



SAVANNAH RIVERKEEPER®

P.O. Box 60 Augusta, GA 30903
Phone: 706-826-8991 | Fax: 706-826-8995
Toll Free: 844-263-1415
Email: info@savannahriverkeeper.org
Web: www.savannahriverkeeper.org



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For More Information Contact:

Damon Mullis, Ogeechee Riverkeeper, damon@ogeecheeriverkeeper.org, (478)-231-7212
Truck Carlson, Savannah Riverkeeper, truck@savannahriverkeeper.org, (360)-250-2437

Read the full 2020 Report at: <https://www.gawater.org/clean-13>

**Georgia's Water Protection Coalition Presents
Clean 13 Water Heroes Award to Truck Carlson**

Last night, Georgia's leading water protection coalition presented its Clean 13 Water Heroes Award to local conservationist Truck Carlson for leading the Veterans for Clean Water program at Savannah Riverkeeper. A 30-year Marine and Army veteran, Carlson is enlisting the area's large veteran population to protect the Savannah River from plastic pollution, to connect to the activities and opportunities on our waterways, and to build skills while collecting and analyzing water samples to provide the public with water safety information. He and his Veterans for Clean Water volunteers regularly clean litter traps on the city's urban streams to remove plastics, Styrofoam, and other pollutants before they reach the Savannah River. Nearly three years into the effort, Carlson has discovered that in working to better the Savannah, many of the veterans are also working to build themselves. To bring statewide recognition to this groundbreaking work, the Georgia Water Coalition included Truck Carlson in their 2020 Clean 13 report. The annual report highlights individuals, businesses, industries, non-profit organizations and governmental agencies whose extraordinary efforts have led to cleaner rivers, stronger communities and a more sustainable future for Georgians.

You can see Truck's video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6iaXbKWwmM>

The 2020 Clean 13 Water Heroes were slated to receive their awards at a Gala Celebration in Atlanta March 12, 2020. Unfortunately, the event was postponed due to the COVID19 pandemic and necessary restrictions. As the COVID19 crisis continued to escalate over recent months, the Georgia Water Coalition permanently cancelled the event and instead chose to recognize these inspiring water heroes at locally organized small outdoor ceremonies.

“Georgia's waterways are used by all, but traditionally those working to protect those waterways has come from a relatively small percentage of the population. We are thrilled Veterans for Clean Water has taken off as much as it has, and is working to help bring a new population of citizens into the conservation movement. said Tonya Bonitatibus, Executive Director of Savannah Riverkeeper. “We are thrilled Trucks efforts have been recognized in the Clean 13 report and look forward to growing the project well beyond just the Savannah River basin in the future.”

About the Georgia Water Coalition:

The Georgia Water Coalition is a consortium of more than 260 conservation and environmental organizations, hunting and fishing groups, businesses, and faith-based organizations that have been working to protect Georgia's water since 2002. Collectively, these organizations represent thousands of Georgians. The Coalition annually publishes the Clean 13 list not only to recognize these positive efforts on behalf of Georgia's water but also as a call to action for our state's leaders and citizens to review these success stories, borrow from them and emulate them.

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