

GEORGIA

Adopt-A-Stream

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Georgia's Annual River Cleanup is in October

How long have you been receiving this newsletter? The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream mailing list contains almost 3,000 addresses yet there are less than 200 stream, wetland or lake sites being monitored. If you have been thinking about starting an Adopt-A-Stream program or have started one and can't seem to get others interested, it could be that what you need is a cleanup event to get everyone excited! October is Georgia's Annual River Cleanup month and the Rivers Alive committee offers 100 cleanup events statewide at which you can volunteer.

For more information on how to volunteer, go to www.riversalive.org or call 888-373-5947.

2001 Conference and Volunteer Awards Banquet

The date has been set for our 2001 conference! This year, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream has formed a partnership with the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA). This organization is a self-governed, non-profit organization that promotes communication and education among professionals in the field of environmental education in Georgia. Under EEA, six fantastic statewide environmental education programs have come together to offer a three-day opportunity to learn and network with other environmentally minded people. The conference partners are Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, The Georgia Conservancy, Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD and the National Wildlife Federation!

The conference, *Georgia's Environment: Reaching and Teaching Communities*, will be held March 2-4 in Columbus, Georgia. We will offer hands-on sessions, informal discussion sessions, presentations, workshops (with teacher continuing education credit), fantastic field trips, national speakers, entertainment and an awards banquet. If you are interested in conducting a 45-minute presentation, a 2-hour hands-on session or an informal discussion session, look for the Call For Presentation form in the mail or go to www.ealliance.org for all the conference information.

Adopt-A-Stream volunteer does it again! Jerry Hagerty located a sewage spill during his stream walk. For the full AJC article, visit the Adopt-A-Stream website at www.riversalive.org/aas.htm

EPD has a new website!
<http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/environ/>

I Want To Get Involved But Where Do I Start?

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream offers so many manuals, workshops and resources that sometimes it is hard to figure out how to get started. We realize that deciding whether you want to monitor a lake, wetland or stream and then whether you want to collect data, organize clean-ups or develop outreach materials can be overwhelming.

So let's make it simple. The first thing you should do is look around your neighborhood and find a stream, wetland or lake that you would like to learn about. Georgia Adopt-A-Stream does not assign streams, wetlands or lakes. We suggest you find a waterbody that is easy, safe and legal to access.

The next step is to get a copy of the manual, ***Getting To Know Your Watershed***. To obtain a copy, contact the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream office or download a copy from the web at www.riversalive.org/aas.htm. Chapter 1 of this manual will give you some basic background on watersheds, the water cycle and effects of development. Chapter 2 provides background on nonpoint source pollution and some of the laws that are used to protect water quality. Chapter 3, *Getting Started*, contains directions on how to register your stream, wetland or lake. Everything you need to know is in this chapter. Send the completed registration form to Georgia Adopt-A-Stream.

When filling out the registration form, you are asked to do several things. First you should obtain a topographic map that contains your stream, wetland or lake. Using the map, find out the official name of your waterbody and in which watershed it is located. We also ask that you find local partners who can help you in your efforts and that you notify your local government about your activities. Finally, compile a "Who To Call List." This list will contain the names and numbers of agencies to call if you see a sewage spill, fish kill or other questionable activities.

Registering your waterbody will take some thought and work. Take your time and think about why you want to monitor, what type of data you want to collect and who may be interested in using your data. Once you have filled out the registration form, we ask that you conduct a *Watershed Survey*. Chapter 4 of ***Getting To Know Your Watershed*** provides directions on what to look for and how to fill out the

data forms. This activity is done once a year and helps you examine landuse and potential impacts to your stream, wetland or lake.

Allow yourself several weeks to conduct the *Watershed Survey* and to answer the questions on the registration form. If you would like hands-on training, attend one of our free workshops, *Getting Started with Adopt-A-Stream*. The location and dates for these workshops can be found on the third page of this newsletter.

The next step will be to conduct four visual surveys per year and to do at least one outreach activity and one clean up. To obtain the manuals that contain the data forms and directions to conduct visual monitoring, contact the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream office or download a copy from the web at www.riversalive.org/aas.htm. If you have a stream, you will use the ***Visual Stream Survey*** manual, for a wetland you will use the ***Wetland Monitoring*** manual and if you are monitoring a lake, ask for the ***Adopt-A-Lake*** manual.

If you wish to take monitoring to the next level and conduct chemical or biological monitoring, we suggest you attend a workshop. Most of the workshops offered on page three of this newsletter are for stream monitoring. If the workshop is for wetland or lake monitoring, it will be indicated in the title of the workshop.

The workshops are fun and informative and we highly recommend taking a few workshops even if you do not plan to conduct chemical or biological monitoring. If you are going to conduct chemical or biological monitoring, it is important to remember that the data you collect is most useful when collected consistently over a period of two or three years. Chemical data should be collected once per month and biological data should be collected quarterly.

Becoming a part of Adopt-A-Stream is the beginning of a life-long learning experience. Biology, chemistry, geology, landuse, policy, education and community spirit all have an influence on your stream, wetland or lake. So start slowly, ask a lot of questions, tell your neighbors what you are learning and enjoy yourself.

Adopt-A-Stream Calendar of Events

The following workshops, taught by certified AAS trainers, provide training in visual, biological and chemical monitoring of streams and wetlands. Please call to register.

What	Who	When	Where	To Register
Getting Started w/AAS	Coastal RTC	Sept 7	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Getting Started/Chemical	Fulton Co. AAS	Sept 9	N. Fulton	404-730-8006
Chemical	Coastal RTC	Sept 12&14	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Biological	Fulton Co. AAS	Sept 23	Providence Park	404-730-8006
Getting Started w/AAS	Coastal RTC	Sept 23	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Chemical	Coastal RTC	Sept 23	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Getting Started w/AAS	SW GA GYSTC	Sept 25-26	Bainbridge	229-248-3933
Getting Started w/AAS	Clayton Co. AAS	Sept 30	Newman Wetland Ctr.	404-675-1636
Biological	Chattooga/Floyd/Polk AAS	Oct 28	Rome	706-802-5322
Getting Started w/AAS	Coastal RTC	Oct. 28	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Chemical	Coastal RTC	Oct 28	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Chemical	Fulton Co. AAS	Nov 4	Fulton County	404-730-8006
Getting Started w/AAS	Peavine Watershed Alliance	Nov 4	Peavine Watershed	404-508-7603
Chemical & Biological	Peavine Watershed Alliance	Nov 11	Peavine Watershed	404-508-7603
Getting Started w/AAS	Coastal RTC	Nov 9	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Getting Started/Chemical	Chattooga/Floyd/Polk AAS	Nov 11	Rome	706-802-5322
Chemical	Coastal RTC	Nov 14&16	Savannah State Univ.	706-651-1454
Biological	Fulton Co. AAS	Nov 18	Fulton County	404-730-8006

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

There's more! AAS workshops are conducted throughout the State. Call one of these numbers to learn about upcoming workshops in your region of the State.

Where	Who	To Register	E-mail
Coastal GA	Dr. Joe Richardson	912-356-2809	richards@tigerpaw.ssu.peachnet.edu
West GA	Dr. Becky Champion	706-687-4090	champion_becky@colstate.edu
Central GA	Sylbie Yon	706-485-9243	sayon@peachnet.campuscwix.net
South GA	Dr. David Hedgepeth	912-333-5611	dhedgepe@valdosta.edu

Building A Watershed Alliance

Building A Watershed Alliance is a video produced by Peavine Watershed Alliance, which highlights four other watershed alliances in the Metro Atlanta area. This 24-minute video offers personal accounts of citizens who have been moved to lead watershed efforts in their communities. Each group has faced unique obstacles and has developed in different ways, depending on the needs of their watershed and community. The video also highlights some of the top people in Georgia's water quality movement who offer insight into why and how everyone should get involved in local watershed efforts.

The premiere of *Building A Watershed Alliance* will take place on September 12, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. After the premiere, copies of the video will be available through the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream office. For more information, visit our website at www.riversalive.org/aas.htm or call 404-675-1636.

Free Resource for Volunteer Monitors

The Volunteer Monitor is a free national newsletter highlighting the wide variety of watershed-monitoring activities conducted by volunteers across the nation. Newsletter articles feature practical, how-to information on such topics as techniques and equipment, uses of volunteer data, building stewardship, and assuring high-quality data. The newsletter covers volunteer monitoring of all water body types (stream, lake, estuary, wetland, ocean) and also includes news updates and resource listings. For a free subscription, please contact River Network, 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1130, Portland, OR 97204-1535, volmon@rivernetwork.org. Back issues are available for a small charge. The newsletter is also posted on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/owow/volunteer/vm_index.html.

Teacher's Environmental Website Links

The Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) has recently launched an all-new web site, ENC Online, at <http://enc.org>. ENC, established by the U.S. Department of Education, focuses on K-12 math and science education. The content on ENC Online has been organized into four major categories - Curriculum Resources, Web Links, Professional Resources, and Topics.

Georgia's Water Education for Teachers (Project WET) has a new website at <http://www.ealliance.org/gaprojectwet/>

The Georgia Outdoor Classroom Resource Guide is great for teachers and citizens who are looking for contacts and resources to help with wildlife gardens and stream buffer revegetation projects.
<http://www.mindspring.com/~discoverygardens/occguides/occguides3.html>

Visit one of Adopt-A-Stream's partners, the Educational Technology Training Center at Fort Discovery at <http://tech.nscdiscovery.org/newtech/>



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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(404) 675-1639
www.riversalive.org/aas.htm