

Hello Fellow River Rats, River Ducks and Clean Sweepers!

Saturday is almost here and I hope you are ready for a full day of picking up litter and debris, boating, and enjoy all the good things that the Pearl River has to offer. We are going to work hard and play hard (later that day). So dress appropriately, bring a change of clothes for the evening, and let's make a difference. <http://www.pearlriverkeeper.com/about-our-cleanup.html>

If you are receiving this e-mail, then you have registered/signed up to clean the section between Coal Bluff and Ratliff Ferry. (The address is below) This section includes sandbars, tributaries, no wake zones and other areas that people congregate. I hope you will be with us throughout the day.

There are other groups that will be traveling from Low Head Dam to Coal Bluff and a small group departing Ratliff Ferry and traveling to Tommy's Trading Post. Most of these participants will be in kayaks and we made need a boat or two to volunteer to shadow and support these teams by collecting bags of trash from them so that they don't get weighted down. Camille Richards will be leading the Ratliff-to-Tommy's leg and will be with us on Saturday morning at the start.

We may also have a couple members of Scout Troop 3326 join our team, so please make room for them as you can.

Address for our location Start and Take Out: Ratliff Ferry Restaurant/Store, [1275 Ratliff Ferry Rd, Canton, MS 39046](#)

Itinerary

8 – 9 am: Registration, sign-in and boat launch. Look for the shade tent near the front ramp by the restrooms. If you have not registered and signed the online waiver by Saturday, I will have a sign-in sheet and some printed waivers to sign before we get on the water. You will receive a wrist band. Try to launch your boat before 9 am and come around to front ramp pier and tie up.

9 am: Welcome, Instructions and Safety Briefing (maybe even a team photo). We will discuss Clean Sweep objectives at the briefing.

9:15 – 3 pm: Pearl River Clean Sweep 2017! Be safe and watch for hazards. Separate recyclables from trash as you pick up. Share photos and experiences on social media at @pearlriverkeeper with #pearlrivercleansweep and #take2miss.

You can return to the boat ramp as necessary throughout the day to offload at the trash trailer if you accumulate a lot of material.

Please note that throughout the day Ratliff Ferry staff will provide free hot dogs and a fountain drink to Clean Sweep participants. Must show your wrist band.

3 pm: Return to Ratliff to offload trash and estimate bags/tonnage of materials

removed. PRV will have a trailer parked near the ramp.

After 3 pm: After-party at Ratliff Ferry Restaurant/Store

Live music on the deck from 3 – 7 pm by Lovin Ledbetter.

Door prizes for registered participants given out throughout the evening. Got some really cool items!

Plenty of TVs to watch the football games (MSU vs UGA kickoff at 6 pm). Flag Island Hawg Cookers will be supplying the hot dogs/buns that Ratliff Ferry staff will cook up for registered participants. Also get a free fountain drink. All other menu items and beverages is on your dime.

If you haven't already reviewed it, please click the link for a checklist to help you prepare for the day: <http://www.pearlriverkeeper.com/volunteer-checklist.html>. I want to stress that we are cleaning up the Pearl and do NOT want to bring items that could contribute to the mess! Please try to bring a re-usable water bottle to keep more plastic out of the landfill. Recyclable cans are okay. Thank you!

I will have some litter grabbers available at check in, but it is first-come, first-served. I would encourage you to purchase at least one for your boat and keep it on your boat as part of your boating kit going forward. They are quite handy.

Important numbers you may need:

Brent Bailey [601-573-4815](tel:601-573-4815)

Camille Richards [601-672-0396](tel:601-672-0396)

Abby Braman [540-419-7567](tel:540-419-7567)

PRV Maintenance, Steve Clark [601-421-4658](tel:601-421-4658)

PRV Tower for emergencies [601-992-9703](tel:601-992-9703)

Ratliff Ferry Store [601-859-9586](tel:601-859-9586)

I will keep everyone posted if there are any weather concerns, but at this time I think we will have a nice day with a possible chance of a late afternoon shower. Again, dress appropriately. It's not too late to encourage your friends or family to sign up! Just have them go to <http://www.pearlriverkeeper.com/register.html> to get registered! See you all on Saturday morning! Be careful and have fun!

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Brent Bailey

25x'25 Alliance

State Activities Coordinator

SAFER Alliance

Project Coordinator

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