Seneca Fest-
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Full Swing

BY MONICA KREBER
THE JOURNAL

SENECA – Seneca Fest 2013 will include barbecue, train rides and vendors – the essentials that come every year.

Some new Seneca Festivities, however, will include an 8 a.m. color run Saturday, with volunteers dousing runners with dyed cornstarch, and a concert by the famous Charlie Daniels Band.

While Charlie Daniels is headlining that concert, the night will begin with performances by country bands Dough McCormick and OutShyne.

OutShyne's lead guitarist Josh Coleman said this will be the band's first performance – and attendance – at Seneca Fest.

"We love South Carolina," Coleman said. "That's where we're from and it's always going to be home for us."

The band also consists of lead singer Waylon Owings, drummer Smiley Morris, bassist Jason Paxton, guitarist Casey Joe Kelly and pianist George Francis. The original band members are from Laurens and went to high school together. Kelly and Francis are from Anderson.

Since attending Laurens High School, Coleman, now 30, said he and his friends have played in bands together.

"We're just a group of guys who wanted to hang out and play music," he said. "We love it. I can't imagine doing anything else."

Coleman said the band members look forward to playing at festivals; they are used to playing in clubs and bars – places for people who are at least 21 years old. Festivals allow the band to reach out to children and families.

"We like festivals – you can reach more people that way," he said.

The band is up to performing 250 dates a year – a number Coleman calls "crazy."

"We're working hard and paying our dues right now," he said. "It's a full-time job. We work five days a week. When you have a show your whole day is devoted to it. We have places that are eight, 10, 12 hours away and we got to be there in time to set up, sound check, check into a hotel, eat...a lot of people don't see that."

While OutShyne is one of the opening bands for Charlie Daniels.

Doug McCormick is a good friend of the OutShyne members as well.

"He's a great guy, a great entertainer," Coleman said.

Prior to Saturday night's concert Coleman will probably be sitting with his guitar, doing warmups and trying to relax.

"I get nervous to an extent – you get nervous no matter what," he said. "There's always some nerves and some anxiety. It's definitely one of the things I love about music – that adrenaline rush."

The concert is at the Gignilliat Community Center.

Tickets are $5 each and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Wounded Warriors program, which provides a special night in Seneca for wounded members of the military as part of a three-day retreat in Keowee Key each summer.

Riley Johnson, director of public relations and special events for the city, said the concert will be limited to 15,000 tickets. Tickets can be purchased at Seneca City Hall or online at www.tixonline.com.

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Gigi Taylor, 3, left, and her mom Melinda sit with friends Pam and Kayla Mcdonald in the lawn as they listen to live music at Seneca Fest last year. The Charlie Daniels Band will headline Seneca Fest on Saturday night.



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Jarod Morgan, left, and Will Van Alstine with The Keowee Cookers begin preparing barbecue for the Seneca Fest barbecue competition last year in downtown Seneca. Seneca Fest is today and tomorrow in Seneca.

Seneca Fest has a full schedule of events for the weekend:

Today

Noon	BBQ cookers arrive
3 p.m.	Cars start arriving for Classic Car Cruise In
3 p.m.	Little train rides – free
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	'50's and '60's music played from the main stage
5 p.m. – 10 p.m.	Cruise in
6 p.m.	No Butts About It (barbeque plates sold – no pulled pork)
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Groove Planet on Ram Cat Alley – west end
8 p.m.	Opening ceremonies Dash plaque winner announced Mayor Dan Alexander – Welcome Introduction of Seneca City Council "National Anthem" – Clarla Widdiffe (Miss Spartanburg 2013) Seth Chea – Oconee County School District
8:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.	789 Band – on Oconee Education Foundation stage

Saturday

8 a.m.	Seneca Fest First Steps 5k Color Run – Shaver Rec Complex
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Craft vendors set up on Main Street
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Steve Bryson – Oconee Education Foundation stage
11:30 a.m.	Little train rides – free
Noon – 3 p.m.	People's choice barbeque samples $10
Noon – 6 p.m.	Barbeque plates sold ($10)
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Oconee Education Foundation stage open
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.	WGOG 96.3 LIVE
4 p.m.	Gates open at Gignilliat Community Center
6 p.m. –	Opening Band – Doug McCormick
7:30 p.m.	Second opening band – OutShyne
8:30 p.m.	Charlie Daniels Band Fireworks show to end the evening