

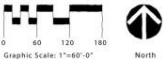
2015 JMGBL Awards Application

Submission Date	2015-06-26 17:02:04
This application is for:	J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award
Project Title	Green Pond Landing
County/Counties	Anderson
Staff Contact	Angela Stringer
Job Title	Communications Director
E-mail Address	astringer@andersoncountysc.org
Phone Number	8649346451
Please provide a summary of your entry (no more than 100 words) to be used in a handout for the awards competition and included in press releases/publications. You may either type the summary in the text box or upload it as an attachment below.	Anderson County is an active recreation community. Green Pond Landing & Event Center is a high capacity boating facility that benefits the local citizen as well as attracts international tournaments. Green Pond is an economic force in the Anderson community which stimulates the regional economy in Upstate South Carolina.
Presentations may include more than one speaker; however, each speaker should be aware that the 10-minute time limit is strictly enforced. Please list the name, title, and e-mail address of each speaker:	Angela Stringer Matt Schell Sharon Nicometo
Will any of the speakers need accommodations (wheelchair accessibility, etc.) during the awards competition?	No
To submit these attachments online, please upload Microsoft Word or PDF documents below.	FINAL-SCAC.pdf

GREEN POND LANDING & EVENT CENTER



green pond landing event center
master plan may 2012



SC ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 2015 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM ANDERSON COUNTY



adf

Recreation is a vital part of Anderson County's future growth. When industry searches for a new home, quality of life is always a top tier priority. Prospective companies ask - what makes Anderson County unique that we can utilize to attract and retain a qualified and talented workforce?

Green Pond Landing & Event Center builds upon Anderson County's many assets and natural resources, especially Hartwell Lake.

Benefit/Importance of Project

1. Why was this project undertaken?

Although Hartwell Lake has long been considered one of Upstate South Carolina's greatest assets by locals, it has pretty much remained a hidden treasure. However, 2015 brought the 56,000-acre lake to the international stage. Shortly after her 50th Anniversary Celebration, Lake Hartwell got a 'facelift' called Green Pond Landing and Event Center. Accompanying the completion of this new mega-ramp and state-of-the-art facility was the notoriety to attract a world-class event, the 2015 Geico Bassmaster Classic.

Several factors influenced the undertaking of this project. In 2008, Hartwell Lake had a 'last-minute' opportunity to host the Bassmaster Classic due to severe drought conditions on the previously selected venue. County leadership and staff were struck with the realization that there was no single facility on Lake Hartwell formally and fully-equipped to attract and accommodate high-capacity or high-profile fishing tournaments.

Around the same time period, the Anderson County Parks Department was devising a Recreation Master Plan that highlighted county-owned and county-leased facilities. Coincidentally, the process arrived at the same conclusion. The Comprehensive Plan provided a snapshot of all recreation opportunities within Anderson County including City, County, State, Federal, School District, or privately owned/operated. The Plan further identified shortfalls and deficiencies in the County's overall recreational structure, which included a significant shortage in formal parking opportunities allowing public access to the lake.

Additionally, the federal government was establishing an injury settlement fund which allocated almost \$12 million dollars to remedy the PCB contamination of Hartwell Lake. Of the three counties that qualified for settlement funds due to contamination (Oconee, Pickens and Anderson), Anderson County was the only government agency to investigate partnership opportunities and be proactive in potential investments. Consequently, Anderson County began an aggressive campaign to explore, validate, and develop recreation improvement projects on Hartwell Lake that encompassed ADA accessibility and universal access initiatives for the betterment of the entire Upstate.

2. What is the significance of this project to your community as a whole? How does it relate in importance to the other problems in your community?

Anderson County's local community has already experienced a significant boost from Green Pond Landing & Event Center, demonstrating in a very literal way, the idiom, "a rising tide lifts all boats." Completed in December 2014, According to Sandy Hanebrink of Touch the Future (ADA compliance contractor), "Green Pond is the only fully ADA-accessible boat ramp facility of its kind in the Southeast." The facility features three, record breaking launch lanes that reach 30' below full pool (the deepest on the lake) while accommodating above-average water levels (5' above full pool). Additionally, this premier high-capacity mega-ramp boasts the longest floating courtesy ramp on the lake at 250' as well as 200 truck/trailer parking spaces and 100 spectator parking spaces,

The 45th Bassmaster Classic, Green Pond's inaugural event, christened the facility as a world-class tournament host in February 2015. According to B.A.S.S., the Classic generated an estimated direct economic impact of \$24 million in the Upstate. Since the Classic, the facility has attracted local, regional and national tournaments from all tiers of

angling organizations including B.A.S.S., the American Bass Association (ABA), Fishing League Worldwide (FLW), Fishers of Men, and local tournament leagues. Based on numbers from the 2015 Bassmaster Classic, VisitAnderson and other South Carolina tourism agencies anticipate a minimum of \$40 million dollars of economic impact from Green Pond Landing & Event Center during its first year.

Green Pond Landing & Event Center, which embodies one of the core missions of Anderson County and the Parks Department by exceeding ADA regulations, is a no-fee facility and is open to the public for passive, leisure, or competitive water-based recreation and as a value-added, also provides the single greatest view of the lake especially at sunset.

Green Pond has been a major priority over the past seven years and will continue to take precedence until fully complete. It is THE largest recreation project in decades in Anderson County; going from inception to Phase One completion (with a \$3.1 million dollar price tag) in seven years, making it the fastest turnaround project in Anderson County history, given the factors involved and the funding.

This project also clearly exemplifies the potential when multiple partners are at the table with common goals especially when funding is in place. Transitioning into ADA accessibility and compliance is a problem faced by all counties and municipalities when attempting to update public facilities. Anderson County has intentionally set a high bar for inclusive recreation and in doing so, has become a nationwide role model for ADA compliance in recreation.

The recent ADA Legacy Tour across the United States marked the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anderson County was honored as one of the stops due to the County's demonstrated leadership and extraordinary efforts toward recreation equity with successful projects such as the Green Pond Landing & Event Center, recently completed Brown Road Accessible Fishing Pier, and the Dolly Cooper Park ADA-compliant floating Kayak Launch. These projects represent the county's commitment to attaining total ADA-compliance in accommodations for pier fishing, boating, kayaking and other watersports, regardless of capabilities or disabilities, while inviting anyone and everyone to venture outside.

Anderson County has not yet realized the full economic potential of Green Pond, however, county officials are certain the facility will have a consistent and perpetually positive impact on the Upstate Region.

3. How much of the county's population is benefited by the project? In what specific ways are different groups of citizens within the county better off than before?

Since its inception, Green Pond Landing & Event Center has retained overwhelming support from the community, governmental agencies such as SC Department of Natural Resources, US Army Corp. of Engineers, and Angler Associations (B.A.S.S., FLW, and ABA) as well as countless other organizations, local businesses and individuals. County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn urged the council to invest in Hartwell Lake by constructing the mega-ramp and event facility to further develop tourism in Anderson County and to create jobs. His dream became reality when B.A.S.S. officials took notice of Green Pond and chose Hartwell as the host lake for the "Super Bowl of Bass Fishing", the Bassmaster Classic.

Most every segment of the County's population is reaping the benefits from Green Pond. During the Classic as well as other tournaments hosted at the facility, local businesses (restaurants, hotels, service stations and shops) have exceeded previous year's revenues. The facility, which is also a County Park, affords diverse opportunities for water sports, competitive tournaments and outdoor recreation such as kayaking, boating fishing, and hiking as well as Paralympic sports competition and training. Earlier in 2015, Anderson County's Special Olympics Area 14 used the pier and three-lane boat ramp for a fundraiser, the first-ever Anderson University Polar Plunge.

The sky is the limit when it comes to serving the needs of the community. All residents and organizations have equal access to a plethora of activities – girl scouts, boy scouts, adolescences, young adults, mature adults, the elderly, disadvantaged populations and disabled-supported organizations have a destination venue in Upstate SC.

4. What degree of success did the project attain? What major objectives were achieved?

County leadership recognized the potential of Hartwell Lake to attract tourism to our shores, but the success far outweighed any expectations. The completion of Green Pond Landing and Event Center opened the door for Hartwell Lake to host the 2015 Geico Bassmaster Classic. The fact that Green Pond is ADA Compliant was an added bonus that allowed anglers with special needs to participate in Bassmaster as well as the 16 additional tournaments that have taken place at Green Pond since the Grand Opening. In June, the 25th Anniversary ADA Legacy Tour visited Green Pond Landing and Event Center to bring attention to Anderson County for efforts to incorporate accessibility into recreation. As a result of these and many other factors, the July-August issue of B.A.S.S. magazine ranked Hartwell Lake in the top 100 Best Bass Lakes in America.

The highest level of success was achieved due to the initial commitment of Anderson County Council, the community and many partners. The Lake Hartwell Natural Resource Trustees could not award any funds to the project without unanimous support. The Trustees provided the single largest funding source for Phase One (\$1.5 million) and have committed an additional \$600,000.00 for Phase Two. Notable South Carolina partners include the Anderson County Legislative Delegation, SC Department of Transportation, SC DNR, US ACOE, SC National Heritage Corridor, and the Federal Government by way of Sport Fish Funds. Local level partnerships include, the local businesses, Anderson County administration, Anderson County staff, County Council and the public-at-large.

Main objective achieved: unanimous support and multiple partners. Additionally: ADA accessibility, fully functioning high capacity boat ramp facility attracting high profile tournaments which in turn return a never before seen economic impact to the Upstate (\$23 to \$24 million dollar impact to the Upstate from the 2015 Bassmaster Classic). Green Pond is the destination facility for angling tournaments on Lake Hartwell; making the names of the facility and fishery, synonymous.

Partnership also includes SC DOT who prioritized road improvements to meet the new traffic demands of the facility and coordinated with Anderson County along the way to have the work completed prior to the Bassmaster Classic.

Project Effort/Difficulty

1. What did your county have to do to accomplish its objectives?

In order to accomplish the project objectives, county staff had to:

- prioritize and manage design development
- forge alliances and strengthen partnerships with agencies including the SC DNR, US ACOE, Anderson County Legislative Delegation, and others
- Manage funding needs such as GIS modeling and fishery research/studies
- Utilize existing county resources and coordinate internal departments to assist with the project.
- Secure community, government, and local business support securing resource allocation and financial commitments
- Host public meetings
- Define and manage nation-spanning stakeholder committees (representatives traveled from as far as Kentucky for charrette sessions.
- Define and secure qualified design teams and scope of work, missions, and objectives.
- Secure funding

- Manage Multi-agency coordination
- Oversee project management and quality control

2. What challenges occurred during the project? Were there any community concerns?

Anderson County overcame several challenges during the Green Pond project. Funding was the immediate and seemingly insurmountable obstacle. The possibility of a mega-ramp facility surfaced during the economic downturn when local governments were already struggling to continue providing expected levels of service with less revenue and fewer employees. County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn encouraged council to pursue the project, confident that the investment would result in tourism dollars pouring into the local economy and more jobs for Anderson County residents. Narrowing down the specific location for the facility was also a major concern – every single detail would impact the future of the project as well as the overall ultimate Return on Investment. One of the most important considerations during the entire planning process was ensuring the facility would not only meet, but exceed ADA regulations. Over the past several years, Anderson County has strived to create facilities and opportunities that are accessible to every demographic represented in the Upstate including youth, the elderly and those with special needs.

Securing funds through a competitive application process against other well-supported and sizable projects required a professionally aggressive approach. Once funding sources were secured and the project underway, contractors ran into unexpected subsurface rock, which delayed the project and increased the cost.

Additional priorities, all of which we complied and analyzed to validated the final site selection included: 1) close proximity to major infrastructure (highways and interstates), 2) protected viewsheds, 3) adequate land size, 4) topography conducive to all facets of a mega boat ramp event center, and 5) convenient access to utilities and necessary amenities. The resulting Green Pond site is 4 miles from interstate 85 and offers an invaluable viewshed from Highway 24 and creates an ever-present park view during the day or night, as well as a spectator view of the hundreds of boaters on the lake every weekend. The site is also less than 8-miles outside Anderson's city limits, a close proximity to abundant shopping venues, restaurants and 25+ hotels, making it a much sought-after tournament venue.

County staff's accepted task was to build a facility which exemplified low-impact development and stewardship; placing filter boxes to collect sediment and pollutants prior to their being washed into the lake via storm runoff. In order to assure all bases were being covered, staff consulted with Clemson University professors specializing in these methods. The resulting site addresses all these concerns with retention ponds and healthy buffer-yards around the facility to allow stormwater infiltration.

The greatest design challenge was successfully completing a fully ADA compliant site in spite of Green Pond having more than 80' of elevation change from the average pool to the highest point of the site. This feat was accomplished by a cutting-edge design team who thought ahead enough to bring on a 3rd party ADA consultant on board as a team member to ensure oversight and compliance throughout the entire project.

Neighboring communities had initial concerns over traffic and noise. The County conducted well-advertised 'town hall' meetings to address each issue with honesty and appreciation, while offering solutions. Road conditions and anticipated traffic congestion were initial concerns; however, SC DOT coordinated state and county improvements including significant roadway reconstruction of two major, high-traffic roadways took place at the tail end of the project, successfully mitigating resident's concerns.

3. What were the nature and extent of the county government's efforts to alleviate the problem(s)? How difficult was it to accomplish the project's goals and/or objectives?

Countless meetings were held to keep the lines of communication open between partners, to strengthen commitments, hone coordination, and assure follow-through from all partners. Green Pond has been a 5-year development project even before the first shovel went into the ground. The many moving parts involved, along with the incredible size and detailed planning; made the project a very complicated undertaking, requiring constant oversight, but county staff rose to the challenge.

4. Was financing the project an obstacle? Were there any unusual factors inherit in financing the project?

Financing was and will remain an obstacle. County staff pursued multiple sources of revenue, fostering each one with the intent and anticipation of another. \$2,736,000.00 (of the nearly \$3 million dollar facility) were all grant-related funds and secured during the course of 3 years. From its very inception, this project has required constant attention and coordination. We were able to use some grants / settlement dollars as matching funds for other grants.

The estimated cost for Green Pond Landing & Event Center Phase One including design is \$3.1 million.

Funds Received To Date:

\$ 260,000.00	Water Recreation Resources Fund
\$1,500,000.00	PCB Settlement
\$ 750,000.00	Sport Fish Restoration Program
\$ 100,000.00	SC National Heritage Corridor
\$ 126,000.00	Anderson County Transportation Committee
2,736,000.00	TOTAL

Anderson County is anticipating an “unconfirmed” additional appropriation from the PCB Settlement Fund. Currently we plan to hold the additional funds and use a local match within the year. Anderson County is extremely interested in any potential funding source and additional partners to collaborate on this premier lakefront facility. We are more than willing to travel and pitch the impact of the Green Pond Landing & Event Center.

5. Did any agencies, citizen groups, or other organizations assist your county with this project? Did their participation pose any particular challenges or offer any unique contributions or benefits?

Local resident, Jason Turner was instrumental in garnering support from the first group to come on board, SC Chapter of B.A.S.S, to discuss feasibility of the Green Pond Landing & Event Center Project, its components and location, etc.

Additional Organizations Offering Assistance:

- US Access Board
- Lake Hartwell Association Lake Hartwell Sail & Power Squadron
- Grady’s Great Outdoors (local outdoor outfitter and business)
- B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society)
- FLW (Forrest L. Wood)
- Clemson University Bass Anglers SC DOT
- Touch the Future
- SC National Heritage Corridor
- Visit Anderson (Anderson County Convention and Visitors Bureau)
- Anderson County Transportation Committee
- Anderson County Legislative Delegation
- Lake Hartwell Natural Resource Trustees

- **Office of the Governor of the State of South Carolina**
- **SC DNR**
- **United States Fish and Wildlife Services**
- **US ACOE**
- **SC DHEC**

All these organizations/agencies were tremendous assets towards design development, show of community support, and partners in the development as a whole. Because of all the above advocates for the facility from the beginning, the County had a windfall of support, letters of support, funding, technical assistance, guidance, and oversight from all perspectives of the target user groups, businesses, community at large, and facility impact. Each played a keystone role and the project could not have been executed as seamlessly without each stakeholder.

6. Are there any unresolved problems or other goals left to tackle?

Future phases at Green Pond include the addition of bathrooms, a terraced amphitheater, drive-thru weigh-in lane, an onsite event center, and picnic accommodations. Approximately \$5 million in future funding is required to complete these remaining phases and will pose the largest task to conquer. Originally projected costs required an increase due to an unforeseen rock vein located in the sub-surface at the most critical location of the facility. Based on the overwhelming support demonstrated toward the project, the Natural Resource Trustees responded by appropriating an additional \$600,000 to allow for rock blasting, removal, re-grading, and repaving.

There is still the matter of the rock vein where the 3 future launch lanes will be located. Rising costs of materials and construction will continue to play a factor as well. Raising the entire facility at the earliest possible time and at the most reasonable cost is vital for the future of this facility. Anderson County has consistently pursued additional funds since the award of the first phase.

Project Originality/Innovation

1. Justify the uniqueness of this project. What makes it different from other projects designed to achieve the same objective?

Green Pond Landing & Event Center is the largest and most expensive recreation project undertaken and completed in the shortest period of time WITH more than 90% of Phase One costs paid for with grant dollars. Phase One construction includes the design phase and totals \$3 million. Total grant dollars = \$2,726,000. According to the ADA Legacy Tour, "Green Pond is the most fully accessible facility of its kind in the Southeast, it meets and exceeds ADA compliance."

Green Pond Landing & Event Center, the largest recreational development with greatest economic impact in the Upstate in decades is Open and Completely Free to the public. This includes parking.

Hartwell Lake was constructed a little more than 50 years ago and this is the first real major facility capable of attracting international tournaments, events and global tourism. Before the end of 2015, Grand Opening year, the Upstate will have seen an estimated minimum of \$40 million in economic impact. Also in 2015, Green Pond Landing will have hosted two week-long, 250-boat tournaments with both tournament weigh-ins taking place at the Civic Center of Anderson County (one tournament also includes an expo at the Civic Center for spectators).

2. Do you know of any other similar programs in South Carolina? If so, how is your program different?

There are two other high capacity boat ramps on Lake Hartwell in Georgia, however, Green Pond has long been heralded as “the one to draw the attention of tournament interest”. Both the facilities were built with PCB settlement dollars; however, they lack key components found in the Green Pond design, layout, location, accommodations, details, view shed, proximity to major infrastructure, cities, and more. The two Georgia facilities primarily benefit their local community rather than support larger tourism-boosting tournaments. Most importantly, the other two facilities DO NOT meet and exceed ADA compliance to the level in which Green Pond has achieved. Green Pond is the ONLY facility of its kind in the Southeast, and on Lake Hartwell. Green Pond has the deepest launch lanes, the longest dock system and the shortest distance to interstate access and a major city.

3. What innovations were required in accomplishing your objectives?

Anderson County did not re-invent wheel, but forged the existing wheel into a perfect application; the project evolved from a strong, well-founded, and vetted approach with no pressure. Because this was an Anderson County initiative, it matured under perfect conditions. Had this been a reactionary project and or “hurry up project”, concessions would have been made and integrity compromised. Lake Hartwell is a world class fishery and deserves a world class facility.

A true innovative practice implemented was “not to settle”. No compromises are allowed or entertained on this project: if we can’t afford what the community and target audiences request, then we will build it as funds present themselves. There were no compromises; we were approached several times by contractors with “cost savings to shorten the ramp” or “cost savings to reduce the amount of launch lanes” or “cost savings to shorten the courtesy dock or install a rolling dock” or “cost savings to install a prefabricated bathroom”. These are prime examples of where Anderson County had options to cut cost however it would have been significant corners, forever limiting the potential impact of the project. Anderson County also fought tirelessly to ensure ADA compliance and made contractors rip out and replace substandard construction. (refer to Casey Ashley’s quote about this GP being BIG for Anderson County)

4. Who provided the creativity and imagination in your project?

Anderson County Parks Manager Matt Schell initiated this project after learning about the Natural Resource Trustee Funding opportunities in 2008 (The Trustees oversee ‘fishery injury’ funds for undetermined recreation improvements was laid out in the 2006 court decree.) With the gravity of the potential opportunity at-hand and aggressive attention, the likelihood of even a small award was in our grasp, and our opportunity to forego (as the other two counties did).

After months of analysis, assessments, research and GIS modeling, Matt Schell developed four recreation projects, focusing on four individual target audiences. As a result, Anderson County requested a meeting. Both Schell and the Planning Director met with representatives of the Trustees, presenting the following:

1. ADA accessible high capacity boat ramp at Green Pond Landing accommodating the wet fisherman and local boaters while attracting tournament interest.
 2. ADA Fishing Pier at Brown Rd Boat Ramp accommodating the dry fisherman and families as well as providing a walking facility which uniquely engages the lake like never before seen on Lake Hartwell.
 3. ADA accessible walking / fishing trail at Richland Creek Access which proposed to leave mainland Anderson County and bridge over to two nearby islands via pedestrian bridges. Walking tracks are very popular outlet for recreation and healthy living.
 4. ADA accessible floating kayak launch at Dolly Cooper Park on the Saluda River, a river system 40-miles east of Hartwell as an option for the “off-site fishing” consideration in the decree. This would provide the first facility of its kind in a state where no public facility of this nature and program-type previously existed.
- Green pond fit everything in the on-site fishing criteria whereas others did not. \$1.5 million was final award at the time (they are now appropriating more).

- Brown Rd fit everything in the on-site fishing and fell in-line with the US ACOE “public access/fishing pier” plan identified in the compensation plan. Our pier plan was incorporated into their funding request however we were then awarded the money to execute; providing the premier floating pier on Lake Hartwell. \$175,000 was the final award, although the final project exceeded \$300,000.
- Richland Creek Walking / Fishing Trail was highly appreciated however ranked lower in priority than the other two Hartwell projects.
- Dolly Cooper was held in high regard in the meeting however the Trustees were looking to prioritize on-site projects and advised to move forward in development with the pier and high capacity boat ramp. However, we were pulled aside and advised by SC DNR as to potential funding sources for the kayak launch because it was a model project.

The relationship and partnership building began that day between Anderson County, SC DNR and the US ACOE. Funding source research was then managed concurrently with design development. Steam built on all projects with incredibly speed and support. To date, three of the four originally proposed water-based recreation projects have been opened to the public and serving their intended target audiences with huge success. They also stand as state and regional models.

All three projects were opened in three consecutive years:

- Dolly Cooper – est. 2013 - \$180,000 (although no PCB dollars were awarded)
- Green Pond landing & Event Center – est. 2014 - \$3 million
- Brown Rd Fishing Pier – est. 2015 - \$300,000

The total recreation investment during the course of 7 years (2008 – 2015) on the three ADA compliant water-based, recreation in Anderson County was approximately \$3,206,000.00. Only \$274,000 was allocated from the Anderson County’s General Fund during the seven year period.

Every worthwhile endeavor begins with a few visionaries on a mission. Anderson County is fortunate to have leaders and staff who look beyond the obstacles and issues to see the 'what if's'. One very worthwhile endeavor, Green Pond Landing & Event Center, is a long-awaited addition to Anderson County's many outdoor and water recreation assets. For the first time in Anderson County's history, there is effective utilization of Hartwell Lake and Saluda River resources. This project has solidified Anderson County's reputation as a Destination for recreation and water enthusiasts as well as professional boaters, kayakers, and anglers of all capabilities and needs.

Green Pond Landing & Event Center - a mission accomplished.

Bassmaster Elite Series Economic Impact

- ▶ A report from the 2013 Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament in Orange, Texas showed that the event generated **\$2,172,649** in economic impact.*
- ▶ The event generated 2,027 visitors, over 9,000 hotel rooms booked and **\$820,819** in direct hotel spending.
- ▶ The survey reported \$55 per day in meals per person, \$50 per day in additional spending (tackle, supplies, other) totaling **\$1,276,830** in taxable sales.
- ▶ Estimated gas and diesel sales for autos and boats totaled **\$75,000**. (The report did not calculate the \$10,000 in impact for boat motor oil usage by anglers. Anglers spend \$100 per week on boat motor oil during tournaments).
- ▶ Over **33,000** people attended the event, which featured a laser light show, concert by country artist Neal McCoy, a fireworks show, a carnival, activation and food and beverage from local vendors.

**Prepared by Impact DataSource for the Orange County Economic Development Corporation*



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 Posted by: Delores Jackson  March 2, 2015

NOTHING FISHY ABOUT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BASSMASTER

GREENVILLE, S.C. — The [45th Bassmaster Classic](#) generated a \$23 million to \$24 million economic impact with the event's third-largest turnout ever. About 103,00 spectators attended the boat launches and fishing tournament in Anderson County and the three-day expo and daily weigh-ins in Greenville.

The event, sponsored by [B.A.S.S.](#), included the [Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo](#) at the [TD Convention Center](#) and featured 235 vendors. The winner of the fishing tourney received the \$300,000 first prize with a three-day total of 50 pounds, 1 ounce.

According to its website, B.A.S.S. is a membership organization with over half a million members. It organized bass fishermen to stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major participation sport and elevate it to a place of prominence. The Bass Anglers Sportsman Society was founded in 1968.

Image courtesy of BASS

Source: [Columbia Regional Business Report](#)