

Upstate to be well represented at wildlife awards

Gvl News
NOTEBOOK 1-6-02

STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

Six individuals or organizations from the Upstate will be honored at the South Carolina Wildlife Federation's 37th Annual Conservation Awards banquet set for Jan. 19 in Charleston.

Among them:

■ The Upstate Bearhunters and Houndsmen Association, with most members from Pickens County, was chosen to receive the Wildlife Award based on the group's dedication to wildlife conservation efforts. The group has planted trees and shrubs, mentored Boy Scout troops, conducted trash clean-ups, supported youth raccoon, dove and deer hunts, and raised money for youth activities. The group also helped with bear research projects.

■ Dr. Larry Dyck, a Clemson University professor, was chosen for the Water Award based on his tireless work to improve the water quality and shoreline landscape designs through the Clemson University

Shoreline Restoration and Nursery Project. The project has developed techniques to minimize erosion by turning shorelines into vegetated buffers that provide water filtration, create fish and wildlife habitat, and introduce a natural aesthetic quality for all reservoir users to enjoy.

■ Easley's Sue Tarkenton, a science extension teacher at Hunt Meadows Elementary School near Powdersville, was chosen for a distinguished education award. She has written and won five EIA teacher grants to help establish and maintain schoolyard learning gardens. The garden designs incorporate opportunities for learning, low maintenance plants for children to handle, native plants to encourage wildlife inhabitation and reproduction, butterfly gardens and raised beds for vegetables.

■ The Friends of Paris

Mountain, a group of about 200 longtime residents from the area, will receive the Outdoor Ethics award. The organization was formed to help protect the mountain's creeks from developers and grew from there to hold Earth Days and develop hands-on field trips for school children. Most recently, the group received 273 acres of pristine watershed, including a 16-acre lake, as a new part of the park.

■ Upstate Forever, a non-profit, membership-based organization founded in 1998 by Greenville's Brad Wyche, will receive the Land award. The organization, which now boasts more than 1,000 members, was formed to protect the Upstate's natural resources from careless, unplanned growth. Upstate Forever serves Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties, and has three major programs to address planned growth: education,

Saltwater club meets Thursday

Captain Brant McMullen of Ocean Isle, N.C., will be the guest speaker at Thursday's meeting of the Greenville Saltwater Sportfishing Club at the Fairway Ford body shop.

McMullen owns and operates Capt. Brant's Fishing Adventures, Inc., which specializes in charter fishing and tournament fishing. Brant's three-boat contingent enables him to specialize in live bait fishing for king mackerel as well as trolling the Gulf Stream for tuna, wahoo and dol-

phin.

Competing in more than 20 king mackerel tournaments each year, Brant consistently ranks as a top contender, and also operates two successful tournaments — the Jolly Mon King Classic, which had 300 entries last year, and the Fall Brawl King Classic, which had 200 entries in 2001.

The meeting will include a social hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a presentation by McMullen.

advocacy and land trust.

■ Associated Fuel Pump Systems, an Anderson-based company, was chosen Industrial Conservationist of the Year. The company has been a leader in environmental stewardship since it became a part of the

South Carolina Wildlife Federation's Wildlife and Industry Together (WAIT) program two years ago. The company has a wildlife-friendly habitat on the grounds, an ornamental pond, a wildlife library in the canteen and a large aquari-

um filled with recycled waste water and local species of fish.

Malone teams up to help hunting youth

Basketball star Karl Malone of the NBA's Utah Jazz recently committed \$50,000 to some travel expenses and all of the license and guide fees for young hunters.

Malone teamed up with the Edgefield-based National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife to help make 30 special Utah hunting permits available exclusively to youngsters. The special hunts will provide youths with an unprecedented opportunity to apply for and draw tags on the most coveted hunting units in Utah for trophy deer, elk, turkey and other game.

Applications for the hunts, which cost \$5, will be available at NWTf chapter meetings across the country. Youth appli-

cants must fill out and return an application and the \$5 fee to the NWTf by April 15. The public drawing will be held April 30.

Peebles wins trout tournament

Joey Peebles of Greenville outfished a large field of 135 anglers to win the Lake Jocassee Invitational Trout Tournament in December. Peebles' 5.26-pound brown trout was one of 19 trout weighed in, and earned the angler a check for \$1,200.

Second place went to Frank Windle with a 4.2-pound fish and Warren Page of Salem took third with a 3.6-pound catch.

Two more tournaments round out the Jocassee series — the 19th Annual Lake Jocassee Trout Tournament on Jan. 19 and the Bonus Trout Tournament on Feb. 16. All events run from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and require a \$25 entry per angler. Call 944-9016 for details.