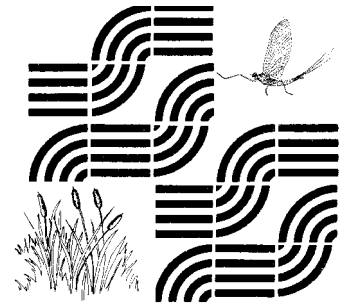


GEORGIA

# Adopt-A-Stream

Volume 5, Number 1, January/February 1998

*Eve Funderburk, Editor*



Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division

## ☆ Meet Michele Droszcz! ☆

Happy New Year to all of you! Georgia Adopt-A-Stream starts the new year with a new staff member, Ms. Michele Droszcz. We are pleased to introduce you to our new co-coordinator - Before joining our program, Michele was finishing her Masters degree in Resource Management and Administration from Antioch New England in New Hampshire. Her study concentration was in wetlands and water quality using a watershed management approach. She began her career in water here in Georgia by developing Plan It Green, a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education and community leadership programs. More recently, Michele created a long-term monitoring program for Cumberland Island National Seashore. You may reach Michele at (404) 656-0069 or e-mail [michele\\_droszcz@mail.dnr.state.ga](mailto:michele_droszcz@mail.dnr.state.ga). We're looking forward to all of you getting to know her! Welcome to Adopt-A-Stream, Michele!!

## American Heritage River Initiative

"In his 1997 State of the Union Address, President Clinton announced the American Heritage Rivers initiative to help communities revitalize their rivers and the banks along them -- the streets, the historic buildings, the natural habitats, the parks -- to help celebrate their history and their heritage. In early 1998, the President will select 10 American Heritage Rivers. According to the need they identify, communities along these rivers will receive special assistance. American Heritage Rivers is an umbrella initiative designed to more effectively use the federal government's many resources. Environmental, economic, and social concerns will be addressed through a plan that is designed and driven by the local community. The initiative creates no new regulatory requirements for private property owners, or for state, tribal, or local governments." -from American Heritage Rivers information document. The American Heritage River community will have a River Navigator assigned to it. This person will help citizens achieve their goals for economic revitalization, natural resource and environmental protection, and historic and cultural preservation. Communities will also receive improved access to technical and financial assistance from federal agencies.

Georgia had at least two river systems nominated for the American Heritage River Initiative in December, 1998. The Chattahoochee Heritage Alliance nomination was spearheaded by groups along the upper and lower portions of the river including groups in Alabama. Support for the nomination ranges from the headwaters in north Georgia to Seminole County, Alabama just north of Florida. The Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, and municipalities and dedicated citizens all along the Chattahoochee endorsed and promoted the nomination. Another great example of communities coming together is the Coosa River Basin nomination. Organizations in both Alabama and Georgia consolidated their efforts to nominate the entire Coosa River Basin. Several groups, such as the City of Rome, Floyd County, Cartersville Water Department, Pell City, Logan Martin Lake Protection Association, and the Coosa River Basin Initiative came together to form the Coosa River Heritage Committee.

It is impressive to note that both efforts looked across state lines to involve all stakeholders regardless of jurisdictions. Congratulations to both nominating groups in taking a broader view of these important water systems. We wish the best to both groups! The ten rivers chosen for American Heritage River status will be announced in early 1998. Other nominations throughout the country include the upper Mississippi River, the Tennessee River, the Missouri River, the James River in Virginia, the Hudson River, and the Florida Everglades.

## Watersheds Unite - The New Journey In Monitoring

by Alice Champagne, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

This past year has been very exciting for Georgia Adopt-A-Stream in many respects - successful conference, increase in volunteers, and the introduction of new programs. One of the new, exciting programs is the **Citizens Watershed Monitoring Workshop**, a cooperative effort between Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, and DeKalb County Parks. These quarterly workshops brought together people within the same creek basins to discuss local concerns and meet one another. Residents in the Nancy Creek, Peachtree Creek, and South River basin met at Fernbank Science Center, DeKalb County's 40 Oaks Preserve, the Trinity School and Emory University for dinner, updates on watershed issues and an educational program geared to their basin.

As a result of this watershed initiative and interest in protecting water quality, several watershed groups have formed to monitor and protect their creeks. For example, the **Peavine Watershed Alliance** has been in operation a little over 6 months and in that time has brought together stakeholders from their area to discuss immediate watershed concerns and plan for the future. Stakeholders include representatives from the City of Decatur, Emory University, Druid Hills Golf Club, Fernbank Science Center, and many other important groups. They presented their Watershed Alliance structure at the final meeting this year.

Another group off to a great start is the **Friends of Nancy Creek**. This watershed program was formed in November. They will be monitoring various segments up and down Nancy Creek and entering their data into the Riverkeeper Stream Database in order to get a watershed view. Their next activity will be to meet in late February or March for a training session and to get to know each other and find out who is doing what on the creek.

In North Fulton County, the **Marsh Creek Watershed Coalition** was formed in late summer. Their purpose is to monitor watershed land uses and learn about watershed stream monitoring. Currently, they have been fighting a re-zoning effort and monitoring the construction of the North Fulton MARTA station. Marsh Creek runs through both of the aforementioned properties. In the spring, they hope to start stream monitoring at two to three points along Marsh Creek and enter their data into the Riverkeeper

Stream Database. "The Marshers" of North Springs High School have been monitoring Marsh Creek for the past five years and will be continuing to be a part of the Watershed Coalition's monitoring team.

In Douglas County, the **Friends of Douglas County** work to ensure that the local governments and decision makers continue to adopt and enforce watershed protection guidelines and efforts. They are trying to educate others as to the importance of the many watersheds in their county. They are Sweetwater Creek, Dog River, Bear Creek, Annawakee Creek, and Hurricane Creek. Watch for future Adopt-A-Stream results from this group. Also, in Gwinnett County, a small group of citizens continue to monitor the construction of the Mall of Georgia and its relation to the streams it will affect. The main concern is the increase of erosion and sedimentation into Ivy and Suwanee Creeks.

## The Need For Mussel Building

by Jingle Davis from The Atlanta Journal/The Atlanta Constitution November 2, 1997

Why should anybody care? "In Georgia, which boasts one of the richest and most diverse freshwater mussel populations in the world, 17 species are already on state and federal protected lists or under consideration for future listing. And, nearly 70 species of freshwater mussels are protected across the United States. Thirty more are presumed extinct. They aren't recommended as human food, they don't boost the state's economy, they aren't even fun to watch, since most species spend their lives underwater, buried beneath rocks, mud or sand.

The answer is that freshwater mussels are bellwethers, one of the best natural indicators of the general health of waterways. Mussels are filter feeders, absorbing nutrients from surrounding waters. They also absorb mercury, lead, coliform bacteria and other toxins dangerous to human and other animals... State, federal and local governments say they are working to improve water quality to protect mussels and other species. In addition, the federal Endangered Species Act provides special protections for species listed as "threatened or endangered" by limiting polluting activities. And government agencies continue to sponsor studies to add species to protected lists as necessary." Environmental organizations, such as the Nature Conservancy, have also joined in.

We can all



help improve water quality for all stream critters through simple actions in our own backyard. Simple actions such as not overfertilizing our lawns, recycling used motor oil and antifreeze at a proper location instead of dumping down storm drains, and not allowing our pets to use the bathroom near or in streams can make a big difference. Georgia has streams and rivers rich in species diversity - it's up to us to help protect them!

## Local Happenings...

They're seeing *STARS* down in Columbus! Just ask the River Kids about their time in the spotlight on the TV cable channel Nickelodeon...



By Dee Shore, River Kids Network, Clubview Elementary School

Well, River Kids' Network has hit the big times. In October, an associate producer for Nick News came to Columbus to tape a River Kids segment. I couldn't believe my ears when they contacted me about doing the segment. The crew spent the entire day with us (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) And interviewed some of our veteran River Kids. Though Linda Ellerbee didn't come, the kids agreed that the day would be etched into the history of River Kids' Network forever. The segment aired on November 8 and November 9, and people are still praising the Lucky Duck Production Company for the outstanding way in which they portrayed the pollution problems of the Chattahoochee River and the aspirations of the River Kids. Congratulations to the River Kids from all of us!

## Georgia Adopt-A-Wetland Is Official

The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Advisory Board will spend a weekend meeting and reflecting January 9-10 at the FFA Jackson Lake Camp in Covington. While some of the time will be spent discussing how to improve the Adopt-A-Stream program, a lot of time will be dedicated to formatting the new Adopt-A-Wetland program and workshops. Funding has come through and we're ready to start 1998 off with a bang!! The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Regional Training Centers will serve as Wetland Regional Training Centers, too. Locations of the 1998 Regional Training Centers are North Georgia College and State University, Columbus State University, Georgia College and State University, Savannah State University, and Valdosta State University.

***Don't be shy!!*** Be sure to call your local Regional Training Center Director and get to know them and the resources they have to offer you.

**North Georgia** - Dr. Susan Gannaway and Dr. Mac Callahan

**706-864-1893 or -1956**

**Metro Atlanta and Athens** - Eve Funderburk and Michele Droszcz

**404-656-0099 or -0069**

**Central Georgia** - Dr. Harriett Whipple and Mr. Marshall Gaddis

**912-445-4549 or 912-275-4140**

**West Central Georgia** - Dr. Becky Champion

**706-569-3052**

**Coastal Georgia** - Dr. Joe Richardson

**912-356-1457**

**South Georgia** - Dr. David Hedgepeth

**912-333-5611**



## Customized Kit

Dr. Mac Callaham, North Georgia Regional Training Center Co-Director, has some good news for Georgia Adopt-A-Stream groups who need to order shallow water monitoring stream chemistry kits. The LaMotte Company has configured a chemical kit for the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program. The package contains all the equipment and reagents necessary to measure pH, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate and total phosphorus. The cost is \$376 plus shipping. Those who order this package should use the special code XXOO458 (North Georgia College and State University). For more information, call LaMotte Company at 1-800-344-3100 or Dr. Callaham at 706-864-1956.

### 1998 Adopt-A-Stream Training Workshops

The following workshops introduce volunteers to specific water quality monitoring techniques and background information. Call to reserve your space in the following workshops. Space is limited!

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>To Register</u>
Chemical	Jan. 17	Atlanta	404-876-2900 ext10
Biological	Jan. 17	Gainesville	706-864-1893
Chemical	Jan. 24	Savannah	912-897-6462
Chemical	Jan. 24	Albany	912-897-6462
Chemical/Biological	Jan. 24	Alpharetta	770-442-9057
Chemical	Feb.21	Gainesville	706-864-1893

Our workshop schedule is slowing for the winter months. Be sure to check out our 1998 workshop schedule which is now available.

## Attention Teachers

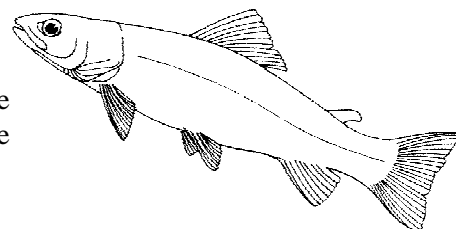
Are you interested in **grants** for Adopt-A-Stream groups? Here are a few suggestions ...

Schools in the Chattahoochee River Basin may contact Alice Champagne from the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper to learn about their Captain Planet Network Grants (404) 352-9828. Trout Unlimited also has grant money available for schools preferable in the Chattahoochee River Basin - contact Eve at (404) 656-0099 for more information. Schools throughout the state may apply for Captain Planet Grants - for more information outside of the Chattahoochee River Basin, please check out the Captain Planet web page where you may even apply for grants online!! The address is [www.turner.com/cpf](http://www.turner.com/cpf)

## Mail Bag

Do you want to continue getting the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream newsletter? If not, please let us know!! We need to remove those folks who have moved or no longer wish to receive our bi-monthly newsletter. Unless we hear differently, we will continue to send you our newsletter. We will be glad to remove your address - please call (404) 656-0099, write or email at [eve\\_funderburk@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:eve_funderburk@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)

The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Newsletter is published six times per year. For more information about the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program or to contribute to the newsletter, call or write to:



**Georgia Adopt-A-Stream  
Environmental Protection Division  
7 ML King Dr. SW, Suite 643  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
404-656-0099**