

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream encourages individuals and communities to monitor and/or improve sections of streams, wetlands, lakes or estuaries through several types of involvement.

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2020 BY THE NUMBERS



933 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS
32 ACTIVE TRAINERS
689 ACTIVE SITES



247
WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED



5,862
MONITORING
EVENTS

22,066
DATA POINTS





- 129 NEW ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS
 - 34 NEW MONITORING GROUPS
- 163 NEW SITES MONITORED
- 139 NEW STREAMS MONITORED
 - 3 NEW TRAINERS CERTIFIED

AAS volunteers conducted 15,251 hours of service in 2020, worth over \$390,000 in volunteer dollars!

2020 ADOPT-A-STREAM AWARD WINNERS



Georgia Adopt-A-Stream is sincerely grateful for all the volunteers, trainers and partners who give their time and energy to protect and improve Georgia's waterways. We are pleased to recognize the following individuals and groups for their achievements.

Volunteer Awards



Volunteer of the Year

Eddie Lanham

Eddie began his journey with Adopt-A-Stream just over a year and a half ago. Despite the restrictions of this past year, he completed over 100 monitoring events on the 5 sites that he monitors. His monitoring consistency, passion for protecting our waters, willingness to go above and beyond, and his parternships with local authorities exemplify an AAS volunteer of the year.

"I'm a firm believer that every American should give back, whether it's to the Earth, or their country, or their state, or their county, or their city- wherever. Do some volunteer work, make a difference." - Eddie Lanham

Extraordinary Watershed Monitoring Effort

OconeeWaters

OconeeWaters has been consistently monitoring since its conception in 2015. In this last year, the group monitored 8 sites throughout their watershed every month in addition to their affiliate group, UOWN's, quarterly sampling events. In 2020, they held a small outreach event and developed educational materials for students and teachers to learn more about water protection in Oconee County.





Red Flag Award Riya and Pragya Bhadani, Archana Seth

Riya, Pragya, and Archana started with AAS in 2019 and partnered with Gwinnett County Water Resources to monitor 5 sites in the Level Creek watershed in an effort to isolate potential sources of fecal contamination in an impaired stream. On only their third monitoring event, they found high bacterial counts and reported the finding. The local jurisdiction investigated the site, where a small but persistent sewage leak was identified and stopped!

Outstanding Outreach and Partnership Ruth Filers

This past November, Ruth worked with a group of faculty and staff at GCSU to create a GC Journeys program designed to engage students over their Winter Break by monitoring their local waterways. In total, 45 students were trained, covering 26 counties. Ruth connected the students with trainers in their area to ensure that they were set to collect data over the break.

"I plan to continue the partnerships we made through the GC Journeys program and other alternative break programs... This award will be my reminder to keep that momentum going." - Ruth Eilers





Excellence in Data Collection Ric Donato and David Zandstra

Ric Donato and David Zandstra have been monitoring their site in the Rubes Creek Watershed each month since July 15, 2008 and have only missed one monitoring event in all 12 years. Their data are always submitted on time with consistent results and have been used to educated other members of their neighborhood on the best way to care for the waterway they share.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to contribute in a little way to the health and purity of Georgia's fresh surface waters... and for being next door neighbors, friends, and sampling partners." - David Zandstra

Excellence in Data Collection Yellow River Water Trail

Yellow River Water Trail first began monitoring in 2015 and have been consistently monitoring ever since. Group members Mark Wilson and Marianne Velker work together to sample 4-6 sites every month across Gwinnett and Dekalb counties. Mark spends about 3 hours monthly collecting water samples and conducting chemical testing, and then brings the samples to Marianne, who prepares the slides and incubates them for bacterial analysis.



Excellence in Education

Leslie Atkins, Allie Walker, and the Tritt River Kids

Leslie Atkins and Allie Walker, 3rd grade teachers at Tritt Elementary School in Cobb County, have worked to promote stream stewardship among their students by involving them in AAS. Despite the limitations of the past year, Leslie and Allie made the most of their time with their students by bringing in guest speakers, borrowing additional equipment for safe monitoring practices, and involving the community and parents in monitoring events.





Nymph Award Catie Fenstermaker

Catie was certified in 2020 while interning with St. Marys Riverkeeper during her senior year of high school. She quickly dove headfirst into AAS, monitoring all of SMRK's sites along the Crooked River, plating and processing all bacteria samples from the Georgia sites, and entering all the data for the program in the AAS online database!

"It's a wonderful feeling knowing the volunteer work and data I collect can come back to help my community access cleaner water."

- Catie Fenstermaker

Innovation in Adopt-A-Stream Tema Hoskins

Tema is a teacher at Paulding County High School who works diligently to ensure her students get hands-on learning experience with water monitoring and protection. Her students use the wetland behind the school to learn stewardship, water chemistry, and the interconnections of systems. She created a website showcase the work her students and partners have accomplished together, and she collaborates with other classes to manipulate and analyze her classes' AAS data to find correlations and create regressions. Her students have also participated in AAS's water science poster session.





Beyond Borders Barry Shull, Faith Ross, and Toby Tovar

These dedicated St. Marys Riverkeeper and AAS volunteers have been working to sample in downtown Fernandina tirelessly throughout the pandemic, only missing one month of monitoring throughout the year. Their data allowed St. Marys Riverkeeper to present Florida Dept of Environmental Protection and the City of Fernandina with a strong case showing that increased monitoring on Escambia Slough was needed.

Trainer Awards





Trainer of the Year John Butler

John Butler works for Gwinnett Water Resources in conjunction with Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful and has been a Local AAS Coordinator for three years. Outside of continually training and providing equipment to the volunteers in his area, he developed a specialized monitoring program for groups of volunteers called Targeted Monitored to learn more about impaired streams in Gwinnett watersheds.

"Raising awareness among the general population is the key to improving water quality in any watershed, and I consider this goal to be the main driver in all of my trainings and interactions with volunteers. Each time I talk about AAS, I push this goal and encourage folks to talk to their friends and family about their monitoring and what they learn in the class."- John Butler, Water Resources Outreach Manager





New Trainer of the Year Shaundon Moore

Shaundon Moore works with Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program and became certified as an AAS Trainer midway through 2019. Since then, he has worked alongside the other trainers at Cobb to certify new volunteers, educate students, and broadly increase awareness by managing Cobb's social media pages. Shaundon also played a major role in creating a virtual education studio to continue workshops despite COVID.

"Since becoming a trainer about a year and a half ago, I have worked very hard to make sure that Cobb County continues to have an active and robust community of monitors. Although I may not manage all the logistics related to the AAS program here at Cobb Water, I have made sure that the aspects I oversee are as good as possible."

- Shaundon Moore, Watershed Stewardship Program Specialist

Watershed Awards





Non-Governmental Organization

St. Marys Riverkeeper

Since its inception in 2016, St. Marys Riverkeeper has adopted and actively monitored 50 sites throughout the St. Marys watershed. This expansive baseline dataset allows SMRK to pinpoint problematic areas while also confirming the overall health of the watershed. The organization plans to use AAS data to support their nomination of the St. Marys River to be designated recreational in the upcoming Georgia triennial review.

"My biggest priority is to make sure that [with] everything that happens in this watershed, and development is an inevitability, that we advocate for sustainable development as much as possible" - Anna Laws, Riverkeeper





Government (Regional) Southern Georgia Regional Commission

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency which serves 45 municipalities and 18 counties in Southern Georgia. In addition to hosting and participating in AAS workshops and monitoring events, SGRC is developing a number of EPD-funded projects that that focus on increasing public awareness of water quality issues and implementing BMPs for agricultural operations and residential septic systems.

"From hosting [our] first virtual Adopt-A-Stream training, to developing new methodologies for prioritizing impaired river and stream segments at the regional level for future BMP projects, the SGRC staff and partners continue to be leaders in improving water quality in south Georgia." - Megan Parker, SGRC Environmental Project Manager

ACTIVE AAS TRAINERS

Thank You Active Trainers!

Trainers who led at least one QA/QC workshop in 2020

Coastal Georgia

Damon Mullis, Ogeechee Riverkeeper Luke Roberson, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Patricia Dubose, Satilla Riverkeeper

East Georgia

Frank Carl, Savannah Riverkeeper Kate Mowbray, Sandy Creek Nature Center Ruth Mead, Phinizy Center for Water Sciences Ruth Eilers, Georgia College & State University Vicki Soutar, UOWN/OconeeWaters

Metro Atlanta

Alexa Robinson, City of Griffin Public Works
Bob Schmitt, Upper Chattahoochee Trout Unlimited
Chris Kodani, Clayton State University
Eric Eberly, Paulding County Water System
Ganesh Venugopal, Johns Creek Resident
Hannah Penn, Fulton County Department of Public Works
John Butler, Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources
Mike Kahle, Cobb County Water System
Shaundon Moore, Cobb County Water System
Shelley Lange, Fulton County Department of Public Works
Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta
Will England, Cherokee County Water and Sewage Authority
William Lott, Upper Chattahoochee Trout Unlimited

North Georgia

Callie Moore, MountainTrue Ken Fahey, Keep Forsyth County Beautiful/UERA Lori Forrester, Cherokee County Water and Sewage Authority

Southwest Georgia

Gretchen Quarterman, WWALS Watershed Coalition Laura Schneider, River Valley Regional Commission Malloree Holcombe, White Oak Pastures Michele Smith, Georgia Southwestern State University Robert Gipaya, Flint Riverkeeper



Legacy Trainer Alexa Robinson

Thank you, Alexa, for 10+ years of active service as an AAS Trainer!

2020 State Staff

Harold Harbert, Program Manager Bailey Crapps, State Coordinator Jenna Dodson, State Coordinator Jackie Encinas, Program Assistant Cecilia Nachtmann, Program Assistant

Welcome New 2020 Trainers!

Kelli Edwards
Fulton County Department of
Public Works

Megan Parker Southern Georgia Regional Commission

ADOPT-A-STREAM STAFF



Harold Harbert Program Manager



Bailey Crapps State Coordinator



Cecilia Nachtmann Jackie Encinas **Program Assistant Program Assistant**



ADOPT-A-STREAM BOARD



*Photo taken before COVID-19

Katherine Atteberry, Atlanta Regional Commission David Bell, Jacobs

Steve Blackburn, EPA; Wetlands, Coastal & Ocean Branch **Bob Bourne**, Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory Jean Brown, Georgia Power Company

Amanda Buice, Georgia Department of Education Lynn Cobb

Checo Colon-Gaud, Georgia Southern University Jenna Dodson, West Virginia University

Dr. Stephen Golladay, Jones Ecological Research Center Shelly Krueger, Florida Sea Grant

Erin Lincoln. Tetra Tech

Jan Mackinnon, GA DNR Coastal Resources Division Ruth Mead, Phinizy Center for Water Sciences Callie Moore. MountainTrue

James Moore, Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Tara Muenz, Stroud Water Research Center

Katie Owens, The Nature Conservancy

Jessica Sterling, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Sarah Sweat, Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute Jessica Warren, Cooperative Extension, Camden County

Tony Wasilewski, GTRI / EOSL

Dr. Tom Weiland, Georgia Southwestern State University

Thank You!

To all of our AAS volunteers, trainers, partners, and supporters, we thank you for all your hard work and dedication throughout 2020!





















If you are interested in learning more about AAS or wish to adopt and monitor a site, contact the State office or your local coordinator. You can also visit our online calendar for monitoring workshops and AAS events!

