

Sports

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UNC-Charlotte edges Bethel with a 14-pound bag on third and final day

Hundreds brave the rain at YHC to witness crowning of the Bassmaster College National Champs

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Young Harris - UNC- Charlotte's Jake Whitaker and Andrew Helms saved their biggest catch for when they needed it most, reeling in a 14-pound, 2-ounce bag on Day 3 to overtake Bethel University for the 2014 Bassmaster College Series National Championship.

The three-day tournament held on Lake Chatuge proved to be a tough bite for the 80-plus teams gunning for a National Championship.

"I've never worked harder in my life," said Whitaker, following Saturday's weigh-in. "We should have had more, but I lost two 3-pounders."

Chatuge wasn't giving up many fish early in the tournament, but things began to improve on the second and third day. On the first day, the duo from UNC-Charlotte brought in a bag of 11-12, and a 12-11 bag on Day Two for a three-day total of 38-9.

"It was tough fishing out there," Whitaker said. "The way to do it is to commit to getting big bites, even if you don't get very many."

Entering the third and final day, the Bethel University team of Zach Parker and Matt Roberts were in the lead thanks to the big bag of the tournament, hooking a 14-6 on opening day. A 12-15 on Day 2 kept them on top entering the final day. However, their Day 3 total of 10-12 gave them a 38-1 overall, not enough to hold off Whitaker and Helms.

Before a champion could be crowned, a hard rain moved in and sent spectators scrambling for umbrellas, tents, and anywhere or anything to keep them dry. But none went home.

Following the final weigh-in, an emotional Parker thanked the dedicated crowd that turned out for the third day.

"Look out there," Parker said, pointing to the crowd. "They all came out here to support us."

Rounding out the final five teams that made it to the final weigh-in were the University of Louisiana-Monroe's team of Brett Preuett and Jackson Blackett with a total of 32-12 with a 13-3 total on Day 2 being their big bag of the tournament.

Fourth place went to Tennessee Tech's Robert Giarla and Bentley Manning who brought in 13-7 on Day 1 but struggled during the final two days for a total of 26-0.

New Mexico State placed fifth with a 25-8 three-day total.

When the final weigh-in concluded, Whitaker and Helms each received a \$2,500 check from Carhartt to cover their fishing expenses. They also spoke



UNC-Charlotte's Jake Whitaker and Andrew Helms passed Bethel on the third day thanks to a 14-pound, 2-ounce bag - the second largest bag of the tournament. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Bethel University's duo of Zach Parker and Matt Roberts were unable to hold off UNC-Charlotte on Day 3. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Nearly 1,000 spectators packed Young Harris College on Saturday for the crowning of a champion. Heavy rains moved over YHC during the weigh-in but it didn't deter these die hard fans. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

about what a national championship will mean to their fishing program at UNC-Charlotte.

"This is big for us," Helms said. "We have about 15 members (at UNC-Charlotte) and maybe this will get more people interested and our club will grow."

The Carhartt Big Bass honors went to Nathan Martin and Michael Gullette of the University of North Alabama and Garrett Cates and Graham Howard of Kansas State University, with each team catching a 6-pound, 7-ounce bass on Day 1.



An early morning catch on Lake Chatuge. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Trout stocking sites week of July 28-August 1, 2014

Fannin: Big Creek, Rock Creek, and Toccoa River
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Niblewill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River

Note: Information is subject to change. For the latest on stocking and event information, remember to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChattahoocheeForestNationalFishHatchery. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Aug6,Z6)CA

Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament

Time is drawing near for our Annual Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 16th at Butternut Creek Golf Course. Deadline is August 11th for signing up - so hurry up ladies and get that partner.

Format will be 'Select Shot' between you and your partner. On each hole you will be selecting the 'best drive' of your partner and the best second shot. This process is repeated until the hole is completed. Cost is \$55 per person. Prizes will be awarded to flight winners and closest to pins. Accurate Handicaps will be needed for determining your flight.

Registration and breakfast will start at 7:30 a.m. in the upstairs Banquet Room.



Breakfast will be prepared by our very own Butternut Creek ladies.

Tee Time at 8:30 a.m. Lunch provided in the upstairs Banquet Room after play. To sign up, please call Lilly Adams at 706-745-2725 or call the Pro Shop at Butternut Creek Golf Course (706-439-6076). Deadline to sign up is August 11. Come join us for a great day of fun! N(Aug6,Z14)CA

UC Saddle Club members at National Championship

Union County Saddle Club members Ansley Burnette, Vanna Chambers, Sarah Howard, and Alyssa McFarland competed July 19th - 26th, at the 2014 National Barrel Horse Association Youth World Championships held in Perry, GA. This invitation only event is the largest youth barrel race in the world.

The NBHA Youth World participants numbered over 1,100 in the Teen Division (13 and over) and approximately 800 in the Youth Division (12 and under). The contestants

ran for over \$300,000 in cash and prizes. Prizes included ten 4-Star Horse Trailers, Alamo Champion Saddles, Gist Silversmiths Buckles, Gear Bags, Tony Lama Boots, and many other prizes.

Contestants traveled from over 36 states, Canada, Italy, Panama, France, and Australia. Contestants must qualify each year in their respective states to compete in the NBHA Youth World Championships and are the finest youth equine athletes in the world. They qualify on a local level by competing at NBHA

sanctioned events. The Union County Saddle Club hosts two NBHA shows each year.

The National Barrel Horse Association is based in Augusta, Georgia and has members in every state and on 5 continents. Although our girls did not qualify for the finals, we are very proud of them. They rode hard and had a great time all week.

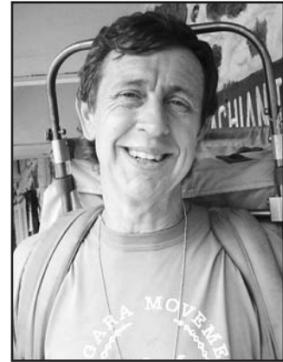
Our next Open Horse Show is on August 23rd. Complete information can be found at www.UnionCountySaddleClub.org. N(Aug6,Z7)CA

Large conference for hikers coming to Georgia

Hikers from across the Southeast are invited to the Eighth Biennial Conference of the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) in Blairsville, GA and neighboring Vogel State Park September 18-21, 2014. Registration for this event has begun and may be accomplished by going to the website southeastfoottrails.org or seftc.org

Highlighting this conference will be presentations by Ron Tipton, Executive Director of the national Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Janet Zeller, National Accessibility Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service. Numerous other presenters will lead workshops on Friday the 19th and Sunday morning, the 21st. The Friday plenary session and most workshops, as well as registration sign-in, will be at the new Union County Community Center in Blairsville.

Thursday afternoon, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon will feature hikes in the mountains of northern Georgia, southeastern Tennessee, and southwestern North Carolina. Most of these hikes will be of various lengths and descriptions from easy to strenuous on the



Ron Tipton



Janet Zeller

Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails with experienced leaders. Most will feature scenic

vistas and/or waterfalls.

Registrants may purchase tickets with their registration for two special meals: Friday dinner at the large indoor lakeside pavilion at Vogel State Park with that park's naturalist Jessica Mou as speaker and the mountain-grown musician Nelson Thomas providing the music, and Saturday's evening meal at Brackett Center in Blairsville with ATC's Ron Tipton speaking.

Housing for the conference includes the three Blairsville motels, cottages at Vogel State Park and elsewhere, and Vogel's pioneer campsite for those wishing to camp.

The registration fee for all SEFTC conference events, workshops and hikes, but excluding the two evening meal events, is \$30 through August 31. The fee increases for late registration to \$40 on September 1 and for walk-ins at the conference dates.

Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition is composed of 36 foot trail clubs and organizations from across the Southeast that range in size from dozens of members to two with over 5,000 members. The coalition was established 15 years ago.



Alyssa McFarland



Sarah Howard



Ansley Burnette



Vanna Chambers

Union County Rec Department

The organizational meeting for the 2014 Church League Softball League will be held on Thursday, August 7, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Press Box meeting room at the Meek's Park upper fields. Rules, schedules, rosters, fees and all aspects of the league will be discussed at this meeting. Managers are urged to attend. N(Aug6,Z11)CA