The Journal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010

Hartwell CoveKeepers talk runoff with state

FOR THE JOURNAL

ANDERSON — Rebecca Spratlin, watershed manager for the Savannah River Basin (SRB) and the Saluda River, was the guest speaker at the most recent meeting of CoveKeepers, a volunteer program of the Lake Hartwell Association.

Spratlin's presentation included a tour of the Dept. of Health and Environmental Control Web site specifically pertaining to water. She demonstrated how to navigate through the many and varied offerings that are available including "clickable" maps of the watersheds, information on how to maintain your septic system, suggested outreach materials and water quality assessments.

Shoreline management and what can be done to manage storm water runoff was also a topic of discussion. Spratlin made suggestions such as planting appropriate bushes or grasses in a buffer zone from the water's edge to several feet into the water or developing a rain garden around gutters to slow down water movement.

The last topic of the evening was Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act, which has in place a national program to control nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, which is caused by the runoff from rain and snowmelt carrying pollutants into waterways. Under Section 319 NPS pollution control promotes practices to protect watersheds and is largely voluntary.