



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Savannah District

Media Advisory

Release No: 09-20

Date: May 14, 2009

Water Safety Media Opportunity Planned for Hartwell Lake

FOR MEDIA PLANNING

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hartwell Lake Office, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (flotilla 25) will host a **BOATING AND WATER SAFETY MEDIA OPPORTUNITY** for media representatives only, Friday, May 22 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Media can arrive anytime during this time.

Join boating safety officers and park rangers to learn about differences in state laws, boating under the influence, boating equipment requirements, boater education, the importance of wearing a life jacket and other boating and water safety issues. In addition, a patrol boat will be available to take the media out for footage and photos.

This event is planned in advance of one of Hartwell Lakes' busiest boating weekends of the year, Memorial Day Weekend, which is seen by many as the "kick-off" to the summer recreation season. Each year there are accidents and fatalities involving boating and swimming on area lakes. The Corps of Engineers and other agencies consider the media vital to water and boating safety education. This event provides the media an opportunity to gain footage, photos, and storylines to be used now or throughout the recreation season to educate the public and to help reduce or eliminate water-related injuries and fatalities.

Where: Big Oaks Recreation Area (next to the boat ramp)

Directions: Big Oaks Recreation Area is located next to the Hartwell Lake Office and Visitor Center on U.S. Hwy 29 in Hart County, Ga.

From South Carolina, follow US Hwy. 29 into Georgia. Big Oaks is located approximately one-mile past the Georgia/South Carolina state line on the right side of the road (there is a sign).

From Georgia, Big Oaks is located approximately six miles from the City of Hartwell, Ga. Follow US Hwy 29 North out of Hartwell. Big Oaks will be on the left (there is a sign) just past the Hartwell Lake Operation Manager's Office and Visitor Center.

For more information, contact Park Ranger Tanya Grant of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 706-856-0323 or toll-free at 1-888-893-0678, ext. 323.

– 30 –

Contact:

Billy Birdwell

912-652-5014 (24 hours: 912-677-6039)

billy.birdwell@us.army.mil

G. Jeanne Hodge

912- 652-5770

jeanne.hodge@sas02.usace.army.mil

District Website

www.sas.usace.army.mil