



**George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Lee Ranger District Ranger District
95 Railroad Ave, Edinburg, VA 22824
(540) 984-4101**

Contact: Stephanie Bushong (540) 984-4101

May 5, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Help To Keep Forest Clean

Edinburg, VA. -- On one of the hottest Saturdays of the year, twelve dedicated New Market Rotary Club Members volunteered to pick up trash along the Lee Ranger District's Crisman Hollow Road. Like many volunteer organizations, service projects are an important part of the Rotary Club mission.

"We picked up 18 bags of trash in just a few hours," said Richard Torovsky, New Market Rotary Club Coordinator of Service Projects. "It was a good feeling to know we had cleaned up so much of the road, but disheartening to see that there was so much new trash. We had just cleaned up this same area last November."

For the past few years the Lee Ranger District has been asking the community for help in keeping the Forest Service roads and trailheads free of trash. Several groups have volunteered for the challenge. Besides the New Market Rotary Club, the Shenandoah Valley Academy has helped clean up the Story Book Trail and the Massanutten Hunt Club has been working to keep Cub Run Road clean for many years.

According to Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Damion McElroy dumping household trash, throwing bottles, cans and other refuse along Forest roadsides has become a major problem across the county.

"These dumps are unsightly and against the law," stated McElroy. "With so many legal and safe places to take your trash in this area, there is no reason to dump garbage on the national forest."

"We want to express our appreciation and gratitude to those groups and individuals who come out and volunteer their time to help improve the forest for all visitors," added District Ranger Jim Smalls.

If you are interested in helping to pick up trash on your national forest, please contact the Lee Ranger District, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (540) 984-4101.

-USFS-