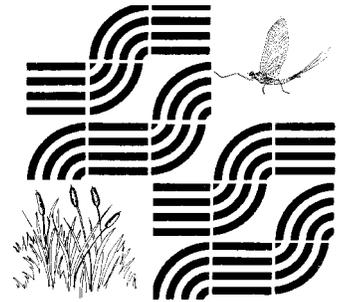


GEORGIA

Adopt-A-Stream

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Michele Droszcz and Harold Harbert, Editors



Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

New Regional Trainer at Georgia College

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream would like to welcome Sylbie Yon as a new Regional Trainer from Georgia College. Sylbie will serve as the contact person for those interested in the Adopt-A-Stream program in the Central/Eastern region of the state. Sylbie lives with her mother on Lake Oconee, has one daughter, and is a proud grandmother with two grandsons. In 1995 she returned to school at Georgia College to pursue a degree in Outdoor Education with a minor in Biology. Sylbie was an outstanding student, graduating Magna Cum Laude and was inducted as a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

Sylbie's love for the environment and issues pertaining to water quality has been a constant theme throughout her life. In a mockingly serious tone she states, "And you know, I grew up in the stream!" At a young age Sylbie and her sister began exploring streams, searching for crayfish, caddisflies, and snails--she even claims to have caught trout in jars! Since her developmental years she moved to Georgia and continued to be active in environmental issues. She has served as a volunteer for the Lake Oconee Water Monitoring Team, Adopt-A-Stream, and as a DNR state trainer for Project WILD and AQUATIC WILD. Recently she served as a stakeholder in the Oconee River Basin Management Plan. Sylbie is also certified as a Wilderness First Responder, Basic Ropes Course Facilitator and Water Safety Instructor. In the late eighties and early nineties Sylbie spent up to 6 months of each year renovating a 60 year old wilderness cabin on a remote Canadian Island without electricity. As a result of her study and love of the outdoors, Sylbie is a qualified and proficient naturalist. She has stated that her primary goal for the upcoming year is to focus on environmental awareness.

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream is excited to have Sylbie on board to assist us in our program--we've just discovered that in the past couple of weeks she was elected President of the Lake Oconee Property Owner Association! We hope that our AAS volunteers will take advantage of the knowledge and skills that Sylbie has to offer. You can contact Sylbie at 912-445-4549 or E-mail at sayon@peachnet.campus.mci.net.



1998 Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Awards Presented at the 5th Annual Conference

Volunteer of the year goes to **Patricia Payne White**. Patricia established the Peavine Watershed Alliance (PWA) in July of 1997 with the help of other concerned people in Druid Hills, Lake Claire, Candler Park, City of Decatur, DeKalb County and City of Atlanta. Patricia assisted DeKalb County Parks and Recreation orchestrate a two day Adopt-A-Stream workshop for all the schools in the Peavine Creek Watershed and has assisted DeKalb Adopt-A-Stream in increasing the number of Adopt-A-Stream groups. Her volunteer efforts surpass the demands of a full time job and she meets these demands with enthusiasm.



The **Project of the Year** is **Help-The-Hooch Program**. This program has far outgrown everyone's expectations for the 4th year in a row. Over 3,000 volunteers from Phoenix City, Alabama and Columbus, Georgia joined together to pick up trash in the lakes, streams and river. This is the largest two state clean-up in Georgia and Alabama.

William Kent, of Columbus Water Works, will accept this award for the leading organizing groups, which include Columbus Water Works, Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, Columbus State University, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Center, CVCC, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Tom's Foods, Columbus Healthcare, Peachtree Mall and Interstate Brands.

This year we have two new outstanding programs for the **Nymph Award**. The first is the **Southwest Creek and Stream Keepers**. This group is organizing a watershed effort in the Utoy Creek area. They have secured a lease from the City of Atlanta to use Cascade Park as a training facility and outdoor learning center. Six people from their group have completed the training to be biological and chemical Adopt-A-Stream trainers.

The second **Nymph Award** goes to **Rome Middle School and Jack Chesnut**. Rome Middle School has had a successful Adopt-A-Stream program for three years, now they expanded their program to become our first Adopt-A-Wetland group. Rome Middle School has received a \$4,000 Partners for Wildlife Program grant from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission to help develop their wetland project.

We also have two Beautification Awards. One is for the most substantial clean-up and the other is beautification through stream restoration. The first **Beautification Award** goes to **Ethel Kight Elementary "The Knights of the Moat" and their teacher, Jewell Albright**. The Knights started monitoring in 1997 as a member of the Kids Downstream Network. Ethel Kight Elementary was awarded the Troup County Clean and Beautiful Award in May, 1998 for the clean-up efforts on their stream, which has been used as a dumping ground. They picked up 30 bags of trash in May alone. To discourage dumping at the stream, the "Knights of the Moat" had the county dig a ditch to prevent people from driving into the site!!

The second **Beautification Award** goes to **DeKalb County, EcoWatch AmeriCorps and Dunwoody Nature Center**. Asphalt is not a very beautiful site, especially in a natural wetland area. Deron Davis, of Dunwoody Nature Center contacted Sue Pickens, a landscape architect for DeKalb County, to develop a plan to remove the asphalt and replace it with native vegetation, riverstone and water retention in the small pools along the meandering swale. EcoWatch AmeriCorps vegetated an estimated 350 feet with ferns, flowers and wetland plants and laid riverstone in a meandering pattern. Not only is the swale beautiful, but the storm water runoff will now be slowed by the natural vegetation.

The next award is for **Adopt-A-Stream Photo of the Year**. This award goes to **EcoWatch AmeriCorps**. The photo depicts teamwork, hard work and the fun involved in volunteer stream efforts.

One of the things we are most proud of at the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream office is when one of the Adopt-A-Stream volunteers discovers a pollution incident and successfully notifies the appropriate authorities. This is a clear indication that the program is a success. We know there are many water quality and stream improvements that take place by Adopt-A-Stream volunteers, but, unfortunately, we don't always hear about them. We would like to congratulate those volunteers that have cleaned streams, improved water quality and worked in partnership with their local government.

This year, we would like to present the **Red Flag Award** to a volunteer who many of us have heard about. **Jerry Hagerty** had his picture and an article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for sighting a broken sewer line on Poplar Creek. Jerry worked diligently and cooperatively to get the sewer line repaired. Thanks to his efforts, downstream impacts were minimized.

Student Project of the Year recognizes outstanding students participation in citizen monitoring and environmental stewardship. We present this award to the **Kids Downstream Network**. This program was started in 1996 by Nancy Lucas' first grade class, at Hollis Hand Elementary in La Grange, Georgia. The class was inspired to save the Chattahoochee after reading "A River Runs Through It" and designed and sold t-shirts, raising \$10,000 for a river project. With the assistance of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, six schools formed the Kids Downstream Network in 1997-1998. Students from Hollis Hand Elementary, Unity School, Westside Magnet School, Berta Weathersbee, Ethel Kight Elementary and Mountville Elementary adopted streams in Troup County and performed visual surveys and biological and chemical monitoring.

The **Partnership Award** recognizes the cooperative approach to citizen monitoring and environmental stewardship. This year, we want to recognize **J.R. Trippe Middle School**. J.R. Trippe has adopted a stream and a wetland. They have involved the whole city of Vidalia in their efforts, including businesses, boy scouts and the fire department. Their partners include Operation Management International, Choo Choo Supply, The City of Vidalia, Trippe PTO, Boy Scout Troup #407 and the City of Vidalia Fire Department.

For those of you who have tried to schedule a workshop with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream in the past few months, you have found that we are booked through December. For that reason, we are very happy when we have volunteers trained to become trainers. We would like to thank all of our Adopt-A-Stream trainers for their help and hard work. We would also like to recognize one trainer who did several trainings for us this year. Our **Volunteer Trainer of the Year is Sharon Cowden**.

Finally, we have three **Special Recognition** awards this year. The first is a woman who puts countless hours into Adopt-A-Stream as well as many other water-related programs. We would like to recognize **Dr. Becky Champion** for her work organizing Help-The-Hooch, STATE U and her work in nominating the Chattahoochee River for the Heritage River Program.

Next, we would like to recognize **Brenda Brochstein** for her fantastic macroinvertebrate database that can be found on the web. Brenda took pictures of all the common macroinvertebrates and these can be viewed and used as part of a dichotomous key to identify macroinvertebrates. This database will serve as a useful tool for Adopt-A-Stream groups and can be found on the web at www.sciencenet.emory.edu/K12/Water_Quality_Project/Instructional.

Our final award is to recognize the **Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's stream database** at www.streamdata.org. This is an online stream database that allows volunteers to enter their data and view other's data. The database is designed to create a watershed approach to data collection and follow the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream visual, chemical and biological monitoring forms. This database is not limited to the Chattahoochee basin and a "chatt" room is available for citizens to discuss water quality monitoring.



We would like to thank all of you for joining us this year and for all your work year round.

Nonpoint Source Resource

The EPA helps fund an informative and comprehensive bimonthly newsletter "Nonpoint Source News-Notes" covering key NPS issues facing a modern populace. The September/October newsletter focuses entirely on NPS pollution in urban environments. Most articles can be read via Internet at the EPA's web site, www.epa.gov/owow/info/NewsNotes/index.html. To receive a free subscription write to NPS News-Notes, c/o Terrene Institute, 4 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305.

Adopt-A-Stream Calendar of Events

The following are trainings and workshops which educate citizens about wetland and stream monitoring. In November there will be a special workshop held in Augusta, GA to help get their program off the ground and running. Also, for those who only need recertification, there will be a special accelerated Chemical and Biological recertification course held in Monroe, GA. Please call to register. Space is limited!

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>To Register</u>
Level I / Chemical Workshop	Oct. 31	Rome, GA	706-236-4406
Level I / Chemical Workshop	Nov. 2	Woodward Academy	404-656-0069
Level I / Chemical Workshop	Nov. 7	Dunwoody Nature Ctr.	404-656-0069
Chem. & Biological Recertification	Nov. 7	Monroe, GA	404-656-0069
Biological Workshop	Nov. 14	PWA - Paideia School	404-508-7602
Level I / Chemical Workshop	Nov. 14	Augusta, GA	404-656-0069
Level I / Chemical Workshop	Nov. 21	PWA - Paideia School	404-508-7602
Biological Workshop	Nov. 21	Fernbank Science Ctr.	404-656-0069
Level I / Chemical Workshop	Dec. 5	Dunwoody Nature Ctr.	404-656-0069
Biological Workshop	Dec. 12	Davidson Arabia	404-508-7602

Don't forget, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream requires that you must get recertified every year so that your data is QA/QC! Sign up for a workshop now!

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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Environmental Protection Division
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Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-0069**

