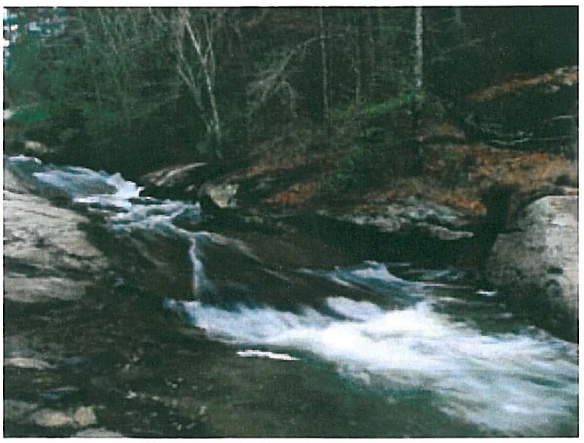


Upstate Forever is planning a community-wide river clean-up on the Little Eastatoee Creek in Pickens County Saturday and volunteers are needed for the project." />

Your Pickens County

Volunteers needed for cleanup project at Little Eastatoee Creek



Upstate Forever is planning a community-wide river clean-up on the Little Eastatoee Creek in Pickens County Saturday and volunteers are needed for the project.

The purpose of the cleanup, a part of the 2009 American Rivers Cleanup Campaign, is to help homeowners in the region become aware of and invested in their local water quality, said Laura L. Garrett, Upstate Forever's Mountain Streams and Rural Waters Project Associate.

Little Eastatoee Creek is located in the Poe Creek State Forest in northern Pickens County, just off SC Scenic Highway 11.

While the Saluda and Reedy rivers have occupied the spotlight recently due to cleanup efforts, the Upstate has an extensive network of streams used for trout fishing, recreation, and drinking water that deserves just as much attention, Garrett said.

This year, the nonprofit organization American Rivers has expanded its National River Cleanup Week program to a year-long event to encourage on-going local cleanups.

The Little Eastatoee Creek runs parallel to Hwy 11 and feeds into the upper portion of Lake Keowee. Several rocks have been spray-painted with graffiti and trash has accumulated along the banks and the cleanup is designed to restore the Little Eastatoee to its original beauty.

Barrett said volunteers are needed for Saturday's cleanup. Those wanting to volunteer should meet at 10 a.m. at Long Shoals Wayside Park (Directions: From Pickens, take US 178 north toward Rosman, NC. Turn left onto SC 11 (toward Walhalla) where US 178

Calendar

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intersects SC 11. Long Shoals Wayside Park is a few miles east of Keowee-Toxaway State Park on SC 11. It is between Keowee-Toxaway and Table Rock State Parks on SC 11.)

Trash bags and refreshments will be provided, but volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves, a water bottle, and a camera to document the "before and after"! They should wear comfortable clothes, sturdy shoes, and sunscreen.
For more information at the Little Eastatoe Creek cleanup email lgarrett@upstateforever.org

The Little Eastatoee Creek cleanup is part of a national campaign sponsored by American Rivers, the nation's most successful river conservation organization.

Since 1992, hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the country have participated to clean up thousands of tons of trash on America's rivers and streams.

Last year American Rivers sponsored the most successful National River Cleanup yet with more than 300,000 volunteers removing more than 2,400 tons of trash from our rivers. This year, through a revamped web site, new sponsorships and increased local outreach, American Rivers plans to make the 2009 National River Cleanups the most successful to date.

"People of all ages can volunteer for a cleanup for an hour or a day to help clean the river they live on or care about," said Rebecca Wodder, president of American Rivers. "At a time when more and more Americans are looking for opportunities to volunteer and serve their communities, this is a great way to make an impact," continued Wodder.

Founded in 1973, American Rivers has more than 65,000 members and supporters nationwide, with offices in Washington, DC and the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, California and Northwest regions.

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