

VOL. 32 ISSUE 1 · APRIL 2025

We're  
Back!!!

# JANUARY - APRIL 2025



Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Newsletter

## Staff changes

We have two new employees at the state office, please welcome Emily Skibinski and Rosemary Crump-Sims, our new state coordinators!

Emily (pictured on the right) comes to us from Georgia Tech, where she got her masters in Biology with a focus on Ecology. Her thesis was about the dynamics between invasive bird species and native biodiversity. She also spent time teaching ecology lab and introducing students to stream monitoring techniques. She got her Adopt-A-Stream certification in 2021 from Ruth Eilers, and volunteers at the Panola bird banding station in her free time.

Rosemary (pictured on the left) has been in environmental education since 2016. After becoming a Georgia Master Naturalist she quickly found opportunities to share her love of nature with students of all ages. Over the years, Rosemary added Master Birder, Master Herpetologist, Certified Interpretive Guide, and National Geographic Certified Educator and more to her teaching tool box. Always a student, looking for opportunities to learn. Most recently, as Education Director of the Wylde Center, Rosemary led a group of 12 educators, delivering Farm to School and environmental science lessons with over 23,000 student interactions in the 23-24 school year.



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# Save the date for 2025 Confluence!

May 31st  
Clayton State University





**DON'T FORGET:**  
Nominations  
for AAS  
Annual  
2025 awards  
are open!

**NEW VOLUNTEER  
GROUPS**

JUN '24 - FEB '25

- Paulding County
- Stream Saviors
- Catoosa County
- Walker County
- Homeschooler
- Cobb County
- The Luttrells
- Learning Lewis
- AAS devious duo
- Team Talbot
- Wheeler HS
- Environmental Club
- Nickajack Park
- Seth Moore
- Sawshark
- Anglin
- Sope Creek off Pheasant Dr
- Dekalb County
- Mason Mill
- Naturalist Program
- EMBARC Youth Farm
- Fulton County
- US Forestry Service
- Gwinnett County
- Regina Cox
- FCS Global Citizens
- Habersham County
- SoqueRWA
- Hall County
- Nigel's Flow Patrol
- DaVinci Academy
- Henry County
- Eagle's Landing
- Christian Academy
- Richmond County
- Lamar-Milledge
- Creek Geeks
- Walker County
- The Woolums Family
- White County
- Teresa New
- Environmental Learning Place

**Volunteer Spotlight:**



Landon is a high school student who volunteers with Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful to monitor the entire Bridgewater Creek watershed. Landon doesn't monitor just one site, he has chosen four sites along the creek and tests each site weekly. After 5 months of sampling, he has over 90 monitoring events! He has used his newfound knowledge of water quality to educate his community about water pollution. "Before this, I didn't really know how interconnected everything was. Streams flow into rivers, and that impacts larger ecosystems," For more information about Landon's story, [read the article here.](#)

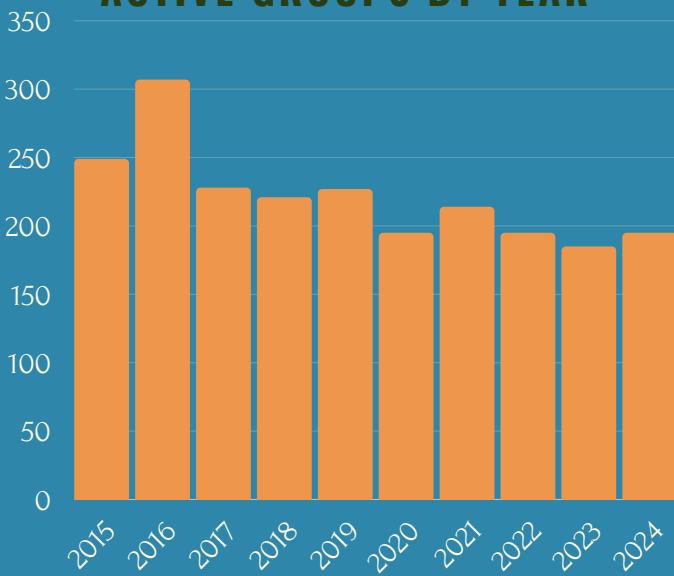




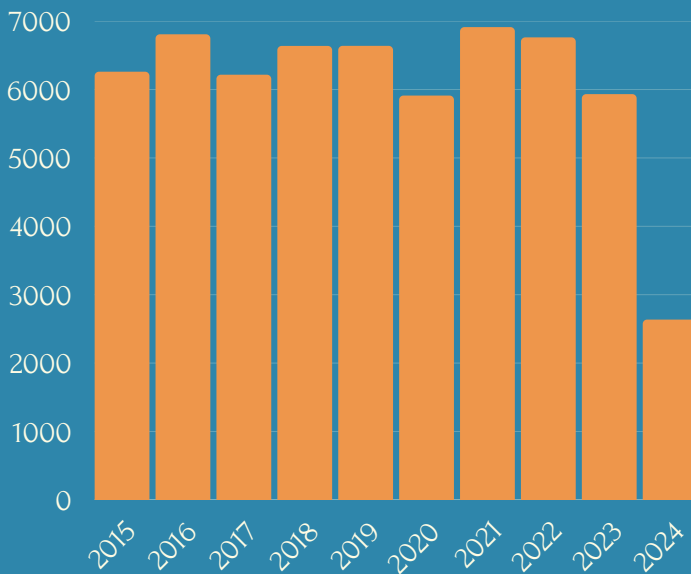
# 2024 IN REVIEW

How'd we do in 2024 compared to past years?

## ACTIVE GROUPS BY YEAR



## MONITORING EVENTS BY YEAR



## TOP MONITORING GROUPS

- Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition  
342 Events!
- Bent Tree Stream Keepers  
109 Events
- WWALS Watershed Coalition  
107 Events
- Satilla Riverkeeper and Friends  
93 Events
- Gwinnett County Dept of Water Resources  
84 Events

## TOP TRAINERS

- Mike Kahle  
258 Certifications
- Julie Knobbe  
224 Certifications
- Patricia DuBose  
153 Certifications
- Ruth Eilers  
135 Certifications
- Tessa Winbigler  
97 Certifications





## GCSU Students are “Thirsting for Knowledge”! By Ruth Eilers



## CALENDER OF EVENTS

### April

12th - City of Atlanta QA/QC Bacterial and Chemical Workshop

23rd - Cobb Co. QA/QC Bacterial and Chemical Workshop

30th - City of Alpharetta QA/QC Bacterial and Chemical Workshop

30th - Fulton County Public Works QA/QC Bacterial and Chemical Workshop

### May

3rd - Altamaha Riverkeeper QA/QC Chemical Workshop

7th - Gwinnett Co. QA/QC Chemical Workshop

15th - Cobb Co. Bacterial QA/QC Monitoring Workshop

Georgia College & State University has recently begun GCSU Thirst for Knowledge. This program is housed within Academic Outreach and is focused on water education. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to participate, whether that be a one-time event or as a monthly monitoring volunteer. Students can also fulfill the Community-Based Engaged Learning component of their [GC Journeys](#) requirement by participating in the program.

GCSU Thirst for Knowledge offers monthly monitoring at two streams that run through GCSU property: Champion Creek at Lake Laurel (GCSU's East Campus) and Tobler Creek at Andalusia Farm (home of Flannery O'Connor). This year they have added Tanyard Creek, a creek that runs through College Station Apartments and is considered a more impaired stream. Students, faculty, staff and a few community members have signed up to participate in these monthly chemical monitoring sessions. The program has been entering data into the AAS database, revealing a unique story for each stream.

Each of these streams flows into the Oconee River and has been used by Biological and Environmental Science majors and classes. The recent addition of the Aquatic Sciences Center has provided opportunities for collaboration within GCSU departments. Academic Outreach has partnered with the Aquatic Sciences Center to provide river clean-ups, symposiums showcasing the research of students and faculty at GCSU as well as an annual Water Education Week in October that culminates with a Water Education Day with entertaining, hands-on activities and information for the community.

GCSU Thirst for Knowledge offers a platform for AAS trainings as well. Several students that participated in the monitoring sessions have received Chemical and/or Macroinvertebrate monitoring certifications. Academic Outreach director, Ruth Eilers, and the Aquatic Sciences Center Director, Dr. Samuel Mutiti, hope to expand offerings each year including more clean-up events and community outreach.

