

GEORGIA

Adopt-A-Stream

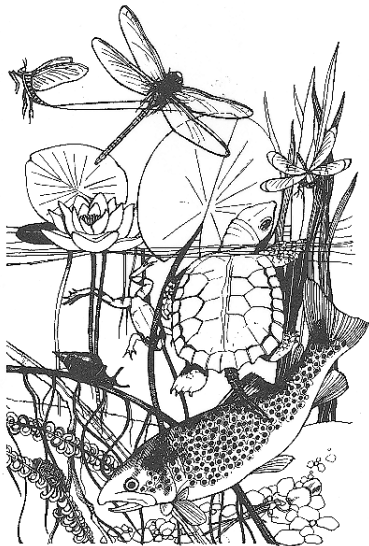
Volume 13, Number 4, July / August 2006
Allison Hughes and Sally Mason, Editors



New Arrival: Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Field Guide for Georgia's Streams

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Field Guide for Georgia's Streams

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream



The publication of this document was supported by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and was finalized in part through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the provisions of Section 519(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, at a cost of \$2.00 per field guide. May 11, 2006.

Over the past six months, the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program has been developing a new biological monitoring field guide following the recommendations of many benthologists. Research studies conducted in Virginia and Maryland led the Izaak Walton League to make changes in their pollutant sensitivity categories. Following the lead of the Izaak Walton League, we decided to make a change in our biological monitoring classification system. The major change to the guide is in the classification of caddisflies. Studies have found that tolerance to pollution varies in caddisflies. This research shows that the common net spinning caddisfly (family Hydropsychidae) is more tolerant to pollutants than other caddisflies in the order Trichoptera. The new guide divides the caddisflies into two categories, caddisflies and common net spinning caddisflies, based on their tolerance to dissolved oxygen levels. Other changes include moving the aquatic snipe fly from the somewhat sensitive category to the sensitive category as well as moving the dobsonfly/hellgrammite from the sensitive category to somewhat sensitive category.

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 all 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.

With these new changes, we are asking all of our QA/QC certified biological monitors to renew their certification by January 1, 2007. This will allow all of our biological monitors to be certified under the same protocols by the beginning of next year. As a token of appreciation for your monitoring efforts, all QA/QC certified monitors will receive a free copy of the field guide upon adopting a site.

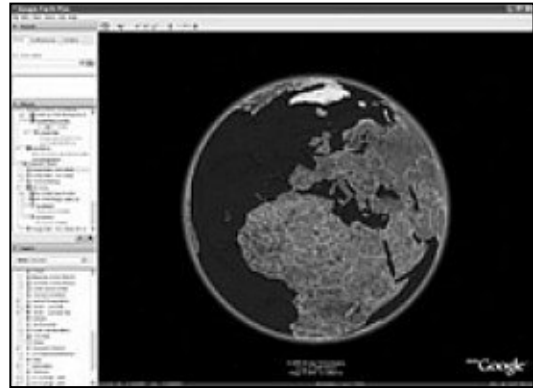
The guides is available for downloading on our website at www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.com. Groups interested in obtaining a large quantity can contact the State Adopt-A-Stream office at 404.675.1635 / 1636.

Please note our new web address: www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.com

Google Earth Monitoring Data Updates

We've made some changes to the Adopt-A-Stream section on Google Earth. Now more information is bundled together in a single download. If you've already downloaded the AAS bookmark, all updates will be automatically linked, otherwise obtain the AAS bookmark from our website, www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.com. The bundled package includes:

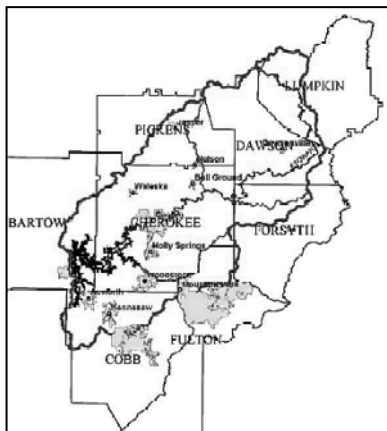
- Adopt-A-Stream monitoring data for DO, temperature, pH and WQI (Water Quality Index, or the macroinvertebrate monitoring value)
- A layer with 8 digit HUC watersheds and 10 digit HUC watersheds
- A layer to view all supporting, partially supporting and non-supporting 2002 (the most recent) Water Quality Designated Uses for the Clean Water Act sections 305(b)/303(d) list
- Links to landfill sites, land application sites (LAS), and surface mines
- Links to activate all USGS real time monitoring sites and a layer to view all USGS topological maps (can be viewed in 3D)



Clicking on “hot spots” will activate windows with specific information, such as water quality data. Our advice? Play with the different layers to become comfortable creating maps and accessing information. If you're still having trouble, contact the State Office, 404.675.1635 or 1636.

Note to Georgia monitors: Georgia Adopt-A-Stream accepts water quality data from any university, agency, or organization that has a written quality assurance plan outlining monitoring methods. To post your water quality data please contact the State Office.

Lake Allatoona/Upper Etowah River Comprehensive Watershed Study



The United States Army Corps of Engineers has partnered with fifteen local sponsors to perform a Lake Allatoona/Upper Etowah River Comprehensive Watershed Study. The Etowah Study is designed to last six years collecting enough data to look at the “BIG PICTURE” of what is really happening in the Upper Etowah Watershed. The project sampling began late last year (2005) with macroinvertebrate sampling, water chemistry sampling and geomorphological assessments on 53 random sites and 11-targeted sites. There are 15 monthly sampling sites in the Upper Etowah Watershed. The following took part in sampling these sites in March (2006): Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority, Cobb County Water Systems, Cobb County, Marietta Water Authority, Bartow County, Forsyth County, Dawson County, and Lumpkin County.

The monthly sampling occurs the third Tuesday and Wednesday of the month...rain or shine. The project has already captured an array of conditions during wet weather (high flows), normal conditions (base flows) and drought conditions (low flows). Samples are collected using depth-integrated samplers and on-site water quality data is collected using a sonde -- a logging tool that contains measurement sensors. Stream flow is measured at ten sampling sites along with six permanently installed water quality sondes. The sampling sites with water quality sondes will also be targeted for wet weather (high flow) events collecting samples over the hydrograph using an automatic sampler.

There are three land use sites that are targeted for the project, which will be sampled four times a year, forested (Lumpkin County), agriculture (Cherokee/Forsyth County), and Urban (Cobb County). By the end of the year all aspects of the sampling plan will be implemented. Sampling teams from the local sponsors are working together to collect data for a comprehensive watershed assessment. The comprehensive watershed assessment will provide leverage for local, state and federal funding to maximize benefits for water resource protection and restoration. For more information visit: allatoona.sam.usace.army.mil/watershed_study.htm.

Article written by Lori Forester, Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority

Cool Waters 2006

Thanks to this year's Cool Waters Committee for a job well done! For the second year this workshop has provided great information to educators throughout Georgia. The Cool Waters 2006 workshop was held in Gainesville, Georgia, with 42 educators learning more about drinking water and wastewater treatment at the Lakeside Water Treatment Facility and the Flat Creek Water Reclamation facility. During the workshop, participants received their Adopt-A-Stream chemical monitoring certification. They also received water quality monitoring tests kits and learned about macroinvertebrate monitoring using the newly published macroinvertebrate field guide. In addition, the teachers received Healthy Water, Healthy People certification, the Water Source Book, and Project WET information.



Teachers were very pleased with the entire workshop. Teacher comments included: "Thank you!," "I loved it," "There wasn't any aspect I didn't like," and "All staff and teachers were so nice and hospitable."

This successful event would not be possible without the time, dedication and financial support from contributing groups. This workshop could not have been offered without the help of City of Gainesville, Cobb County, Elachee Nature Center, Forsyth County, Fulton County, City of Marietta, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and Georgia Project WET.

Article written by Brian Wiley, City of Gainesville

Rivers Alive Registration Has Begun!

Rivers Alive is right around the corner and we want YOU! Last year was the largest Rivers Alive to date, and the Advisory Board is looking to exceed it by having more than 30,000 volunteers participate throughout every watershed in the State. Another goal is to increase the number of education events held in conjunction with cleanups. Dana Skelton, Education Chair, stated, "Through education we can get citizens to think about the impact of trash in our waterway." Hope to see you at a Rivers Alive event this fall! To register visit www.riversalive.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 PLU credit for participating. Please visit the AAS website under the Teacher Corner heading for PLU information. Please call to register for a workshop.

What	Who	When	Where	To Register
Chemical	Upper Etowah River Alliance	Aug 5	Canton	678.493.7804
Biological	Upper Etowah River Alliance	Aug 12	Canton	678.493.7804
Bio/Chem Recert	Phinizy Swamp Nature Center	Aug 26	Augusta	706.796.7707
Introduction	Alcovy Conservation Center	Sept 2	Covington	770.787.7887
Intro/Chem	Oak Nature Preserve	Sept 9	Clarkston	404.371.2540
Chemical	Alcovy Conservation Center	Sept 16	Covington	770.787.7887
Biological	Alcovy Conservation Center	Sept 23	Covington	770.787.7887

NOTE: Workshop times vary. Please call to get exact times and locations.

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 the scheduled workshops.

The Georgia 2004 305(b)/303(d) list is available at www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.com

The Georgia 2004 305(b)/303(d) list of waters was prepared as a part of the Georgia 2002-2003 assessment of water quality, in accordance with Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act. Assessed waterbodies are classified as supporting, partially supporting, or not supporting designated water uses according to a comparison of water quality monitoring results to water quality standards and other pertinent information.

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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www.georgiaadoptastream.com**

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