

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of the volunteers, partners and staff who have helped with this conference and the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program throughout the years.

**A very special thank you to our 2019 Confluence committee:**

Seira Baker	Lori Forrester	Jana Pearce
David Bell	Harold Harbert	Hannah Penn
Bob Bourne	Mike Kahle	Alexa Robinson
Amanda Buice	Monica Kilpatrick	Javier Sayago
R Michael Carter	Chris Kodani	Jessica Sterling
Lynn Cobb	Shelley Lange	Sarah Sweat
Bailey Crapps	Erin Lincoln	Jack White
Jackie Encinas	Jennifer McLaurin	Hayley Wise
Will England	Ruth Mead	Lina Yazbak



**Thank You and See You Next Year at Confluence 2020!**

**[AdoptAStream.Georgia.Gov](http://AdoptAStream.Georgia.Gov)**

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# Confluence 2019

*Unicoi State Park and lodge, Helen, Georgia, March 22-24*

## Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's Annual Volunteer Conference

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Keynote Speaker

Dr. Anna George, Vice President of Conservation Science and Education, with Tennessee Aquarium will be providing the keynote address from 10:00-12:00pm Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Protecting an Underwater Rainforest: How to Help the Diverse Rivers and Critters of the Southeastern United States:**

If you look beneath the surface of streams and rivers in the southeastern United States, you’ll find an underwater rainforest teeming with life. More than half of our nation’s salamanders, turtles, fish and frogs make the waters of the Southeast their home. These same rivers also support our rich quality of life, from economic development to recreation and relaxation. Unfortunately, freshwater ecosystems are facing unprecedented challenges, especially here in the Southeast. Our diverse, clean waters are at threat from urbanization and stormwater runoff, overuse of water, and changing weather patterns. To keep the life in our rivers vibrant, colorful, and healthy, we must take action and demand more from ourselves and our community. Whether you are an engineer or a biologist, an artist or writer, the choices we make each day have the greatest impact on our backyard.

Basin Breakouts

Want to get to know other AAS volunteers, trainers and leaders in your watershed? Come to Basin Breakouts to meet, share ideas and see who is doing what in your neck of the woods! Tables will be marked with signs during Saturday lunch for participants to find their basin buddies!

Basin Tables:

- Chattahoochee
  - Ocmulgee
  - Oconee
  - Flint
- Coosa, Tennessee and Tallapoosa
  - Satilla and Suwanee
  - Savannah

\*Participants from other watersheds are welcome to join any of the above groups!

**Breakfast:** Enjoy a light breakfast Saturday morning prepared by Unicoi’s staff.

**Lunch:** We are having a buffet lunch from Unicoi Lodge. Remember to recycle!

**AAS Year in Review & Awards Ceremony:** Join us after lunch for updates on the program and to honor AAS Award Winners.

**Door Prizes:** Place half of your door prize ticket in a cup by the item you’d like to win! Winners will be selected after Session 3.

**Silent Auction:** Visit the Master Hall Lobby to bid on an auction item! Proceeds support our conference, poster session and volunteer travel scholarships.

Confluence Poster Session

Check out water science research from students and volunteers! Posters are located in the Master Hall Lobby and displayed throughout the conference.

High School:

**Optimizing Water Filtration Using Biochar and Polymer Additives.** Renee George, Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology  
**Impact of Upgraded Wastewater Treatment Plant on Water Quality.** Luke Morneault, Oconee county High School and Oconee Waters  
**Effect of Environmental Conditions on Algal Biofuel Production.** Jose Ayala and Jorge Chavez, Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology  
**The Effect of Mass of Trametes versicolor on Lead (II) Nitrate Concentration in Riverbank Soil.** Gloria Bradley, Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology  
**The Viability of Soil Near a Wetland for Vegetation.** Annabelle Renner, Melinda Downey, Destini Chambers, Montgomery Blake, South Paulding High School  
**Exploration of Wildcat Creek.** Hannah O’Driscoll and Jessie Turner, Villa Rica High School

Undergraduate:

**Microplastic and microbial load along a rural-to-urban gradient within the Chattahoochee River.** Blake Lindner, Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
**Determining Aquatic Biodiversity and Stream Health of the Proctor Creek Watershed Using eDNA Technology and Citizen Science.** Camille Mosley, Emory University  
**Interwoven Community: A Framework for Restoring an Ecological Fabric.** Devin Filicicchia, Young Harris College and Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition  
**A two-year study monitoring macroinvertebrate assemblages and leaf litter breakdown rates to assess the impact of Dalton State College campus on College Creek.** Cody Beavers and Michael Cuprowski, Dalton State College  
**The Southern Appalachian Snorkeling Trail: Preserving Water Quality in Appalachian Communities by Promoting Native Fishes.** Hannah Walker, Caroline Cox, Young Harris College and Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition

Graduate:

**Oconee Confluence Clean Water Alliance (OCCWA): Forestland Protection in the Upper Oconee River Basin to Protect Drinking Water Sources.** Cassidy Lord, University of Georgia and Upper Oconee Watershed Network

Volunteer:

**Collecting Sediment Samples during a Rainstorm.** Natalie Ladd, Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition