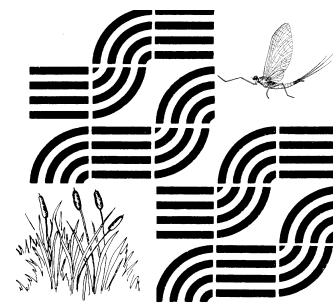


GEORGIA

Adopt-A-Stream

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Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

A Year of Challenges, A Year of Success

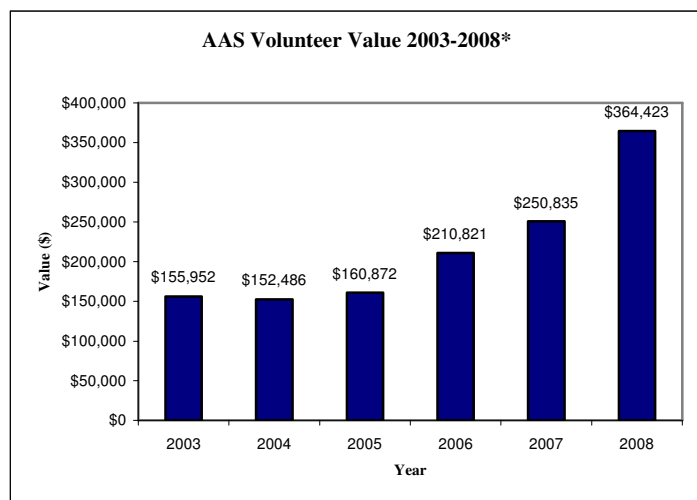
2008 was a year of challenges for Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. We started the year with only one state coordinator and lost her before the onset of summer. We could have thrown in the towel, but instead we cobbled together a patchwork team of dedicated interns and veterans, all the while relying on our partners and our resourcefulness. Through it all, the program made significant progress. In fact, 2008 may one day be considered a watershed year for Adopt-A-Stream; several programmatic changes were realized, with one particularly significant step forward in the creation of our online water quality database.

In 2008, the State Office certified 93 trainers for conducting chemical and biological monitoring workshops. These trainers work closely with or serve as leaders of our 52 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 a record 240 workshops across the state. During these workshops, 2,089 citizens received Quality Assured Quality Control Certification (QA/QC). In addition, our volunteers registered 88 new sites to add to the 227 actively monitored sites. The time and effort our trainers and volunteers contribute to the program is significant; in fact, according to the Independent Sector website, the value of AAS volunteers in Georgia is in excess of \$350,000!

The Adopt-A-Stream newsletter, published six times per year, is now delivered to more than 4,800 homes, schools and nature centers. Our website continues to provide up-to-date information for volunteers. Our guides and manuals on watersheds, stream physical characteristics, water chemistry, macroinvertebrates, bacteria, wetlands, amphibians, and even waterway cleanups, still garner much interest. In fact, we receive requests from places as far away as Costa Rica, Argentina, and Singapore for AAS resources.

Success through Partnerships

Monitoring programs continue to take root in new areas of the state. New programs have been initiated on the west side of the state, in places such as Columbus and Carroll County. We have a new crop of trainers in the Columbia County/



*Values are based on Independent Sector research and includes workshop and monitoring hours.

Augusta area, and interest in the program has begun to take root in the Macon area. Southwest Georgia has a newfound interest in the program as they have discovered the amphibian-monitoring program and have begun testing stream bacteria levels. North Georgia was not left out of the activities, as new programs and reinvigorated programs popped up in Rome and throughout the Coosa basin. Despite these steps forward, we have experienced a few set backs, especially in coastal Georgia, which suddenly finds itself with an excess of monitoring programs and few trainers or coordinators to provide leadership. Our partners on the coast have achieved a level of success that's hard to match; we hope to work closely with the coastal program to ensure continued success.

Our partnership with the EPD TMDL program resulted in
(continued on page 3)

Adopt-A-Stream Database Has a Story to Tell

Over the past year, AAS has emphasized the utility and function of the newly created database in workshops and newsletters. It provides an easy interface for data storage, but can also be used for information sharing.

Database efforts in 2008 focused mostly on data cleaning, backlogged data input, creating functional interfaces for data entry, and providing interfaces for state and local programmatic documentation. In 2009, the primary focus is on creating functional interfaces for sharing and displaying water quality data. This includes increased program and group communication capabilities.

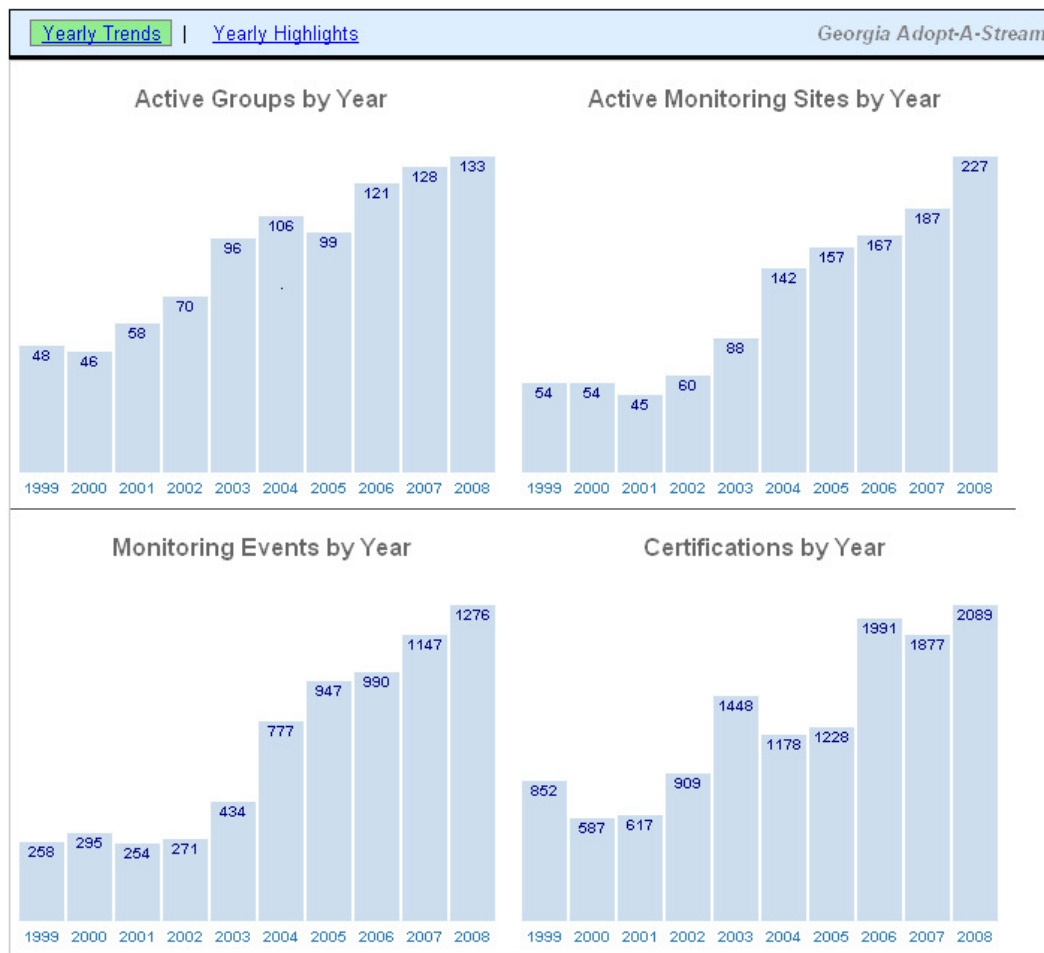
This article is part of a series of upcoming articles that highlight the different ways in which you can engage and use the AAS database. The volunteer database will be an ever-growing project, so please send us your comments on how it can be more useful to you!

While we encourage everyone to become familiar with using the online database, only QA/QC certified volunteers can register sites to adopt and add stream monitoring data. Registered AAS volunteers can access the online database at www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org.

Special thanks to our programmer, Rick Hitchcock, IT Professional Principal of the University of Georgia Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories

Summary Data: Exciting Numbers for AAS!

The database can now provide summary data, which provides an opportunity to view the activity status of the AAS



Year	Volunteer Hours
2003	7,983
2004	7,807
2005	8,238
2006	10,793
2007	12,845
2008	18,665

Table 1. AAS Volunteer Hours. Volunteer hours more than doubled over the last five years!

Figure 1. Direct from the Database: AAS Program Statistics, 1999-2008.

Active groups, active sites, the number of events and total certifications all increased in 2008, continuing an upward trend over the last decade.

Program Continues to Grow *(continued from page 1)*

in our first foray into the world of producing regulatory certified data. In 2008, EPA Region 4 provided documentation that our dissolved oxygen (DO) methods met EPA regulatory standards. This opened the door for the creation of EPD-approved sampling quality assurance plans (SQAP) for the submission of DO samples, using volunteer field methods for inclusion in the regulatory process. This partnership also included the use of volunteers to serve as runners to pull samples analyzed by Georgia certified laboratories.

Moving into the New Year

For 2009, we look forward to working with our local partners to continue to develop new programs. A primary focus for this year will be the development of new monitoring forms for our visual stream assessment and a fully updated watershed manual. Expect us to put the finishing touches on our amphibian manual. We also plan to produce a lake monitoring guide to address the monitoring of impounded bodies of water. And, much like in 2008, we'll spend the next year making significant updates to our online database, focusing attention on water quality data display and dissemination. Also, for the first time, all volunteer water quality data will be made available to the general public through our online database.

We will also continue our strong partnership with Rivers Alive, providing coordinator support for the implementation of this program, communicating with volunteers, local organizers and the Rivers Alive Board.

Despite our staffing challenges, 2008 was a year of tremendous success for Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. We expect the same for 2009!

Significant Developments in Rivers Alive

In 2008, the Rivers Alive campaign celebrated 10 years of cleaning up Georgia's waterways. Over the past decade, over 182,842 volunteers have extracted 3,862,348 pounds of trash from 12,086 miles of waterway. And, while these impressive numbers indicate the tremendous impact this program has had on communities and their watersheds in the past, the numbers from the 2008 cleanups indicate that Rivers Alive will continue to grow into the next decade.

Despite high gasoline prices and a gasoline shortage



The Tucker Waterway Rivers Alive Cleanup 2008.

during the fall, 26,841 volunteers participated in Rivers Alive events—almost 10 percent more than any single previous year. These cleanup events totaled 90,924 volunteer hours, removing 368.3 tons of garbage from 2,265 miles of waterway. Thank you to all volunteers who took part in a record-setting 2008!

In addition to cleanup volunteers, event organizers plan and coordinate events locally, taking on a significant amount of work behind the scenes. Their work makes it possible for others to get involved in Rivers Alive cleanups. On April 22nd, these organizers will be recognized for their outstanding work at the annual Rivers Alive luncheon at Zoo Atlanta.

Improvements for 2009

Changes are afoot for 2009, with the creation of an updated website that will provide a query-driven interface for locating cleanup sites. We'll also post cleanup events year-round; however, as in the past, only events that occur in the fall will qualify for T-shirts. And finally, we're designing another fun T-shirt for the 2009 campaign that will promote this year's educational message of water quality.

Thank you again to all organizers and volunteers who made 2008 a great success! Your contributions leave Georgia's waters cleaner, healthier and more enjoyable for everyone and make a positive impact on the environment.

Thank You to Our 2008 Adopt-A-Stream Trainers!

Allison Hughes
Andrea Sarisky
Angela Bliss
Anne Stahley
Annie Huff
Brenda Rashleigh
Brian Johnston
Brian Sterner
Brian Wiley
Chris Kodani
Courtney Walz
Cynthia Taylor
Dave Butler

Dave Wenner
David Promis
Dianna Wedincamp
Duncan Cottrell
Emily Toriani
Frank Carl
Harold Harbert
Jennifer McCoy
John Davis
John Graham
John Kominoski
Johnna Tuttle
Judith Cocus

Kate Mowbray
Kelly Voss
Kevin Fandrich
Kevin Finney
Kevin Smith
Laura Aikens
Lori Forrester
Mary Carol Sheffield
Melissa Rottenberg
Michael O'Shield
Michael Reardon
Ray Sprankle
Renee Gracon

Robert Phillips
Ruth Eilers
Ruth Mead
Scarlett Fuller
Sharon Smith
Sheila Humphrey
Sue Eggert
Susan Meyers
Tammy Heiselmeyer
Tara Muenz
Tyler Sims
Vicki Clubreth
William Tietjen

For more information as well as the time and location of upcoming workshops, visit [www. GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org).

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:

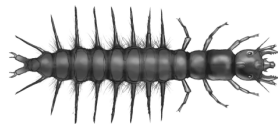
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Dragonfly



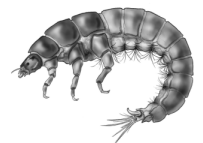
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Dobsonfly



Stonefly



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