

# **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

**Environmental Protection Division • Watershed Protection Branch**

**4220 International Parkway • Suite 101 • Atlanta • Georgia 30354**

Reply To:

NonPoint Source Program

(404) 675-6240; Fax: (404) 675-6245

(404) 675-6232; Fax (404) 675-6247

Judson H. Turner, Director

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: [STATEWIDE CONTACT]  
[ORGANIZATION]  
[PHONE]**

## **Rivers Alive Cleanups Target Local Waterways**

### **[AREA] VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN [AREA] WATERWAYS IN ANNUAL RIVER CLEANUP**

[AREA], August 20, 2013-[AREA] area residents will wade into [AREA] rivers, lakes and coastal waters as part of the continuing statewide campaign to clean and preserve over 70,000 miles of Georgia's rivers and streams. The effort will be part of Rivers Alive, a program of the Environmental Protection Division Outreach Programs.

The annual Georgia Waterway Cleanup is expected to once again be the largest single volunteer effort to beautify Georgia's water resources.

Volunteers in [AREA] will stage their cleanup at [TIME] on [DATE] at the [EXACT LOCATION]. They will be joining an estimated 30,000 other volunteers statewide participating in the annual river cleanup. This fall over 200 cleanups will collect trash and similar debris in streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and the ocean from the Conasauga River in North Georgia to the St. Marys River in the South.

"[LOCAL ORGANIZER QUOTE]", said [ORGANIZER, TITLE/LOCAL ORGANIZATION]. In addition to [LOCAL ORGANIZATION], [FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL ORGANIZATION], the cleanup in [AREA] will be sponsored by [LOCAL SPONSOR] and [LOCAL SPONSOR].

During the 2012 river cleanup 29,300 volunteers cleaned over 2,100 miles of waterways and removed over 360 tons of trash and garbage including tires, plastic bottles, shopping carts and refrigerators from Georgia's waterways, according to Harold Harbert, Outreach Manager with the Environmental Protection Division. Harbert expects Rivers Alive 2013 to involve thousands more volunteers and to continue to be the State's and one of the South's largest volunteer efforts to beautify water resources.

Supporters of the statewide campaign include: Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and Project WET, programs of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division, Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation and Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Dozens of other local organizations will be sponsoring individual cleanups around the state.

Statewide sponsors provide generous financial support and assist with local cleanups including: Georgia Power Foundation, Coca-Cola Company, Oglethorpe Power, TRC, Perdue Foundation, NewFields, Sutherland, Golder Associates and McKenna Long & Aldridge.

To volunteer for the [AREA] cleanup, contact [LOCAL ORGANIZER] at [PHONE AND/OR WEBSITE]. For more information about efforts in other areas or the statewide campaign, call (404) 675-6240 or go to [www.riversalive.org](http://www.riversalive.org).

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