



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 30, 2014

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UGRA's 11th Annual River Clean Up

UGRA hosted its 11th Annual River Clean Up on Saturday, July 26th. A total of 6,495 pounds of garbage was collected by 312 participants, working along the river from above Hunt all the way to Center Point. Approximately 550 pounds of this total was separated for recycling; such items included cans, bottles, and scrap metal. Along with the expected paper and plastic trash, participants retrieved a fire extinguisher, street light cover, Incredible Hulk toy, toilet, eight-track tapes, car hood, well pressure tank with bullet holes, John Deere mower cover, water bed, box spring mattress, recliner, office chairs, and 29 tires. The volunteers who recovered these items entered them in to the biggest and most unusual items contest.

The enthusiastic volunteers scoured the river from about 8:00 am to 11:00 am and when they returned to Flat Rock Park with their trash, they were served hot dogs from the Save Inn Restaurant and homemade treats from the Kerrville Garden Club. Participants also enjoyed exhibits by the Hill Country Fly Fishers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Hill Country Master Naturalists, Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas, Riverside Nature Center, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Bob Howells on freshwater mussels, and UGRA.

The dedicated group of volunteers included many individuals, friends, and families as well as groups from Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops from Kerr County and the San Antonio area, Girl Scouts, Martin Marietta Materials, Kerrville Morning Rotary, Christian Women's Job Corps, Hill Country Youth Ranch, Kerr County, Kerr County Roller Derby, Kerrville Board of Realtors, Kerrville South CAG, and the Town Creek Clean Up Team. Hardworking employees of the City of Kerrville and Garrett Services hauled away the trash and recyclables free of charge.

The Trash to Treasure Hunt brings a fun and competitive element to the River Clean Up. This year, the contest was sponsored by the Ranch Radio Group. Three milk jugs marked with the radio stations' stickers were hidden near the Guadalupe River. Two of the hidden items were found by lucky volunteers who each claimed a \$100 cash prize!

“Our goal with the cleanup is to raise awareness of how trash and garbage negatively impact our river which not only provides enjoyment to us but is an economic engine for the county. Judging from the comments I heard, I think we succeeded,” said Ray Buck, UGRA General Manager.

UGRA staff and directors distributed free t-shirts, refreshments, and raffle prizes to participants, as well as prizes to the oldest and youngest volunteers. These items were made possible due to the generous donations from Bank of the Hills, Camp Lonehollow, Centennial Bank, City of Kerrville, Garrett Services, Hill Country Youth Ranch, James Avery Jewelry, Kerr County Federal Credit Union, Kerr Screen Graphics, Kerrville Garden Club, Kerrville Kayak and Canoe,

Kerrville Recycling, Martin Marietta Materials, Rev FM, Riverside Nature Center, Ron Hoover RV, Save Inn Restaurant, Security State Bank and Trust, The Cailloux Foundation, The Cowboy, The Ranch Radio Group, and Wheatcraft, Inc.

All volunteers received an 11th Annual River Clean Up t-shirt. The t-shirt was designed by young Kerr County artist, Flora Lesley, whose artwork won the t-shirt design contest earlier this year.

The Annual River Clean Up is just one component of UGRA's Trash Free Initiative. UGRA contracts to clean fifteen river crossings on a regular basis throughout the year. In addition, UGRA's environmental education programs focus on preserving the water quality of the Guadalupe River. "Our goal is to raise public awareness of the importance of protecting the Guadalupe River. It is gratifying to see the dedication of the volunteers working to keep our river clean," said Stan Kubenka, UGRA President.

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority is the respected, efficient, responsive, and forthright steward of the Upper Guadalupe River and its tributaries.

Let's Keep Our River Clean



The City of Kerrville hauls away trash collected during the 11th Annual River Clean Up.



Dedicated volunteers unload trash removed from the Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County.