

Lake Wateree Invasive Giant Salvinia Treatment *Temporary Closure of Taylors Creek Access Area*

To prevent the spread of invasive plants, **Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy) is temporarily closing Taylors Creek Access Area on Lake Wateree. Duke Energy made this decision to support the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) while the agency conducts herbicide treatments for giant salvinia in impacted areas of the Taylors Creek cove, including the boat ramp area.** SCDES has completed 9 small treatments on Lake Wateree ranging from 0.25 to 9 acres in size in the last year and is working to eradicate giant salvinia in the lake.

Giant salvinia was first detected in Lake Wateree in October 2025 and currently presents a serious threat to the native ecological community. Giant salvinia is an invasive, rapidly-growing floating fern capable of doubling its coverage in less than a week. It forms dense mats which outgrow and replace the native plants that provide food and habitat for waterfowl and other animals. Mats can create navigation issues and disrupt fishing and recreation. The plant can also clog drinking water intakes and reduce water quality.

Giant salvinia spreads by hitchhiking on boats, trailers and other equipment. The giant salvinia growing along the Taylors Creek Access Area boat ramp is likely to spread to other areas of the lake and to other water bodies due to people entering and exiting from the ramp, which is why Duke Energy has agreed to close the ramp until the giant salvinia has been eradicated.



Left: Giant salvinia (the small floating plants) pictured mixed with cutgrass (larger, blade-shaped leaves). Photo courtesy of Duke Energy. Middle: A mature giant salvinia plant with a salvinia weevil is pictured. Photo courtesy of Santee Cooper. Right: A cove on the Santee Cooper system filled with giant salvinia. Photo courtesy of Santee Cooper.

For more information, contact SCDES's Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program

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