

2012 **SPRING** NC BIG SWEEP in WAKE COUNTY

~ List of Watershed Cleanups Needing Volunteers ~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! Wake County invites you to help clean up our streams, lakes, and wetlands that are tributaries to the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers! See below for our list of scheduled NC Big Sweep cleanups across Wake County for spring 2012. Most events are open to the public while others are organized by organizations for their members only.

To volunteer, contact the Zone Captain to pre-register the volunteers in your party and to obtain more information about the site and its appropriateness for different age groups. Each site's Zone Captain will provide trash bags, gloves, data cards, and a liability waiver to be signed by all participants. Please dress for the weather and put safety first!

Important Note: Big Sweep cleanups may be re-scheduled due to severe weather.

Wake County Big Sweep is coordinated by Wake Soil & Water Conservation District and made possible by Wake County, NC Big Sweep, and a host of local partners who care enough about clean water to take direct, positive action.

THANK YOU for volunteering to keep our watersheds litter-free!

SATURDAY – MARCH 17, 2012

RALEIGH

Lake Wheeler at Lake Wheeler Park ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! Come help clean up the shoreline and park grounds of Lake Wheeler. Check in at 9:00 am at the waterfront program center. Volunteers will clean up until 11:00 am. Gloves, trash bags and data cards will be provided. Please wear appropriate clothing for clean up (no open-toed shoes). Questions? Please call the park office at (919)662-5704.

Directions: From Beltline I-40/440, take Lake Wheeler Road exit and drive south for 5 miles. Enter park on right-hand side at 6404 Lake Wheeler Road, Raleigh, NC 27603.

SATURDAY – MARCH 24, 2012

RALEIGH

Walnut Creek Wetland in southeast Raleigh ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! At 9:00 am, meet at Walnut Creek Wetland Center at 950 Peterson Street, Raleigh, NC 27610. Join Raleigh Parks & Recreation, Partners for Environmental Justice, and Wake County Big Sweep in cleaning up this unique urban wetland. Cleanup continues until 12:30 pm. Please wear work clothes, pants and boots (no open-toe shoes). Bring water bottles. For information, contact the park office at 919-831-1960.

Directions: From Martin Luther King Blvd., take South State Street to Peterson Street. Turn right onto Peterson and see new Walnut Creek Wetland Center on the corner of Peterson and State Streets.

SATURDAY – MARCH 31, 2012

HOLLY SPRINGS

Bass Lake at Bass Lake Park & Retreat Center ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! Help clean the shoreline and wetland areas of Bass Lake. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot. Gloves, trash bags and data cards will be provided. Work until 11:00 am. Please pre-register by calling the park office at (919) 557-2496.

Directions: Bass Lake Park is located at 900 Bass Lake Road, Holly Springs, NC 27540.

SATURDAY – APRIL 7, 2012

RALEIGH to SMITHFIELD

Neuse River ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! Rain or Shine! A separate, but related program offering volunteers the opportunity to clean the Neuse River from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. Bring your own canoe or kayak (some provided). Or clean the river banks and shoreline. You must register online with the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation at <http://www.neuseriver.org/events/neuserivercleanup.html>

Wake County Big Sweep cleans the tributaries to the Neuse River and Cape Fear Rivers. The volunteer work of both programs is important in protecting water quality in the smaller watersheds and larger river basins.

SATURDAY – APRIL 14, 2012

CARY

Numerous Sites throughout Cary ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! Call to select a town-sponsored location of your choice at a Cary park, greenway or neighborhood. Gloves, trash bags, safety vests, and trash grabbers are provided. Part of the Spruce program, Cary's Spring Litter Sweep is also part of NC and Wake County Big Sweep. To register for this event, contact Sarah Justice at 919-469-4301 or sarah.justice@townofcary.org.

MORRISVILLE

Lake Crabtree at Lake Crabtree County Park ~~

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS and GROUPS WELCOME! Meet at 9:00 am at Boat Rental Tower to clean up one of Wake County's most popular lakes! Gloves, trash bags and data cards will be provided. Volunteers will work until 12:00 pm. To register, call (919) 460-2723.

Directions: Lake Crabtree Park is located at 1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville, NC 27560. From I-40, take Exit 285 (Aviation Parkway). Go south towards Morrisville, away from airport. Proceed downhill less than 1/4 mile and turn left at the light into park. Once in the park, take fourth right to go to Boat Rental Tower.

RALEIGH

Upper Crabtree Creek in western Raleigh~~

For Crabtree Creek Canoe and Kayak Club ONLY! Led by Zone Captain Art Ross.

SUNDAY – APRIL 15, 2012

This is a Sunday!

NEW HILL – SOUTH WAKE COUNTY

Harris Lake at Harris Lake County Park ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! From 2:00 pm-5:00 pm. Meet at 2:00 pm at the Park Office. Gloves, trash bags and data cards will be provided. Volunteers will work until 5:00 pm. For information, call the park office at (919) 387-4342.

Directions: Take Highway 1 South to Exit 89 - New Hill Road. Park is 3 miles on the right.

SATURDAY – APRIL 21, 2012

EARTH DAY WEEKEND

APEX

(Rain Date is Sat., April 28 from 9am-12pm)

Tributary to Beaver Creek ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! Meet at 9:00 am at the Apex Public Works building (105 Upchurch Street) for instructions and a safety briefing. Adequate parking will be available. Volunteers will be supplied gloves, trash bags, and data cards and will work from 9am-12pm. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old and supervised by a parent or older sibling 15+ years of age.

Pre-registration and signed Release Forms are required—see website at www.apexnc.org/bigswEEP or call Apex Public Works at (919) 249-3427.

Directions: Apex Public Works building, 105 Upchurch Street, Apex, NC 27502. The building is located off of NC Highway 55, just north of the intersection with Salem Street.

GARNER

Lake Benson at Lake Benson Park in the Swift Creek watershed ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! BREAKFAST SERVED! Meet at 8:30 am at the Lake Benson Park Shelter #1 for registration and a light breakfast. All volunteers receive gloves, trash bags, and data cards. All ages are welcome, but children must be supervised by an adult at all times. Pre-registration is not required! For more information or to schedule groups to participate, please call Zone Captain Stephanie Moody Shaffer at 919-661-6892.

Directions: Lake Benson Park is located at 921 Buffaloe Road, Garner, NC 27529.

SATURDAY – APRIL 28, 2012

RALEIGH

Marsh Creek near intersection of Brentwood Road and Stoneybrook Drive ~~

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! From 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Sleep in or catch your favorite cartoons! Meet Zone Captain Parnell Bell of the Blue Phoenix Group on the bridge at 11 am. Gloves, trash bags and data cards will be provided. Wear clothes & shoes that can get dirty and wet. Please dress for the weather. To pre-register, contact Parnell at (919) 878-5122.

Directions: From I-440 Beltline, take Capital Blvd./US 1 North exit. Travel north, away from downtown. Turn right onto Brentwood Road. See Post Office on right, then turn left onto Stoneybrook Drive. See new bridge over Marsh Creek and park here on side of road.

ALREADY COMPLETED on FEBRUARY 9, 2012

RALEIGH

“No Name Creek” – unnamed tributary to Hare Snipe Creek~~

For York Elementary School’s “York Creek Keepers” ONLY! Students in this afterschool club will participate in Spring Big Sweep to fulfill their Adopt-A-Stream program requirement.

Thank you for volunteering for Wake County Big Sweep!

If you need further assistance, contact the Wake County Big Sweep Coordinator
Sheila Jones at (919) 250-1065 or sbjones@wakegov.com

Meet the winners of our 2011 Wake County Big Sweep Excellence Award!

Every year, a Wake County Big Sweep Excellence Award is given to a deserving Zone Captain, volunteer or volunteer group that goes the extra mile to make a difference in caring for our county's watersheds. Read about them and be inspired to be the next star volunteer!



Photo by William Sandifer

Wake District Supervisor Bill Cole presents the "2011 Big Sweep Excellence Award" to Wake County Park's five Zone Captains for their outstanding efforts in hosting and leading citizen volunteers in Wake County Big Sweep events.

In front, from left: Colleen Bockhahn of Lake Crabtree, Amy Burke of Harris Lake, and D'Nise Hefner of Blue Jay Point. In back, from left: Richard Smith of Historic Yates Mill and Dana Fitz-Simons of Blue Jay Point.

For the past 46 years, Wake Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors has honored Wake County citizens that go the extra mile in natural resources conservation, communications and education. Bravo!

2011 Big Sweep Excellence: Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Instrumental in making Wake County Big Sweep happen, four Wake County Parks host and lead thousands of citizen volunteers in cleaning their beloved parks and Wake County's largest tributaries to the Neuse River.

Blue Jay Point Co-Zone Captains D'Nise Hefner and Dana Fitz-Simons walk-the-talk of sustainability by collecting and washing gently used gloves to be re-used year after year. Zone Captain Colleen Bockhahn at Lake Crabtree leads many adult volunteers from RTP corporations that want to make a difference through community service. Historic Yates Mill's Zone Captain Richard Smith invites volunteers to clean busy Lake Wheeler Road before stormwater can wash litter down storm drains and into the pond. At Harris Lake, Zone Captain Amy Burke engages volunteers of all ages in meaningful environmental stewardship through the Big Sweep program.

Past Big Sweep Excellence Honorees:

2010: Zone Captain Jean Spooner – Richland Creek, Raleigh

2009: Zone Captain Charles Miller – Falls Lake at Hwy 50 Boat Ramp

2008: Zone Captain Melanie Carter – NCSU Rocky Branch, Lake Raleigh, & No. Creek

2007: Zone Captain Kathryn Converse – Falls Lake Beaver Dam at Old Weaver Trail

2006: Dr. Norman Camp – Walnut Creek Wetland, Raleigh