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2013

“All of the participants had fun and learned something about the watersheds in Lumpkin County.” –Joseph Adams, World Class Learning Alliance

*“We pulled a full dumpster worth of trash from the creek and immediate watershed and increased awareness of the creek and clean water issues.”
–Dan Weede, Little Nancy Creek Watershed Watch*



TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO VOLUNTEER AS AN ORGANIZER, PARTICIPANT OR SPONSOR PLEASE VISIT:

RIVERSALIVE.ORG

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2014 GEORGIA'S RIVERS CONNECT US

GEORGIA RIVERS SERVE AS THE LIFE BLOOD OF OUR COMMUNITIES. INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE DEPEND ON CLEAN WATER. SAFE DRINKING WATER IS PUMPED INTO OUR HOMES AND OFFICES FOR OUR CONSUMPTION. WHEN WE RECREATE, IT USUALLY INVOLVES WATER: A COOL MOUNTAIN STREAM; A FAVORITE FISHING HOLE; AN EVENING PADDLE ON COASTAL WATERS.

CLEAN RIVERS ARE BUSY PLACES. MAYFLIES AND WORMS HELP DECOMPOSE LEAVES AND WOODY DEBRIS. DRAGONFLIES, FISH AND OTHER PREDATORS CONSUME THESE INSECTS, MOLLUSKS AND CRUSTACEANS, AND ARE THEMSELVES CONSUMED BY LARGER PREY: BIRDS, OTTERS AND US. WILDLIFE DEPEND ON THE RIVER FOR THEIR SURVIVAL. OUR COASTAL ESTUARIES SUPPORT SOME OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE HABITAT IN THE WORLD, SERVING AS NURSERIES FOR FISH AND SHRIMP, AND HOSTING A MYRIAD COLLECTION OF MARINE ANIMALS.

AS WE KICKOFF THE 2014 RIVERS ALIVE CAMPAIGN, WE ENCOURAGE ALL GEORGIANS TO TAKE A MOMENT TO CONSIDER WHAT CLEAN WATER MEANS TO YOU. ALL OF US CAN RETELL A SIGNIFICANT STORY IN OUR LIVES THAT INVOLVES A RIVER, LAKE OR BEACH. IN THESE SHARED EXPERIENCES WE HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT GEORGIA'S RIVERS CONNECT US.



GEORGIA'S
WATERWAY CLEANUPS



OUR MISSION

TO CREATE AWARENESS OF
AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE
PROTECTION OF GEORGIA'S
WATER RESOURCES THROUGH
WATERWAY CLEANUPS.

RIVERSALIVE.ORG
2 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE SW
SUITE 1462 E, ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-651-8514

2013
ANNUAL
REPORT

FROM THE RIVERS ALIVE CHAIR

THE SKIES OPENED UP IN 2013 AND GAVE GEORGIA ONE OF ITS WETTEST YEARS EVER. GREAT FOR PLANTS AND THE GROWING SEASON BUT IT DID HAMPER MANY OF YOUR RIVERS ALIVE CLEANUPS. HOWEVER, BETWEEN THE RAIN DROPS OUR ORGANIZERS DID PREVAIL AND HELD OVER 281 EVENTS LOGGING IN OVER 124,545 HOURS FROM 27,679 VOLUNTEERS.

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO SEE HOW FAR WE'VE COME UNTIL YOU COMPARE THESE NUMBERS WITH OUR FIRST RECORDED RIVERS ALIVE YEAR OF 1999 WHERE YOU HELD 61 EVENTS AND HAD 6,534 VOLUNTEERS THAT GAVE 23,568 HOURS CLEANING UP THEIR FAVORITE WATERWAYS. WHAT A GREAT SERVICE EVERYONE HAS GIVEN TO OUR STATE AND ITS WATERS OVER THE LAST DECADE PLUS!

TO HEAR THAT VOLUNTEERS ARE WORKING HARDER AND FINDING SMALLER AMOUNTS OF TRASH ALONG OUR WATERWAYS BRINGS A SMILE TO MY FACE BECAUSE THAT MEANS ITS WORKING....THE PUBLIC IS HEARING THE MESSAGE. DON'T LITTER! TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR TRASH AND KEEP IT OUT OF OUR STREAMS AND RIVERS!

THE RIVERS ALIVE BOARD IS ALREADY HARD AT WORK RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT YOUR 2014 EFFORTS AND HELPING TO PROMOTE THE MISSION, AND AS ALWAYS WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING A PART OF YOUR CLEANUPS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO SERVE SO WORTHY A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION.

SINCERELY,



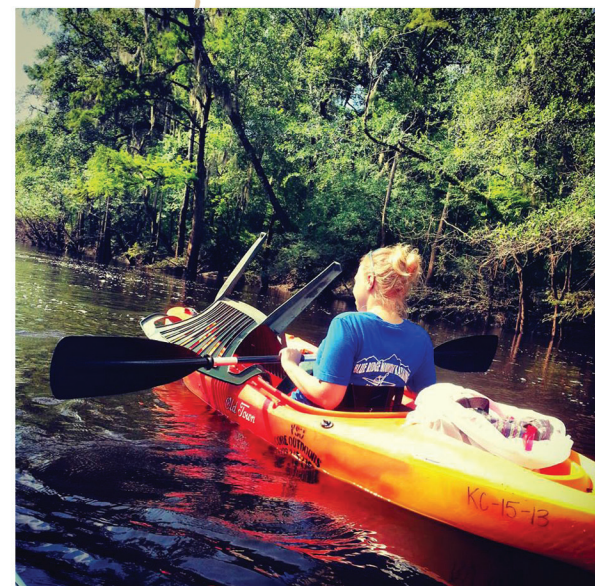
LYNN COBB



"Students were surprised to learn that a gum wrapper dropped here could make its way into the ocean. The cleanup has Big Shanty thinking globally about the impact of the environmental choices they make."

-Donna Sausville,

Big Shanty Elementary School



IN THE SPOTLIGHT
KEEP WARNER ROBINS BEAUTIFUL

IN 2013, KEEP WARNER ROBINS BEAUTIFUL HOSTED ITS 4TH ANNUAL RIVERS ALIVE CLEANUP. PARTNERING WITH CITY OF WARNER ROBINS, HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE, AND CHICK-FIL-A, THE 77 VOLUNTEERS WADED INTO STREAMS AND WALKED THE BANKS TO REMOVE OVER 8,500 POUNDS OF TRASH! AS IN YEARS PAST, CAR PARTS TOPPED THEIR LIST OF MOST ITEMS COLLECTED. CLEANUP TEAMS OF MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE LED BY LOCAL MASTER GARDENERS AND MASTER NATURALISTS TO INCORPORATE AN EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT BY POINTING OUT NATIVE VERSUS INVASIVE TREES AND CULTIVATING DISCUSSION ABOUT THEIR EFFECTS ON THE ECOSYSTEM. DEBRA JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KWRB, RECOMMENDS ANYONE WHO WANTS TO ORGANIZE A CLEANUP OF THEIR OWN TO GET IN CONTACT WITH CLEANUP ORGANIZERS IN THEIR AREA THAT HAVE HELD SUCCESSFUL RIVERS ALIVE EVENTS IN PAST YEARS AND LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE!



16,899 WRAPPERS



10,197 GLASS BOTTLES

2675 STRAWS

117 LIGHT BULBS

1124 BALLOONS

7087 PLASTIC BAGS

48 PALLETS

2402 PAPER BAGS

3258 TIRES



39,534 CIGARETTES



RIVERS ALIVE COMMITTEES

EDUCATION & MESSAGING

THE THEME FOR 2013 WAS “MAKING THE WATERSHED CONNECTION TO COASTAL WATERS” CREATING AWARENESS THAT TRASH ENTERING OUR WATERWAYS ULTIMATELY MAKES ITS WAY TO THE COAST, UNLESS IT IS INTERCEPTED EN ROUTE.

RESOURCES WE MADE AVAILABLE:

- RIVERS ALIVE EDUCATION POSTERS PROMOTING REDUCING, REUSING AND RECYCLING, AND AN ACTIVITY ON THE BACK
- RIVERS ALIVE BOOKMARKS FEATURING RIVER OF WORDS ART AND POETRY FROM GEORGIA STUDENTS
- RIVERSALIVE.ORG OFFERED A CLEANUP GUIDE AND OTHER RESOURCES, LIKE SAFETY INFORMATION AND WAIVER FORMS
- QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTERS TO KEEP CLEANUP ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS UP-TO-DATE ON NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

EVENT COORDINATION & OUTREACH

A HOW-TO GUIDE WAS CREATED TO AID IN ORGANIZING PADDLE CLEANUPS. THE AWARDS CEREMONY CONTINUES TO HELP CELEBRATE THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF GEORGIA’S CLEANUP ORGANIZERS. RIVERS ALIVE JOINED IN ORGANIZED PADDLE TRIPS AROUND THE STATE PROMOTING RIVERS ALIVE CLEANUPS AND SPREADING THE AWARENESS AMONG OTHER CITIZENS ABOUT HOW EVERY DAY TRASH AFFECTS OUR RIVERS.

FUNDRAISING

100% OF STATE LEVEL DONATIONS WERE DISTRIBUTED OUT TO SUPPORT ALL OF OUR CLEANUP GROUPS. GROUPS ALSO RELY ON LOCAL SPONSORS TO PROVIDE TRASH BAGS, GLOVES, INSECT REPELLENT AND FIRST AID KITS. SOME GET CONTRIBUTIONS OF REFRESHMENTS AND FOOD. MANY FIND ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO PURCHASE EXTRA RA T-SHIRTS FOR THEIR CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS.

T-SHIRTS

ONCE AGAIN, OUR MOST COVETED “THANK YOU” TO OUR VOLUNTEERS COMES IN THE FORM OF OUR RIVERS ALIVE T-SHIRT: SOME VOLUNTEERS HAVE COLLECTED ALL 15 SHIRTS EVER PRODUCED!

2013 STATISTICS

