



10am – 12pm: Meeting

Started at 10:15 am. In attendance: Kathy Church, Michael O'Shield, John Butler, Jordan Girard, Vicki Soutar, Bruno Giri, Deborah Ortiz, Tyler Sims, Brian Wiley, Seira Baker, Bailey Crapps, Harold Harbert.

Introductions

Upcoming AAS workshops and meetings listed below.

➤ **Updates from the State Office:**

- Thank you, Mary Lou. Welcome Bailey Crapps!
- Confluence 2019: Friday & Saturday, March 23 – 24, 2017 at Unicoi Lodge, Helen, GA
 - Conference planning – sessions, agenda, keynote update
 - AAS Water Science Poster session
 - Fundraising suggestions
 - Early responses from survey
- Awards update
Draft New Teacher Award 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
- Manual/Website Updates
 - Format review of new manuals
 - Volunteers for Manuals Committee? Bruno will help out.
- Database Survey
 - Review of potential questions
 - General confirmation that a survey is a good idea.
- Veteran Trainer point system
 - Voucher for one year of recert
 - A way for veteran trainers to train new trainers
 - Point system
 - Deborah: Yes, people higher up in the federal government don't quite understand and this would be a way to demonstrate what I am doing, written confirmation.
 - Kathy: Yes, beneficial to see a higher status, when looking at reviews it is nice to be able to see distinctions.

➤ **Updates from Community Coordinators**

Kathy: confluence meeting #3 (Nov 19th before 3:30pm)- contact her for available dates and times.

Found a huge leech!

Deborah: great turn out for the workshop that Mary Lou and Lina conducted at Constitution Lakes

Vicki: encouraged and certified a new group to start monitoring and the group formed a non-profit (Greater Appalachian River Community)

Bruno: Upper Oconee Policy and Science Summit just recently had their second conference at UGA (biannual event-next will be in 2020- approx. 100 people in attendance).

UGA researchers (PhD student-Gabby was noted) are finding great abundance and diversity of bacteria in samples and want to work on antimicrobial techniques and encourage citizens help "fix" this problem

Excited about White Dam removal and de-listing of streams

Oconee River Watershed is being broken into sub-waterway and citizens are forming "creek teams" that are trying to get started with AAS. "Where's My Creek?" are using 'report cards' to assess stream quality and magnets are given out to each team.

General Comments: glitch in the recert email notice

12pm – 1:30pm: Trainer Recertifications

All recert.

Upcoming AAS Events

Volunteer Workshops:

Sat, Sep 29: Autrey Mill Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Workshop

Thu, Oct 4: Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Workshop

Wed, Nov 7: Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Visual Stream Survey

Events:

October 1: Community Coordinator Meeting, Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, Chattanooga, TN

October 6: Coast Fest, Brunswick

October 6-8: GRN Paddle Georgia Fall Float on the Flint River Monitoring & Chemical QA/QC Workshop