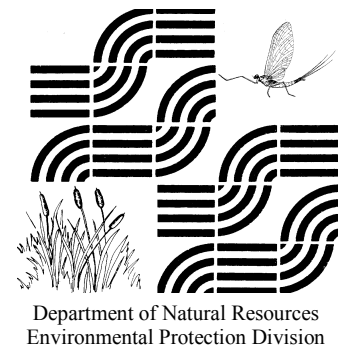


GEORGIA Adopt-A-Stream

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Adopt-A-Stream Staff, Editors



Adopt-A-Stream by the Numbers 2014



Georgia Adopt-A-Stream would like to thank our wonderful volunteers, trainers, community coordinators, and advisory board members for helping us build such a strong and continually growing program over the past 21 years! Let's take a look at the different ways in which we collectively met the five AAS goals in 2014 and contributed more than 23,000 hours of service worth over \$490,000 in volunteer dollars to protect Georgia's waterways!

Exciting Adopt-A-Stream Program Updates: Launched New Online Data Entry

In March of 2014, AAS successfully launched our much anticipated updates to the online data entry forms for the three QA/QC programs and the stream habitat survey, and new data forms and supporting materials for all of our monitoring programs! The updated online forms are interactive and help guide you through the data entry process, capturing errors and warnings as data is entered, flagging outliers and numbers that are unacceptable (i.e. pH readings above or below 14 or 0). A fifth program goal, observations, was added encouraging basic observations of monitoring sites. All of the new data forms include this basic observations section and it is captured in the online data entry.

Strengthening Partnerships in Georgia and Beyond

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream continues to grow in partnerships with government, nonprofit groups, universities and local programs. In 2014, we strengthened our involvement with the 319 grant program by continuing to develop our monitoring training program for grant awardees. We supported up and coming programs along the coast in the Satilla and Ogeechee watersheds. And, we continue to see unbridled growth in South Carolina's use of the program, with two SC trainers receiving certification and conducting workshops in their state. The AAS database now shows 35 active sites in SC as well as 23 new sites in NC. We also partnered with the Georgia FFA Association at the Environmental/Natural Resources Career Development Event by facilitating the Water Analysis Team Activity on chemical monitoring.

Rivers Alive 2014

Rivers Alive had another successful year in 2014! The education message focused on 'Georgia's Rivers Connect Us.' A poster was published to reinforce this theme and it included a classroom activity on the back called, "Blue River." The artwork (right) portrays the many ways in which we rely on rivers and how they bring us together, once again reinforcing the theme. The fundraising committee had a successful year, raising nearly \$50,000. As for the final numbers, we experienced a little of everything last year: volunteer numbers and total pounds of trash removed went up, hours and bags of trash went down. Throughout 16 years of Rivers Alive cleanups, over 9.2 million pounds of trash have been removed!



Adopt-A-Stream by the Numbers 2014, continued...

From Adopt-A-Stream trainers and community coordinators to volunteers at the bank of their neighborhood stream, it takes a dedicated community of hard working individuals to make headway in protecting our state's waterways. Take a look at the ways we connected and grew in 2014 to make a huge impact!

- ✓ **380** Workshops Conducted
- ✓ **342** New Active Volunteers

Even though we had less monitoring workshops than last year, a higher percentage of trainees are becoming active volunteers!

- ✓ **5,498** Total Monitoring Events
 - ✓ **61%** More Visual Habitat Surveys Recorded than in 2013
 - ✓ **24%** More Bacterial Monitoring Events than in 2013
- In 2014, we had the most monitoring events ever recorded!*

- ✓ **44%** of our **9,000** newsletter recipients now receive the e-newsletter version. **GO BLUE!**

Let us know if you want to switch to our e-newsletter to receive all the same news while saving our natural resources!



228 monitoring sites gained



190 monitoring sites lost

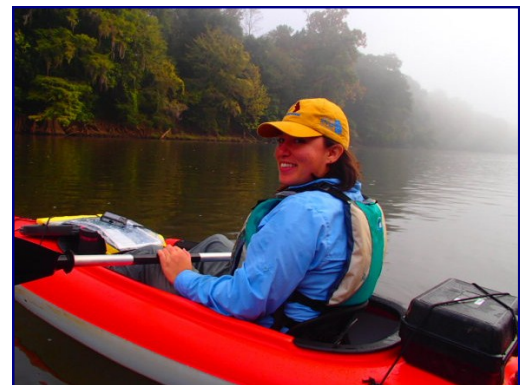
In 2014, more monitoring sites were adopted or re-adopted than the number of monitoring sites dropped. This high turnover of sites is common among volunteer monitoring programs and some lost sites can be attributed to changing monitoring goals or moving monitoring locations. We are proud that you, our volunteers, keep Adopt-A-Stream growing!



Thank You Anne for All Your Hard Work with Adopt-A-Stream!

It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming Anne Stahley back to the Adopt-A-Stream program, as the Georgia State Coordinator. And in only a year, we have said goodbye, as she has parted ways for Arizona. Her reason for leaving certainly makes sense; she took a job in Glendale to be reunited with her husband who is stationed there at the Air Force base. The position she's accepted seems a natural fit, as the Water Conservation Outreach Coordinator at the City of Glendale. But still, her departure seems all too soon, as we were just beginning to engage in exciting activities to expand our program right here in Georgia.

"I will never forget my experience working for AAS, a program that has helped me grow personally and professionally in such a positive way. It's been so rewarding to work with Coordinators, Trainers and Volunteers, and the enthusiasm that you all contribute to the program. Thank you for sharing this with me and thank you for all you do to protect water quality in Georgia and beyond!" - Anne



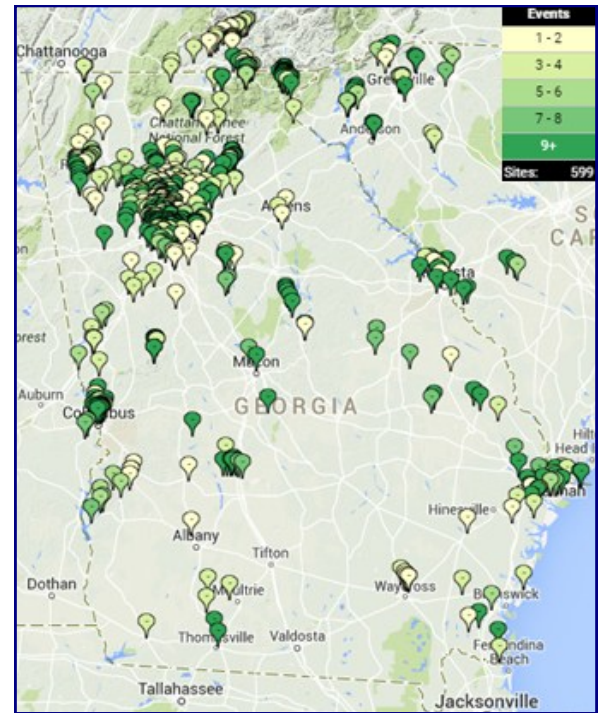
While we certainly hate to see her leave, we understand she's in a better place, at home with her family. **We already miss you Anne, all the best in Arizona!**

Adopt-A-Stream by the Numbers 2014, continued...

With continual growth comes new faces and new places! A big thanks to our new volunteers and groups as well as those that began monitoring additional sites in the past year!

- ★ **342** NEW Active Volunteers
- ★ **65** NEW Active Monitoring Groups
- ★ **153** NEW Streams Monitored
- ★ **212** NEW Sites Monitored

Can you find your monitoring site? What about your favorite fishing hole? The map on the right shows all the adopted sites that had a monitoring event during the past year. This map along with many other ways to view monitoring data around the state is found on www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org. Click a site balloon and group name for links to view graphs and tables of the site's monitoring data as well as an option to download an Excel file for your own analysis!



YOU are protecting Georgia's waterways!

Thank You Active 2014 Trainers!

*Trainers who led at least one QA/QC workshop in 2014

Jennifer Arp
Coral Bass
Angela Bray
Brandi Cagle
Eric Cagle
Blake Caldwell
Frank Carl
Jennifer Collins
Vicki Culbreth
Mark Dallas

Ruth Eilers
Jennifer Flowers
Lori Forrester
Darryl Haddock
Harold Harbert
Chelsea Hopkins
Duncan Hughes
Daniel Huser
Mike Kahle
Chris Kodani

Kathleen Lemley
Eric Lindberg
Melissa Martin
Roger Martin
Jennifer McCoy
Brian McKnight
Ruth Mead
Michael Meyer
Susan Meyers
Kate Mowbray

Tara Muenz
Michael O'Shield
Robert Phillips
Michael Reardon
Alexa Robinson
Tyler Sims
Joshua Smith
Kevin Smith
Sharon Smith
William D. Smith

Anne Stahley
Obby Tapley
Amos Tuck
Johnna Tuttle
Beth Walker
Andrew Walter
Lori Watterson
Tom Weiland
Dave Wenner
Brian Wiley

Welcome New Adopt-A-Stream Trainers in 2014

*New trainers who led at least one QA/QC workshop in 2014

Seira Baker
Jesse Demonbreun-Chapman
Mary Freund
Sumner Gann
Amanda Kanack

Ashby Nix
Sara Posey
Cassie Renfrow
Lance Renfrow
Jessica Warren

Announcing: First Ever Student Poster Competition at Confluence!

Confluence is excited to announce what we hope will become a new tradition at our annual conference, a student poster competition. The competition is designed for students to share water science research projects, receive recognition throughout the water quality monitoring community, and interact with peers and professionals in the field. For our first poster competition we've selected 10 posters, 5 in the undergraduate level and 5 in the high school level. Posters will be judged by a team of scientists and professors. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top two posters in both the undergraduate and high school categories. Plan to join us at the Confluence Social on Friday, March 13, at the Environmental and Heritage Center in Gwinnett for good food and drinks, an opportunity to meet likeminded folks, and see budding scientists present their water related research. The winners will also be conducting oral presentations during the afternoon session of the conference on Saturday.



Need New Monitoring Equipment? Ben Meadows offers a 15% discount to Adopt-A-Stream volunteers with the discount code: TSDNR15 Expires 12/31/2015.

Upcoming Dates

February 28: Georgia Lake Society Lake University Workshop, Stone Mountain Park

March 10: Chemical Monitoring Workshop, Cobb County

March 13-14: Confluence, Environmental & Heritage Center, Buford

March 20-21: Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference, Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Eatonton

May 2: No Water No Beer Festival, Sweetwater Brewery, Atlanta. www.gawwa.org/NWNB2015

Visit our online calendar for more details and events!

Tire Pickup for Your Next Cleanup!

Bridgestone Americas' Tires4ward Program began in 2012 with the mission of recycling one used tire for every one tire sold. Along with recycling tires at their company-owned stores, they also provide tire recycling services to organized community cleanups around the nation. We highly recommend Bridgestone's Free Tire Pickup for your local cleanups if you see tires in your cleanup area and don't have local help with removing tires. They were able to remove 436 tires from a Georgia EPD cleanup along Proctor Creek last fall! A request form which can be found on the Rivers Alive homepage must be submitted at least a month prior to the cleanup. Be sure to follow up with them until the tires are removed!

AAS Board Member Spotlight: Amanda Buice, Georgia Dept. of Education



Amanda Buice grew up surrounded by trees, snakes, frogs and creeks in rural Lamar County about 26 miles away from one of her favorite rivers, the Flint. She taught elementary school for nine years in both Georgia and South Carolina before becoming the regional coordinator of the Gordon Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center (GYSTC). While at GYSTC, she partnered with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to develop drought curriculum. It was also during her time as a regional coordinator that she became involved with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. She collaborated with other GYSTC regional coordinators along the Flint River to secure grant funding to design and conduct 2 professional learning field experiences for teachers that included training in the AAS protocols: 1) The Living Flint: From Beginning to End and 2) The Environmental Education Research Academy at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center. The Living Flint program was awarded recognition by

Georgia AAS. Additionally, she conducted field experiences in water quality for students on the Flint River at Sprewell Bluff. She currently works at the Georgia Department of Education where she manages the Mathematics Science Partnership Grant (Title IIB). In this role, she seeks to connect STEM faculty from institutes of higher education to K-12 teachers for professional learning in the content areas of mathematics and science. Amanda is passionate about teachers and students doing real science, and that is why she continues to love, support, and promote the work of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream!

Confluence Registration is Now Open!

Registration for Confluence is \$30 (\$20 for students with ID) and includes the Friday night dinner and social, lunch on Saturday and a conference t-shirt! We have some exciting sessions lined up for this year's conference! Favorites such as Streambank Restoration, Protecting Georgia's Waters, and Invasive Plants will be available again this year. We also added some interesting new sessions including Education Station, Your Monitoring Community, and Freshwater Mussels. We hope you will join us for a wonderful, water-filled conference to expand and enhance your monitoring pursuits!

Registration deadline is Friday, March 6th at 12:00pm EST.

There will not be any on-site registrations.

Register here: <http://www.georgiaadoptastream.com/db/ConfluenceRegistration2015.asp>

More information including the conference agenda and session descriptions can be found on the [Confluence page](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org) at www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org.

A limited number of travel stipends are available for volunteers who are actively engaged in AAS and who are willing to serve as a volunteer at Confluence. To apply for a travel stipend, please complete the [Travel Stipend Form](#) on our website. The deadline to apply for travel stipends is March 1st. Travel stipend awards will be announced to applicants by March 3rd.



CONFLUENCE 2015

Friday & Saturday, March 13 & 14, 2015

Friday evening: Student Poster Competition and Adopt-A-Stream Social

Saturday: Water Quality Workshops, Exhibits and Awards Ceremony

Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford, GA

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Bernard Sweeney, Stroud Water Research Center

Director, President, Senior Research Scientist

Keeping it Green at Confluence 2015

By Tom Mills & Sumner Gann, Confluence Green Team Committee Members

If you attended last year's Confluence, you may remember the emphasis we placed on reducing our trash footprint by subdividing the waste and recycling generated at the conference. Hopefully, you are still using your reusable lunch bag. Just like last year, planning ahead will be the key to reducing the waste our event generates. This year the Confluence Green Team is at work to reduce our consumption and waste footprint to even greater levels. Onward and upward!

Similar to last year, we are considering the preparation and packaging of the meals and how we'll manage the waste generated. We're also working with J & J Culinary Sensations, a green caterer, who will be providing real silverware and reusable plates for the Friday night social to reduce our consumption of disposable items and 80-90% recycled plastic-ware for Saturday's lunch. To further reduce packaging, sandwiches will be prepared on-site and served on platters. But, not to worry, there will be napkins! To manage any waste created, there will be separate, specific bins for recycling different materials to minimize the amount we put in a trash bin. In addition to reducing disposable items, the caterer uses fuel efficient cooking equipment and green cleaning products and supports local and organic growers whenever possible.



Our green efforts are extending outside of food this year. We are creating a carpool program to match up conference attendees that live near each other, saving gas and reducing emissions. Carpooling requests can be completed with your online registration form. Contact information for your carpooling matches in your area will be e-mailed to you.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! While we are leaning more heavily on the first and third R's, it is always our mission to consider and lessen the impacts of our event on the environment we strive to protect. Consider this an invitation and a challenge...we're looking forward to seeing you at Confluence, but we need your help to make our green efforts successful!

The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Newsletter is published quarterly.
For more information about the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program or
to contribute to the newsletter, contact:

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*Harold Harbert, Seira Baker, and
Chelsea Hopkins*

GO BLUE!

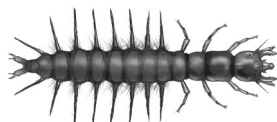
**Sign up for our e-newsletter
by emailing us at
chelsea.hopkins@gaepd.org**



Dragonfly



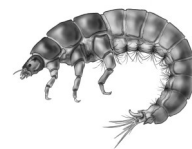
Riffle Beetle



Dobsonfly



Stonefly



Net Spinning Caddisfly

Confluence Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bernard Sweeney, Stroud Water Research Center

By Jack White, Confluence Committee Member



The critical role of the riparian forest buffer – the vegetated area along a stream channel – is one of the main research topics of Confluence’s keynote speaker, Dr. Bernard Sweeney. Dr. Sweeney received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and is now an Adjunct Professor of Biology there.

The Stroud Center was founded a half-century ago for the specific purpose of studying streams and rivers. Originally part of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Stroud became an independent non-profit organization shortly after hiring Dr. Sweeney as Executive Director in 1989. As Stroud’s Director, Dr. Sweeney has led both major scientific inquiries (a study of the watersheds supplying New York City’s drinking water) and notable environmental education efforts like the creation of the Leaf Pack Network®. The Center’s 2004 study of the correlation between healthy buffers and healthy streams gathered huge attention when it was published and is still frequently cited.

One of Stroud’s recently completed studies examines how the components of a well-planted riparian buffer (trees, understory, and ground-level plants) both prevent pollutants from reaching streams and help break down those that do. Dr. Sweeney’s keynote will address the Quantity and Quality of Freshwater: A Global to Local Perspective. A subsequent workshop will focus on riparian corridor best practices, how to cope with limited widths, steep slopes, and problematic adjacent land uses, and emerging technologies in the field of stream monitoring.

We hope you will take advantage of this rare opportunity to hear an ecologist with an exceptional combination of biological skills, practical field experience, and passion for his subject. For more information about Dr. Sweeney, check out his [profile](#) and latest [buffer publication](#) linked from the Confluence Schedule page.

Please visit www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org to register for Confluence 2015!