



FRESHWATER CAST · MONDAY CASTGEORGIA

Hartwell: Late-Summer Pool, Stormy Midweek & Soft Stairway Traffic

Monday Sep 21 – Thursday Sep 24, 2026 · Lake Hartwell · GA–SC Savannah stair · bank, kayak & boat · Monday morning through Thursday evening focus

Storms Mon night–Wed (Tue precip ~60–73%)

Mon ~90° · Thu ~74°

KAND/KCEU baro ~30.03 in · EDT

Pool ~649.5 ft (USGS) · full ~660

Hartwell is still wearing late-summer clothes — but if you treat blueback herring like a standing reservation and Tuesday's cells like an on/off switch, the Savannah stair still fishes.

● MIDWEEK OUTLOOK

NWS Greenville-Spartanburg / Hartwell corridor (GSP grid 49,23; pulled Sun Sep 20 ~12:20 PM CT): Warm **Monday (~90°F)** mostly sunny with a slight afternoon storm chance (~18%), then **stormy midweek** — **Monday night–Tuesday** storms likely (~58–73%), **Wednesday (~76°)** chance showers (~43%), **Thursday (~74°)** partly sunny with only a slight shower chance (~16%). NE winds build midweek (~9–16 mph Wed night). Soft weekday recreational pressure on the GA–SC stair.

Barometer: KAND (Anderson) / KCEU (Clemson) latest obs ~**30.03 inHg** (baro from Pa; Sun afternoon CT pull). Clarity unconfirmed — main-lake Hartwell often clear to lightly stained late Sep; creek arms murkier after cells.

Crowd: Weekday soft. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu.** Looking ahead: sourced **Phoenix Bass Fishing League — Lake Hartwell** (Green Pond Landing, Anderson SC) **Sat Oct 3** and **GBN HS/Junior — Lake Hartwell** (Gum Branch) **Oct 11** — flag as **Heavy Traffic** for upcoming Cast cycles.

WINDOW

Mon–Thu

through Thu evening CT

WATER CLARITY / DEPTH

****Estimate:**** Main-lake Hartwell often ****clear to lightly stained**** late summer; creek arms murkier after storms. No live turbidity sensor used.

Dawn–midmorning: surface–15 ft on points, rock, pocket banks. **Midday / post-front:** brush / timber / humps often 20–40+ ft — adjust to bait on electronics.

CROWD / PRESSURE

Weekday soft. **No named trail event pulled for Mon–Thu.**

Soft recreational only. **Looking ahead:** Phoenix BFL Hartwell **Oct 3** (Green Pond) · GBN HS Hartwell **Oct 11** (Gum Branch).

MONDAY SEP 21

~90°F

Sunny then Slight Chance storms (~18%) · SSW light

Sunrise ~7:17 AM · Sunset ~7:31 PM EDT

Dawn herring/shad topwater on points before heat; shade midday

TUESDAY SEP 22

~85°F

Chance Rain Showers then storms (~60%) · ENE ~6 mph

Lightning plan — off water for cells

Post-cell points & brush; stain pockets in backs

WEDNESDAY SEP 23

~76°F

Chance Rain Showers (~43%) · NE 9–13 mph

Cooler day — fish can move shallower on edges

Breezier main lake — wind-blown banks

THURSDAY SEP 24

~74°F

Slight Chance showers then Partly Sunny (~16%) · NE ~12 mph

Cleaner sky finish for midweek plans

Soft recreational; prep for Oct trail traffic

● DAM & CURRENT / GENERATOR SCHEDULE CHEAT SHEET

USGS lake elev + USACE Savannah District context. **No fixed Mon–Thu public generator calendar** pulled Sunday — soft re-check language. Board times **EDT**.

PROJECT	OBSERVED	GENERATOR SCHEDULE	HOW TO FISH IT
Hartwell Dam / Lake USGS 02187010 · USACE Savannah	Pool ~649.53 ft (USGS Hartwell Lake near Anderson, SC Sun Sep 20 ~1:00 PM EDT). Full summer pool reference ~660 ft — late-summer drawdown. Outflow / unit schedule: Mon–Thu public generator calendar not posted at Sunday pull.	No fixed Mon–Thu public generator calendar posted. Re-check USACE Savannah water-management boards / lake info before launch. Soft language only — do not invent unit counts.	Lower pool = fish deeper brush, creek-channel swings, and bait schools — not a full-pool shallow story. When units pulse, bait rearranges near the dam / river channel. Stay out of restricted water. GA–SC license awareness if you cross.

MAIN LAKE / POINTS

Graph blueback herring & shad on long points, humps, and brush. Clear-water fluorocarbon mindset.

CREEKS / HOLLOWES

Tue–Wed storm refuge; possible stain for spinnerbaits after cells.

DAM / RESTRICTED

Respect USACE restricted zones; don't invent current when the board is quiet.

Schedules change — verify dam boards before you go.

● HOW TO FISH IT — BANK / KAYAK / BOAT

BANK

Public USACE/county parks & ramps — dawn/dusk herring topwater.

Clear-water fluorocarbon on main-lake rock.

Tue–Wed: watch sky; leave for lightning. GA or SC license as required.

KAYAK

Protected creek arms when NE winds build Wed–Thu.

PFD; skip stilling basin / restricted Hartwell Dam zone.

Soft weekday ramp ease vs Oct trail weekends.

BOAT

Graph blueback herring / shad first — long points, humps, brush.

Storm edges Tue–Wed can turn the bite on briefly.

Avoid Green Pond blast-off mindset until Oct 3 BFL — this window is quieter.

● ETHANOL-FREE FUEL NEAR THIS WATER

PURE-GAS.ORG E0 · THIS WATER

Source: [Pure-Gas.org](https://pure-gas.org) station identity · pulled **Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 12:11 PM CT**

Current prices (as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 12:20 PM CT) — may change; verify at the pump. Prefer E0/ premium matching Pure-Gas octane when known; area AAA GA statewide grades used when station-specific E0 price not found (not a confirmed E0 quote).

L&J Hardware & Variety — 2136 Reed Creek School Rd, Hartwell, GA · ~4.2 mi · 90 octane E0 — Great Pizza Too **\$4.96 Premium** (area AAA GA — not confirmed E0 grade) · 706-376-4377 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Lake Hartwell Fishing & Marine — 5365 Sc Hwy 24, Anderson, SC · ~6.1 mi · 87/89/93 octane E0 — Have both ethanol-free and with ethanol. **\$4.96 Premium** (area AAA GA — not confirmed E0 grade) · 864-287-9782 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Villager — 1901 Sc Hwy 187, Anderson, SC · ~6.3 mi · 90 octane E0 — Their E0 pump is a stand alone to the side. Easy to pull a trailer next to. Today's price for REC 90... **\$4.96 Premium** (area AAA GA — not confirmed E0 grade) · 864-261-9482 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Ingles Grocery — 4396 Hwy 24, Anderson, SC · ~6.8 mi · 87/90 octane E0 **\$4.96 Premium** (area AAA GA — not confirmed E0 grade) · 864-226-2398 [Pure-Gas](https://pure-gas.org)

Listed E0 stations as of Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 12:11 PM CT from [Pure-Gas.org](https://pure-gas.org) (crowdsourced). AAA GA statewide averages used for area grade overlay only — may change; verify at the pump. Call ahead — availability changes.

● LURE BOX — TOP / MID / BOTTOM

TOP

Walking bait / spook (chrome, bone) at dawn

Popper on shade / docks

Small buzzbait on cloudy storm edges

MID

Fluke / soft jerk (shad) over points

Small swimbait / underspin (blueback profile)

Spinnerbait if backs stain after cells

BOTTOM

Drop-shot smoke/green on brush

Finesse jig / soft craw on rock

Ned / shakey on clear banks

Stain/clear: Often clear to lightly stained — natural/smoke/green/blueback chrome; darker chartreuse if creek arms muddy after storms.

• BASS LIFE STAGE + WHAT'S ON THE MENU

Late summer → early fall transition on Savannah stair Hartwell. Spots and largemouth still relating to bait schools; cooler storm-cooled midweek can pull fish shallower on edges for brief windows.

What's on the menu (dated hatch thin — most likely for late Sep Hartwell): **blueback herring** + **threadfin/gizzard shad**; craw on rock; bluegill in pockets. Match small herring/shad profiles.

• ALSO HOT / ALSO IN SEASON

- **Spotted bass / largemouth** — primary Hartwell story; herring schools
- **Stripers / hybrids** — deeper bait where locally relevant
- **Crappie** — brush / docks deeper midday
- **Catfish** — cut bait on channels

GADNR Fishing: gadnrle.org/fishing live-check only; do not hardcode inches.

• LOOKING AHEAD

Storm-cooled water may speed early-fall feel by late week. **Heavy Traffic looking ahead:** sourced **Phoenix BFL Lake Hartwell** (Green Pond Landing) **Sat Oct 3** and **GBN HS/Junior Hartwell** (Gum Branch) **Oct 11** — avoid those ramp windows; this Mon–Thu Cast has **no named trail event**. Re-pull USGS elev / USACE Savannah boards.

Sources: NWS GSP Hartwell-area forecast Sun Sep 20 ~12:20 PM CT; KAND/KCEU METAR baro ~30.03 in; USGS 02187010 pool elev Sun ~1:00 PM EDT; USACE Savannah context; Pure-Gas.org E0 listings Sun Sep 20 · 12:11 PM CT; AAA GA statewide grades Sun Sep 20 · 12:20 PM CT; MLF Phoenix BFL Hartwell Oct 3; GON GBN HS Hartwell Oct 11. Schedules change — verify dam boards before you go.

Freshwater Cast · hartwell · Monday **Cast** Mon Sep 21 – Thu Sep 24, 2026 · drafted Sun Sep 20, 2026 ~12:20 PM CT · Pure-Gas.org E0 pull Sun Sep 20, 2026 · 12:11 PM CT

● CONDITIONS THIS WEEK

This Monday **Cast** window runs **Mon Sep 21 morning through Thu Sep 24 evening** in **ET**. Depth here

Believe the latest NWS over any lure paragraph if Tuesday–Wednesday storm chances rise. If a USACE / Georgia Power / TVA board is thin at Sunday pull, say so and re-check — do not invent unit schedules. Never invent tournaments, hatch dates, or E0 pump prices.

● PLATFORM CHECKLISTS (EXPANDED)

BANK CHECKLIST

Confirm public park/ramp hours.

First legal light on the highest-percentage edge for the primary species.

One search bait + one finesse bait.

Leave for lightning / unsafe wind / posted closures.

Note clarity and wind lanes for the next trip.

KAYAK CHECKLIST

PFD on before paddle wet.

Protected first hour if wind is already up.

Stay out of dam boils / cable zones.

Leash rod/paddle; simple re-entry plan.

Leave channels when boat traffic stacks.

BOAT CHECKLIST

Graph bait and bottom before camping.

Idle near ramps, beaches, timber; no-wake where posted.

Re-check pool/generation/ wind before long midday runs.

Second rod ready when sun climbs.

Exit ramp plan if the main lake stands up.

● FORAGE & LURE LOGIC (EXPANDED)

Match late-September forage for the primary species, then let clarity choose color. Clear: naturals / translucent baitfish. Stain: chartreuse, black, white, opaque baitfish. Wind-blown banks concentrate forage; slick midday clear water wants smaller profiles and longer pauses.

Border / shared waters stay coordinated: West Point with (not Eufaula); Seminole GA primary / FL reciprocal notes only; Clarks Hill / Hartwell / Russell Savannah stair with SC awareness. Walter F. George / Lake Eufaula remains AL-owned — never a GA product.

Regs: Live-check GADNR before keeping fish. No hardcoded inch limits.

● SOURCES & RE-CHECK LIST

- NWS Peachtree City / local grids — re-check morning of launch.
- USACE / Georgia Power / TVA pages cited in dam tables.

- Pure-Gas.org E0 identity; pump prices verify-on-site.
- GADNR fishing regs — live-check.
- Trail calendars skimmed for Heavy Traffic — none invented when none pulled.