

# FOLKS lands habitat enhancement grant

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
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SENECA — A local lake conservation group is working to create a better fish habitat with grant money.

After receiving a \$27,000 Habitat Enhancement Program grant from Duke Energy, 84 mossback fish attractors have been purchased and are set to be installed by the Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) next month. The grant was awarded in January.

FOLKS president Dale Wilde told The Journal that the S.C. Department of Natural Resources has 17 locations on Lake Keowee where such attractors have been installed.

"The issue with our lake is that there's really nothing on the bottom for the habitat," she said. "There are no things under the water for the fish to have a habitat with — no vegetation. We're having to create the habitat for it."

Last week, a volunteer group from FOLKS and South Cove County Park staff met at the park to pour concrete into the bases of the 84 attractors.

This week, attractors will be sorted out. A barge



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**A volunteer group of Friends of Lake Keowee Society members and South Cove County Park staff met recently at the park to finish the first phase of the fish attractor project, which included pouring 4,300 pounds of concrete into the bases of the 84 attractors.**

has been contracted to come up from Alabama for four days next month.

The attractors are for improving the habitat of native and stocked fish, especially largemouth bass, according to Wilde.

DNR classifies Lake Keowee as a "very low-nutrient lake, and overall the lake has little useful

vegetation for fish habitat" causing low fish productivity, Wilde said.

"It has been shown that fish attractors provide the necessary habitat for fish and hiding places for young fish to avoid predators," Wilde said. "This project will enhance most of SCDNR's existing fish attractor locations, as well as include

new fish attractors located in areas determined to be important by FOLKS."

Those wanting to help FOLKS assemble fish attractors in August can contact the organization at [keoweefolks@charter.net](mailto:keoweefolks@charter.net).

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