

# Bringing the big fish?



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

A fishing pier at South Cove County Park now glows at night, thanks to 10 LED Hydro Glow fish attracting lights.

## County park gets fishing lights, structure upgrade

**BY LAUREN PIERCE**  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A South Cove County Park fishing pier now glows a bright green after the sun goes down.

Ten LED Hydro Glow fish attracting lights now illuminate the fishing pier at the county park. The

park also installed 15 artificial fish covers/attractors last fall at the pier, providing a habitat for young and forage species.

Designed to attract all varieties of fish to the pier, the new lights and fish covers will see an increase in fish raising their young, laying eggs, feeding and protection for

fish — which, in turn, will draw in plenty of larger fish.

South Cove park superintendent Stephen Schutt said the lights were installed on April 28, and there's room for more.

“The lights attract the phyto-

SEE FISHING, PAGE A6

# FISHING: New lights expected to help

FROM PAGE A1

plankton, which attracts the bait fish, and they attract the bigger fish for the fishermen," he said. "We're open to having more lights, and we still have some spots open for more. The fish attractors were put under the pier, and it keeps a protective area for the bait fish to spawn."

The fish covers were funded by Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) and a \$27,000 Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) grant from Duke Energy, Schutt said. The green lights were funded through local accommodations tax (ATAX) funds.

Schutt said he's noticed the impact from the two enhancements.

"You can see how much both are already attracting fish and fishermen," he said. "When we put those towers in, within 10 to 15 minutes, we already saw fish swimming around them. It does not take long at all."

The fish covers were also installed because there's no structure on the bottom of Lake Keowee,

"When they built this lake, it was different from the other manmade lakes," Schutt said. "They scrubbed the bottom of it, so they didn't leave anything at all. Now, we're spending all of these HEP grants to put back structure that was taken out of the lake. It's fixing what humans already did. As soon as you put structure out there, fish go straight to it."

Night fishing is "pretty popular" at the park, according to Schutt.

"They add to the fishing experience" he said. "With catfish, crappie, bass and more, there's pretty good fishing at night. For the local fishermen who don't have a boat that can come down, it gives them ADA (handicap) access to fish, which you don't get very often."

"The park is open until 10 p.m. and the ordinance allows them to fish after hours if that's all they're doing," Schutt added. "They can stay later, and the gates will let them out, but it won't let anybody come in after 10 p.m."

The new equipment will draw vis-

itors and fishermen to South Cove's brightest location on the water at night.

Joey Stewart and his wife, Donna, said the lights will be good for future fishing trips.

"It'll draw all the little bait fish in, so it will be well worth the money," he said. "We're planning to come back for some night fishing probably one day next week. I can't wait to see it all lit up with the lights. It'll be interesting to see how they work out. It's a good thing, and I think more parks should have them."

Joey said he frequently looks for good fishing spots.

"We're from Liberty, and this is our first visit to the park," he said. "We venture around in the local area to all the fishing holes we can find. This turned out to be top shelf for us. We'll come back."

"Most of my fishing as a young man was at night doing crappie fishing, so it'll be nice to come here at night."