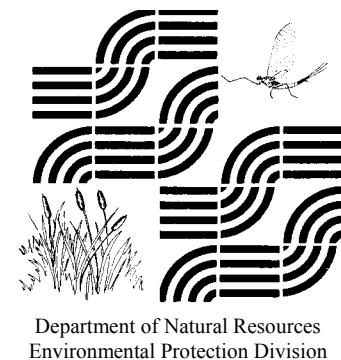


GEORGIA Adopt-A-Stream

Volume 19, Number 5, September/October 2012
 Editors: Allison Hughes, Tara Muenz



Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Launches the New Stream Habitat Survey

A new way to assess freshwater streams has been added to the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program in the form of a rapid habitat assessment or what our program refers to as the ‘Stream Habitat Survey.’ The 2-page survey is for both rocky and muddy bottom streams, evaluating 10 different aspects of a stream’s physical condition and health of its habitat.

A complement to the AAS macroinvertebrate program, we suggest conducting these surveys together, four times a year, but you can also use it on its own. The result of the habitat assessment is a final number score that corresponds with a rating of the stream condition from poor to excellent. Data can be entered online, and the surveys are easy to access from our website with helpful corresponding materials. Below are some FAQs about the program.

How Do I Get Trained? We are hosting 2-hour workshops across the state to train volunteers on the survey. See our website calendar for upcoming trainings or contact us at AAS@gaepd.org/404-675-6240 to schedule a workshop in your community.

Where Do I Find the Datasheets and Image Guide? These can be found on our website by going to the toolbar and clicking on ‘Materials & Resources,’ then ‘Manuals, Forms, etc.,’ then scroll down to the forms under the heading ‘Data Forms.’

Online Data Entry: After you have registered your adopted site and conducted a survey, please submit this data to our online database by going to the toolbar and clicking on ‘Forms and Reports’ and select ‘Stream Habitat Survey.’




How Does it Work? This rapid assessment is meant to be just that, quick and easy to conduct. Taking anywhere from 15-20 minutes, you and a partner will walk a stretch (reach) of the adopted stream site, evaluating the 10 parameters on a scale from 1-10 and for some parameters, on a scale from 1-5. The type of stream (rocky or muddy bottom) will also be noted. Summing up your scores from all the parameters, you will come up with your total score for your final rating of poor to excellent. When we speak of habitat, most people think of the places where fish or *(continued on page 2)*

The new 2-page visual stream survey and accompanying color guide/poster can be found on our website.

Stream Habitat Survey Continued...

wildlife live, which is only part of the picture. Stream habitat includes many different features, including the type of substrate in a stream, presence of pools-riffles-runs, are the banks stable, and what is condition of the adjacent stream buffer? All of these will be evaluated through this survey, and examined many times throughout the year. Below is an example of how to evaluate one of the survey parameters, 'Channel Alteration.'

#6 CHANNEL ALTERATION: Is the stream channel altered by humans?

Habitat Parameter	Excellent -----Poor											
6. Channel Alteration	No evidence of channelization (straightening) or alterations such as dredging, agriculture, concrete banks or construction activities.			Some evidence of channelization (straightening) and/or alterations such as dredging, agriculture, concrete banks or construction activities.				Most of stream reach channelized and/or many alterations present such as dredging, agriculture, concrete banks or construction activities.			What did you see?	
Is the stream channel altered by humans?												
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score <input type="text"/>



What to Look for: Streams tend to follow a normal and natural meandering pattern. This parameter examines changes in sinuosity and if the shape of the channel and/or the instream habitat have been impacted by large-scale alterations. Examples of alterations include: riprap, artificial embankments or stabilization structures, straightening for significant distances, or the presence of dams and bridges.

Why is it Important? Streams that have been altered typically have fewer natural habitats for aquatic organisms and have an unnatural shape that leads to major differences in energy distribution, structures, and flow regimes.

How to Score this Parameter: Rated on a scale from 0-10, choose a value that reflects the occurrence of bends in the channel ranging from 'most of the stream is channelized to no evidence of channelization.' Look for evidence of alterations to also score this parameter including: dredging, agriculture, concrete banks or construction activities.

Definition of Terms

- CHANNELIZATION:** Straightening of a stream channel to make water move faster.

We Are Looking For You!

We are Now Accepting Nominations for the 2012 Adopt-A-Stream Awards



Yes, we do want you, to recognize and celebrate your efforts supporting Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and water quality throughout the state. We encourage you to nominate yourself or others for any one of the categories listed below, so please take a moment to reflect on your activities and submit a well-deserved nomination!

Nominations should include a short essay describing why the volunteer(s) and/or group is deserving of the award and how they excelled in the protection of Georgia's waterways. Supporting materials, such as photographs or newspaper articles, are also accepted. To find 2011's winners, please see our March/April 2012 newsletter.

Deadline for submissions: January 16th, 2013

Awards will be given at our volunteer conference called 'Confluence' to be held at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on Saturday, March 16th, 2013. Winners will receive free registration and are eligible for the travel stipend to attend Confluence.

Nominations can be submitted online through the website: www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org. You can also e-mail entries to AAS@gaepd.org or mail them to Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, 4220 International Pkwy, Suite 101, Atlanta, GA. 30354.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Volunteer of the Year
Extraordinary Volunteer Watershed Effort
Red Flag Award
Outstanding Outreach and Partnership
Adopt-A-Stream in Action
Excellence in Data Collection
Nymph Award

More information on these categories can be found online at www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org

WATERSHED AWARDS

These awards recognize local public utilities, government agencies, regional commissions, non-profits, and watershed organizations that have exceeded standards in implementing the four Adopt -A-Stream goals. Contact Adopt-A-Stream for more information and an application.



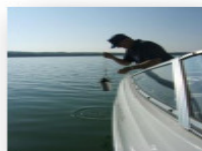
SAVE THE DATE: CONFLUENCE 2013
Saturday, March 16th
Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center

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. Please let us know which topics you would like to have at Confluence 2013 by filling out this short survey by October 31st:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2V8YVYS>

2013 will also be the 20th Anniversary of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream! A big celebration will be a part of this weekend with Confluence and we hope you will join us. Registration is only \$30 (\$20 for students).

Check out this Great Newsletter Geared for the Volunteer Water Monitor



Volunteer Monitoring News

A news update for – and by – the volunteer monitoring community



Issue 1
January 2012

For those of you interested in the volunteer monitoring world, you have got to check out and sign up to receive the 'Volunteer Monitoring News' newsletter. A compliment to the Adopt-A-Stream newsletter, you'll find many helpful and useful articles created just for you and by you, the volunteer. Their first issue was created in January 2012, and you can sign up for this free publication produced on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically by emailing Alice Mayo at mayio.alice@epa.gov. Click here to see their first issue: http://acwi.gov/monitoring/vm/publications/newsletters/VM_News_Issue1_Jan2012.pdf

**Please visit our calendar of events at www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org
for upcoming monitoring workshops and Adopt-A-Stream events.**

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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**

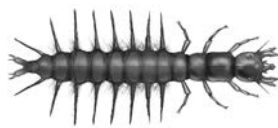
**Go Blue! Sign up for our
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calling 404.675.6240**



Dragonfly



Riffle Beetle



Dobsonfly



Stonefly



Net Spinning Caddisfly