

# GEORGIA Adopt-A-Stream

Volume 26, Number 1 January– March 2019  
*Adopt-A-Stream Staff, Editors*



## *Adopt-A-Stream by the Numbers 2018*

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our remarkable volunteers, trainers, community coordinators, advisory board members and partners for their support and dedication to the program. Because of all of you, Adopt-A-Stream remains a leader in volunteer water quality monitoring and continues to grow after 25 years! Together, we contributed more than 22,000 hours of service this past year worth over \$560,000 in volunteer dollars protecting Georgia's waterways!

## *25 Years of Adopt-A-Stream*



*Thank you Laurie Hawks!*

Confluence 2018 celebrated Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and brought together over 150 volunteers, trainers, community partners, students, educators and water professionals from across Georgia and beyond. This event also included a special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration including videos from previous staff members and special guest speaker Laurie Hawks, the first state coordinator, as well as a review of program-wide accomplishments since the inception of AAS. To read more about what AAS and YOU have accomplished since the beginning, visit the [Jan—Mar 2018](#) and [May—Jun 2013](#) newsletter issues found on the AAS website.



## *20 Years of Rivers Alive*

Celebrating 20 years of statewide cleanups, this year's theme was modeled after a 20 year reunion tour, highlighting the past themes and successes of the program. The education poster featured an activity with decomposition rates and microplastics. Despite the inclement weather causing many events to be cancelled or rescheduled, including destructive Hurricane Michael, our dedicated organizers helped facilitate almost 250 cleanups. Over 23,000 volunteers donated an average of 3.5 hours of their time and cleaned nearly 900 miles of Georgia's waterways, removing over 400,000 pounds of trash!



## *High Five Your Local Coordinator!*



In 2018, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream continued to grow in partnerships with government, nonprofit groups, universities, schools and local programs while working hard to maintain and establish AAS programs across the state. This year, 21 Train-The-Trainer workshops certifying 17 new trainers were conducted throughout the year. With 54 active trainers, 384 workshops were conducted. AAS would not be successful without the help of trainers and local coordinators. Be sure to high five your Local Coordinator next time you see them!

**Do you have an event, program highlight, water research or other article suggestions for the Adopt-A-Stream newsletter?**  
We encourage you to send in your ideas to [aas@gaepd.org](mailto:aas@gaepd.org) for review and a possible feature in this newsletter that reaches over 11,000 households!

# Adopt-A-Stream by the Numbers 2018, Continued...

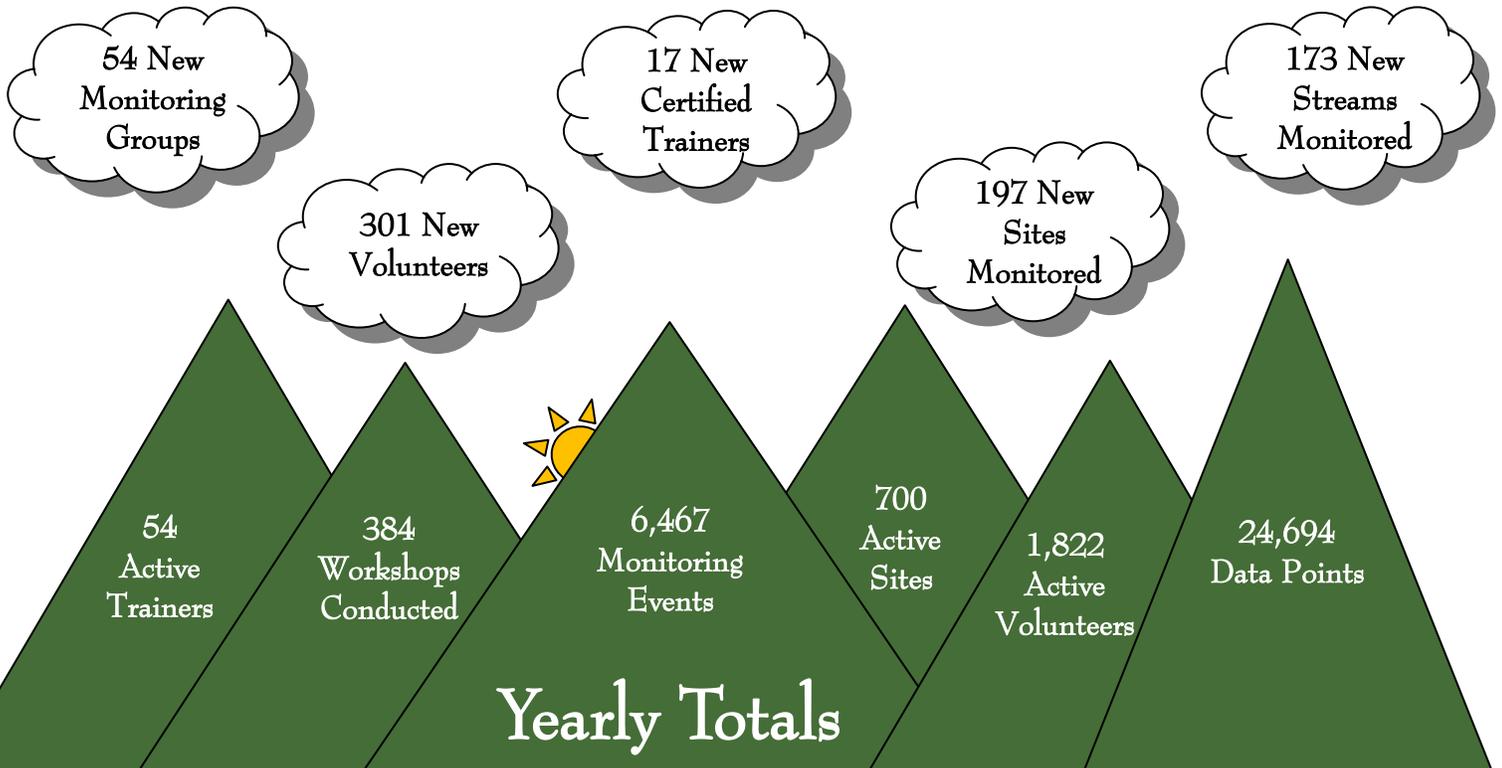


In 2018 you conducted nearly **250** more monitoring events than last year!

Monitoring Events by Year



You helped Adopt-A-Stream reach new heights in 2018!



## *Help Keep Water Clean at Confluence 2019!*

Confluence, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's annual volunteer conference, includes hands-on water quality workshops, volunteer awards and our annual water science poster session. This event brings together AAS volunteers, trainers, community partners, students and educators from across Georgia and beyond to build their knowledge



about water quality monitoring and nonpoint source pollution. This year's event will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 22-24 at a new location—Unicoi State Park and Lodge nestled in the beautiful blue ridge mountains of North Georgia near the town of Helen. This three day event includes a variety of hands-on water quality workshops, expert talks on advanced water monitoring methods, a volunteer awards ceremony and professional development and networking. For more information on the conference schedule



and to register, visit the Confluence page on the AAS website.

### *Confluence Keynote: Dr. Anna George*

**Tennessee Aquarium**

***Vice President of Conservation Science and Education***

Keynote Address: "Protecting an Underwater Rainforest: How to Help the Diverse Rivers and Critters of the Southeastern United States"

Dr. Anna George, Vice President of Conservation Science and Education at the Tennessee Aquarium, discovered early in life that being a biologist provided a good excuse to be outside. During her undergraduate and graduate coursework in biology at the University of Virginia and Saint Louis University, she worked in both freshwater and marine systems to study the conservation, ecology and evolution of fishes. Since joining the Aquarium in 2006, she has led research initiatives in freshwater habitat restoration, species reintroduction, and population genetics in the southeastern United States. Anna has also taught at Franklin & Marshall College, Mountain Lake Biological Station, the University of the South and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



*If you are attending Confluence and would like to know more about the keynote address or the accompanying "Citizen Science Tools for Identifying and Reporting Backyard Diversity" session that Dr. George and other Tennessee Aquarium staff will be presenting, please check the Confluence schedule on the AAS website.*

## *Adopt-A-Stream and Project WET*



Project WET is Water Education for K-12 Teachers! Georgia Project WET and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream are sister programs housed in the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and intersect in many ways. Project WET's goal is to promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through classroom-ready teaching materials and educator workshops with a mission to bring water education to the world!

Project WET is a program designed for formal and non-formal educators of K-12 students grounded in defined beliefs reflected in the curriculum and training techniques. The program and its interdisciplinary curriculum is based on the core beliefs that water connects us all, water is for all water users, we must manage

water sustainably and we need to take personal responsibility for water resources. You can find more information at [ProjectWet.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWet.Georgia.gov).

In a special new session at the annual Adopt-A-Stream conference, Confluence, kindergarten through fifth grade children of attendees are invited to participate in activities designed just for them! This session will feature Project WET activities, guest speakers, live animals, crafts and a nature hike. Join us for a fun day of learning about our water world! For more information, visit the [Confluence page](#) on the Adopt-A-Stream website.

# Community Partnership Highlight: American Rivers

by Ben Emanuel, Director of Clean Waters at American Rivers

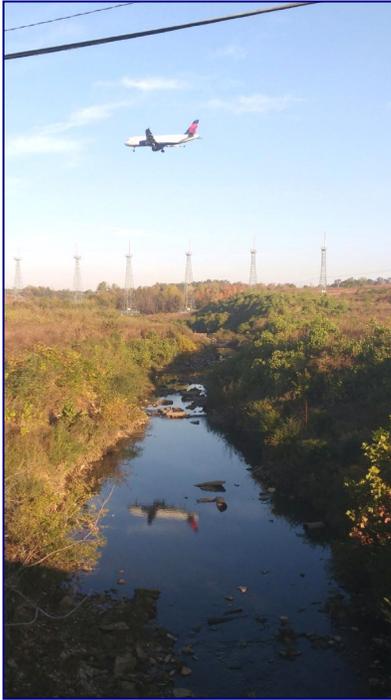


Photo by: Jeremy Diner, American Rivers

American Rivers is a national river conservation organization, founded in 1973, with offices in Washington, DC and around the country. Our mission is to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve clean water for people and nature. For ten years, our Atlanta office has helped advance sustainable water supplies and urban water management in Metro Atlanta.

Collaboration with local partners is critical to our work on the Atlanta area's water management challenges. Since 2011, we have collaborated with Flint Riverkeeper and other local conservationists, as well as local water utilities, to respond to critical drought stress throughout the upper Flint River basin. Longtime Adopt-A-Stream team leader Mike DeLisle of Fayette County has been an important partner in this work and in the Upper Flint River Working Group, which American Rivers has convened since 2013.

In our work on urban water in cities around the country, American Rivers advocates for Integrated Urban Water Management solutions – involving water utilities and local governments in earnest and innovative work with community-based partners to address the multi-faceted water challenges facing cities today. In Atlanta, we have collaborated to develop the Intrenchment-Custer One Water Management Task Force, seeking holistic solutions to historic flooding and pollution in the neighborhoods surrounding the former Turner Field as redevelopment occurs in the area. Based in part on our experiences in this part of Southeast Atlanta, we have collaborated with Atlanta-based ECO-Action, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, the University of Georgia and other partners to develop the Atlanta Watershed Learning Network as well as the Watershed Learning Network website at: [wln.ecology.uga.edu](http://wln.ecology.uga.edu). We are also proud to have partnered to launch the initiative known as Finding the Flint – a vision for restored urban headwaters at the source of the

Flint River at and around Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Going forward, we hope to partner to bring more community-based water quality monitoring capacity to the Flint River headwaters in Clayton County and the Tri-Cities area of Atlanta's south side.

To learn more, please visit [AmericanRivers.org](http://AmericanRivers.org) and [FindingtheFlint.org](http://FindingtheFlint.org). See you on the river!

## Thank you Active 2018 Trainers!

Trainers who led at least one QA/QC workshop in 2018

Alexa Robinson	Hannah Penn	Jessica Warren	Michael O'Shield	Ruth Mead
Bob Schmitt	Hannah Bradford	John Butler	Michael DeLisle	Sarah Sweat
Brian Wiley	Harold Harbert	Jordan Girard	Michele Smith	Seirisse Baker
Bruno Giri	Hayley Wise	Joseph Rigdon	Mike Kahle	Sheldon Leiker
Callie Moore	Jackie Valett	Kate Mowbray	Rachael Thompson	Terry Porter
Checo Colon-Gaud	Jacob Oblander	Ken Fahey	Raleigh Keagan	Thomas Weiland
Chris Kodani	Javier Sayago	Laura Schneider	Rick Frey	Tyler Sims
Deborah Ortiz	Jesse Demonbreun-	Lina Yazbak	Robert Hodgdon	Vicki Culbreth
Eric Eberly	Chapman	Lori Forrester	Robert Thomson	Vicki Soutar
Ganesh Venugopal	Jessica Sterling	Luke Roberson	Ruth Eilers	Will England

## Welcome New 2018 Adopt-A-Stream Trainers!

New trainers who led at least one QA/QC workshop in 2018

Angie Marcus	Grant Foster	Laura Early	Samantha Eubanks
Anna Laws	Jana Pearce	Malloree Lanier	

**Running low on monitoring equipment?** Forestry Suppliers (previously Ben Meadows) has graciously offered volunteers of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream a 10% discount off their total purchase of \$50 or more. Use code MAS at checkout. This code will expire 12/31/2019. Visit [www.forestry-suppliers.com](http://www.forestry-suppliers.com) to place an order.

## *Board Member Highlight: Bob Bourne, Cobb County Water System*

As long as he can remember, Bob Bourne has held a deep affinity for the natural world, particularly for water and all the creatures that live in it. At six years old, Bob was told not to play in a stream because it was polluted. He was deeply disturbed by this and Bob resolved to spend his life protecting streams and the environment. Bob pursued biological and environmental studies in high school and continued his education at Brevard College and the University of Georgia where he obtained a degree in Environmental Science. While in Athens, Bob was fortunate enough to land a job working as a part time assistant for Dr. Bruce Wallace in the aquatic entomology lab. Bob's duties involved processing research samples in the lab and spending time in the field at the Coweeta Research Station. Bob took his career as a water professional to the Cobb County Water System where he has held various titles throughout his lifelong career there, including Waste Water Lab Analyst, Industrial Pretreatment Inspector, Grease Management Inspector, Surface Water/Stream Monitoring Analyst, and Environmental Compliance Supervisor/Manager (since 1999!). He was instrumental in implementing Cobb County's in-house watershed monitoring program and their first watershed assessment.



Bob's involvement with the Adopt-A-Stream program dates back to 1992 when he was luckily invited to one of the earliest AAS training workshops in Georgia held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in cooperation with the Izaak Walton League of America. Already familiar with in-school education programs on stream ecology and water quality monitoring, Bob was very excited to learn about the State AAS program. He attended his first AAS conference and received his first certifications in Athens in 1995. From there, Bob was determined to bring the AAS program to Cobb County. He was successful and in 2001 a Cobb County AAS program was approved. Since 2004, Bob has been a loyal AAS board member participating in retreats, Paddle Georgia, the annual AAS Confluence, and various committees. In 2011, Bob took his AAS involvement a step further by adopting a stream site with the Tapestry Community in Grant Park and became an AAS volunteer!

Bob believes by training citizens and promoting citizen science AAS is making a significant contribution to promoting environmental stewardship. He says this type of empowerment at the individual level serves as a fundamental link in moving people past mere words and into action; by promoting citizen science AAS is giving people the tools and training to make a difference both in their lives and the lives of others. Bob is proud to be involved in this extremely important program and is grateful for having been given the opportunity to serve as a board member.

## *Welcome New Adopt-A-Stream State Coordinator, Bailey Crapps*



Georgia Adopt-A-Stream is excited to announce Bailey Crapps as our new State Coordinator. Bailey graduated from the University of North Georgia in 2018 with a degree in biology. At school, she focused on environmental studies and produced a water quality report on a study she conducted in Costa Rica, using much of the AAS monitoring protocol. After graduating and while serving as AAS Program Assistant, Bailey has demonstrated a natural affinity to water, fittingly finding excuses to "get wet." With such natural aquatic inclinations, we're confident she will add much to our citizen science program, helping us to grow and expand our reach far into the future. Welcome aboard Bailey! - Harold Harbert

*"Ever since my freshman year of college when I had my first encounter with Adopt-A-Stream, I knew that it was a program I wanted to work for. I couldn't be more thrilled that my time as a program assistant is now transitioning into the role of AAS State Coordinator. I am so excited to work with individuals and groups that share my passion for citizen science, water quality, water education and having fun in the great outdoors! I look forward to working with Adopt-A-Stream staff, board members, trainers and volunteers to continue monitoring and protecting one of our most precious resources."*

- Bailey

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**AAS Staff:** *Harold Harbert, Seira Baker, Bailey Crapps, Jackie Encinas*

**GO BLUE!**

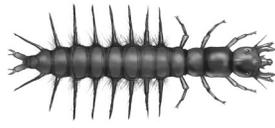
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Dragonfly



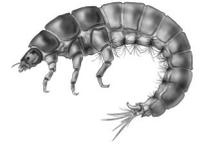
Riffle Beetle



Dobsonfly



Stonefly



Net Spinning Caddisfly

## Confluence 2019: March 22-24

### Adopt-A-Stream Annual Conference



### REGISTER NOW!

**Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 19th**

*Deadline for t-shirt orders is Friday, March 15th at noon*

\$30 registration ~ \$20 for students with ID ~ \$10 for children  
grades K-5th

**Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, GA**



**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Anna George, Vice President of Conservation Science and Education, Tennessee Aquarium**

*Friday Evening: Water Science Poster Session and Social featuring Water Themed Trivia*

*Saturday: Water Quality Workshops, Exhibits and Awards Ceremony*

*Sunday: Special Water Quality Activities*

**AAS Junior Sessions for K-5th grade! Opportunities for indoor and outdoor learning.**

**There will be no on-site registrations. For more information, visit the Confluence page on the AAS website.**