Rowing teams arriving in Clemson next few days

BY GREG OLIVER
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CLEMSON — A total of 13 :eams, representing nine col-eges and universities through-)ut the Northeast and Midwest, vill be arriving in Clemson ver the next several days to egin training and competition n Lake Hartwell.

"There will be approximately 00 athletes from all of those eams combined," said Lindsey lewton, tourism director for ne Clemson Area Chamber of ommerce.

Newton said the women's row-g team at Penn State Univer-ty will make its first visit to lemson this year. Joining them 're longstanding participants in e Michigan State men's row-g team and Eastern Michigan omen's rowing teams, which ill arrive sometime today. etween March 8 and March 10, ewton said the Boston Univer-y and Syracuse University n's and women's teams and e Indiana University and Pur-e University women's rowing ams would arrive.

The following week will see the Marist University men and women's rowing teams arrive, while the North Suburban women's rowing team will be the final participant to arrive April 1.



FILE PHOTO

Members of the U.S Women's National Rowing team have been among the teams training on Lake Hartwell in Clemson during the past two decades. Starting this weekend, 13 rowing teams representing nine northeast and midwestern colleges and universities will begin arriving in the area to train.

Clemson and Clemson University have welcomed rowing teams for all but one year since 1994.

The lone exception came in 2008 when severe drought conditions forced cancellation.

Visiting colleges and university rowing teams have cited the man-made body of water that is Lake Hartwell, the 10 foot-by-60-foot prefabricated dock, including a 12-foo gangway and anchoring and the ability to accommodate a number of rowing teams on th water as major factors in thei decision to train in Clemson.

While the rowing teams enjoy training on Lake Hartwell Clemson city officials enjoy the positive effect they make on the local economy.

Newton said the chamber estimates each team to have about a $100,000 economic impact on the community.

"We anticipate this season will leave an overall impact of $1.3 million," Newton said.

Officials said the teams benefit the city through restaurants, hotels, gas and a rental fee paid to store equipment.

In past years, Purdue University alone has brought more than 100 athletes to Clemson for training.

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