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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **VOLUNTEERS BEGIN CLEAN UP OF CANE CREEK IN LANCASTER, SC**

April 26, 2010 (*Lancaster, SC*) – After paddling through piles of trash and debris in Cane Creek this winter, volunteers were inspired to do something about the mess in Cane Creek, the primary drainage of Lancaster, South Carolina. On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, everything came to fruition.

Despite a cloudy, drizzly day, “forty amazing souls came out to make a difference for Cane Creek and for each other. Seeing the bigger picture, people put aside individual ideological stances in favor of environmental philanthropy,” stated Jenny Frye, a co-organizer of the clean-up event and Lake Wylie Covekeeper. Participants drove great distances, coming from Greenville, Columbia, Gastonia, Cornelius, to name a few places, to be a part of this. All were phenomenally enthusiastic and energetic.

Leading up to April 24<sup>th</sup>, planners scouted out primary clean up locations throughout Cane Creek and recognized Hwy. 9 and Grace Avenue as potential hot-spots of need. “A lot of planning went into this effort,” said Frye, “but I didn’t do it alone. Randy Lawson, Tom Niemeier and Ted Flor played instrumental roles in helping with the preparation between January and April.”

All forty individuals provide efforts to make this a success. Some helped break up logjams on the creek with nothing but hand saws, ropes and kayaks, while others moved canoes and hauled “canoe-barges” full of trash to the dumpster.

Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, American Rivers, SC Department of Natural Resources, REI and the Boy Scouts all helped make this clean-up a success by providing clean-up equipment and publicity. “Dedicated volunteers are our River’s best asset,” exclaimed Catawba Riverkeeper David Merryman. “It’s amazing the amount of impact a group of individuals can make, when they work together for the good of our waterways.”

The Lancaster County Airport graciously allowed clean up volunteers to use their parking lot as well as their restrooms and dumpsters.

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Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation advocates for and secures protection and enhancement of the Catawba River, its lakes, tributaries and watershed so that it will always sustain the human and wildlife populations that depend on it for life.



Figure 1 “Messses of Men” Pounds of trash, refuse and tires removed from Cane Creek on Saturday, April 24.



Figure 2 "Canoe-barges" used during Cane Creek Clean-Up event on April 24, 2010 in Lancaster, SC.



Figure 3 Forty volunteers worked to clean-up Cane Creek in Lancaster, SC on April 24th.