

GEORGIA

Adopt-A-Stream

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Allison Hughes and Sally Mason, Editors



Welcome Sally Mason

The Environmental Outreach Unit extends a welcome to their newest member, Sally Mason, Adopt-A-Stream State Coordinator. She is an experienced public policy professional with an extensive background in stakeholder outreach, communications, and citizen involvement. She obtained a B.S. in Public Policy from Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, graduating Magna Cum Laude. For over twenty years, Sally had coordinated the production for multi-national corporations' media communication.



Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy's Creek Freaks Win Second National Award: President's Environmental Youth Award



Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy's Creek Freaks have been named winners of the President's Environmental Youth Award. The Creek Freaks represented Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) in Washington, DC with winners from the EPA's ten national regions.

Named by enthusiastic members, the "Creek Freaks" are an AAS science club dedicated to the health of Butler Creek in Augusta, GA. From June 2004 to July 2005, the club spent 235.5 hours performing chemical monitoring and 192.5 hours on biological monitoring in Butler Creek. The club has gone beyond stream monitoring to advanced stream cleanups and restoration projects in Georgia and South Carolina. Also winners of the 2004 National Take Pride in America Award, the Creek Freaks continue to create momentum for environmental stewardship.

The President's Environmental Youth Award application was judged on significant criteria including positive environmental impact on local community and society, environmental need for the project, innovation, and accomplishment of goals. Three Creek Freaks contributed essays that were included in the application: John Hughes (home school), Madeline Wible (Lakeside Middle School), and Allegra Yeley (John S. Davidson Magnet School). Excerpts:

"Without clean creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans, we will not last long on this planet; so I know we are making a difference one creek at a time." –Madeline Wible, 12

"In my time with the Creek Freaks, I have gained a deeper understanding of the environment [that] I will find...useful over a lifetime of caring for our planet." –John Hughes, 16



“When a reporter once asked me why I was planting trees instead of hanging out at the mall, I did my best to dispel the misconception that teenagers are only interested in their small world. Through our dedicated involvement in the Creek Freaks, we demonstrate that teens are interested in preserving fragile habitats and ecosystems that are so critical to the health of the environment and our long-term future.”—Allegra Yeley, 16

Fannin County Middle School’s AAS Program Partners to Create Trout in the Classroom

This is Fannin County Middle School’s (FCMS) second year of incorporating AAS into their 7th grade Advanced Science Content curriculum. The local chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) learned about FCMS through the Blue Ridge AAS coordinator, Dr. Larry Golson, and TU immediately expressed an interest in forming a partnership. Larry suggested waders as being necessary for monthly chemical monitoring as well as quarterly biological monitoring. It sure gets cold in the streams in the winter months! The Blue Ridge Chapter of TU donated 10 pairs of waders of various sizes. Ultimately, this gave every student a chance to get into the water.

Since that time FCMS has formed an even closer partnership with the Blue Ridge Chapter of TU, who will serve as the coordinator for another program that will start next school term called Trout in the Classroom (TIC). A multi-disciplinary curriculum has been developed to go along with TIC. The project involves setting up an aquarium in the classroom where students incubate a clutch of 200 trout eggs, raise the fingerlings during the school year, and then release them into an approved stream. In addition to being the first TIC project in Georgia, if FCMS can successfully raise the local species of Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) it will be the first project on the East Coast to have raised this scarce and elusive species of fish.



These two projects (AAS and TIC) go hand-in-hand, and FCMS views TIC as an extension of AAS. Thanks to their partnership with Blue Ridge Chapter of TU the students have met representatives and formed partnerships with: North Georgia Trout Online, Atlanta Fly Fishers Club and The High Meadows Club, which will help fund TIC and possibly future AAS projects. The Georgia Women Fly Fishers Club as well as Friends of the Hatchery have also expressed an interest in partnerships with Fannin County Middle School.

Toonigh Neighbors – Working with the Community to Build a Better Community



Toonigh Neighbors adopted a section of Toonigh Creek in Cherokee County in August of 1999. Toonigh Creek is a tributary to the Little River and enters just a short distance from the Little River embayment with Lake Allatoona. If you have ever gone mountain bike riding at Blankets Creek, then you have most likely gone by the mill, which is located on the north side of Sixes Road next to Toonigh Creek, and near the group’s adopted section of Toonigh Creek.

The Toonigh Creek watershed is experiencing significant development. The growth within the last seven years is remarkable. Toonigh Neighbors have been an active participant in the growth process and work closely with neighboring homeowner associations and other interested groups. Over the past seven years they have been involved in many zoning and annexation hearings concerning property along Toonigh Creek and within the watershed.



Toonigh’s status as an active AAS organization provides them with a voice in local issues and the opportunity to sponsor community meetings to increase awareness and participation. No matter what the issue is which prompted the meeting, the group always takes the opportunity to emphasize the importance of good stewardship of water resources. They have seen positive results from their efforts. For example, when the city of Holly Springs annexed land along Toonigh Creek, working with other members of their community they successfully prevented a stream buffer reduction by twenty-five feet for over a mile on Toonigh Creek! They could not have done this alone. By working with other homeowner associations, local politicians and consistently collected quality certified data, the group has made good stewardship of water resources a community issue.

Rivers Alive Cleanup Organizer Workshops

In AAS, partnerships are the critical link between the findings of citizen monitors and impact. Without partnerships between monitors and governmental agencies, action can be delayed or not occur at all. Often these partnerships don’t stop with AAS, but continue to other programs like Rivers Alive. Rivers Alive is built upon a partnership between AAS, Keep Georgia Beautiful, and Help the Hooch in Columbus. The majority of cleanups are partnerships as well and includes schools, corporations, churches, scout groups, neighborhood associations, civic organizations, Clean and Beautiful affiliates, etc. Consider the ways to expand your AAS partnership to have greater impact.

June 6	Dawsonville	9:00-12:30	Bonny Putney	bpputney@bellsouth.net	404.216.9351
July 20	Statesboro	10:00-2:00	Chandra Brown	cbrown@ocrk.org	912.764.2017
July 22	Albany	TBA	Becky Champion	champion_becky@colstate.edu	706.888.8351

Rivers Alive is right around the bend! Last year we had an incredible 24,500+ volunteers turn out to remove 684,000 lbs of trash, and we need your help to meet our goal of 30,000 volunteers covering 70% of the counties in the State. We want to increase in every region, but specifically we are targeting the southern portion of the State. **Registration will open June 1.** To get first-hand information on organizing a cleanup you may attend one of the workshops listed above, download info from www.riversalive.org, or contact Mitch Russell, Rivers Alive Coordinator at 404.362.6536 or mitch_russell@dnr.state.ga.us.



A benefit concert for Rivers Alive will be held on June 9 at Fortuna in Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward. Doors open at 7 and the first band comes on at 8. Come out and support Georgia's waterway cleanup and hear some great music. See the Rivers Alive homepage for details.

Green Growth Guidelines

Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Management and Coastal Nonpoint Source Management Programs are pleased to announce the availability of their new "Green Growth Guidelines". Techniques such as site fingerprinting, low impact development practices, alternative stormwater management and bank stabilization options are detailed. Georgia's Green Growth Guidelines manual is accessible on our website under current events.

Adopt-A-Stream Trainer & Healthy Water Healthy People Facilitator Workshop *July 20-21 from 10am to 6pm at the Elachee Nature Science Center in Gainesville, GA*

Upon completion of the workshop, participants will become certified AAS trainers, qualified to teach both biological and chemical water quality monitoring workshops, as well as certified Healthy Water, Healthy People (HWHP) facilitators, qualified to teach HWHP Educator Workshops. See our website’s workshop page for details.

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	Chattahoochee Nature Center	May 20	Fulton County	404.730.8006
Intro/Chemical	Savannah Riverkeeper	May 20	Augusta	706.364.5253
Biological	Sandy Springs	May 21	Fulton County	404.730.8006
Biological	Savannah Riverkeeper	May 27	Augusta	706.364.5253
Introduction	Upper Etowah River Alliance	June 3	Cherokee Co.	678.493.7804
Chemical	Coosa River Basin Initiative	June 3	Rome	706.232.2724
Chemical	Smithgall Woods	June 17	Helen	706.878.3087
Chemical	Upper Etowah River Alliance	June 17	Cherokee Co.	678.493.7804
Biological	Upper Etowah River Alliance	June 24	Cherokee Co.	678.493.7804

NOTE: Workshop times vary. Please call to get exact times and locations. Workshop information is updated weekly on our website at www.georgiaadoptastream.com

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.

Cool Waters Workshop - A Water Workshop For Georgia Educators Grades K-12

June 6-8 from 8:30am to 4:00 pm at the City of Gainesville's Water Reclamation Facility

Participants will learn more about Georgia's drinking water, wastewater, and surface water through daily fieldtrips and hands-on classroom activity; 2 PLU's are available. For more information or to register contact 770-532-7462 or visit www.gawponline.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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