



2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW, Suite 1462 East, Atlanta, GA 30334

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2016

Volunteers Awarded For Cleaning Streams

Volunteers and stream cleanup organizers from across the state met in Atlanta to celebrate the accomplishments of the state's largest volunteer cleanup program, Rivers Alive. The Rivers Alive awards honor the efforts of individuals and groups who are working to improve Georgia's waterways, one trash bag at a time. Volunteers waded into rivers, lakes and coastal waters each year as part of the continuing statewide campaign to clean and preserve more than 70,000 miles of Georgia waterways.

The Rivers Alive awards ceremony recognizes groups of volunteers, as well as individuals and businesses for leadership. The ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta, GA.

During the 2015 Cleanup, 25,290 volunteers cleaned more than 2,542 miles of waterways and removed over 549,000 pounds of trash and recyclables, including car parts, cigarettes, toilets, vacuum cleaners, TVs, sinks, fishing line, tires, and plastic bottles. Rivers Alive is a program of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division. "Rivers Alive volunteers, organizers, and community partners are positively impacting our waterways through their collaborative diligence. By participating in cleanup events, citizens, government agencies, and private entities throughout Georgia are assuming collective responsibility for the long term care of our water resources," said EPD Director Jud Turner.

The 2015 awards and their winners are as follows:

Organizer of the Year – Sarah Ann Swida

Adopt-A-Stream – City of Griffin Stormwater

Georgia School – Pope High School

4-H – Oconee County 4-H

Scout – Lake Dow Estates Community

Georgia Club – The League of Protectors

Government Partner – Little River Cleanup

Spark of Energy – GP Plant Hammond

Keep Georgia Beautiful – Keep Dublin-Laurens County Beautiful

Nonprofit Organization – Hiawasse River Watershed Coalition

Coastal Cleanup – Keep Golden Isles Beautiful

Confluence – Satilla Riverkeeper

The 2015 Rivers Alive Sponsors Include: Georgia Power Company, Coca Cola Company, Oglethorpe Power, Perdue Farms Inc., Golder Associates, Georgia Association of Water Professionals, Southwire Company, EPS, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Jones Day, Storm Water Systems, Alston & Bird LLP, NewFields, Dalton Utilities, Black & Veatch, Sutherland LLP, GE Power & Water, Shaw Industries, MEAG Power, Burns and McDonnell Foundation, Premier Industrial Services, and Trinity Consultants. The generous funding provided by these sponsors allowed Rivers Alive to produce and distribute t-shirts and banners to the volunteers, as well as cleanup materials like trash bags and data collection forms to the event organizers.

EPD CONTACT: Harold Harbert, Outreach Unit, 404-651-8514

About Rivers Alive

Rivers Alive targets cleanups across all waterways in the State of Georgia including rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's



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water resources. To volunteer or participate in a local cleanup effort or to obtain more information about the statewide campaign, call 404-651-8514 or go to www.riversalive.org.