

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Watershed Protection Branch

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RIVERS ALIVE CLEANUPS TARGET GEORGIA WATERWAYS

ATLANTA, GA, August 20, 2013 – Rivers Alive volunteers throughout Georgia are preparing to spend their fall weekends cleaning up the state's more than 70,150 miles of waterways, as the annual campaign to clear trash from our rivers, lakes and coastal waters gets underway. The cleanup is expected to once again be the largest single volunteer effort to beautify Georgia's water resources.

The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources. Rivers Alive, a program of the Environmental Protection Division Outreach Programs, was created in 1999 to organize the numerous cleanup events held throughout the state.

"Rivers Alive is an exceptional volunteer effort that connects motivated citizens with government and private companies to make a measureable impact on improving the waterways around our state," said Jud Turner, Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). "We thank all the volunteers for their efforts to protect and clean Georgia streams, lakes and coastal waters."

Volunteers and sponsors removed 360 tons of trash from rivers and streams last year alone. More than 300 groups composed of 29,300 volunteers devoted about 109,000 hours of their time.

Over the past 10 years, Rivers Alive has also worked to educate people on the importance of protecting local water resources. This year, Rivers Alive will focus on its mission of preserving our water resource by making the connection to our coastal waters. Trash on the land that enters our waterways ultimately makes its way to the coast, unless that trash is intercepted and removed en route. Materials and activities for volunteers, organizers, community leaders and schoolteachers can be found on the Rivers Alive website at www.RiversAlive.org.

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.

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