

CATAWBA RIVERFEST RINGS IN FALL SEASON

Mark your calendars; the 12th annual Catawba RiverFest will be Sept. 19. On that special day, conservation, community and economic organizations come together at Lake James State Park to celebrate the Catawba River Basin and its critical importance to the quality of life we all enjoy.

The festival will take place in and around the lower parking lot at the Paddy's Creek Area, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Information and interactive booths for dozens of area conservation, outdoor recreation and historic organizations will help visitors understand and appreciate the story of the river, how it has shaped the region and the many challenges it faces today.

Alan Darveaux with Slight Departure will once again provide live, traditional folk music during the festival and

Good Wood Pizza out of Lincolnton will bring their traveling pizza oven and make scratch-made pies to order. The park concession stand will also be open throughout the day, selling snacks, ice cream and refreshments to the masses.

Some of the scheduled exhibitors include the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, which will be holding fishing demonstrations, N.C. State Parks, Catawba Valley Heritage Alliance, Friends of Lake James State Park, Beanstalk Journeys of Morganton, Hoffman Blacksmithing, which will be holding demonstrations and the Asheville Mushroom Club.

Festival-goers are encouraged to participate in a number of hikes and activities, including kayaking classes for beginners and advanced paddlers, a mushroom identification hike with members of the Asheville Mushroom Club, a pre-event, group trail ride with the Northwest NC MTB Alliance, scheduled for 9 a.m. and an invasive trees and plants ID hike with Lenoir-Rhyne University professor Karen McDougal. There will also be a release of a rehabilitated hawk back into the wild at 10:30 a.m., thanks to the Carolina Raptor Center.

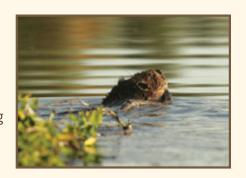
For those who wish to explore the lake and find out what makes it such a special place, a series of ranger-led boat tours has been scheduled. If you wish to participate, just visit the N.C. State Parks booth when you arrive and fill out the sign-up sheet.

The Catawba RiverFest is sponsored by Lake James State Park, Catawba Valley Heritage Alliance and the Friends of Lake James State Park. For more information, call (828) 584-7728.

If you would like to receive our monthly programs list, contact us at lake.james@ncparks.gov. In an effort to reduce idle waiting time at all programs, please make an effort to arrive a few minutes before the times listed. Thank you.

CANOE EXCURSION – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

The tranquility of paddling a canoe on a quiet morning is one of life's simple pleasures. Discover the beauty of Lake James State Park from the water with Park Ranger Jamie Cameron. Whether you're an expert paddler or you don't know the difference between starboard and port, we'll provide the equipment and instruction to make it a memorable morning. Six park canoes are set aside for this free program and each is capable of carrying two adults and one child (must be 7 years of age or older). The program starts at 9 a.m. and meets at the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway. You must pre-register and be



prepared to share your journey with a new friend if you are a single and space dictates. Call 828-584-7728 and sign-up today.

AUTUMN BOAT TOUR – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Lake James is an important waystation for all sorts of animals, birds and insects as the summer winds down. Past experience has proven to the park staff that there's no better way to explore the lake and its abundant wildlife than by boat. Park Ranger Earl Weaver will be your captain and guide aboard the park patrol boat as we search for terns, beavers, eagles and scenic vistas. The weather could be hot and muggy or cool and drizzly, so be sure to watch the forecast and dress appropriately for the day (remember it's always cooler out on the water) if you are one of the eight lucky participants. Registration is required and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the park office at 828-584-7728 to reserve your spot. Meet at the Paddy's Creek Area East Picnic Shelter at 8:45 a.m. for a briefing and prompt 9 a.m. departure.

CANOE EXCURSION - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The tranquility of paddling a canoe on a quiet morning is one of life's simple pleasures. Discover the beauty of Lake James State Park from the water with Park Ranger Kevin Bischof. Whether you're an expert paddler or you don't know the difference between starboard and port, we'll provide the equipment and instruction to make it a memorable morning. Six park canoes are set aside for this free program and each is capable of carrying two adults and one child (must be 7 years of age or older). The program starts at 9 a.m. and meets at the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway. You must pre-register and be prepared to share your journey with a new friend if you are a single and space dictates. Call 828-584-7728 and sign-up today.

AUTUMN BOAT TOUR – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Lake James is an important waystation for all sorts of animals, birds and insects as the summer winds down. Past experience has proven to the park staff that there's no better way to explore the lake and its abundant wildlife than by boat. Park Ranger Clay Veasey will be your captain and guide aboard the park patrol boat as we search for terns, beavers, eagles and scenic vistas. The weather could be hot and muggy or cool and drizzly, so be sure to watch the forecast and dress appropriately for the day (remember it's always cooler out on the water) if you are one of the eight lucky participants. Registration is required and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the park office at 828-584-7728 to reserve your spot. Meet at the Paddy's Creek Area East Picnic Shelter at 9:45 a.m. for a briefing and prompt 10 a.m. departure.

SNAKES! - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

"The only good snake is a dead snake"... or so the saying goes. Some of the most feared, hated and misunderstood animals in nature; snakes are found throughout Lake James State Park. While there are two venomous, potentially dangerous species, most snakes here are harmless. Meet Park Ranger Kevin Bischof at the Holly Discovery Trail parking area for a hike along the Overmountain Victory Trail. Along the way we'll go through prime snake habitat, discuss the natural history of these legless park residents and, with any luck, see one for ourselves. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring water and be prepared to walk for about an hour. The program starts at 3 p.m.



FALL MIGRATION BIRD HIKE – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Bird migration is in full swing and it's time to go watch the spectacle. The Paddy's Creek parking area offers just the right mix of open water, shoreline woods and fields to see lots of species in a morning. Join Ranger Jamie Cameron for an exciting afternoon. We'll start at 2 p.m. from the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.

AUTUMN BOAT TOUR – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Lake James is an important waystation for all sorts of animals, birds and insects as the summer winds down. Past experience has proven to the park staff that there's no better way to explore the lake and its abundant wildlife than by boat. Park Ranger Earl Weaver will be your

captain and guide aboard the park patrol boat as we search for terns, beavers, eagles and scenic vistas. The weather could be hot and muggy or cool and drizzly, so be sure to watch the forecast and dress appropriately for the day (remember it's always cooler out on the water) if you are one of the eight lucky participants. Registration is required and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the park office at 828-584-7728 to reserve your spot. Meet at the Paddy's Creek Area East Picnic Shelter at 2:45 p.m. for a briefing and prompt 3 p.m. departure.

SPECIAL TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK KIDS IN THE CREEK – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Have you ever wondered about the critters that live underwater amid the rocks and logs? Many juvenile fish, insects and amphibians start out in the free-flowing streams that empty into Lake James. Join a park ranger in an exploration of the aquatic life in Paddy's Creek - who knows what we'll find? This program will be especially focused on engaging young children with their outside environment. Bring footwear and clothing that can get wet. No one will be allowed to wade in the creek without proper footwear. A change of clothes for after the program is recommended. Meet at the Paddy's Creek Bridge Trailhead at 4 p.m.

AUTUMN BOAT TOUR - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Lake James is an important waystation for all sorts of animals, birds and insects as the summer winds down. Past experience has proven to the park staff that there's no better way to explore the lake and its abundant wildlife and celebrate Take a Child Outside Week than by boat. Park Ranger Earl Weaver will be your captain and guide aboard the park patrol boat as we search for terns, beavers, eagles and scenic vistas. The weather could be hot and muggy or cool and drizzly, so be sure to watch the forecast and dress appropriately for the day (remember it's always cooler out on the water) if you are one of the eight lucky participants. Registration is required and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the park office at 828-584-7728 to reserve your spot. Meet at the Paddy's Creek Area East Picnic Shelter at 1:45 p.m. for a briefing and prompt 2 p.m. departure.

SPECIAL TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK ASTRONOMY CELEBRATION – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Back by popular demand, Lake James State Park will be hosting a night of star gazing. Bring the kids to learn some basic star gazing tips and fascinating facts about the night sky. There will be telescopes and binoculars set up for viewing celestial bodies, but feel free to bring your own if you have them. Folding chairs are also recommended. We will meet in the upper parking lot of the Paddy's Creek Area at 6:30 p.m. for a fun make-and-take activity for kids. Dark sky viewing begins at 7:45 p.m. Register by calling the park office at 828-584-7728.

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ANNUAL CELEBRATION - TUESDAY, SEPT. 29

During the early stages to the Revolutionary War, a band of southern frontiersmen set out on a journey to find and engage a British-sponsored army and defeat it at the Battle of King's Mountain. Come out to Lake James State Park and learn about these courageous patriots as well as the 2-mile segment of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail that passes through the park. We will meet at the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway at 6:30 p.m. for storytelling with Chad Bogart and music, courtesy of the Backwater String Band and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

CANOE EXCURSION – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

The tranquility of paddling a canoe on a quiet morning is one of life's simple pleasures. Discover the beauty of Lake James State Park from the water with Park Ranger Jamie Cameron. Whether you're an expert paddler or you don't know the difference between starboard and port, we'll provide the equipment and instruction to make it a memorable morning. Six park canoes are set aside for this free program and each is capable of carrying two adults and one child (must be 7 years of age or older). The program starts at 9 a.m. and meets at the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway. You must pre-register and be prepared to share your journey with a new friend if you are a single and space dictates. Call 828-584-7728 and sign-up today.

AMPHIBIANS! - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

October can be a fantastic time of year to see some of the Lake James cold-blooded residents. Meet Ranger Kevin Bischof as he explores the Holly Discovery Trail in attempt to discover some of the amphibians that live in the park. The hike is approximately .75-mile in length and starts 3 p.m. from the Holly Discovery Trailhead in the Paddy's Creek Area of the park.

FALL COLORS AT LAKE JAMES – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

There is no better time to hike in the mountains of North Carolina than the fall, and with that, arguably no better time to hike at Lake James State Park. So come out and do it! Meet Park Ranger Kevin Bischof at the Catawba River Area to enjoy the park in its fall glory along the Lake Channel Overlook Trail. Along the way we will discover how all the leaves got their beautiful fall colors and what happened to the summer green we grew used to seeing for the last couple of months. Wondering what types of trees bring your favorite autumn reds, or which trees bring brown and yellow to the color wheel so many love about fall? In addition to the color change, tree ID will be discussed along a hike that culminates with one of the finest views of Lake James the park has to offer. We will meet at the park office in the Catawba River Area at 10 a.m.

BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION CRASH COURSE – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

The beautiful fall colors aren't only in the trees. October is an excellent time in the Carolina piedmont to view butterflies and the native plant gardens at Lake James State Park are the perfect place to do it. Join Ranger Jamie Cameron for a leisurely browse among the ironweed and goldenrod blossoms in search of swallowtails, hairstreaks, skippers and monarchs. This will be a great activity for nature photographers too. Meet at the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway at 2 p.m.

NATURE THROUGH INDIAN EYES – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

The native Americans that lived along the Catawba River needed to use all of their senses to survive. Learn how to experience Nature in an entirely new way with Ranger Jamie Cameron. This exciting and interactive program is geared towards youngsters, ages 4-12. Meet at the Catawba River Area office breezeway at 2 p.m.

FALL FOLIAGE BOAT TOUR - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Experience the fall foliage season from a unique perspective by boating around beautiful Lake James. Join Ranger Earl Weaver aboard the park patrol boat as we seek out the reds, golds, purples, and oranges of autumn. Only eight spaces are available and pre-registration is required. Call the park office at 828-584-7728 to save your spot. Meet at the East Picnic Shelter at 2:45 p.m. for a briefing and prompt 3 o'clock departure.

GREAT WORLD WIDE STAR COUNT - ASTRONOMY - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

During this international event, we ask everyone to go outside, look skyward after dark, note the stars they see in certain constellations, and report what they see online. Join Park Superintendent Nora Coffey in reporting the night sky as it is seen from Lake James State Park, and then go home and report on the night sky from your location. This Windows to the Universe Citizen Science Event is designed to encourage learning in astronomy. Folding chairs are recommended. We will meet in the upper parking lot of the Paddy's Creek Area at 6:30 p.m. to learn about the project. Dark sky viewing begins at 7 p.m. Register by calling the park office at 828-584-7728.

FALL FOLIAGE BOAT TOUR - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Experience the fall foliage season from a unique perspective by boating around beautiful Lake James. Join Ranger Clay Veasey aboard the park patrol boat as we seek out the reds, golds, purples, and oranges of autumn. Only eight spaces are available and pre-registration is required. Call the park office at 828-584-7728 to save your spot. Meet at the East Picnic Shelter at 1:45 p.m. for a briefing and prompt 2 o'clock departure.

FALL COLORS HIKE WITH A RANGER – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

The Sandy Cliff Overlook Trail is one of the oldest and most beloved pathways at Lake James State Park. With autumn in full splendor, it's time to revisit this beautiful trail and experience all it has to offer; from great wildlife viewing opportunities, to spectacular lake vistas. Ranger Clay Veasey is the right guide to help hikers get the most from this easy, 1-hour excursion. Meet at the Catawba River Area office breezeway at 10 a.m.

FALL MIGRATION BIRD HIKE – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Bird migration is in full swing and it's time to go watch the spectacle. The Paddy's Creek parking area offers just the right mix of open water, shoreline woods and fields to see lots of species in a morning. Join Ranger Jamie Cameron for an exciting morning. We'll start at 8 a.m. from the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.

CANOE EXCURSION – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

The tranquility of paddling a canoe on a quiet morning is one of life's simple pleasures. Discover the beauty of Lake James State Park from the water with Park Ranger Jamie Cameron. Whether you're an expert paddler or you don't know the difference between starboard and port, we'll provide the equipment and instruction to make it a memorable morning. Six park canoes are set aside for this free program and each is capable of carrying two adults and one child (must be 7 years of age or older). The program starts at 9 a.m. and meets at the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse breezeway. You must pre-register and be prepared to share your journey with a new friend if you are a single and space dictates. Call 828-584-7728 and sign-up today.



AUTUMN BOAT TOUR – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

This might be your last chance to experience the fall foliage season before winter takes a firm grip and what better way to enjoy it than by boating around beautiful Lake James. Join Ranger Earl Weaver aboard the park patrol boat as we seek out the reds, golds, purples, and oranges of autumn. Only eight spaces are available and pre-registration is required. Registration is required and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the park office at 828-584-7728 to reserve your spot. Meet at the Paddy's Creek Area East Picnic Shelter at 9:45 a.m. for a briefing and prompt 10 a.m. departure.

NATURE NOTES

There are two types of people in this part of the world: those that hate the end of summer, and those that are overjoyed at the beginning of fall.

There's no doubt, fall is a great time to view wildlife at Lake James State Park and the surrounding countryside. Whether you're into the little stuff, like butterflies and bees, or the big stuff, like white-tailed deer and eagles, there's a lot to look at during your next hike around the park.



The native plant gardens around the Paddy's Creek Area bathhouse and picnic shelters are abuzz with activity. Joe-pye weed, narrow-leafed sunflower, New York ironweed and assorted asters are blooming and the pollinators are swarming the pollen and nectar-rich flowers. The best time to observe this riot of activity is warm, sunny days, but there is usually something to see even when the clouds roll in. This time of year, the most abundant butterflies are silver-spotted skippers, fiery skippers, common buckeyes and tiger swallowtails (both yellow and black color morphs). Be on the lookout for less-common species like, great purple hairstreak, Brazilian skipper, Gulf fritillary and monarch. There are also numerous types of bees and wasps, day-time moths, ruby-throated hummingbirds, American goldfinches; the list goes on and on. In fact, the closer you look, the more you'll see.

WHO WE ARE

A group formed in 2010, made up of dedicated people work together to help Lake James State Park meet its mission of providing opportinities for public enjoyment and education while still protecting the natural beauty and historic integrity of the State Park.

BOARD MEMBERS

Eric Jenkins - President
Robert Hunter - Vice President
Mike Sewell - Secretary
Bob Bielitz - Treasurer

Paul Braun - Member at Large
Annette Bryant - Membership Coordinator
Brock Hall - Member at Large
George Milner - Member at Large
Greg Norell - Member at Large
Alan Scholl - Member at Large
Jim Williams - Member at Large

To contact the Friends of Lake James State Park Group please email info@lakejamesstatepark.org

By all accounts it was a productive summer for many park critters. Many visitors have been delighted by the abundance of young white-tailed deer, wild turkeys and eastern cottontail rabbits that tend to hang around the roadsides in the park. Those youngsters serve as a good reminder to watch your speed as you travel within the park. The 25 mile-per-hour limit is enforced so that wildlife and humans have a better chance to cross the park road safely.

Don't forget, Sept. 24-30 in National Take a Child Outside Week. If you have kids or you know a few, try to make it your goal to get them into the great outdoors during this fantastic fall weather. You could take them hiking, mountain biking, picnicking or bring them to one of the ranger-led programs scheduled throughout the week (see list starting on page 2).

Hope to see you out on the trail.

EAGLE SCOUT PROVIDES HABITAT FOR BATS



It's not easy being a bat.

Truth be told, there aren't many folks that think much about bats, except worry about them taking up residence in the attic or getting tangled in the hair of unsuspecting humans and then transferring rabies onto them. To add insult to injury, bats across the eastern half of the United States are being decimated by a fungus that attacks while they hibernate in caves during winter. Since it was first discovered in 2006, white-nosed syndrome has killed nearly 6 million bats and reduced populations of some species by more than 90 percent.



Bats are extremely important to a healthy environment and play an important role in improving our daily lives. A single bat eats up to 1,000 mosquito-sized insects per hour during a typical 3- to 6-hour night of foraging. In the United States alone, bats save farmers hundreds of thousands of dollars by eating untold tons of harmful, crop-damaging bugs.

Evan Wisniewski, a local high schooler and Eagle Scout candidate, decided to do something about the plight of the bats for his final service project. Evan and his team of volunteers designed, built and erected a deluxe bat house complex at the Paddy's Creek Area at Lake James State Park. The project took more than 100 hours to complete, but now it's ready for its first occupants. Park maintenance staffers provided some guidance and the necessary equipment to get the boxes in place. Congratulations Evan on a job well done! Hopefully, park visitors will enjoy mosquito-free evenings for years to come thanks to your efforts.

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO CELEBRATE STATE PARKS



Park rangers Kevin Bischof and Jamie Cameron had the distinct pleasure of leading a group of adventurous seniors from Grace Ridge Retirement Village in Morganton on a canoe excursion Aug. 15. Among the 13 paddlers that went out on the 1-mile voyage, one vessel stood out for having a helmswoman age 89 and a front oarswoman age 93. What an inspirational group!

PARDON OUR MESS



It's hard not to notice the recently-cleared area next to the park road heading toward the Paddy's Creek Area swim beach. Construction has begun on a new, 33-site campground that will cater to "car campers" in 2016. Like other camping facilities at Lake James State Park, the new campsites will offer a tent pad, food locker, lantern post, picnic table and fire pit. Unlike the walk-in sites at the Catawba River Area and the boat-in site at Long Arm Peninsula, these will offer convenient, drive-up parking spots next to each site. The new campground will have a shower house and host site. Stay tuned for progress reports.

POLLINATOR PAGEANT

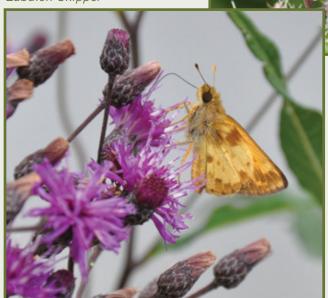


Ailanthus Webworm Moth



Tiger Swallowtail





Tiger Swallowtail



LJSP TRAILS



CATAWBA RIVER AREA:

Fishing Pier Trail (0.3 mile, easy)
Fox Den Loop Trail (2.25 miles, moderate)
Lake Channel Overlook Trail (1.5 miles, moderate)
Sandy Cliff Overlook Trail (0.5 mile, easy)

PADDY'S CREEK AREA:

Holly Discovery Trail (0.75 mile, easy)
Mill's Creek Trail (3.6 miles, moderate)
Overmountain Victory Trail (2.0 mile, moderate)
Paddy's Creek Trail (2.0 miles, moderate)
Tindo beginners' mountain bike trail (4.0 miles)
Wimba intermediate mountain bike trail (11.25 miles)

PARK GENERAL INFO

- Gate hours during September are 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. Hours for October are 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.
- Paddy's Creek Area swim beach is open through the end of September.
- The concessions stand and canoe and kayak rentals are weekends only through the end of September.

SAVE THE DATE

- Sept. 19 Catawba RiveFest (see related story on front)
- Oct. 3 The first Lake James Dragon Boat Festival will take place 9 a.m. until approximately 4 p.m. at the Paddy's Creek Area at Lake James State Park. Spectators are welcome to come out to cheer the racers and enjoy music and food vendors. For more information on how to register a team or join an existing one for this charitable event, go to www.lakejamesdragonboat.com

IN REMEMBRANCE



This year's Catawba RiverFest is dedicated to Craig Carow Lian, who died Feb. 18, 2015 after a brief illness. Craig was a former seasonal employee at Lake James State Park and earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Parks and Recreation from Western Carolina University in 2005. He was the Upper Catawba Advocate for the Catawba River Foundation in 2011. He cared about the environment and especially loved birdwatching. Craig was a positive spirit, a caring, giving person with a big smile, sense of humor and love of life. May we all learn from his example, live our lives to the fullest and make a positive difference in the world.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Do you have an interest in Lake James State Park? Whether you enjoy hiking the trails, swimming at the beach or just picnicking with your family, there is some part of the park for everyone.

Join the Friends of Lake James State Park group and learn about all the opportunities to help make the park a better place for everyone to enjoy. The Friends of Lake James State Park focus on working together to help Lake James State Park meet its mission of providing opportunities for public enjoyment and education while still protecting the natural beauty and historic integrity of the State Park.

There are a variety of opportunities to get involved from trail work days, to volunteering at RiverFest and other festivals. Become a member of Friends of Lake James State Park, and know that you are helping to preserve the natural beauty and historic resources of Lake James for generations to come.

FRIENDS CONTRIBUTIONS

The Friends of Lake James State Park is proud to support the hardworking staff at Lake James State Park and contribute wherever we can to help improve park operations and offer new recreational opportunities to visitors. If you think these efforts are meaningful, please consider joining our group using the form at the bottom of this page.

- Boat Camping Project; partially funded, purchased equipment including rebar driver and auger
- Stand-up Paddleboards; purchased two for rental fleet and one for lifeguard use
- Funded instructor for Waterfront Safety training for lifeguards
- Linville Overlook picnic area
- Assisted with Overmountain Victory Trail 2 construction
- Holly Discovery Trail; partially funded and dedicated, annual funding for upkeep
- Park of the Year celebration
- Sponsored night rides on mountain bike trails
- RiverFest Sponsor

HOW TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF LAKE JAMES STATE PARK GROUP

Become a member of Friends of Lake James State Park, and know that you are helping to preserve the natural beauty and historic resources of Lake James for generations to come.

For more information please visit www.lakejamesstatepark.org or email info@lakejamesstatepark.org.

FRIENDS OF LAKE JAMES STATE PARK - MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name
Address
CityStateZip
Email
Phone
Return to:
Friends of Lake James State Park, Inc.
P.O. Box 1327 Nebo, NC 28761
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Friends of Lake James State Park, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. Receipt of membership will be supplied upon request.