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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UCR presents 9th Annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival on Saturday, June 11, at Riverside Park in Roswell

ATLANTA – Paddlers of all ages and skill levels will take to the water on Saturday, June 11, for the **9th Annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival**. The race course begins at Garrard Landing Park on Holcomb Bridge Road and ends at **Riverside Park in Roswell**, the site of the **FREE** family-friendly festival, music and awards presentation. Organized and presented by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR) in partnership with the **National Park Service, Fulton County**, and the **city of Roswell**, the event is organized to celebrate the Chattahoochee and foster a sense of community around our river.

THE RACE: Begins at 9 a.m and includes open and recreational categories, various age divisions, solo and tandem canoe divisions, as well as kayak and sea kayak divisions. Paddlers wanting a competitive race will traverse the 10-mile course, while recreational paddlers will take the eight-mile course. Both include exciting Class I-II rapids and conclude at Riverside Park. Timing officials will be provided by Georgia Canoeing Association. **Advanced registration** is available through June 7 for the fee of \$40 for solo boats and \$60 for tandem boats. After June 7, on-site registration costs \$50 for solo, \$70 for tandem; available based on capacity.

THE FESTIVAL: Riverside Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., free to the public, and family-friendly. Racers and others will enjoy live music from Donna Hopkins and Gareth Asher, a river-gear swap, Riverside Park's "spray ground," face painting, balloon artists, a "sprayground," and vendors with an array of environmental exhibits.

As a special treat for racers only, paddlers will be greeted at the end by the **SweetWater Beer Barge** (UCR's own pontoon boat). Paddlers can enjoy sodas, water, or a SweetWater brew (for patrons 21-up with valid ID) before going ashore.

NOTE: We will conduct a Clean the Race Course paddle cleanup on Saturday, June 4. Any media are interested in covering this can contact David Lee Simmons (dsimmons@ucriverkeeper.org).

UCR's mission is to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and tributaries for the people, fish and wildlife that depend upon it. The Chattahoochee is the most heavily used water resource in Georgia. For more information, visit <http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/river-revival.php>.

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