

Volunteers gather to clean Lake Jocassee

Staff Reports

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Lake Jocassee sparkled a bit cleaner the evening of July 30 after more than 350 volunteers pitched in for the largest organized clean-up effort in the lake's history. They gathered about 28 cubic yards of trash and debris, fueled by more than 700 hot dogs and 2,600 bottles of water.

The dive community and local law enforcement were instrumental in the day's activities, involving more than 140 registered scuba divers and nearly 100 emergency responders. The Devils Fork State Park served as host, providing locations for registration tents and boat launching points for work teams dispatched to clean the lake above and below the surface.

Two Cub Scout troops built and installed 36 bird houses for the park and forged a quarter-mile section of new trail. Three Boy Scout troops were represented, as well as one Eagle Scout candidate participating for an Eagle Scout project.

A variety of local dive shops, local businesses, environmental groups and others joined to sponsor and organize the day. The level of interest in this year's event leaves the organizing team already making plans for hosting a cleanup annually.

"We were really impressed with the community support we received and the number of volunteers who came out despite the heat," said Allan Boggs, Duke Energy Hydro regulatory and compliance supervisor for Keowee-Toxaway and Nantahala areas. "It demonstrates how much people value this lake and what it has to offer the Upstate."

