KEOWEE RIVER SCARECROW FEST

TO SPOOK, EDUCATE AND ENTERTAIN THIS WEEKEND



FOR THE JOURNAL

The Keowee River ScarecrowFest will kick off today, Friday, and will include numerous fun events for all the family to enjoy.



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BY JESSICA SIBLEY
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The Keowee River ScarecrowFest is slated to combine all the favorites that make up the season of fall.

The first annual event is starting off big, according to Keowee River President Scott Vick.

"First off, we are building the world's largest scarecrow," he said. "The weather this week hasn't been great, but we're proud of it. It'll be over 100 feet tall. That will qualify for us to make the Guinness Book of World Records."

According to Kara Dullea, public relations representative for the event, Keowee River is a new waterfront destination community located along the shores of the Keowee River in Seneca.

"In addition to offering residential property, Keowee River intends to become a world-class destination for a variety of outdoor activities that the public can enjoy, such as mountain biking, trail running, hiking and birding. Several times each year, Keowee River will host public events where people in the community and beyond can experience Keowee River and its outdoor lifestyle amenities. ScarecrowFest is the first such event," she said. "We're very, very excited about this."

Numerous adventures and activities are planned for the fun that will run on Friday and Saturday.

All proceeds from the event will go toward the construction of a new Foothills YMCA, which is one of the first planned developments for the future Keowee River community.

The fun will start at 5 p.m. Friday and run until 10 p.m. while a noon start will kick off Saturday's festivities.

Admission to the event is $10 for general admission and kids 5 years old and younger are free. A family of four is $25.

In addition to the towering scarecrow that will certainly shock visitors, a smaller scale scarecrow contest will challenge participants for the best design and most creativity. A total of 100 scarecrows are able to enter the contest, which will award $1,000 in cash and prizes.

To enter, e-mail info@keoweeriver.com.

There will also be a pumpkin-carving contest that guests can either watch or participate in, while an option to paint pumpkins lies ahead for the little ones in attendance.

For those who would like to explore the property of the Keowee River development — a staggering 772 acres — a 5K trail run will start at 4 p.m. Saturday and offer beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

For those wanting to know about the area's historic and war-ridden local past, a self-guided walking tour along the wooded nature trail will surprise guests with live reenactments.

Visitors will meet a Cherokee storyteller, a lost Confederate soldier, a moonshiner running from the law, a group of tree people and a bright Jack-O'-Lantern forest.

And for those who want to keep the legend of the trail going, a day or moonlight canoe paddle is offered for an additional cost. The journey will end at a very secret waterfall on the Keowee River.

For the kids, old-fashioned hayrides will be given throughout the event, beginning at the parking lot.

The needle in a haystack event will keep kids busy for hours as they dig through the bales to find prizes.

And finally, a field maze will be open to those who think they can navigate the twists and turns. Trying it at night, well, won't be easy. It might just be a little scary too!

For more information, e-mail info@keoweeriver.com

From Hwy. 123 in Seneca, head north on Hwy. 130 and the festival entrance is approximately 6 miles on the right.

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Kara Dullea
Public Relations representative