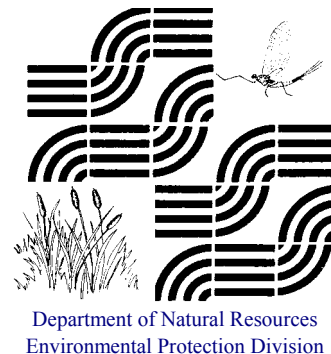


GEORGIA

Adopt-A-Stream

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Harold Harbert and Kim Morris-Zarneke, Editors



Why Monitor?

A very interesting discussion about long-term monitoring and its value recently appeared on the Volunteer Monitoring list serve. Here at Adopt-A-Stream, we have often emphasized that trend, or long-term, monitoring is the key to truly understanding what is happening in a waterbody. Well, what does that really mean? It means a few things.

First, long-term monitoring is crucial to early detection of problems within a water system. It is not unlike a periodic physical or an annual mammogram, in health-care terms. Long-term monitoring provides the volunteer with baseline information on water quality conditions. Once a baseline is established, it becomes possible to detect problems early, before they become more significant and costly. As early detection of tumors via mammograms greatly increases the overall survival rate and lowers overall cost and recovery time in patients with breast cancer, so, too, does volunteer monitoring increase the likelihood of early detection of many potential threats to a water body, resulting in quicker recovery and overall lower costs.

Second, volunteer monitoring programs are more likely to recognize changes in a water system more rapidly than most agencies and organizations, which have limited resources. Regular volunteers have the knowledge and physical presence to identify and document problems quickly. Volunteers can spot dumping, illicit water connections, leaking sewage lines, vegetation clearing, and invasive weed establishment. With

quick follow-up, these problems can be effectively addressed through the appropriate channels to remove the threat. Without the volunteer presence, those problems might go unnoticed and continue to impact our natural resources.

Third, in areas that are being developed, landuse patterns and changes bring new problems and exacerbate old ones. It is essential that we have both old and new data to spot trends that may require action. Recently, two Adopt-A-Stream Advisory board members reaffirmed this fact. After monitoring a site in Cobb County for 5 years, they were able to



Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center monitoring educators strike a pose!

demonstrate major impact changes occurring in their creek, primarily erosion, sedimentation and increased nonpoint source pollution due to development in the area.

Fourth, continued monitoring is needed to assess the effectiveness of various Best Management Practices as they are implemented. BMPs often cost quite a bit of money. Monitoring can help validate their effectiveness. Volunteers can play a critical role in this process.

And finally, ongoing monitoring programs help to educate the public and to focus attention on environmental problems of current concern. No amount of activity is likely to be as effective in the long haul as current and historical data that are carefully, precisely and accurately collected and interpreted.

Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series

Under a cooperative agreement from EPA's Office of Wastewater Management and Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, the Center for Watershed Protection has just published three manuals of what will be a series of 11 manuals, which CWP has dubbed "Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series". CWP states that the series is designed to provide a stronger foundation to assist local and state managers in crafting urban watershed restoration plans. The manuals were written to "organize the enormous amount of information needed to restore small urban watersheds into a format that can be easily accessed by watershed groups, municipal staff, environmental consultants and other users." Each manual is approximately 100 pages long, and some also include a CD with software to enable data collection and storage. The first three were published in March 2004 and can be downloaded for free from www.cwp.org for the next six months. Five additional manuals are scheduled for release later this summer and early fall, and the remaining three some time after that.

A New Historical Reference on Nation's Clean Water Programs

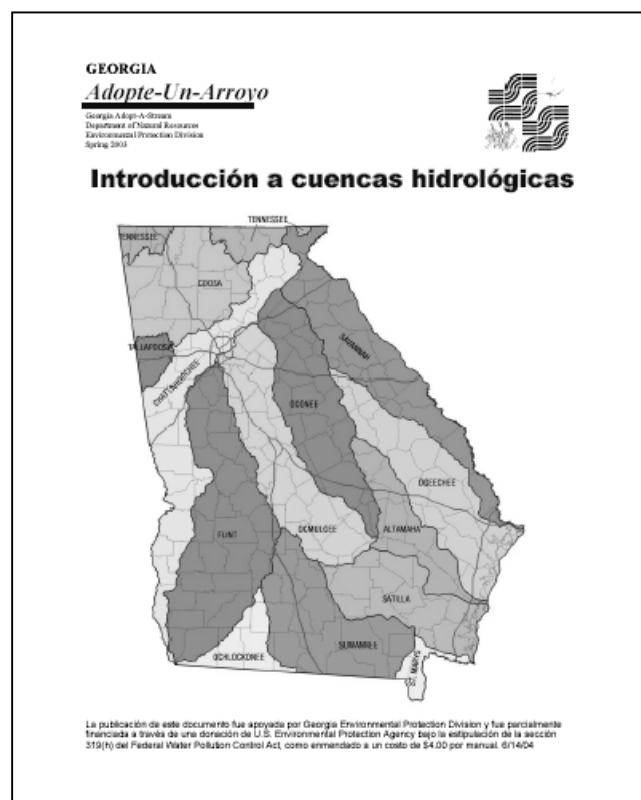
The Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) has released a never-before-published historical reference on the Clean Water Act and State/Interstate efforts to control water pollution. Entitled *Clean Water Act Thirty-Year Retrospective: History and Documents Related to the Federal Statute*, this publication is an unprecedented collection of history and historical documents that are of use for those with an interest in the nation's clean water programs. To view the table of contents and for information on ordering go to www.asiwPCA.org or call 202-898-0905.

Adopt-A-Stream Manuals in Spanish: Now Available Online

The Hispanic population in the US is now the largest minority group, surpassing African Americans in 2003. Georgia is no different from the rest of the country, with increases in Spanish speaking populations in rural areas and urban centers. Now all Georgia Adopt-A-Stream manuals have been translated into Spanish. For more information or to download a copy go to www.riversalive.com/aas.htm and click on Resources & Materials.

Summer Night's Float on the Chota Princess

Here's your chance to experience the wonders of the Chattahoochee River's headwaters on the Chota Princess, UCR's floating classroom. Once afloat on Lake Lanier, staff will provide a historical overview, discuss current environmental issues and highlight UCR's programs. Learn all this and more as you watch the setting sun and, if skies are clear, catch a glimpse of the moon! Light beverages and snacks will be provided. Tuesday, August 24th at 7:00 - 9:30pm. Members free, Non-members \$10. For questions or to sign-up, contact bbolton@ucriverkeeper.org



Adopt-A-Stream Calendar of Events

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

What	Who	When	Where	To Register
Chemical	DeKalb AAS	Aug 28	DeKalb Co.	404-371-2540
Biological	Etowah AAS	Sept 11	Cherokee Co.	770-735-2778
Getting Started w/ AAS	Georgia Wildlife Federation	Sept 11	Covington	770-787-7887
Chemical	Clayton AAS	Sept 25	Clayton Co.	678-422-2838
Chemical	Georgia Wildlife Federation	Oct 2	Covington	770-787-7887
Getting Started w/ AAS	Etowah AAS	Oct 16	Cherokee Co.	770-735-2778
Intro, Bio & Chem	Elachee Nature Center	Oct 22-23	Gainesville	770-535-1976
Chemical	Etowah AAS	Oct 23	Cherokee Co.	770-735-2778
Biological	Georgia Wildlife Federation	Nov 6	Covington	770-787-7887
Biological	Etowah AAS	Nov 6	Cherokee Co.	770-735-2778
Chemical & Biological	Fulton County AAS	TBA	Fulton Co.	404-730-8006
Chemical & Biological	Cobb County AAS	TBA	Cobb Co.	770-528-1480

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

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.

Environmental Education Alliance Conference: Keys for Successful Partnership Unicoi State Park, March 11 – 13, 2005

Consider sharing an experience you've had involving partnering to protect watersheds and water quality in Georgia. The call for proposals is posted on the website to download at www.eealliance.org. Deadline for submitting is September 22.

Watershed Leadership Train-the-Trainer Academy - September 28-30, 2004

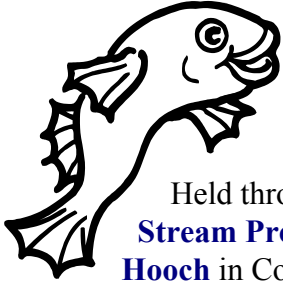
Held at Callaway Gardens Resort Preserve, this workshop is designed to train individuals to work more effectively on land-use planning and protection initiatives. It is designed to enhance your leadership role in the area of watershed management, and assist you in working with communities on land use planning, TMDL implementation, and Phase II Stormwater requirements. The cost is \$350 for nonprofit organizations and \$450 for all others. For registration and agenda information call 886-902-7300 or go to www.southeastwaterforum.org

Septic Systems: Questions & Answers

Properly functioning septic systems treat and disperse small volumes of wastewater. However, all systems need regular inspection and maintenance. The EPA has a new website for homeowners, state and local government and for industry professionals. Get your septic systems questions answered at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/home.cfm>

Be A Trend Setter - Create The First Rain Garden In Your Neighborhood

Go to the Adopt-A-Stream website www.riversalive.org/aas.htm, look under Resources & Materials and click on Rain Garden for more info and to download a new "how to" brochure for Georgia gardeners.



Rivers Alive Volunteers are needed to help clean Georgia's waterways!

Held throughout the month of October, Rivers Alive is organized by the **Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program** and the **Keep Georgia Beautiful Program** in conjunction with **Help The Hooch** in Columbus. Rivers Alive is Georgia's annual volunteer waterway cleanup event that targets all waterways in the State including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, and wetlands. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources. Last year, over 24,000 volunteers collected over 350,000 pounds of garbage and cleaned over 1,400 miles of waterways. **Please join a cleanup event. Details on where cleanups are being held statewide can be found on the Rivers Alive Website – www.riversalive.org.** For more information about Rivers Alive check our website or contact Kim Morris-Zarneke, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream at 404-675-1636 or kimberly_morris-zarneke@dnr.state.ga.us.

EPD Imposes Mandatory Outdoor Water Restrictions

If you haven't already started implementing water restrictions, download the guidelines now and jump-start your water conservation ethic! For more info go to the Georgia AAS website and look under Current Events.

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) 675-1639 or 1636
www.riversalive.org/aas.htm**

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