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You Found What?!

The 10 most unusual items found in Georgia litter clean-ups

(ATLANTA – December 14, 2006) When you think about litter, there are a few images that generally come to mind: cigarette butts, fast food wrappers, cans and bottles. While these items are in fact commonly littered, there is also another world of litter out there. Over the course of the last year, Keep Georgia Beautiful compiled a list of some of the most unusual items collected in Georgia during the Great American Cleanup.

Georgia's anti-litter campaign, *Litter. It Costs You*, did cost someone. A \$20 bill was found during one of the clean-ups. That money could have been used to pay for the speeding ticket that also made the list of unusual items.

And it may seem unbelievable, but someone in Georgia could be walking around without teeth today because dentures were picked up by clean-up volunteers.

Although litter is usually carelessly discarded, it also consists of materials that were dropped or lost unintentionally. This includes items that blow out of vehicles taking trash to the dump without tarps over them or items that are carelessly thrown into the back of pick-up trucks which later blow out onto our roadways. Littering, whether intentional or unintentional, is against the law. Recent legislation holds the driver of a vehicle responsible for any litter that leaves the vehicle, and law enforcement officers can cite you for this violation.

Litter. It Costs You is working with local communities to curb the litter problem through education, eradication and enforcement, but there is a long way to go. This list is just a sample of some of the strange items collected by clean-up crews during 2006. Help us ensure that fewer strange and not-so-strange items will be found in 2007. Go to litteritcostsyu.org to get involved.

About *Litter. It Costs You*.

Strange but True Items from Community Clean-Ups:

- Toilet seat
- Dentures
- \$20 bill
- Play Station game
- Underwear
- Cell phone
- Bowling ball
- Speeding ticket
- Salon hair dryer
- Water hose

The State of Georgia launched the *Litter. It Costs You* campaign in August 2006. An integrated and comprehensive approach to stopping litter, the campaign encompasses education, eradication and enforcement. The campaign leverages the efforts of state agencies, city and county governments, and volunteer organizations to engage the public and effect change. Resources include an interactive and comprehensive Web site, community challenges for adults and youth, an online toolkit and an education component to reach children. For more information, please visit litteritcostsyou.org.

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