

## *Thank You, 2016 Sponsors!*

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY  
OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION  
GOLDER ASSOCIATES  
SOUTHWIRE COMPANY  
BROWN AND CALDWELL

### *With Additional Support From:*

ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
ANHEUSER-BUSCH  
BLACK & VEATCH  
BURNS & MCDONNELL  
ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS FOUNDATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SPECIALISTS  
GE POWER SYSTEMS  
GEORGIA ASSOC. OF WATER PROFESSIONALS  
JONES DAY  
MEAG POWER  
PREMIER INDUSTRIAL SERVICES GROUP LLC  
SHAW INDUSTRIES  
STORM WATER SYSTEMS  
SUTHERLAND LLP  
TRINITY CONSULTANTS

### *Our Board of Directors Represent*

ALSTON & BIRD  
ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
AUGUSTA UTILITIES  
BROWN AND CALDWELL  
CHATAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER  
COBB COUNTY WATER SYSTEM  
ERM  
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY  
GEORGIA RIVER NETWORK

GEORGIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
JONES DAY  
KEEP ATLANTA BEAUTIFUL,  
KEEP FORSYTH COUNTY BEAUTIFUL  
KEEP GEORGIA BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION  
KEEP LIBERTY COUNTY BEAUTIFUL  
OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION  
PERDUE FARMS, INC.  
SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER



# *Rivers Alive*

## WATERSHED MOMENTS



*You make a Difference!*

# 2016



This was our most successful clean-up. Students were not afraid to go into the brush to pick up trash. They had a ball and are ready to do it again! Students came back with bags full of trash/debris. They hiked through an area not cleaned before in past clean-ups. They were so proud and felt they had made a difference in their community. -Tamera Neal, Tritt Elementary

We have been so successful in past cleanup years that we actually had to retire 3 previous trash collection sites this year because there wasn't enough trash at them!

-Amanda Kanack, Hiawassee River Watershed Coalition



THE PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION AND WAS FINANCED IN PART THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 319(H) OF THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT, AS AMENDED. APRIL 2017.



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

**[RiversAlive.Georgia.gov](http://RiversAlive.Georgia.gov)**

GEORGIA EPD, 2 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE, STE. 1462 E  
ATLANTA, GA 30334 404-651-8514

**In 2017 . . .**

## **LOVE YOUR GEORGIA RIVER!**

OVER THE NEXT YEAR, RIVERS ALIVE PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHOW THEIR LOCAL WATERWAYS SOME LOVE BY PARTICIPATING AND ORGANIZING CLEANUPS. ALSO, SINCE 2018 MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF RIVERS ALIVE, WE WILL BE ISSUING A 12-MONTH CALENDAR, GIVEN OUT DURING THAT HALLMARK YEAR, TO RIVERS ALIVE ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS. THE CALENDAR WILL FEATURE GEORGIA'S FAVORITE WATERSHED MOMENTS, AND WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!

NOW THROUGH JULY 14TH, WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT PHOTOS OF YOUR FAVORITE GEORGIA WATERS MEMORIES AS PART OF AN UPCOMING PHOTO CONTEST, WITH THE WINNING ENTRIES FEATURED IN THE 2018 RIVERS ALIVE CALENDAR!

PARTICIPANTS MAY SUBMIT UP TO FOUR (4) PHOTOS INTO THE CONTEST. THESE PHOTOS MAY BE MULTI-SEASONAL, WITH A MINIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENT OF 3 MB. WE ALSO ASK THAT EACH ENTRY INCLUDE A SMALL CAPTION/TESTIMONIAL (UP TO 3 SENTENCES) EXPLAINING YOUR PHOTO AND WHAT YOUR CHOSEN GA WATERWAY(S) MEANS TO YOU!



## **2016 Annual Report**

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



## From the Chair of the Rivers Alive Board

WATERSHED MOMENTS ARE POINTS IN TIME THAT MARK IMPORTANT MILESTONES OR EVENTS. THEY CAN RANGE FROM NATIONAL SUCCESSES LIKE THE PASSAGE OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THIS COMING OCTOBER TO LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS LIKE THE REMOVAL OF 10 MILLION POUNDS OF GARBAGE FROM GEORGIA'S WATERWAYS BY RIVERS ALIVE VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN 1999 AND 2016. THE RIVERS ALIVE BOARD IS THRILLED WITH THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT WE COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR WITHOUT ALL OF THE ORGANIZERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SPONSORS WHO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS IN EVERY WATERSHED IN THE STATE AND THE STAFF OF THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OUTREACH PROGRAM WHO MAKE OUR STATEWIDE PROGRAM POSSIBLE. LET'S KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK OUT-GOING BOARD CHAIR DOUG FULLE FOR ALL OF HIS HARD WORK OVER THE LAST DECADE ON THE RIVERS ALIVE BOARD. HE HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL TO MANY OF THE BOARD'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING HIS TIME OF SERVICE AND A REAL PLEASURE TO WORK WITH. I HAVE BIG SHOES TO FILL!

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD, WE HOPE YOUR INDIVIDUAL CLEANUPS CREATED WATERSHED MOMENTS FOR EACH OF YOU AND KNOW THAT YOUR EFFORTS WILL ALLOW OTHERS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY THEIR OWN GEORGIA WATERSHED MOMENTS BECAUSE OF ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK AND ENERGY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU AT RIVER CLEANUPS IN 2017!

*Jonathan E. Wells*

RIVERS ALIVE CHAIR



Our event was a great success! Rivers Alive has become the event that easily brings out the most volunteers in our county.

-Kenny Sargent, Keep Walton Beautiful





*The Spotlight is on Ford Elementary: Bringing the Classroom Outside*



MORE THAN A DOZEN RIVERS ALIVE CLEAN UPS EACH YEAR ARE ORGANIZED BY K-12 TEACHERS AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR THEIR CLASSROOMS. STUDENTS AS YOUNG AS 3RD OR 4TH GRADE ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN CLEAN UP EVENTS WHICH RESULT IN LASTING, POSITIVE CHANGES IN STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT. AT GEORGIA STEM CERTIFIED FORD ELEMENTARY IN ACWORTH, BRAMLETT MICKLOW CHALLENGED HER 4TH GRADE STUDENTS TO FIND A WAY TO RESCUE AND PROTECT HABITAT AND WILDLIFE AROUND THEIR SCHOOL. THE CLASS CHOSE TO FOCUS ON THE STREAM THAT RUNS THROUGH A NATURE TRAIL ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, IN HOPES THAT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE STREAM WILL PROTECT VALUABLE HABITAT FOR AQUATIC ORGANISMS AND INCREASE THE EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL OF THE NATURE TRAIL FOR OTHER CLASSES. MS. MICKLOW REPORTED THAT THE 28 STUDENTS IN THE CLASS HAD AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE DURING THE CLEANUP AS THEY REALIZED HOW MUCH TRASH ENDS UP IN GEORGIA'S WATERWAYS; SOME STUDENTS EVEN BECAME FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY THAT PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY COULD BE SO CARELESS WITH THEIR GARBAGE. FURTHERMORE, MS. MICKLOW'S STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THEIR CLEANUP RESULTS THROUGH NEWS REPORTS AT THE SCHOOL, WHICH HAS INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE POTENTIAL FOR TRASH IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS TO MAKE ITS WAY INTO THEIR STREAM.

*Great job!*

ACCORDING TO MS. MICKLOW, "THE STUDENTS WERE VERY FOCUSED ON THE CLEAN UP AND DETERMINED TO COLLECT EVERY SINGLE PIECE OF TRASH...IT ALSO JUMP STARTED MANY GOOD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BEING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS AND HOW EVEN A 4TH GRADER CAN HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT."

*Look what we found!*

34,231 CIGARETTES

14,630 PLASTIC BOTTLES

11,825 ALUMINUM CANS

7,970 GLASS BOTTLES

5,541 FT. FISHING LINE

2,813 STRAWS

2,688 BLEACH BOTTLES

1,297 TIRES

1,233 CIGARS

688 6-PACK RINGS

406 BALLOONS

And . . .

- |                     |                    |                        |               |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| a Mexican passport  | a dirt bike        | sofa seats             | traffic cones |
| chest x-rays        | turtle sandbox     | Kia car grill          | refrigerator  |
| boat                | wooden wagon wheel | flat screen TV         | golf clubs    |
| tractor tire        | chinese lantern    | 1996 Olympic beer cans |               |
| homemade scuba gear | styrofoam          | clothing               | rope          |
|                     |                    |                        | bait          |



## Rivers Alive Committee Reports

### EDUCATION & MESSAGING

FOCUSING ON WATERSHED MOMENTS IN GEORGIA, THE THEME FOR 2016 HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED TO BOTH REFLECT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WATERSHED AND EXPRESS APPRECIATION OF THEM THROUGH CLEANUPS. BY TAKING THE TIME TO APPRECIATE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF OUR WATERSHEDS AND REFLECTING ON OUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH THEM, WE ARE BETTER ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THEIR VITAL IMPORTANCE AND TAKE ACTION TO HELP SAFEGUARD THEM BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THIS EFFORT.

#### RESOURCES WE MADE AVAILABLE:

- RIVERS ALIVE EDUCATION POSTER INCLUDED A CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ON THE BACK, WATERSHED IN YOUR HAND, TO INCREASE STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF HOW OUR NATURAL WATERSHEDS ARE IMPACTED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT
- RIVERS ALIVE BOOKMARKS FEATURING RIVER OF WORDS ART AND POETRY FROM GEORGIA STUDENTS
- QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTERS TO KEEP CLEANUP ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS UP-TO-DATE ON NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### EVENT COORDINATION & OUTREACH

THIS YEAR WE PROVIDED OUR LOCAL ORGANIZERS WITH RESOURCES, LIKE TRASH BAGS AND A LAND AND PADDLE GUIDE, AS WELL AS SAFETY INFORMATION AND WAIVER FORMS. THE AWARDS CEREMONY CONTINUES TO HELP CELEBRATE THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF GEORGIA'S CLEANUP ORGANIZERS. RIVERS ALIVE VOLUNTEERS JOINED ORGANIZED PADDLE TRIPS AROUND THE STATE PROMOTING CLEANUPS AND SPREADING AWARENESS AMONG OTHER CITIZENS ABOUT HOW EVERY DAY TRASH AFFECTS OUR RIVERS.

### FUNDRAISING

100% OF STATE LEVEL DONATIONS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO SUPPORT 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 RIVERS ALIVE 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 18 SHIRTS EVER PRODUCED!

## 2005-2016 Statistics

