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## **Georgia's First Bandalong Litter Trap™ Launched in Waycross**

*-Preventing Flow of Litter into Satilla River-*

Waycross, GA (May 25) -- Nestled on the banks of the Satilla River just miles from the famed Okefenokee Swamp and Georgia's Golden Isles, the City of Waycross, Georgia has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to the environment to become the first city in the state, and second in the nation, to install a Bandalong Litter Trap to cease the flow of floating trash downstream. The Bandalong Litter Trap was unveiled today on the main city canal leading to the Satilla River to the accolades of community, government officials and state environmentalists.

The project was a collaborative effort by a community dedicated to creating a clean environment for wildlife, recreation and future generations. "A cleaner Satilla River will be the result of persistent local Riverkeeper's efforts, the city's desire to clean the Satilla and our ability to secure a grant for such a technically and economically feasible project as the Bandalong Litter Trap," said Clarence Billups, Waycross Mayor. "The City of Waycross is extremely proud to be in the front ranks of environmental leadership and is committed for the long term to a cleaner Satilla River."

"Water is one of Georgia's most important and precious resources," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "The litter trap installed by Waycross is a model of stewardship for the state and the nation." The purchase of the Bandalong Litter Trap by the City of Waycross was made possible by environmental infrastructure project loans by the State of Georgia partially financed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act announced in November 2009 by Georgia Governor Sonny Purdue (<http://tiny.cc/g8aml>).

The Waycross Bandalong Litter Trap utilizes collection baskets so that floating litter and debris captured by the device is retained in the baskets which can easily be removed and emptied by a crane located on the banks of the canal. This installation is the first in the nation designed with the lift out baskets system which work in conjunction with standard public works equipment. Georgia-based Storm Water Systems, North America's exclusive licensee and manufacturer of the Bandalong Litter Trap, installed the floating litter collecting device on the main city canal leading to the Satilla River in April.

"Waycross' proximity to many of the state's most precious natural resources places them on the front lines of the environmental movement. Storm Water Systems is proud to have worked with such a committed city and community for the installation of the first Bandalong Litter Trap in our home state of Georgia," said Gary Hopkins, President of Storm Water Systems. "Let a clean Satilla River become a testament of what is possible when government, citizens and environmentalists work together to stop the problem of floating litter in our nation's waterways."

"There's so much to celebrate today. The fact that we are all here together shows how much better it is to work in the spirit of partnership to solve problems. Our success today is a result of a grassroots effort of citizens and their Riverkeeper joining with city, state and the federal government to answer a local need," said Bill Miller, Satilla Riverkeeper.

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"But don't forget that hauling trash out of Tebeau Creek really means that we need to change our habits and stop throwing stuff around that ends up in the creek. When each one of us takes on our share of responsibility for the quality of water in the Satilla River, we will see the day when our children are safe to wade and fish in Tebeau Creek and families come back to the banks of the Satilla River to enjoy their natural heritage."

The Satilla River basin drains nearly 4,000 square miles of upper and lower coastal plain habitat in Southeast Georgia. The region's increased development and subsequent increase in pollution has led to community-wide interest in preserving the river's quality and precious eco-system which is home to numerous rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals.

Storm Water Systems installed the nation's first Bandalong Litter Trap in Washington, D.C in 2009 on a tributary into the Anacostia River, well-known for its critical levels of pollution and litter. Within the first six months of operation the Bandalong Litter Trap collected more than 5,000 lbs. of litter including plastic bottles, cans, cups and even a shopping cart.

The Bandalong Litter Trap floats in waterways and utilizes the water's current to guide and capture litter 365 days a year without mechanical assistance. Constructed of industrial-grade high density polyethylene, aluminum, and stainless steel, the trap is durable in the harsh marine environment.

#### **About Storm Water Systems**

Storm Water Systems offers innovative products and systems to remove trash and debris from stormwater runoff and natural waterways. Based in Cleveland, GA, Storm Water Systems was founded on more than 30 years of expertise in isolating pollutants from the environment. To learn more about Storm Water Systems, visit [www.stormwatersystems.com](http://www.stormwatersystems.com).

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