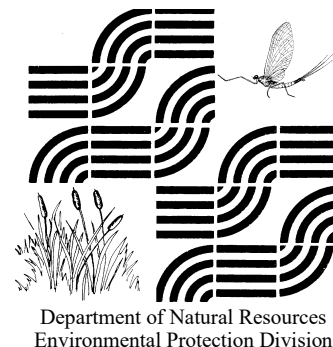


# GEORGIA Adopt-A-Stream

Volume 26, Number 2 April – June 2019  
*Adopt-A-Stream Staff, Editors*



## *Congratulations to the 2018 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.

### *2018 Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Awards*

#### **Lawrence (Larr) Komp, *Volunteer of the Year Award***

*Middle Savannah River • Chemical, Bacterial & Macroinvertebrate Monitor  
Active Since April 2013 • 73 Monitoring Events in 2018*



Larr Komp is a very active and outstanding member of the Middle Savannah River Sentinels group and exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated Adopt-A-Stream volunteer. He has participated in over 90% of the 290 group monitoring activities and missed only one month's sampling events. When he isn't sampling in the stream, Larr promotes AAS within his community by inviting new participants to join the monitoring group and guiding them through the sampling process.

#### **Vicki Soutar, *Outstanding Outreach and Partnership Award***

*Upper Oconee River • Chemical, Bacterial & Macroinvertebrate Monitor  
Active Since November 1998 • 65 Monitoring Events in 2018*

Vicki was first certified as an AAS monitor in 1998 and became a certified trainer in 2014. As an Upper Oconee Watershed Network (UOWN) member since 2015, Vicki has created partnerships with local government agencies, civic organizations and schools to collaborate on an environmental festival within her community as well as promote AAS, water stewardship and UOWN's "Where's My Creek?" project. Through her outreach efforts, Vicki has educated her community about the connections between water science, people and municipalities.



#### **Ken Kloeblen, *Nymph Award***

*Hiwassee River • Chemical & Bacterial Monitor  
Active Since March 2018 • 9 Monitoring Events in 2018*



Ken joined the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition's (HRWC) Adopt-A-Stream program in March 2018. Since that time, Ken has been trained as a chemical and bacterial monitor, bought his own equipment and adopted a site in his backyard which he consistently monitors every month! He has also educated and raised awareness among others about water quality problems and solutions. In this short time, Ken has proven to be one of the most consistent, dedicated and enthusiastic new volunteers in HRWC's program.

## *2018 Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Awards continued...*

### **Bob Schmitt, *Innovation in Adopt-A-Stream Award***

*Upper Chattahoochee River • Chemical & Bacterial  
Monitor • Active Since July 2011*



Bob is a member of Trout Unlimited and has been a dedicated Adopt-A-Stream volunteer since 2011. He leads a water quality monitoring group at the Dunwoody Nature Center in addition to conducting outreach to students in a program called Trout in the Classroom. Bob saw an

opportunity for innovation when he designed and built two contrasting stream models: one showing a healthy stream and an unhealthy stream. Bob uses these models to teach kids and adults how nonpoint source pollution and their actions affect waterways around them.

### **Dr. Chris Kodani, *Innovation in Adopt-A-Stream Award***

*Upper Ocmulgee River • Chemical & Macroinvertebrate  
Monitor • Active Since March 2002*



Dr. Kodani is an associate professor of biology at Clayton State University and received his first Adopt-A-Stream certification in 2002. He also serves as an active AAS trainer and local coordinator for Clayton County. Dr. Kodani completed a project using

data that he collected with his students and geographic information system (GIS) analysis of satellite imagery. This peer-reviewed study was published by Georgia Journal of Science in May 2018 and focused on the relationship between the health of macroinvertebrate communities and the imperviousness of their watershed.

### **Trout Unlimited Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter #692, *Extraordinary Watershed Monitoring Effort Award***



The Trout Unlimited Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter #692 (TU 692) has been a partner of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC) since 2012. Together, the groups work in the AAS monitoring program, education of youth and adults on their watershed and hands-on water quality improvements throughout North Georgia. Chapter-692 members Larry Bundy, Frank Retter, Dan Goff and Dan Wiggins have been integral in establishing baseline data in their watershed. These volunteers have worked to raise public awareness of water quality issues in school classrooms and other public events. They are also currently partnering with HRWC to enhance water quality of a trout stream in Union County.

### **Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, *Beyond Borders Award***

*Chickamauga River • Chattanooga, TN*

The Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute (TNACI) conducts scientific studies, restores the region's natural ecosystems and educates members of the public to take conservation action. Since 2015, TNACI has used Georgia Adopt-A-Stream in their outreach programs in the greater Chattanooga area. In 2018, TNACI trainers Sarah Sweat, Hayley Wise and Samantha Eubanks were responsible for 182 volunteer certifications in biological, chemical and bacterial water quality sampling!



*Help Us Find This Year's Award Winners!*

See full award category descriptions and submit nominations all year on the AAS Awards Submission page at [AdoptAStream.Georgia.gov](http://AdoptAStream.Georgia.gov)

## *2018 Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Awards continued...*



**Bill Blythe, *Excellence in Education Award***  
*Upper Chattahoochee River • Chemical Monitor*  
*Active Since July 2013 • 16 Monitoring Events in 2018*

Bill is an AP Environmental Studies teacher at Pope High School in Cobb county. He started conducting water quality monitoring with his class in the fall of 2013. Since then, Mr. Blythe and his students have conducted over 150 monitoring events at two sites on their campus where they analyze any changes due to nonpoint source pollution. The students start each year with dedication to quickly master the sampling protocols and with Bill's leadership embody the goals of the program.

### *Ina Allison, Excellence in Data Collection Award*

*Upper Chattahoochee River • Chemical, Bacterial & Macroinvertebrate Monitor*  
*Active Since January 2004 • 11 Monitoring Events in 2018*

Ina became a volunteer with the Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program's AAS monitoring efforts in 2004. She recently celebrated her 15th year monitoring with the Adopt-A-Stream program! As a volunteer, she has demonstrated consistent data collection, having submitted chemical and bacterial data every month and biological data every quarter for several years. She is diligent in submitting her data in a timely manner, even back when it had to be submitted as hard copies through snail mail!



## *2018 Adopt-A-Stream Trainer Awards*

### *Mike Kahle, Trainer of the Year Award*

*Upper Chattahoochee River • Chemical, Bacterial & Macroinvertebrate Monitor • Active Since August 2010*



Mike works with Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program and is a local Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator. Mike is always available to volunteers and makes sure to address any and every concern that comes his way. In 2018, Mike conducted an impressive total of 34 workshops including chemical, bacterial, macroinvertebrate and visual water quality monitoring! His outreach efforts include teaching AAS concepts to elementary, middle and high schools, training five high schools in water sampling protocols and creating a newsletter called *The Rivulet* to facilitate discussion and provide further monitoring information to volunteers.

### *Mike DeLisle, Trainer of the Year Award*

*Upper Flint River • Chemical, Bacterial & Macroinvertebrate Monitor • Active Since December 2003*

Mike has been an active AAS volunteer since 2003. After retiring from teaching in 2014, Mike became a certified chemical, bacterial and macroinvertebrate trainer. Mike has recruited more than 300 adult and student AAS volunteers from high schools, 4-H programs, county administration and conservation groups. In 2018 alone, he conducted 9 workshops that resulted in 134 earned certificates! Additionally, Mike has incorporated AAS introduction workshops into his local GA Master Naturalist Program and continues to promote AAS within other volunteer organizations.



## *2018 Adopt-A-Stream Trainer Awards continued...*

### **Raleigh Keagan, New Trainer of the Year Award**

*Hiwassee River • Chemical & Bacterial Monitor • Active Since April 2016 • 21 Monitoring Events in 2018*

Raleigh is fairly new to the AAS trainer world, having been certified as a volunteer in 2016 and then a trainer with the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC) in 2017. She conducted 20 workshops in 2018 for a total of 99 certifications. Despite only having two and a half years under her belt, Raleigh manages volunteer trainings, equipment replenishment, stream site selection and more across North Georgia and North Carolina! She takes the time to connect with her community members in fun and meaningful ways that keep volunteers coming back to AAS every year.



## *2018 Adopt-A-Stream Watershed Awards*



### **Upper Oconee Watershed Network (UOWN) (Nonprofit)**

UOWN is an entirely volunteer operated non-profit organization dedicated to long-term watershed protection. UOWN partners with local municipalities, nonprofits, schools, government agencies and others to accomplish its mission. This year, they hosted their second Biennial Upper Oconee Science and Policy Summit at the University of Georgia where over 100 community members learned about and discussed water quality issues.

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### **Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources (GDWR) (Government)**

GDWR partners with Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful to provide many learning opportunities to their county's residents. Through their partnership, volunteers are provided with free monitoring equipment that has resulted in 273 monitoring events at 42 active stream sites in 2018. GDWR has also conducted several clean ups that have resulted in over 16,000 pounds of trash being removed from our waterways.



## *Board Member Highlight: James Moore, Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)*



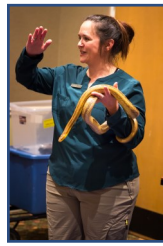
James Moore joined the Georgia Adopt A Stream Advisory Board in 2017, but his involvement with AAS started in 2008. At that time James was working for the Henry County Department of Stormwater Management. Among his duties were the public education and involvement program for the department. In researching successful programs in other parts of the country it was clear the best programs were built around engaging the local citizenry in watershed stewardship by focusing on issues they cared deeply about-protecting a nearby trout stream, preventing beach closures due to polluted stormwater runoff or controlling algae blooms in the local lake. However, by virtue of geography, Henry County had no trout, no beaches and the only lakes of any significance were drinking water reservoirs that offered limited recreational opportunities. What it did have were lots of small, first-order streams that flowed through suburban neighborhoods perfect for engaging potential citizen

scientists. AAS seemed like it might be the answer. James became an AAS chemical and macroinvertebrate trainer and AAS became a key element of the County's stormwater program's public education efforts. When James had the opportunity to become the Deputy Director of the City of Griffin's Stormwater Division, he continued his AAS involvement there, training a little, but mainly offering program support for the AAS Trainer extraordinaire Alexa Robinson.

James is originally from Lake Park, Georgia and spent most of his childhood with either a fishing pole or dip net in his hand. After spending six years in the Marine Corps, he returned home and went to school on the GI Bill, graduating from Valdosta State University in 2003. James is now the Stormwater Specialist at Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) where he is working to help stormwater professionals have access to training and professional development opportunities on par with their brothers and sisters in the water and wastewater sectors. James lives in the South River watershed with his lovely wife Avery, his two sons, two dogs and five chickens.



"This experience is a wonderful opportunity to create connections with other people in this field."



"Confluence was great! I loved the location and the experience."

*Thank YOU for Making Confluence 2019 a Success!*



"The AAS Junior Sessions were a great addition and allow a new generation to see community members coming together to serve."



**Over 200 in attendance! 16 amazing sessions! One fantastic keynote speech!**

Quotes from Confluence attendees via post-survey. See more photos from the conference on the [AAS Facebook page](#)!

*Thanks to our generous 2019 Confluence Sponsors!*



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For a complete list of event sponsors, visit the Confluence Sponsorship page at [www.AdoptAStream.Georgia.gov](http://www.AdoptAStream.Georgia.gov)

**Save the date for next year's Adopt-A-Stream conference!**

**Confluence 2020**

**March 27—29**

**Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, GA**

*Want to Organize a River Cleanup in your Neighborhood?*



The Rivers Alive website offers many resources to help you organize and promote a safe and fun cleanup in your community!

Check out the homepage for links to *Tools for Organizing a Cleanup* as well as our Organizer's page for FAQ guide, checklists and more to help your event run smoothly. Or, head over to the *Locate a Cleanup* page for a listing of upcoming cleanups.  
[RiversAlive.Georgia.gov](http://RiversAlive.Georgia.gov)

Register your August to December cleanup by July 31st to be eligible for free t-shirts and promotional materials!

The preparation of the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream quarterly newsletter is financed in part through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency under provisions of Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act of 1987, as amended. For more information about the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program or to contribute to the newsletter, contact:

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**GO BLUE!**

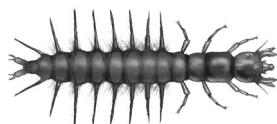
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Dragonfly



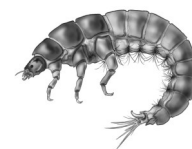
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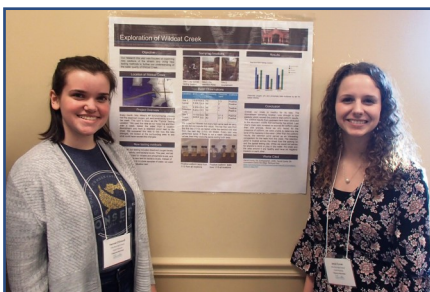
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## *Thank you to our 2019 Water Science Poster Session Presenters!*



This year's water science poster session held at the annual Adopt-A-Stream conference Friday social on March 22nd was a great success! Twenty presenters educated attendees about their student research and volunteer monitoring projects. The session included presentations from high school, undergraduate and graduate students as well as AAS volunteers. Presenters' projects and abstracts can be found on the Water Science Poster Presenters & Winners page!

Want to be a part of this fun session next year? Check out the guidelines and resources on the Confluence page of the AAS website.



Please visit our calendar at [AdoptAStream.Georgia.gov](http://AdoptAStream.Georgia.gov) for upcoming workshops and events!