Enjoying the great outdoors



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Adults and kids are invited to kayak on Lake Keowee during National Hunting and Fishing Day at Duke Energy's World of Energy. Kayaks are available for use free of charge for anyone interested during the celebration.

World of Energy to host hunting, fishing event

BY TRACY BENNETT
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SENECA — National Hunting and Fishing Day doesn't have to be celebrated only by those with experience in the activities, and Saturday, Duke Energy's World of Energy will be hosting a free celebration for the holiday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"One of the main benefits (of the celebration) is that it gives people who might be interested in outdoor recreation like hunting or fishing, but didn't really have family background, the opportunity to participate in these things," said Greg Lucas, a representative from one of the event's sponsors, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Now in its ninth consecutive year hosting the celebration, the World of Energy sits right next to one of the nation's largest nuclear plants — Oconee Nuclear Station —and has provided educational activities to the community for more than 40 years.

World of Energy spokesperson Mikayla Kreuzberger said it also provides outdoor facilities to the public throughout each year.

"We sit on Lake Keowee, and we have a nature trail and picnic shelter that are open to the public all the time," she said.

The celebration at the World of Energy will offer more outdoors activities than just those having to do with hunting and fishing.

Kreuzberger said the day will have activities that will keep everyone entertained — from small children all the way up to adults.

"We have children's fishing with plastic fish and a kid's fishing pole," she said. "South Carolina Department of Natural Resources stocks our little cove with catfish, so kids and adults alike can come and fish. We have kayaking; we have rock-wall climbing, which is new this year."

The staff at the World of Energy is excited for this year's event.

"This is one of our favorite events for the community each year," communications manager B.J. Gatten said. "It is a safe, fun way for families to enjoy the outdoors together."

"Typically, this time of year, we get some really nice weather," Lucas added. "It's not too hot, not cold, and we always schedule the event around Clemson home football games. We've

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had 1,500 people (in the past), and on a really nice day, I wouldn't be surprised if we could get 2,000 people."

One of the event's main goals is to educate and offer fun activities to the local community.

"It makes sense that the Department of Natural Resources is very involved with hunting and fishing in South Carolina," Lucas said. "We're the state agency that regulates hunting and fishing in South Carolina. So it's very important to us to portray hunting and fishing in a very positive manner, and to let people know about all of the wonderful things that come about as a result of hunting and fishing."

Taking part in hunting and fishing activities not only benefits the economy, but also it benefits various habitat conservation funds.

"That was DNR's role from the beginning, to make sure that we let everybody know about what wonderful heritage hunting and fishing is in South Carolina, all the benefits it brings, and all the outdoor recreation it provides," Lucas said.

The event will also offer various food choices for all guests.

"Guests can bring lunch," Kreuzberger said. "We have picnic shelters and picnic tables throughout the grounds. But if they don't want to bring their picnic lunches, we will have two food vendors — Chick-fil-A and a local truck called Meat in the Middle."

The World of Energy partnerships with the SCDNR, Cabela's, Upstate Forever, Trot Unlimited, Clemson University's Extension Service, Clemson University 4-H Shooting Sports, South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, U.S. Sportmen's Alliance Foundation, The Weatherby Foundation, Elkmont Trading Company and Academy Sports and Outdoors have allowed this year's event to take place.

The entire celebration will take place on the World of Energy grounds.

"We actually don't recommend plugging our address into a GPS. The best way to get directions is to go to our website and click on 'Visit Us,' and it lists all the directions you would ever need," Kreuzberger said.

The World of Energy's website is duke-energy.com/worldofenergy. For other information, contact the World of Energy at 1-800-777-1004.



While archery may take much precision and practice, the World of Energy's National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration allows for anyone interested in learning the skill to practice and try it out.



Duke Energy's World of Energy provides various activities for kids and adults during their celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day. Fishing for catfish in a local cove is always a crowd favorite.