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“Second Saturday in September on the Satilla”

Satilla Riverkeeper and Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Announce the First Annual Rivers Alive—Satilla Cleanup

Waynesville, GA -- Satilla Riverkeeper, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) along with key community volunteers have organized and will conduct a Rivers Alive - Satilla River cleanup in several locations Saturday, September 8, from 8 a.m. to noon, the *“Second Saturday in September, on the Satilla”*.

Rep. Mark Williams, (R-178) of Jesup, is the Honorary Executive Chair for this year’s cleanup. “I want to help increase public awareness about our responsibilities for the environment, especially to the Satilla River basin, during this cleanup,” said Rep. Williams. “The river and its watershed are crucial to our economy and quality of life and we all need to help restore them, and keep them clean and beautiful for present and future generations.”

The cleanup will be headquartered under the bridge where U.S. 82 crosses the Satilla near Atkinson. Volunteers and organizers will gather at 8 am for welcome and instructions. Volunteers will be asked to focus on several close key locations to maximize efforts. Specific instructions on how to find the site or to answer general questions can be obtained from the contacts listed below.

A cookout luncheon for volunteers and sponsors will take place about 12:30 p.m. at the bridge site in Atkinson (US 82), and prizes will be awarded in several fun and unique categories to help highlight the trash plight in local waterways. Satilla Grocery and Satilla Dollar of Atkinson, Hendrix Plumbing and Repair of Hickox, and Waycross Coca Cola are local sponsors of the cleanup and cookout.

“Unfortunately, because of many factors, including public awareness and actions of folks neglectfully depositing trash and hazardous items in the water and watershed, the Satilla basin is in stress,” according to Gordon Rogers, executive director of Satilla Riverkeepers. “The river and its tributaries, from upstream to the ocean, belong to all of us, they are not only important to the economy but are woven into the very culture of Southeast Georgia, and they need diligent care through efforts like this cleanup.”

“This is exciting both for Mark and the Satilla Riverkeeper organization because he is a great lover and supporter of our swamps, creeks, and rivers, enjoying many hours with his friends and family on this majestic watershed,” said Rogers.

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“Mark understands the water issues in southeast Georgia and told me that he is very excited to lend his good name to this important effort. We are honored to have him aboard, and look forward to working with him on that “*Second Saturday in September*”, and beyond.”

“This is a superb opportunity to help improve the Satilla River watershed, which ultimately passes through Camden County,” said Neil Guillebeau, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay community relations manager. “Base commands and volunteers who support efforts like the river cleanup help meet the Chief of Naval Operation’s Navy Community Service Program goals in the Environmental Stewardship category and we look forward to fulfilling this goal.”

Cleanup volunteers, sponsors, equipment, supplies, and boaters, including people with kayaks, canoes, jon boats, or fishing boats, are needed, according to Rogers. Volunteers are respectfully requested to not bring four-wheelers or other ATVs.

A final planning meeting is slated Tuesday, August 28th, 2007, 10 a.m., in Waynesville. For more information about the planning meeting or the event, contact Gordon Rogers or Lisa Stopchuck at 912-778-3126, 866-472-8452 (toll free), 912-778-4593 (fax), 912-223-6761 (cell, Rogers), or riverkeeper@satillariverkeeper.org.

For more information about the Satilla Riverkeeper’s effort to restore and protect the Satilla, and to educate her citizens on how to join in the effort, visit www.satillariverkeeper.org. For more information on the activities and services of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, visit www.gadnr.org. For More information on the statewide activities of the Rivers Alive effort, go to www.riversalive.org.

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