



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **2009 Keep Georgia Beautiful Award Winners Celebrated**

**Atlanta, GA** – Over 200 Georgians attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Keep Georgia Beautiful Awards Luncheon on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel. The annual program honored individuals and organizations working to improve Georgia's environment.

"Today's program celebrates and recognizes 31 years of collaboration by individuals, schools, corporations, non-profit organizations and government agencies to keep Georgia's environment beautiful," said Mike Beatty, Commissioner of Georgia's Department of Community Affairs (DCA). DCA houses the state's Keep Georgia Beautiful program.

Each year, the Keep Georgia Beautiful (KGB) Awards Luncheon honors individuals, organizations, and companies statewide whose ongoing efforts prevent litter, conserve or protect water resources, reduce waste and preserve Georgia's natural beauty and environment.

### **Over Thirty Years and Counting**

"As we celebrate over 30 historic years, we are also simultaneously recognizing the successful collaboration of our public and private stakeholders, citizen volunteers and local governments. Together, we've accomplished a lot. Since its inception in 1978, Georgia's affiliate network has grown to one of the nation's largest. We've secured and maintained private and public support for KGB's major programs. These efforts have served to educate and encourage Georgia citizens to take an active role in the sustainable development of our state," said Lynn Cobb, KGB's Executive Director.

"More than three decades of focusing our efforts on environmental issues has allowed KGB to significantly improve our quality of life statewide. As we plan for the next decade and beyond, we are excited about our existing programs and our newest efforts, including our newly launched statewide recycling campaign and specialty license tag promoting recycling. Most importantly, we look forward to working with all Georgians to keep our state clean and beautiful," added Cobb.

KGB's major programs include *Bring One For The Chipper*; *Great American Cleanup*; *Litter! It Costs You*; *YouGottaBeKidding.org*, and *Rivers Alive*. Additional information about KGB's new specialty license plate is available at [www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.com](http://www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.com).

### **KGB Programs Receive Continued support from Sponsors and Board**

The positive work of Keep Georgia Beautiful's diverse programs attracted the support of 20 Foundation sponsors. *Premier Sponsors* included the Coca-Cola Company, Georgia Beverage Association, and the R.B. Robinson Company. Coca-Cola Enterprises, Georgia Beer Wholesalers, Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, Georgia Power, Georgia-Pacific Foundation and SP Recycling were all recognized as *Leader Level Sponsors*.

*Sustainer Sponsors* included Allied Waste Industries, Inc., Caraustar, Dart Container, Gas South, Publix, and State of Georgia Employees – Charitable Giving Program. *Supporting Sponsors* included APCO, Georgia Association of Convenience Stores, Ginny Millner Foundation, MEAG Power and Waste Management.

"Special thanks are extended to our KGB Foundation Board for their energy, involvement, and support. Their commitment to public service is key to the continued success of KGB's statewide efforts.

Together, we're making a difference in Georgia," said Randy Hartmann, DCA's Environmental Programs Director.

KGB Foundation Board Members include Kevin Perry (Georgia Beverage Association), Mike Martinez (Dart Container Corporation), Leamon Scott (Department of Community Affairs), Lisa White (SP Recycling Corporation), April Crow (Coca-Cola Company), Stacey Farrell (Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful), Markell Heilbron (Georgia Power), Bob Hunt (MillerCoors), Michele McKillip (Coca-Cola Enterprises), Karen Pope (Pope Consulting), Michael Power (American Chemistry Council), Allen Richardson (Georgia-Pacific), Roy Robinson (The R.B. Robinson Company, LLC), Gary R. Sheehan, Jr. (Kilpatrick Stockton LLP), Jim Tudor (Georgia Association of Convenience Stores), Bill Verner (Georgia Electric Membership Corporation) and Connie Waller (Keep Covington/Newton Beautiful).

Both KGB Foundation Board Members and sponsors were recognized during the event.

## **Volunteers Keep KGB Programs Fueled**

"Keep Georgia Beautiful affiliates and volunteers embody the spirit of teamwork that improves the places where Georgians live. We are especially proud to be home to 77 Keep Georgia Beautiful affiliates, more than any other state in the nation. Through our strong affiliate network, committed volunteers and staff, KGB's programs impact more than 76% of our state's citizens," said DCA Commissioner Beatty.

Added Beatty: "We are pleased to honor those individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond. Georgia is fortunate to have such a dedicated and results-driven volunteer corps. Their efforts go a long way in keeping our state beautiful."

Keep Georgia Beautiful recognized individuals and organizations in three major categories: Litter Prevention, Community Improvement and Waste Reduction. Five individual achievement awards were also given for Man of The Year, Public Works Employee of the Year, Code Enforcement Official of the Year, Student of the Year and Executive Director of the Year.

A complete listing of the awards is included at the end of this news release.

**About Keep Georgia Beautiful:** *Created in 1978 by Governor George Busbee, Keep Georgia Beautiful (KGB), became the first state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Housed in the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, its unique structure as a public-private partnership allows KGB to benefit from the resources of citizens in government, corporations, and community organizations. These connections aid us in our mission to build and sustain community environmental activities and behaviors resulting in a more beautiful Georgia. KGB coordinates a number of environmental efforts, including the Great American Cleanup™ and the statewide Bring One for the Chipper Christmas tree recycling program.*

*The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation, Inc. was created in 1985 to promote private sector financial support for worthwhile educational programs that enhance the environment and the quality of life in Georgia. The Foundation is based on a fundamental premise that the environmental interests of the state of Georgia and the people who live here are best served when public and private interests work hand-in-hand to achieve common goals. For more information about KGB or the KGB Foundation, please visit [www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org](http://www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org) or call the KGB Office at (404) 679-4910.*

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was created in 1977 to serve as an advocate for local governments. As outlined in its mission statement, DCA seeks opportunities that support "*partnering with communities to help create a climate of success for Georgia's families and businesses.*" DCA operates a host of state and federal grant programs; serves as the state's lead agency in housing finance and development; promulgates building codes to be adopted by local governments; provides comprehensive planning, technical and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state's solid waste reduction efforts. For more information about DCA, please visit [www.dca.ga.gov](http://www.dca.ga.gov).

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Media inquiries may be directed to Keep Georgia Beautiful Manger Lynn Cobb at (404) 679-4910 (office) or [lynn.cobb@dca.ga.gov](mailto:lynn.cobb@dca.ga.gov).

## 2009 Keep Georgia Beautiful Award Winners

**Litter Prevention** – *Recognizes educational and remedial efforts designed to change attitudes and behaviors, resulting in a positive impact on a community. Efforts may include litter cleanups, enforcement of litter/illegal dumping laws, placing garbage cans in needed areas, signage, storm drain stenciling, classroom education and presentations to civic/community groups.*

**Non-Profit/ Civic Group:** *Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful*  
**Government:** *Keep DeKalb Beautiful*

**Community Improvement** – *Recognizes efforts to preserve and improve the beauty of a community. Efforts may include outdoor classrooms, enhancement of areas, replanting and restoration of areas and maintenance of existing areas.*

**Non-Profit/ Civic Group:** *Hawkinsville Better Hometown*  
**School/ Youth Group:** *Keep Milledgeville Baldwin Beautiful's Green Exstream Team*  
**Government Agency:** *Keep Cobb Beautiful*

**Waste Reduction**– *Recognizes the efforts of organizations that provide environmental education or other conservation messages to change attitudes and promote responsible waste handling. Efforts may include source or waste reduction, recycling, composting.*

**Non-Profit/ Civic Group:** *Keep Habersham Beautiful*  
**Youth Group(s):** *Dickerson Middle School, Marietta and Georgia Tech (tie)*  
**Government Agency:** *Laurens County Solid Waste Management Authority*  
**Business/ Professional Organization:** *Flexsteel Industries, Dublin*

**Keep Georgia Beautiful Affiliate Awards** - *Any Keep America Beautiful (KAB) certified affiliate in good standing with KAB is eligible to apply. "Good Standing" requires that your network service fee be paid in full as well as timely submission of the 2009 Semi-Annual and Annual Report forms to KAB. This awards application covers program activities for the 12-month period through June 30, 2009.*

*Keep Liberty County Beautiful*  
*Keep Smyrna Beautiful*  
*Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful*  
*Keep Cobb Beautiful*

**The Public Works Employee of the Year Award** – *This award honors an individual who is directly employed in the solid waste or public works department of a city or county and has shown ongoing dedication to his or her job.*

**Public Works Employee of the Year – Lori Forrester, Cherokee County**

**The Code Enforcement Official of the Year Award** – *This award honors an individual who is directly employed as a code enforcement official and has shown ongoing dedication to his or her job.*

**Code Enforcement Official of the Year – Dale Henderson, Bartow County**

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## 2009 Keep Georgia Beautiful Award Winners (Continued)

**The Student of the Year Award** – *This award honors a student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication in raising awareness about solid waste issues, litter prevention, and/or the need for their peers to participate in activities that preserve and enhance natural resources and public lands.*

**Student of the Year – Mary Lathem, Covington**

**The Man of the Year “Steve Reynolds Award”** – *This award honors an outstanding man who has demonstrated lifelong leadership in raising public awareness about solid waste issues, litter prevention and/or the need for citizens to participate in activities that preserve and enhance natural resources and public lands. This award is dedicated to a volunteer or an employee who excels beyond his normal job description.*

**Man on the Year – Chuck Southerland, Hawkinsville**

**Executive Director of the Year “Barbara Mason Award”** – The award is named in honor of Barbara Mason, who dedicated her life to preserving the environment and establishing the Keep America Beautiful system in Georgia and the nation. Under her leadership, significant improvements were made in Georgia in the areas of waste reduction, conservation of resources, property maintenance, quality of life and beautification.

**Executive Director of the Year – Patsy Baker, Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful**

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