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First Annual Virginia Tech Invitational Bass Tournament to Be Held This Week

The Franklin County Tourism Office is pleased to announce that the first annual Virginia Tech Invitational Bass Tournament will be held this week at Smith Mountain Lake. This exciting event will bring together approximately 20 teams from colleges all over the United States, including Penn State, NC State, and Wisconsin. In all, some 40 college anglers will descend upon Smith Mountain Lake to battle the national champion Virginia Tech Hokies on their home waters. This past October, the Hokie Bass Club outlasted thirty-five other bass fishing colleges to win the Under Armour College Bass National Championship. The tournament is set for March 8th and 9th with a practice day and pre-tournament meeting on Friday, March 7th. Boats will depart from Bridgewater Marina on Saturday and Sunday at safe light (approximately 7:00 A.M) and will return to the marina by 3:00 P.M. each day for weigh-in.

Michael Burnette, Franklin County Tourism and Projects Manager, noted that "events like this are at the core of the County's tourism strategy. Not only will the community reap financial benefits from the room nights and spending of the competitors, their friends, and families, but it is also hoped that this kind of exposure will showcase the world-class fishing and outdoor recreational opportunities available at Smith Mountain Lake and throughout Franklin County." "Smith Mountain Lake is one of the greatest fisheries in Virginia and by far the most beautiful lake to be on," comments Brett Thompson, "The anglers this week are excited to visit, and we hope to have an exciting weigh-in at the end of each day."

Those interested in viewing the tournament and experiencing the excitement of each day's weigh-in can come to Bridgewater Marina at 16410 Booker T. Washington Highway in Moneta on Saturday or Sunday at the times listed above. This year's tournament is sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance, GAMMA Molecularly Altered Lines, Bridgewater Marina, Angler's Choice Bass Boat Superstore, Stratos Boats, JB Custom Rods, Gambler Lures, CB's Hawg Sauce, and Bagley. For more information about this event, please contact Mr. Brett Thompson, Virginia Tech Bass Club Treasurer, at (804) 347-0571.