fish is going on my Facebook.' "

The big flathead catfish weighed in at 30 pounds, 5 ounces – easily topping Brittany's previous biggest catch, which was a 6-pound catfish she caught while fishing with Jeremie a couple of years ago.

They released both of the super-sized catfish to fight another day, which may come sooner rather than later. Now the girly girl may be the one pleading with Jeremie to go fishing.

"I may have to get her on those trout at (Lake) Jocassee," Jeremie said. "I've got a feeling she might hook a big one."

■ Reach **Scott Keepfer at** 298-4397.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

BASS

■ B&T Open Bass Tournament, Sept. 25, Lake Hartwell (Portman Shoals), safe light-2 p.m. Entry $50. Contact: Tommy (864) 224-2082 or Bobby (864) 338-9305.

■ Fifth Annual Greer Family Fest Fall Bass Tournament, Sat., Sept. 25, Lake Robinson, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.; cash prizes total $3,500. Entry deadline Sept. 18. Contact: Larry Beheler (864) 877-6956.

■ Gap Hill Landing Open Tournaments, every Tuesday, 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Lake Keowee (Gap Hill), entry $40. Contact: Gap Hill (864) 868-2823.

■ Saluda Lake Landing Bass Tournaments, every Saturday, 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Saluda Lake; entry $33, with 100 percent payback. Contact: Kevin Del Vecchio (864) 294-9061.

■ Saluda Lake Bass Tournaments, every Thursday and Saturday, 6-10 p.m.; new ramp; $25 entry includes big fish; $5 ramp fee or $35 for annual pass. Contact: Mitchell (864) 320-4160 or Travis (864) 354-4493.

■ T&T Bass Team Tournaments, every Tuesday, 5:30-9:30 p.m., Lake Hartwell (Broyles Landing); entry $30/boat, includes big fish. Contact: (864) 940-5676.

HUNTING

□ Hunter Education Course, Sun., Sept. 12, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Donaldson Fire Department, 2291 Perimeter Rd., Greenville; preregistration required; bring No. 2 pencil, lunch and SS#. Contact: Dwight Long (864) 239-2079 or dwight.long@us.michelin.com

SALTWATER

□ 30th Annual Fall King Mackerel Tournament, Fri., Sept. 17-Sun., Sept. 19, Myrtle Beach; weigh-in at Apache Pier. Contact: Deon Granger (843) 497-6486.