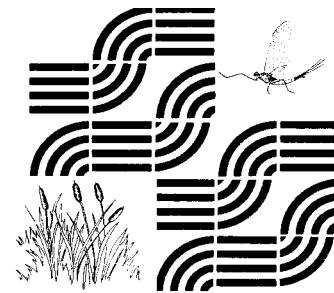




# GEORGIA

# Adopt-A-Stream

Volume 18, Number 6 November/December 2011  
*Allison Hughes and Tara Muenz, Editors*



Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division

 Save the Date for Confluence   
March 17, 2012  
Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center

Confluence is a one-day event designed to support and educate our volunteers. As the word implies, volunteers will come together from the headwater streams, the coastal estuaries and everywhere between to further educate themselves about our waterways and nonpoint source pollution. This will be a great opportunity to share experiences, knowledge and advice, as well as honor the collective efforts that have positively influenced water quality within the State of Georgia over the past couple of decades.

## Highlights For Confluence 2012

### Keynote Speaker

We are very excited to announce that Eric Eckl with 'Water Words that Work' will be presenting the keynote address as well as two sessions at Confluence. Eric's message of water words that work will help the AAS community make a splash with communication techniques to help us better connect with everyday citizens and motivate them into action. You will not want to miss this unique opportunity!

### Awards Banquet & Luncheon

Award winners for 2011 will be recognized at the Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the Confluence. Registration fees will be waived for award winners. Nominate yourself or your group for an award on-line at [www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org) or submit it to the State Office. Deadline: January 10, 2012.

### Travel Stipends

Again this year we will be awarding travel stipends for active volunteers. Travel stipends are funded through the silent auction and support of our sponsors. Applications will be available in January 2012.

### Registration Opens in January

With support of our sponsors and in-kind supporters, we are again able to keep the registration fee at only \$20.

### Sponsors

We would like to thank Templeton & Associates and Jason's Deli for being a sponsor of Confluence 2012. All donations are tax deductible through our fiscal partner, the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation, and can be made by contacting us at [AAS@gaepd](mailto:AAS@gaepd) or by phone at 404.675.6240. Thank you!

### Confluence Sessions & Topics

Mapping Your Watershed \* Streambank Restoration \* Rain Garden Demonstrations

Reducing Your Water Footprint \* AAS' New Visual Stream Assessments \* State of Georgia's Waterways

**For more information visit [www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org) and click on the Confluence link.**

## Coastal Adopt-A-Wetland Updates by Shelly Krueger, Program Coordinator

The University of Georgia Marine Extension Service (UGA-MAREX), Savannah State University Marsh Vegetation Research Laboratory, and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

sponsored the 'Coastal Adopt-A-Wetland (AAW) Volunteer Appreciation Night and Oyster Roast' in September on Skidaway Island. Over 60 volunteers attended the event, with Steve Kipp and his students from the Brunswick High School Science Club traveling the farthest. The day was filled with workshops, great food, music, awards and guest speakers.



The winner of the 2010 AAS Excellence in Data Collection award, Mary Lambright, was presented with a gift basket from Latitude 32°. Mrs. Lambright is a teacher from Johnson High School in Chatham County and has been a dedicated AAW volunteer for ten years, with over 164 volunteering events!

Jan Mackinnon from the Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources spoke about coastal wetland issues. Dr. Franklin from Savannah State University discussed new research regarding marsh dieback. Tara and Allison travelled from Atlanta and gave program updates, extending their gratitude to the coastal volunteers for their dedicated efforts to improve water quality in this region of the State. Coastal groups make up 10% of all active sites being monitored in Georgia, with 40 sites monitored by 36 different AAW coastal groups!



After the presentations, it was time to enjoy the oyster roast feast. Daniel Harris (pictured left) from UGA-MAREX continuously served the steaming hot oysters all night, while Jimmy James & The Robert Benton Band played against the backdrop of the Skidaway River. What a perfect night! The event was a great success, and thank you to everyone for a wonderful time thanks to our coastal volunteers! Many thanks to Dr. Chandra Franklin for his contributions to the event and for the awesome t-shirts! Thank you also to Moon River whose donated items for the raffle were awarded to Linda Daniels and Beverly English.



Pictured above (top), coastal volunteers enjoying oysters roasted by Skidaway's very own Daniel Harris (middle). Tara and Allison enjoyed the night in the company of the volunteers and Adopt-A-Stream board member, Venetia Butler (bottom).

### Become a Coastal Trainer!

On December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Tara, Allison, and Shelly Krueger Hosted a 'Train the Trainer' workshop for coastal chemical and bacterial trainers. Thank you to these dedicated volunteers who are helping to sustain the coastal AAW program into the future! If you are interested in becoming a Coastal Adopt-A-Wetland trainer, please contact us at: [AAS@gaepd.org](mailto:AAS@gaepd.org).

# Mark Your Calendars!

## 2011 Rivers Alive Cleanup

Not all of the data is in, but the 2011 RA cleanup was a big success. Look for an update in the next newsletter!

## World Water Day: March 22, 2012

How will you celebrate World Water Day? By writing an article about your AAS project, organizing a river cleanup or simply inviting others to sample with you? We encourage you to get the word out about the great work that you are doing in honor of World Water Day. For more ideas visit [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org).

## Georgia River Network's Weekend for Rivers: March 31-April 1, 2012

Join GRN on March 31st for a day of inspiration, education and connections with folks who are as passionate about Georgia's rivers as you are. Then, campout that night and wakeup for a 9-mile paddle of the beautiful Chattahoochee River and get 'on the water' monitoring training from the AAS program! All this takes place at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, GA. For more information visit [www.garivers.org](http://www.garivers.org).

## Environmental Education Alliance Conference: March 30-31, 2012

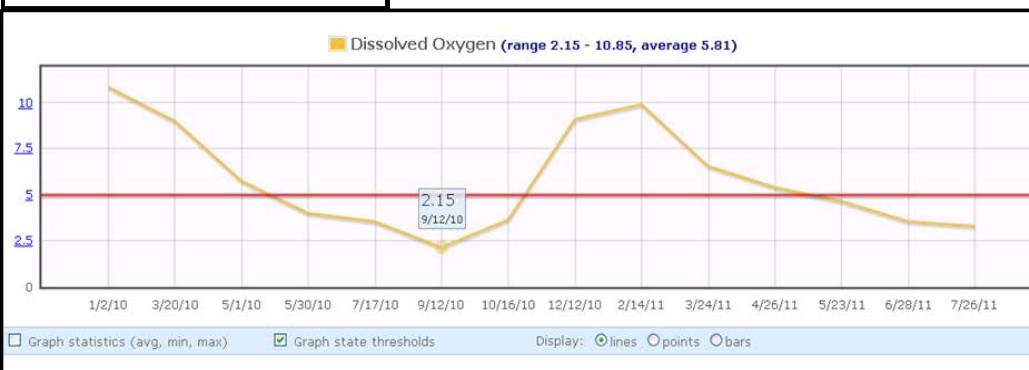
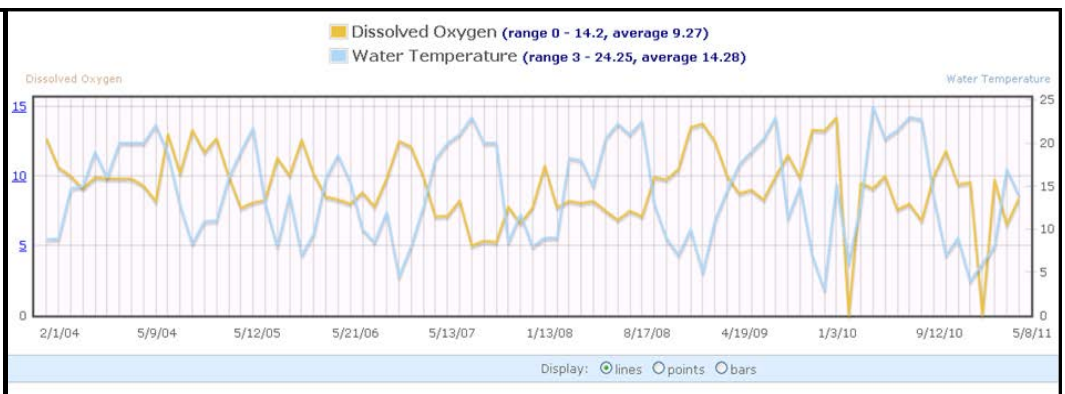
The theme of next year's conference is 'The Art and Science of Environmental Education.' The conference, to be held at the Southwest Arts Center in Fulton County, will include presentations, exhibits and workshops for formal and non-formal environmental educators. The Call for Proposals is now open. For more information visit [www.ealliance.org](http://www.ealliance.org).

**Please visit our calendar of events at [www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org) for upcoming monitoring workshops and Adopt-A-Stream events.**

## New Graphing Features in the Database

The Adopt-A-Stream database was designed to display statewide volunteer water quality data, and since its inception it has continued to evolve. We have some new features we would like to share with you. Below is a snapshot of graphs available on our website. If you would like to delve deeper, we have created a "Did you Know?" section on our website to guide visitors through the new functions of the database. Visit [www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org) and click on "Did you Know?" in the announcement section for more information.

This figure shows two parameters graphed together, dissolved oxygen and water temperature. Through this depiction you can clearly see the inverse relationship between the two parameters. To use this capability in the data views section, click 'ctrl' and select two parameters.



This figure shows dissolved oxygen and the State water quality standard of 5 mg/L (straight line). Using this graph, volunteers can easily determine if their data does or does not meet the State standards. State threshold lines are also available for water temperature and pH.

# AAS Welcomes our New Groups (Groups registered from 9/13/2011– 12/04/2011)

RaAS, Gwinnett County  
Arbor Stream Team, DeKalb County  
Keep Jackson County Beautiful AAS, Jackson County  
Chattahoochee River Warden, Muscogee County  
Vaughan Elementary School, Cobb County  
Georgia Sierra Club, DeKalb County  
Braselton AAS, Jackson County  
Murdock Elementary School, Cobb County  
Oxbow Meadows, Muscogee County  
Honey Fern School, Cobb County  
Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett County  
High Shoals Elementary, Oconee County  
Tabs or Spaces, Rockdale County

**Thank you for joining the Adopt-A-Stream & Coastal Adopt-A-Wetland programs. Your data is very important to our goal of protecting and improving water quality within the State of Georgia.**

**Please visit our calendar of events at [www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org) for upcoming monitoring workshops and Adopt-A-Stream 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  
404.675.6240  
[www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org)

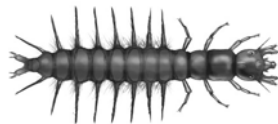
**Go Blue! Sign up for our  
E-newsletter by emailing  
[AAS@gaepd.org](mailto:AAS@gaepd.org)**



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