

GEORGIA ADOPT-A-STREAM

Georgia's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

AdoptASStream.Georgia.gov



OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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The Jones Center at Ichauway

Rachel McGuire, Outreach & Education Coordinator



The Jones Center is located on Ichauway, a 29,000-acre property in rural southwestern Georgia. Ichauway was established as a quail hunting preserve in the 1920s by Robert W. Woodruff, the long-term leader of The Coca-Cola Company. Following his death in 1985, The Jones Center at Ichauway was established in 1991 by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. The property borders 13 miles of the Flint River and contains 15 miles of Ichawaynochaway Creek, 18,000 acres of upland pine forests (overwhelmingly longleaf pine), and nearly 800 acres of wetlands. Over 1,160 plant species and >360 vertebrate species have been documented on Ichauway.

Ichauway is in the Lower Flint River Basin, part of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (ACF), that has a long history of diverse water demands and interests. These water demands come from public water use for metro Atlanta, large swaths of irrigated agricultural lands in SW Georgia, and the oyster industry of Apalachicola Bay, amongst others. Balancing the economic and ecological demands of such drastically disparate landscapes is exceedingly challenging.



Some of our recent research has investigated water use and water budgets of upland longleaf pine systems as well as hurricane disturbance regimes in the southeastern Coastal Plain. Additional wind damage research for pecan growers (a huge industry in SW Georgia) will occur in 2024. On the wildlife front, we recently introduced a population of an endangered aquatic salamander, the striped newt, on Ichauway and investigated novel techniques for invasive wild pig population control that could aid in protecting wetlands, streams, and agricultural land. We provide a unique, immersive experience for our students and employees. Since 1995, over 150 graduate students have completed their studies at The Jones Center in cooperation with partner universities including, but not limited to Auburn University, Emory University, Florida State University, Mississippi State University, University of Florida, and University of Georgia. Our alumni are peppered throughout the country working in various capacities as university faculty, extension agents, biologists, prescribed fire specialists, foresters, environmental educators, private consultants, civil engineers, and more. All have been deeply shaped by their time at Ichauway. As that network grows, so does our organizational impact. This year, we updated our Five-Year Strategic Plan that includes several Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. We actively seek ways to diversify our student, seasonal technicians, and staff recruits as well as form collaborative partnerships to offer workshops and professional development opportunities to underrepresented groups in natural resources.

Our mission is to understand, demonstrate, and promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation. At Ichauway, we have a conservation land

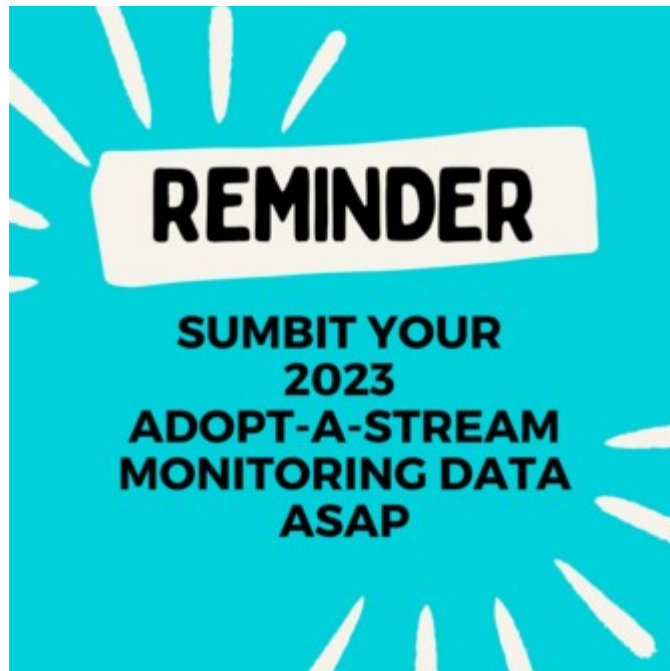
ethic that recognizes our terrestrial and aquatic systems are inextricably linked. The Jones Center seeks to provide science-based solutions for the management of our regional natural resources.

Although Ichauway is not open to the public, there are plenty of ways to emulate the land ethic we strive to maintain. One of the most impactful ways to do this is simple: be aware of and appreciate your surroundings. That waterbody you pass on your daily commute – do you know its name? Do you know where it originates or where it ultimately flows? Get outside and recreate at your public local waterways: fishing, paddling, floating, or simply strolling your nearest city riverwalk connects you with the aquatic systems we inhabit and impact.

For more information about The Jones Center at Ichauway visit www.jonesctr.org



Submit your Adopt-A-Stream Data!



We would like to extend our thanks to everyone that contributed to Georgia Adopt-A-Stream over this past year. Our program could not function without your efforts and support, so **we sincerely appreciate all that you do!**

Your monitoring data is incredibly valuable for the EPA data requests and reports that we will be compiling **in the next few weeks**. So if you have a stack of data sheets on your desk, now is the time to submit that information to the [Georgia Adopt-A-Stream database](#)! We want to ensure accurate and complete reporting in order to represent the dedication and effectiveness of community scientists in water quality monitoring. You can help us immensely by inputting any backdated or current monitoring data **as soon as possible**, and no later than **January 12th, 2024!**

Thank you so much for all of your hard work and dedication to protecting our waterways. We look forward to seeing all of your accomplishments in 2023!

RIVERS ALIVE 2023 WRAP UP



Thanks to the efforts of all organizers and volunteers, Rivers Alive had another successful year of statewide cleanups. Cleanup results are still rolling in, but so far, an estimated **326,119 pounds of garbage** was collected during **142 Rivers Alive** cleanup events, and about **9,057 volunteers** donated **28,842 hours of their time** to help directly improve water quality across Georgia. We appreciate your incredible work to beautify our waterways and educate people across the state about why water quality matters.



If you held a cleanup this fall, please submit your final tally as soon as possible so we can finalize our yearly report.



Confluence 2024 Keynote Speaker

Dr. Steve Golladay



We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Steve Golladay has agreed to present the keynote address for Confluence 2024! Dr. Golladay's interests include the ecology of streams and wetlands, the impact of human land use on water quality and aquatic invertebrates, and the impact of variation in hydrology on ecological processes and

aquatic communities. Recently, he has developed an interest in the ecology and conservation of rare and endangered freshwater mussel species. Dr. Golladay has served as a technical advisor to the Sand County Foundation, Georgia EPD, DNR, and Water Management Districts in Florida. He has developed training activities for resource professionals in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Golladay also has assisted in the development of programs to enhance the natural resource awareness of regional educators in cooperation with regional Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers.

Go ahead and secure your Confluence 2024 lodging by calling Unicoi State Park and Lodge at 1-800-573-9659 and using room code **10328** to book. Additional information can be found on our [Location and Lodging](#) webpage.

Poster Session and AAS Award Deadlines Closing Soon!



Submit your Water Science Poster Abstract by January 12th, 2024

This year's Confluence Friday Social will include a poster session open to students (high school and up) as well as AAS volunteers! Guidelines, abstract submission forms, and examples of previous presenters can be viewed on the [Water Science Poster Presenters](#) page of the GA AAS website.

Poster presenters will receive free registration to Confluence and travel stipends are also available for eligible participants. For questions, contact AAS@dnr.ga.gov.

Submit your AAS Award Nominations by January 12th, 2024

We need your eyes and ears around the state to help us find this year's Adopt-A-Stream award winners! Celebrate an outstanding volunteer, trainers, and/or watershed group who exemplify the goals of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream by nominating them for an AAS award! Any active AAS participant is eligible, and you are welcome to nominate yourself.

Descriptions of the award categories and nomination forms can be found on our website or by clicking [here](#).



UPCOMING WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES



Get certified or recertified in an AAS monitoring program! While virtual options will still be available, in-person workshops are returning for those that feel comfortable attending. You can find workshop opportunities near you on the [workshop calendar](#) on the AAS website or contact your [local coordinator](#) or AAS@dnr.ga.gov to set up a workshop in your area.

WELCOME NEW ADOPT-A-STREAM GROUPS!

These groups monitored for the first time in Oct-Dec 2023!
Welcome to the AAS team!

- Auroner
- Moores
- Freedom Mill Creekers
- Cheatham Hill Target
- Creek Stompers (Tributary to Willow Creek)
- Archer HS Environmental Club
- Southside Water Coalition



Georgia River Network Paddling Trips

Various dates and locations throughout 2024

Visit our [online calendar](#) for monitoring workshops and AAS events!

Georgia Science Junction

Science for Georgia is looking for speakers and venues for the 2024 GA Science Junction. If you or someone you know would like to give a science talk, please contact Patrick.Ryan@sci4ga.org.

Science Comedians Wanted!

Science for Georgia has 3 Science Comedy Shows planned for 2024 and now is your chance to join us. Learn how to turn science into stand-up! Cohort training begins in early February 2024! [Signup here.](#)

If you'd like to become an AAS trainer, please [contact the State Office](#) for workshop information.

