Not everyone aware of Oconee's treasures



OCONEE TREASURES | KEN SLOAN

The Journal recently extended an invitation to me to write a monthly column on tourism in Oconee County.

For my first article, I want to open up with an overview of what I plan to write about each month. The objective of my articles will be to enlighten readers, the residents of the upstate, on the phenomenal tourism destinations that exist within our Mountain Lakes region and to keep you posted on our tourism developments.

This is important for a couple of reasons; First, we need you to be the "frontline supporters and cheerleaders" for our tourism industry. The more you know about what we have to offer, the better we as a community can welcome and inform our visitors of the great tourism opportunities that await them.

Second, I know from personal experience, very few people in the county, including our native residents, have a strong knowledge of the resources that exist in their own backyard. I have the distinct privilege to speak to various groups throughout the county and I am always amazed at how few people have ever seen Lake Jocassee or have even heard of it, or how many people know we have waterfalls, but have never seen any of them because they think they are imbedded deep in the forests among the bears.

We have four lakes, two rivers more than 150 waterfalls with trails and maps for more than 20 of them, 85,000 acres of publicly accessible national forest land, mountains, three state parks, county parks and unique cities plus several wonderful towns, museums, several unique dining and shopping opportunities and some unique local personalities that have played a significant role in sustaining our southern heritage.

So, keep posted and hang on as I take you on a monthly journey through our back yard and introduce you to some amazing places and things to do right here in the Mountain Lakes region of the upstate.

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