

# GEORGIA

# Adopt-A-Stream

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Allison Hughes and Sally Mason, Editors



## 2006: A Year to Remember

In 2006, Adopt-A-Stream hired Sally Mason to serve as a State Coordinator for Adopt-A-Stream. With a full staff, the program has been very active and we have completed several major projects. In the spring, AAS published our Macroinvertebrate Field Guide for Georgia's Streams and developed new protocols for biological monitoring. During the summer we led the "Scientific Research Team" for Paddle Georgia as we floated the Etowah and Coosa rivers. To wrap up the year, Adopt-A-Stream is proud to launch our new and improved website.

### General Update

This year was very successful for Adopt-A-Stream trainers. During 2006, the State office certified 98 trainers in chemical and biological monitoring and we now have 55 community coordinators to assist you with local water quality issues, lead monitoring workshops and serve as a local partner. With the assistance of these trainers, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream offered 130 workshops across the State. During these workshops, 1,900 Georgia citizens received Quality Assured Quality Control Certification (QA/QC). This is a fifty percent increase from last year! In addition, our volunteers registered 66 new groups who have adopted 138 monitoring sites – a 60 percent increase from last year! This shows that the Adopt-A-Stream program continues to thrive and educate more citizens each year.

The Adopt-A-Stream newsletter, published six times per year, is now delivered to over 4,550 homes, schools and nature centers. Our website continues to develop, and this year we have spent many hours

designing a new user-friendly site. Adopt-A-Stream's newsletter and website allow us to reach more people than ever before.

### Macroinvertebrate Field Guide

Our major accomplishment for the year is the publication of our Macroinvertebrate Field Guide for Georgia's Streams. The new field guide is more durable than ever before. It consists of a laminated quad-folded guide that will fit into your back pocket. The guide features new illustrations of the macroinvertebrates, including sketches of the adults. The new format and species descriptions make it easier for volunteer monitors to identify macroinvertebrates in the field. As of January 1, 2007, we have changed over to the new biological monitoring protocols, so make sure you are currently certified using the new protocols. Contact your local trainer if you need to be re-certified.



State Coordinator Allison Hughes and NRCS Summer Campers take a look at some "bugs"

### Paddle Georgia

During the past year, our partnership with The Georgia River Network became even stronger as we assisted with the first ever Adopt-A-Stream training during Paddle Georgia. During the 120-mile journey in the Etowah and Coosa river basins, over 20 participants became certified and collected chemical data at more than 50 sites. We also assisted Georgia River Network with their annual conference where we designed and hosted the "Understanding Your Watershed Track". This track was well attended and received great feedback from conference attendees. Please join us for the 2007 GRN Conference on February 16-17 in Milledgeville.

## Our New Websites

Over the past few months, we have spent numerous hours constructing new websites for Adopt-A-Stream and Rivers Alive. GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org is organized into six main segments and is further divided into subsections. The site is loaded with easy to find references and resources.

GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org has many new features, including a password-protected section for our local coordinators. Coordinators have access to a calendar for posting Adopt-A-Stream workshops and special local events. On our opening page, we will be sharing photographs of our volunteers in action. We hope to grow a library of photographs, and would like to feature a new program or group on the opening page each month. Later in 2007, we will be launching our on-line database, which will enable volunteers to enter their monitoring data, generate reports and run queries. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions and comments about our new website.

## Streaming into the Future

As we continue to grow, we have several goals that we would like to accomplish during the next year. In

2007, we will work with our fiscal partner to improve fundraising efforts to increase the availability of our "Adopt-A-Stream in the Classroom" kits and offer grant opportunities for groups with limited funding sources. We will also partner with the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service to develop a program for advanced water quality testing. Through this partnership, Adopt-A-Stream volunteers will be able to submit water samples to the UGA Cooperative Extension Service Water Lab and have their water samples tested for a variety of parameters at discounted cost. This much needed program will allow volunteers to gather a more comprehensive understanding of the health in their local waterways.

Finally, the Adopt-A-Stream program is continuing to grow into the future by designing a new on-line data entry system. This system will allow volunteers to enter and store their monitoring data, and will include a mechanism for displaying stored data in graphs. This program will reduce much of the paperwork and data entry involved in reporting monitoring information, and leaves more time for us to focus on other areas of the program. We look forward to an exciting year in 2007!



This year was a huge success for Rivers Alive as was evidenced by an increase in the number of volunteers, pounds of litter collected and the miles of waterways cleaned. There were 140 groups who organized over 25,000 volunteers, which is equal to the size of Georgia's 21<sup>st</sup> largest city. These volunteers picked up nearly 20,000 more pounds of trash than last year, bringing the total amount of litter to 708,020 pounds, the weight of 26 whale sharks, the largest species in the shark family. This year our efforts helped clean up over 2,300 miles of Georgia's Waters, equivalent to the distance between Atlanta and

Fresno, California. The most common items collected were: beverage bottles (glass and plastic), aluminum cans, cigarettes, food wrappers, plastic bags and Styrofoam.

The success of Rivers Alive is determined by volunteer participation. The estimate of volunteer time spent during this year's event is equal to \$1.6 million dollars. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Your efforts help create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources.

Another major milestone for Rivers Alive is the development of a new website. The new website is better organized, more colorful, and easier than ever to navigate. Please visit our new site to get information about Rivers Alive 2007. We hope you will join us in 2007 for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Rivers Alive Cleanup.

*Written by Mitch Russell, State Coordinator for Rivers Alive.*



Mitch Russell does his part to keep Georgia's rivers clean

## A Special Thanks Goes Out To Our Hardworking Adopt-A-Stream Trainers

The Adopt-A-Stream program relies heavily on our certified trainers from the North Georgia mountain streams to the coastal waters. These trainers have trained over 1,900 QA/QC volunteer monitors during 2006. We would like to thank our active trainers who led at least one workshop during 2006:

- Chandra Brown • Al Browning • Dave Butler • Frank Carl • Azarina Carmical • Duncan Cottrell •  
• Ellie Covington • John Davis • Ruth Eilers • Greg Eilers • Lori Forrester • Mary Gazaway •  
• Steve Golladay • Larry Golsen • John Graham • Amber Greer • Laurene Hall • Harold Harbert •
- Gary Hawkins • Tammy Heiselmeyer • Justin Howell • Sheila Humphrey • Becky Jones • Chris Kodani •  
• John Kominoski • Eric Lindberg • Eric Lundsford • Sam Linhart • Michelle McClendon •
- Jennifer McCoy • Jennifer McLaurin • Ruth Mead • Katie Mowbray • Michael O'Shield • Katie Owens •  
• Dave Patterson • Robert Phillips • Trisha Poling • Terry Porter • Brenda Rashleigh • Joe Richardson •  
• Melissa Rottenberg • Kevin Smith • Jean Smith • Sharon Smith • Mary Sorenson •  
• Mary Sweeney-Reeves • Cynthia Taylor • William Tietjen • Lina Wayo • Tom Weiland •  
• David Wenner • Brian Wiley • Kyla Zaro-Moore •

## Tips for Submitting Your Data

Thank you volunteers for your time and dedication to AAS. We are always looking to improve our methods of collecting data to ensure that all your hard work is accurately recorded. Therefore, we would like to offer a few reminders regarding the data collection forms:

- Please write legibly and use a dark pen.
- Write your full name (first and last) and enter the group leader's name first.
- Be sure to include your site and group number.
- Include your group name as it was registered.
- Record all temperatures in Celsius.
- For the Macroinvertebrate Count Form, please use the designated letter codes.
- Please double check the top of your form to make sure all pertinent information is recorded (i.e. weather conditions, amount of rain, habitat, and method used).

Following these simple guidelines will ensure that your data is efficiently and accurately recorded. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Once again, thank you for your ongoing commitment to AAS. Your data is greatly appreciated and we look forward to another great year of monitoring!

## Adopt-A-Stream Calendar of Events

The following workshops, taught by certified AAS trainers, provide training in visual, biological and chemical monitoring. Teachers may receive 1 PLU credit for participating – please go to the AAS website under Teacher Corner for more details. Please call to register for a workshop.

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>To Register</b>
Biological	Savannah Riverkeeper	Jan 13	Augusta	706.364.5253
Coastal Adopt-A-Stream	UGA Marine Extension	Jan 13	Skidaway Island	912.598.2343
Coastal Adopt-A-Stream	UGA Marine Extension	Jan 25	Skidaway Island	912.598.2343
Chemical	Metro Atlanta AAS	Jan 27	REI-Atlanta	404.675.1635
Intro, Chem & Bio	Elachee Nature Center	Feb 16-17	Gainesville	770.535.1976
Chemical	Fulton County AAS	March 24	Chattahoochee N.C.	404.730.8006
Introduction	Georgia Wildlife Federation	April 14	Covington	770.787.7887
Chemical	Georgia Wildlife Federation	April 21	Covington	770.787.7887
Biological	Georgia Wildlife Federation	April 28	Covington	770.787.7887

**Workshop information is updated weekly on our website at [www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org)**

**QA/QC Recertification:** All QA/QC volunteers must renew certification on a yearly basis. This can be accomplished by participating in the second half of our regular chemical or biological workshop.

## Mark Your 2007 Calendar!

**Georgia River Network Conference** ♦ February 16-17 ♦ [www.garivers.org](http://www.garivers.org)  
Milledgeville, GA

**Georgia Water Resources Conference** ♦ March 27-29 ♦ <http://www.gwrc2007.org>  
Athens, GA

**Environmental Education Alliance Conference** ♦ March 30-April 1 ♦ [www.eealliance.org](http://www.eealliance.org)  
Jekyll Island, GA

**River Network's River Rally** ♦ May 18-22 ♦ [www.rivernetnetwork.org](http://www.rivernetnetwork.org)  
Stevenson, Washington

**Paddle Georgia** ♦ June 23-30 ♦ [www.garivers.org](http://www.garivers.org)  
Ocmulgee River from North of Monticello to Hawkinsville

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**  
**4220 International Parkway, Suite 101**  
**Atlanta, GA 30354**  
**(404) 675-1635 or 1639**  
**[www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org)**

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