



Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

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## **Hundreds of Paddlers and River Enthusiasts to Participate in 6th Annual *Back to the Chattahoochee Race & Festival* on June 14**

May 23, 2008 – Atlanta, GA — Paddlers of all ages and skill levels will take to the water on **Saturday, June 14, for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival**. The race course begins at Garrard Landing Park on Holcomb Bridge Road and ends at Riverside Park in Roswell, the site of the festival, music and the awards presentation. Organized and presented by **Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR)** in partnership with the National Park Service, Fulton County, and the city of Roswell, the event is designed to celebrate the Chattahoochee and foster a sense of community around the river that serves 3.5 million Georgians and 70% of metro Atlantans.

**The race begins at 9 a.m.** and includes open and recreational categories, various age divisions, solo and tandem canoe divisions, as well as kayak and sea kayak divisions. Paddlers wanting a competitive race or competing for points in the **Georgia Flatwater Canoe/Kayak Series** will traverse the ten-mile course, while recreational paddlers will take the eight-mile course. Both include exciting Class I-II rapids and conclude at Riverside Park.

The **Festival at Riverside Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, is free and family-friendly. Racers and others will enjoy live music from **Gareth Asher** and **the Vagabonds**, face painting, strolling musicians and other family-friendly activities, vendors and an array of environmental exhibits. The merchants of the **Riverside Farmers Market** will also be joining in the festivities, showcasing locally grown produce, cheeses and eggs, as well as a wide variety of other locally made agricultural products.

**Awards** will be presented in all categories at the conclusion of the race, which includes a corporate challenge for the company or school with the most entries to cross the finish line. Race fans can cheer on their favorite craft from several locations: Island Ford, Don White Park and the take out. As a special treat, racers will be greeted at the end of their paddle by **the SweetWater Beer Barge** (UCR's own pontoon boat) – back by popular demand from 2007. Paddlers can enjoy sodas, water, or a SweetWater brew (for patrons 21 and over carrying a valid ID) before going ashore.

The entry fee is \$35 for solo boats and \$50 for tandem boats. Advance registration is available through June 11 (go to [www.chattahoochee.org/community5.htm](http://www.chattahoochee.org/community5.htm)). Onsite registration will be available based on capacity. All registered paddlers will receive a gift bag, a race T-shirt, a boxed lunch, and a complimentary membership in UCR. Proceeds go to support UCR's mission to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River system for the people, fish and wildlife that depend upon it.

**The Presenting Sponsor for the event is Rock100.5 Atlanta's Rock Station**; other sponsors include *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Chevron, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. The Coca-Cola Company, the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management, R!OT Atlanta, Harry's Farmers Market, SweetWater Brewing Co., SignUp4, Georgia Transmission Corp., Tom's of Maine, Lipton, Keystone Press, Inc., Brown & Caldwell, Smith's Olde Bar, and Coca-Cola Enterprises.

For more information and to register, please go to [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org) or contact Tammy Morrissey at [tmorrissey@ucriverkeeper.org](mailto:tmorrissey@ucriverkeeper.org) or (404) 352-9828 ext. 12.