

FOLKS unveils stewardship scholarship

BY LAUREN PIERCE
THE JOURNAL

SALEM — Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) announced a new \$2,500 scholarship to provide financial support for college to a high school junior in Oconee and Pickens counties who shows a strong interest in natural resource conservation and the environment.

The Jack Lewis Watershed Stewardship Scholarship is named in honor of Jack Lewis, whose time with FOLKS spanned 44 years.

"Jack's enthusiastic attitude, keen sense of duty and good heart were evident throughout his tenure," said Mike White, FOLKS chairman.

The nonprofit is dedicated to the protection of Lake Keowee by raising awareness of the importance of the lake and its watershed to the economic and recreational well-being of the Upstate.

White said they are "really excited" about the scholarship's possibilities.

"FOLKS strives to turn passion into action and encourages students to work for the issues they believe in," he said. "Through FOLKS' commitment, we believe that every act of conservation — no matter how small — helps the world become a better place. We also believe that our new scholarship will not only engage students in their community, but also inspire them to be advocates for the environment, whether local or global."

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

The scholarship is based on conducting monthly water-quality monitoring for a period



FILE

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of six months and presenting the findings and data to the scholarship selection committee, adhering to the South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream protocols.

Prior to sampling activities, the student will prepare a pre-assessment of the assigned monitoring site. This will include an initial summary of site conditions prior to sample collection using the Adopt-a-Stream Habitat Assessment form, documented by photographs.

The applicant will enroll in the S.C. Adopt-a-Stream training for freshwater monitoring and macroinvertebrate parameters and complete the training prior to beginning stream monitoring activities.

Results of the assess-

ment will be uploaded to the S.C. Adopt-a-Stream database within five days of each sampling event.

At the end of the sampling period, the student will prepare and deliver a 10-15-minute presentation documenting the data, data trends, and general conclusion as to the overall health of the stream segment.

SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

White said while applicants must be a junior in high school and reside in Oconee or Pickens counties, they don't necessarily need related experience.

"You don't have to become a water testing expert, you don't have to grow up with a major in conservation or forestry," he said. "You just

have to be conscientious about where we live and how we can impact it."

"When they get the money, once they say, 'I'm enrolled at Clemson,' and we send that check to the school, if they say, 'You know what, I'm becoming a psych major,' that's OK," White added. "They don't have to give the money back or anything because I'm not trying to create water testers. I'm trying to create psychologists and veterinarians and welders, but also people that have a nice sense about the environment and trying to keep it nice."

The applicant must indicate his or her intent to apply to either a two-year or four-year college curriculum on the application.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is fast approaching as interested juniors must apply by Monday.

A Scholarship Award Committee comprised of three to five individuals representing FOLKS members and supporters will review all applications. FOLKS will announce the award in December.

The award will be available for up to 13 months after high school graduation and will be paid directly to the college the student will attend.

The application is available at guidance departments at local high schools or online at folk-keowee.org/scholarship.

For more information about the scholarship or application process, contact White at white445319@gmail.com.