

FOLKS announces scholarship winners

BY ANDREA KELLEY
THE JOURNAL

SALEM — Five area high school students have earned scholarships centered around water quality.

William Chandler of Daniel High School, Jackson Keith of Pickens High School, Claire Mattox and Reagan Smith of Walhalla High School and William Quisenberry of NEXT School Eagle Ridge were all awarded \$2,500.

The Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) established the Jack Lewis Watershed Stewardship Scholarship in honor of Jack Lewis, who was a FOLKS member for 44 years.

The scholarship is for students who have a "strong interest in natural resource conservation and the environment," FOLKS said. The organization wants to engage students in the community and inspire them to advocate for the local

and global environment.

The students will monitor a stream for six months using Adopt-A-Stream protocols. They'll assess the monitoring site beforehand and take samples once a month, then present their findings to the scholarship selection committee.

'COMFORTING CONSISTENCY'

FOLKS initially planned to sponsor one scholarship, but Keowee Falls Cliffs Residents Outreach (CRO) donated the money for two scholarships, which the organization designated for a Walhalla High student and a NEXT Eagle Ridge student.

FOLKS then "decided to bump it up," chairman Mike White said, so the group offered a total of five schol-



Chandler



Keith



Mattox



Smith



Quisenberry

school, he loves to hunt, fish and hike.

Mattox is a member of the Green Steps

program at

Walhalla and is certified in freshwater monitoring and macroinvertebrate testing. She's on the softball and cross-country teams and loves to run trails to nearby waterfalls.

Quisenberry has been beekeeping since he was a freshman at NEXT School Eagle Ridge and helps his family's farm. He's also been president of the 4-H club.

Smith is a member of the FFA, 4-H Club and the Razorbacks' softball team. She's certified in freshwater monitoring and macroinvertebrate testing and also spends time beekeeping.

arships this year.

"Through this effort, we discovered a comforting consistency," White said. "This next generation brims with positive determination and a solid appreciation of our environment."

Chandler is a senior patrol leader for Boy Scout Troop 235, class president, a member of the Daniel track team and participant in the school's spring musical. He plans to serve as the environmental guide for his group when he backpacks through New Mexico this summer.

Keith is an honor student who plays football, wrestles and runs track for the Blue Flame. When he's not in