

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Mike Dobbs, Troup County Manager  
PHONE: (706) 883-1610**

## **Commissioners do their part to bash trash in Troup County**

(April 15, 2010) Troup County commissioners rolled up their sleeves and pulled on the gloves Thursday afternoon as they got a jumpstart on Saturday's Great American Cleanup in LaGrange.

For the third year in a row, the commissioners are issuing a Trash Bash Challenge, urging other local governments, businesses, church groups and organizations of all kinds to clean up Troup County by taking part in the Great American Cleanup.

Sponsored annually by Keep Troup Beautiful, the Cleanup begins at 9 a.m. Saturday in LaGrange and Hogansville and is scheduled for April 23 in West Point. At approximately 11:30 a.m., closing festivities will begin at the Chamber Plaza in LaGrange, City Park in Hogansville, and Givorn's parking lot in West Point with refreshments at each location and prizes awarded for groups picking up the most bags of trash.

Despite the fact that Troup County Correctional Institute inmates have picked up 1,600 pounds of trash along county roads since Monday, there remains plenty to pick up.

"It's a shame we have this problem," said County Manager Mike Dobbs. "Human nature should not be to roll the window down and throw out your trash. We've got to reverse that thought process. You wouldn't throw it out in your own front yard, so why would you throw it out in someone else's front yard?"

When Dobbs and the county commissioners asked for an assignment at this year's Great American Cleanup, Mac McGowan of Keep Troup Beautiful suggested they pick up along Roanoke Road which, during Keep Troup Beautiful's annual litter survey in March, was determined to be one of the worst littered areas. Other areas with heavy volumes of litter include Hogansville and Hamilton roads, according to McGowan.

On Thursday afternoon, Dobbs and the commissioners went to Roanoke Road to check out the litter in preparation for Saturday's Cleanup. While commissioners Buck Davis and Morris Jones have other obligations this weekend, Ricky Wolfe, Ken Smith and Richard English each plan to collect litter on Saturday morning at their assigned area. Davis and Jones each collected a bagful of trash on Thursday.

Smith, who was glad to see about 70 residents at a March 31 Litter Summit hosted by the commissioners, said growing attention to the local litter problem is a good sign.

"I believe we are certainly on the right track and I think things are starting to turn the corner," he said.

**Photo captions:**

1. Gearing up for Saturday's Great American Cleanup are, from left, Commissioners Ken Smith and Buck Davis, County Manager Mike Dobbs, and Commissioners Ricky Wolfe and Richard English.

2. Collecting litter along Roanoke Road as they preview on Thursday the site where they will collect trash on Saturday are, from left, Commissioners Richard English and Ken Smith, County Manager Mike Dobbs and Commissioner Morris Jones.