Rowing teams to flock to Clemson

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Some 430 athletes from university rowing teams across the country will train at the University Beach starting in late February.

Lindsey Newton, tourism director for the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce, said teams include Marist, Indiana, Boston, Ithaca, Purdue and Syracuse. She added that the week of March 13 is expected to produce the heaviest turnout among the teams.

Economically, Newton said last year's training session produced an estimated economic impact of $250,000 in direct spending.

"We hope to exceed that amount this year and feel that we are well on the way to accomplishing that," Newton said. "We already have 60 more athletes coming this year than last year."

City of Clemson officials, in recognition of the huge economic boost provided by the rowing teams in recent years, have worked hard to develop ways to continue attracting them to the area.

Last year, a 10-foot by 60-foot prefabricated plastic dock was unveiled at University Beach. The

SEE ROWING, PAGE A5



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Members of the Clemson University rowing team won't be the only ones to enjoy the pristine waters of Lake Hartwell off University Beach. A number of college and university rowing teams from throughout the Northeast and Midwest will be making their way to Clemson in late February, providing a significant economic boost to the city.

ROWING: Cranks up

FROM PAGE A1

$26,850 dock — which includes a 12-foot gangway, anchoring and modules that can be configured end to end or side to side as long and wide as desired — was a gift from Clemson City Council to the Clemson Area Sports Council.

When City Council approved the additional dock, they estimated that the Sports Council could turn a small profit of $5,500 per year provided they find 16 teams to train there.

In addition to the collegiate teams arriving in town during the coming weeks, Newton said the Clemson University Women's Rowing team will host the U.S. Women's Olympic Rowing team. The visit will take place during a three-week period beginning in the latter part of February.

"This is an incredible honor, and everyone is extremely excited about having them in town," Newton said.

greg@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6687