

Keowee Key Gardening Club

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

SALEM — A Keowee Key gardening committee donated more than 1.5 tons of canned goods and fresh produce to three local nonprofits in Seneca.

In the first Keowee Key Community Gardens “Gardening for Good” mass harvest, fresh produce and non-perishable foods were donated to Our Daily Bread, Our Daily Rest and the Golden Corner Food Bank on Tuesday.

“All three recipients were overwhelmed with the generosity of the Keowee Key gardeners and residents since donations have been down due to the pandemic,” Keowee Key resident gardener Mike Dougherty said in a release. “We look forward to making this an annual event.”

An estimated 1.75 tons of food were collected and delivered, with proper social distancing and safety protocols, and filled more than 120 boxes.

Dougherty told The Journal he noticed a growing national discussion about the drop in donations at blood banks, charities and food banks.

“A couple of things triggered it — it was something that was definitely needed. There was something out about how the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down donations as a whole everywhere. That was the primary trigger,” he said. “I’d go to my garden every day and see what everybody else was doing, and that was part of the trigger, too.”

Community gardens are adjoining in Keowee Key, and there are “quite a few of them,” Dougherty said, with each being maintained in a community setting.

Our Daily Rest men’s program manager Jerry Walters said donations are especially needed in the late summer and early fall.

The event is planned to happen next year, with a better heads up for Keowee Key residents.

Dougherty said he organized the event in less than two weeks.

“We barely gave the community any notice,” he said. “Now everyone will see what happened, and I think next year will be a much bigger event.”

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donates food to local banks



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