

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Volunteers of all ages turn out for Great American Cleanup

(April 18, 2010) By noon Saturday, bins were packed with old tires and pickup trucks were loaded with bagged trash and recyclables after volunteers of all ages spent the morning collecting litter along local roadsides and parks in LaGrange, Hogansville and unincorporated Troup County.

About 300 area citizens participated in the Great American Cleanup sponsored by Keep Troup Beautiful. Participants included youngsters collecting litter alongside their grandparents, preteens picking up trash with their middle school classmates, families working together to beautify neighborhoods, and senior citizens pitching in to do more than their part.

Zamoria Simpson and members of her club, Kids For the Community, worked with her mother, Zanthia, to collect litter, recyclables and old tires, which filled to overflowing the bed of their pickup truck.

Troup County Commissioners concentrated their efforts on one of the heaviest littered areas in the county, collecting 12 bags of trash along a half-mile stretch of Roanoke Road.

Long Cane Middle School's Junior Beta Club took honors as the large group picking up the most trash with 30 bags credited to them. Mike and Glenda Waller were awarded as the small group collecting the most litter.

Among unusual items discovered during the cleanup and brought to the Chamber Plaza in LaGrange for closing ceremonies were a dirty diaper, an old floor fan, and an antique oil can.

"Countywide we thought the participation was good and we anticipate West Point's to be good, so I'd say all in all it was another successful cleanup," said Mac

McGowan, treasurer on the Keep Troup Beautiful Board of Directors. “This is all about keeping the county clean and we’ll be here again next year.”

West Point’s event is set for Saturday at Givorn’s grocery with registration beginning at 9 a.m. and closing ceremonies scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

The Great American Cleanup continues through May 15 with citizens urged to continue collecting litter, planting flowers and performing other tasks to beautify the community.

A tire amnesty will continue through April 19 with residents invited to drop off old tires free of charge at Fastenal Company at 104 Swift Street and at Ideal Electric Company at 200 Depot Street.

Photo captions:

1. (112) Long Cane Middle School students Helen Crenshaw and Sierra Smith were among children at the Chamber plaza in downtown LaGrange Saturday who left handprints on a rain barrel to commemorate the 2011 Great American Cleanup. Crenshaw and Smith are members of Long Cane’s Junior Beta Club, which took top honors as the large group collecting the most litter.

2. (128) Participants in Keep Troup Beautiful’s annual Great American Cleanup wear T-shirts proclaiming this year’s Cleanup theme, “Green Starts Here,” while watching the Brown Trasher, mascot for Keep Georgia Beautiful.