



UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE
RIVERKEEPER[®]

Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UCR, Trout Unlimited and Partners Rally Volunteers to ‘Sweep the Hooch’ in Unprecedented Cleanup on Saturday, April 16

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ATLANTA – Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Trout Unlimited and the National Park Service have partnered to organize the first-ever Sweep the Hooch on April 16, a multi-site cleanup within the 48 miles of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Cleanups are a great way to develop a sense of “river community.” Supporters and stewards of the river get a chance to meet one another, share their experiences and help make a difference in this national treasure. The cleanup will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The volunteer list already is full and no more are being accepted.

“Never before have we attempted to accomplish 18 cleanups all on one day – and the response from our volunteers has been amazing,” said UCR Outreach and Events Director Tammy Bates. “Between the National Park service, the Georgia Chapters of Trout Unlimited, and our very own UCR volunteers – everyone has stepped up to help on this huge spring cleaning! And our river will benefit greatly from this day of service.”

Volunteers will fill three different roles in the cleanup: **Walkers** are land-based volunteers who will pick up trash and perform trail maintenance. **Waders** are volunteers equipped with waders or wading boots. These volunteers will collect trash from the shallow water areas, and from areas on the river bank that are accessed most easily from the river and streamside trails. **Paddlers** will be using kayaks and canoes and traveling between 5-7 miles per segment. (Kayaks/canoes are useful in collecting debris from portions of the river that will not be accessed from the land side.)

Thanks to event sponsors who made contributions to support all 18 cleanup sites: **REI** (first aid kits) and **ReMix Recycling** and **GreenPlate.org** (trash recycling). We also appreciate the support of our site sponsors whose contributions made it possible to purchase necessary equipment: **REI** (Island Ford Unit), **RBC Bank** (Johnson Ferry Unit), **Carter Development** (Powers Island Unit), **Columbia Management** (Whitewater Creek Unit) and **UBS Financial Services, Inc.** (Jones Bridge Unit).

UCR’s mission is to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and tributaries for the people, fish and wildlife that depend upon it. The Chattahoochee is the most heavily used water resource in Georgia.

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