



10am – 11:30am: Meeting

* Note: this was the meeting that started late because the email said room 1162B, but meeting was actually in DNR board room. Started around 10:20 and went late to noon

In attendance: Javier Sayago, Bob Bourne, Jen McCoy, Hayley Wise, Sarah Sweat, Jesse Demonbreun-Chapman , Michael DeLisle, Ruth Eilers, Jackie Valett, Callie Moore, Michael O’Shield, Frances Kennedy, Lina Yazbak, Seira Baker, Mary Lou Hoffacker, Harold Harbert, Jana Pearce

Call in: Deborah Ortiz, Sumner Gann

Introductions

Upcoming AAS workshops and meetings listed below.

➤ **Updates from the State Office:**

- Welcome Jana Pearce!
- Confluence

▪ **2018 Confluence Overview**

- 2018: Total registered: 157. Total comp’d registrations: 28. Student registrations: 20 (5 comp’d) Obstacles: time of year for staff, reluctance to drive through Atlanta, having student projects done by that point in the semester, advertisement of travel stipend.
- Total Silent Auction income: \$1,147
- Sponsorship 2018 Total: \$1,700
- Rollover for 2019: ~\$5,000

Next year, make sure to update local AAS coordinators and winner organizations if someone gets an award.

▪ **2019 Confluence Update**

- Networking opportunity, celebrating achievements, is the current format of the event serving this purpose
- March 16 or 23 (23rd is best) is possibly on hold at GEHC for Con19: Water Drop Dash, State Science Fair
- First Confluence 2019 Committee meeting date: mid-late July?
- Location ideas: Unicoi State Park, Emory, Charlie Elliott, Callanwolde, North GA College (Dahlonega), Amicalola, Mercer, GSU- Decatur alumni park, 4H Wasega, Fortson, Rock Eagle (Eatonton), GA Perimeter, Fernbank Science Center, Blackshear
- Incentivize staying Saturday night with Sunday morning activity (e.g. paddle, fly casting, dam tour, recerts)?
- Keynote speaker ideas: bringing in a speaker from out of town vs. a local speaker, additional value? Suggestions: Nicholas Mallos – Microplastics, Chatty Wight Stover (Jen McCoy), Anna George – TNACI, Eve Brantley – Auburn University

- Event Format: reducing number of sessions, 1 hour session options in addition to 2 hour, door prizes during lunch so that everyone can leave after afternoon session
- Differentiating registration costs (professional, volunteer, student)?
- Awards update
 - New Teacher Award “Outside of the Classroom Award”? (how to quantify, not really evaluating their teaching, judge by utilization of AAS in classroom)
 - Draft shared from Ruth:
 - Excellence in Teaching:
 - Nominee has gone above and beyond at exposing students to the goals of AAS.
 - Nominee involves students in water quality testing, watershed cleanups and stream appreciation both in the classroom and in the field
 - Nominee has excited students to become involved in protecting their watershed
 - Nymph Award rewording

Nominee has participated in the AAS program for no more than two years and has excelled in meeting its goals and promoting improvement and protection of water quality. Wording approved.

- Trainer of the Year- should AAS board decide instead of requiring a submission? Current system skews away from trainers who live in areas with low number of workshops/participants. Is the submission important for adding a qualitative component instead of just looking at numbers? Incorporate veteran point system?
- Manual/Website Updates
 - Format review of new manuals
 - Volunteers for Manuals Committee? May have first meeting in July. Interested: Bob B, Ruth E (remote), Deborah O?
 - Don’t forget you can “add contacts” yourself!

- Quarterly Newsletters

Please feel free to let us know if you have any ideas for articles or contributions for the newsletter.

- Veteran Trainer point system

James Moore shared ideas from GAWP for point system- Develop a survey? Submit an annual report (template- Jen M, Javier S, Callie M, Ruth E)?

➤ **Updates from Community Coordinators**

- Update trainers when there are updates to materials on trainer page; include date of revision on website.
- AAS in Spanish? English as a second language teacher (ADOPT- Awareness, Data, Observation, Partnerships, Tools/Training, Español)
- Issue with wording on Question 2 of chemical/bacterial test
- Bonner scholars at Berry- 2 students monitoring ~30 sites
- Add Frances Kennedy to trainer request list

11:30am – 12:30pm: Trainer Recertifications
Afterwards: Networking Lunch at Sweet Auburn Market

Upcoming AAS Events

Volunteer Workshops:

Tue, May 22, 9 – 12 : Henry County Bacterial Monitoring Workshop

Wed, May 30 : New Coastal Train-the-Trainer Workshop

Thu, May 31, 9– 12 : Clayton County Bacterial Monitoring Workshop

Wed, June 6, 6:30– 9p : Cobb County Chemical Workshop

Thu, June 7, 2– 4:30p : Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Chemical Workshop

Thu, June 28, 9 – 1:30 : Henry County Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Workshop

Events:

Fri – Fri, June 15-22: Georgia River Network's Paddle Georgia, Yellow & Ocmulgee River