

# Some spend Thanksgiving outdoors

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — As many hunker down indoors for a Thanksgiving Day meal, South Cove County Park will be full through Saturday with those celebrating the holiday.

“Our camp hosts are still there, and there are a number of folks that their family comes and we have several community

firepits and have a fire and do their Thanksgiving dinner out there,” Oconee parks, recreation and tourism director Phil Shirley said. “Memories are being made.”

Vince Albertson, a camp host at South Cove, said spending time with fellow campers is “heart filling.”

“It’s very enjoyable and heart filling,” Albertson said. “I think we all should be thankful. We

enjoy the park out here, and I wish more people could get out here and camp and enjoy instead of worrying about day-to-day problems. It took me a long time to figure out that money ain’t everything. We enjoy it out here.”

Albertson added spending Thanksgiving at a campground is a “normal, yearly thing” for some of the folks camping out.

“We’re getting together with some friends from the campground and going to have dinner in the rec building,” he said.

Russell and Kay Porter made the drive up from Woodstock, Ga., on Monday and plan to stay at South Cove through Saturday.

“It’s hard to find places for Thanksgiving,

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## OUTDOORS: ‘This is better than being at home,’ Fournier said

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because everybody is visiting their relatives,” Russell Porter said. “This was one of the few places we found open, and my mom lives in Greenville.

“There’s a lot to be thankful for.”

Porter’s wife, Kay, said the couple will “definitely be back.”

“This is one of the prettiest campsites, and we’ll definitely be back,” she said. “This is absolutely gorgeous. This is so close to the restaurants and downtown, shopping and grocery stores. This is a very beautiful campsite.”

Wendy Fournier of Seneca said she and her husband had been camping at South Cove since the summer.

“We just enjoy camping, and coming from New England, we’re used to camping in the colder weather,” Fournier said. “The past few Thanksgivings, we’ve actually camped up at Devils Fork. It’s easy to camp here, and we’ve met some friends here and we’ve just been here all summer long. June, July — we went home for one week in September. We have a 23-year-old that stays at home with the dogs and works, so she’s got her own place and we’ve got ours. It’s kind of cool.”

She said she is thankful to have met fellow campers during their extended stay at South Cove.

“I love to be outside, period,” Fournier said. “This is better than being at home. You meet a lot

of nice people. I’m thankful for the blessings I’ve received in my life and to be here every day and thankful for the people that we’ve met here, and we enjoy our time with them. We call this our ‘lakefront gated community’ with no homeowners association fees.”

As the Thanksgiving holiday passes, Shirley said workers are prepared for those who plan to come and camp for Christmas.

“We have families that love to come out for Christmas,” he said. “We’re open and we do give our guys a couple days off for Christmas, so they know nobody is here, but the campground is open.”

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Seneca resident Wendy Fournier talks about spending time with new friends and nature at South Cove County Park on Wednesday. Fournier and her husband have camped in Oconee County for the past few Thanksgivings.