

GEORGIA

Adopt-A-Stream

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Michele Droszcz and Harold Harbert, Editors



Forming A Community Watershed Alliance

By Minett Juric

Many of us in the watershed began to pay attention to Henderson Mill Creek when we noticed run off from a construction site was impacting the creek. We decided to form a group, Henderson Mill Watershed Alliance, to focus on the protection of the watershed.

What *was* our watershed and how should we determine our creek's health? If we found problems, what could we do about them? Fortunately, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream has provided many of the answers to these questions. The information, training and wonderful people at Georgia Adopt-A-Stream have helped to transform our group of concerned neighbors into a bona-fide Alliance, committed to the improvement and protection of Henderson Mill Creek, its tributaries and its watershed.

The Henderson Mill Creek Watershed is in Northeast Atlanta, contained by Lavista Road, I-85 and Chamblee Tucker Road. Our watershed has beautiful woods, hidden lakes, secret waterfalls and incredible wetlands, as well as lots of houses, shopping areas, parking lots, roads and a mall. As you would expect from a place that has a large mall and a suburban environment, our creek's problems have a lot to do with impervious surface. Henderson Mill Creek rises from five inches to over *five feet* within an hour during a rainstorm and has heavily eroded banks.

We have become familiar with our creek's problems through our committed Adopt-A-Stream efforts.

During this last year we performed both biological and chemical monitoring at two of the four monitoring sites within our watershed. Since we were discouraged by repeated "poor" biological index ratings at these two sites, we decided to follow our monitoring efforts with a fun lunch. This, combined with very productive, informal monthly meetings, served as the backbone for our Watershed Alliance. Additional activities such as cleanups, neighborhood field trips, tree plantings, trail building, and hosting a Soil and Erosion Control Workshop (sponsored by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper) have continued to educate others and us about our watershed.

Now that we have had a year and a half to explore our watershed from the Adopt-A-Stream perspective, the Alliance is ready to address some of our more pertinent problems. We will continue many of the past year's activities while focusing on green space protection and streambank restoration. We're also working on creating a sustainable organization, realizing that the changes we'd like to see might not happen in a year. We're developing new ways to include busy people (which describes almost everyone) and to partner with other organizations. We hope that these activities will eventually help to improve the health of our stream through direct action or increased awareness and that we will continue to work together on this stream that connects us all.

To learn more about the Henderson Mill Watershed please write to hmwa@juno.com, or call 770-939-6127.

Local News

The Upper Etowah River Alliance is a community-based watershed protection group that works in the Etowah basin upstream of Lake Allatoona. They formed in 1997 to provide regional leadership to promote watershed protection strategies across the five Upper Etowah counties (Cherokee, Forsyth, Pickens, Dawson and Lumpkin). The Upper Etowah River Alliance will now sponsor Adopt-A-Stream workshops open to all citizens in the Upper Etowah Watershed. For more information contact Duncan Cottrell at (770) 735-2778. Visit their website at www.etowahriver.org.

The Gainesville/Hall County Adopt-A-Stream Program... A Big Leap from A Small Step

In 1994, the Hall County Adopt-A-Stream Program had two sponsors and roughly 6 members. By 1996, two industries and one convenience store adopted segments of Flat Creek for visual monitoring. The first public cleanup was held in Gainesville in 1999 and drew about 12 people. In 2000, a group of 7 people came together to form a steering committee for the Gainesville/Hall County Adopt-A-Stream Program. The second public cleanup, in conjunction with Rivers Alive, attracted over 60 volunteers to clean Flat, Balus and Limestone Creeks. After the cleanup, brainstorming began within the steering committee. Since public outreach and stream adoption were the main goals of the program, funds were needed to provide equipment to prospective volunteers. Letters were sent and not long after, nine sponsors stepped forward to help the program achieve its goals. These nine included ConAgra Poultry, CH2M Hill, Gainesville PUD, Koch Foods, Cargill Foods, Deep South Products, King's Delight, Georgia Power and Whitehead Die Casting. With their help, three new kick seines and D-frame nets and 4 chemical test kits were purchased. This year, the program has had eight sponsors step forward to offer in-kind services for the Rivers Alive cleanup in October. Two hundred volunteers are expected to participate in this cleanup. We still have a long way to go to catch up to other successful cleanup programs, but with such a supportive group within the community, public education and participation will continue to grow.

Submitted by Sue Hurd – Gainesville/Hall County Adopt-A-Stream

Interns at the State Office

The Adopt-A-Stream Program has two new summer interns, Sarah Moore and Catherine Young. Sarah and Catherine are rising seniors at Emory University. Both are biology majors and have a deep concern for the environment. Sarah brings a certain zeal and energy to the AAS program, and excels in working on... pretty much everything. Catherine is a talented artist and has been given the challenging task of updating the Adopt-A-Stream water quality database. If you would like to intern at Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, call 404-675-1639.

Seeking River Cleanup Volunteers

Looking for a fun activity this fall? Participate in one of over 100 cleanup events during this fall's Rivers Alive. All river cleanup events are posted on two maps at our web site www.riversalive.org.

Last year's highlights:

10,000 plus volunteers collected **200,000 pounds** of garbage.

Goals for 2001:

100 local cleanups and attract more than **16,000 volunteers**.

To meet these goals, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**



Participate and qualify for
free T-shirts

Adopt-A-Stream Calendar of Events

The following workshops, taught by certified AAS trainers, provide training in visual, biological and chemical monitoring of streams. Please call to register.

What	Who	When	Where	To Register
Getting Started w/ AAS	Upper Etowah River Alliance	Aug 11	Dawsonville	770-735-2778
Chemical	Upper Etowah River Alliance	Aug 18	Dawsonville	770-735-2778
Biological	Fulton County AAS	Aug 25	Sandy Springs	770-698-5739

NOTE: Workshop times vary. Please call to get exact times and locations. Workshop information is updated weekly on our website at www.riversalive.org/aas.htm

There's more! AAS workshops are conducted throughout the State. Call one of these numbers to learn about upcoming workshops in your region of the State.

Where	Who	To Register	E-mail
Coastal GA	Dr. Joe Richardson	912-356-2809	richards@tigerpaw.ssu.peachnet.edu
West GA	Dr. Becky Champion	706-687-4090	champion_becky@colstate.edu
Central GA	Beth Hohnadel	706-444-9820	ejhohnadel@hotmail.com
Southwest GA	Dr. William Tietjen	912-931-2253	wlt@canes.gsw.edu
South GA	Dr. David Hedgepeth	912-333-5611	dhedgepe@valdosta.edu

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. To register, please contact one of our scheduled workshops.

City of Alpharetta Environmental Services Water Quality Monitoring Program

Water quality monitoring workshops are offered for city of Alpharetta residents. These workshops cover chemical, biological and physical training. Workshops will be held August 25, September 15, October 20, and November 17. Special events include stream cleanups. For info or to register, call 770-442-9057 or e-mail alpharetta_env@mindspring.com.

2002 Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia Conference in partnership with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Project WET, Georgia Learning Tree, Project WILD, The Georgia Conservancy and the National Wildlife Federation.

Environmental Education: Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday
March 22 – 24 at Unicoi State Park

More information to come on Call for Presentations

Community Watershed Workshop

September 11, 2001
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Empowering Under-Served Communities
Location: Mosley Park Recreation Center
1565 Martin Luther King Drive

The workshop will provide an opportunity for people to meet and share information, recruit volunteers, and obtain resources to start up and/or sustain watershed activities.

6:00	Refreshments
6:15	Highlighted Watershed - WAWA (Sandy, Utoy, & Proctor Creeks)
6:45	Surprise guest speaker (a must see)
7:30	Questions & Answers

This workshop is brought to you by West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, and City of Atlanta Adopt-A-Stream.

This is the third workshop of 2001 in a series of four to promote and support community and watershed activities. The series will continue on December 4.

The workshops are sponsored by: Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, DeKalb County Parks and Recreation, Peavine Watershed Alliance, City of Atlanta Department of Public Works, Fulton County Adopt-A-Stream, Gwinnett County Adopt-A-Stream, Clayton County Water Authority and National Wildlife Federation.

Directions: Take I-20 West to the MLK Jr. Drive exit. Keep right at the fork in the ramp and merge onto MLK Jr. Drive.

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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