

# GEORGIA

# Adopt-A-Stream

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Allison Hughes and Sally Mason, Editors



## 2005 Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Award Winners

This year's **Volunteer of the Year, Kathy Mellette**, leads the North Hall Middle School Stream Team. Kathy is a science teacher for gifted sixth and seventh grade students and the creator of the Stream Team. Through her partnership with the City of Gainesville's Adopt-A-Stream Program, she has helped over 50 of her students become certified in biological and chemical monitoring. Kathy goes above and beyond the call of duty and has partnered with several organizations to support the Wahoo Creek Watershed. These partnerships have resulted in the placement of wood duck boxes along the creek, a "Bug Luncheon" where parents are invited to learn more about their Adopt-A-Stream program, and a Rivers Alive cleanup event. For her efforts, we applaud Kathy Mellette, the Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer of the Year.



This year's **Extraordinary Volunteer Watershed Effort** goes to the **Upper Oconee Watershed Network (UOWN)**. UOWN has played a major role in the education of local citizens about water quality issues in the Oconee River watershed. With over 75 registered members, they have actively monitored the watershed for over seven years. Each year UOWN hosts a River Rendezvous, a watershed wide monitoring event that allows the group to take a snapshot of the water quality in the watershed. As a result of the annual River Rendezvous, they have been able to address a number of specific pollution issues. Some recent examples include monitoring Hunnicutt Creek after a major oil spill, investigating a sewage leak in Trail

Creek and studies involving high nitrate levels in a stream at the State Botanical Gardens. These are just a few examples of why the Upper Oconee Watershed Network has been chosen for the 2005 Extraordinary Volunteer Watershed Effort.

Perseverance is a characteristic that any outstanding volunteer should have. **Lois and Nancy Morrison**, a mother and daughter team from Cobb County have plenty of perseverance to go around. The Morrison family, recipients of this year's **Red Flag Award**, has been involved in Adopt-A-Stream monitoring since 1998, when they discovered an offensive smell in their neighborhood. By collecting 44 signatures, they petitioned the City of Marietta to repair the sewer line that ran near Rottenwood Creek. Lois and Nancy continue to monitor their stream and communicate their concerns to the local government. As a result of their perseverance, the City of Marietta completed repairs on the line, improving both pipe and manhole infrastructure, and modeling for the future.



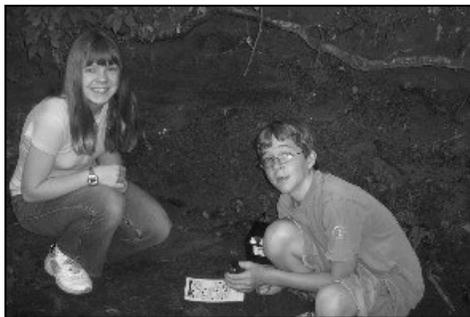


This year's **Excellence in Data Collection** was awarded to two groups. **McIntosh High School's** team of 40 students, all QA/QC certified, actively monitor 10 registered sites in Peachtree City. During 2005 they detected two water quality problems and presented their findings to the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor and City Council recognized the problems and made efforts with Peachtree City to amend the problems.

The **Peregrine Marsh Gang** from Skidway Island was also honored for **Excellence in Data Collection**. Since 2003, they have monitored two registered sites monthly. The group compiles comprehensive reports, which include long-range graphs. Additionally, they reported marsh die-off to authorities and collected data on the green mussel, an invasive species.



The **North Hall Stream Team** from Gainesville is this year's



recipient of the **Outstanding Outreach and Partnership** award. The sixth and seventh grade students have partnered with the DNR Wildlife Resources Division for a wood duck study on Wahoo Creek. Over the past year, City of Gainesville staff have given 13 presentations to the students on the AAS program including environmental awareness, storm drain stenciling and water conservation. The USDA Forest Service has provided presentations on watersheds and human impact. The students have designed a web page for the school's website and a newsletter with information about their hands-on class activities and facts about the importance of aquatic insects.

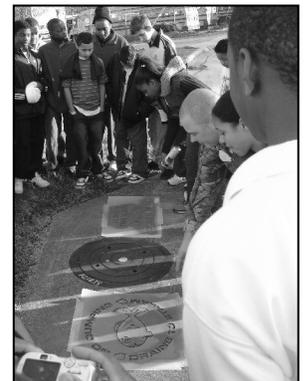
## 2005 Adopt-A-Stream Watershed Award Winners

The Adopt-A-Stream Watershed Award honors the efforts of City, County and Regional governmental agencies working to improve Georgia's waterways through participation in the AAS Program. Through a competitive application process, the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Advisory Board has selected **Peachtree City, the City of Gainesville, and Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority** for their outstanding programs that exemplify the AAS goals. The following program descriptions highlight each award winner:



Since 2002, **Peachtree City's** water quality monitoring program and the AAS program have partnered to evaluate the streams within the City and address documented concerns. The City donates the use of their facilities for Adopt-A-Stream training, and within the past three years Adopt-A-Stream has trained over 125 volunteers in Peachtree City. The high level of interest shown by City Council and City staff has resulted in the City addressing documented water quality concerns, and demonstrates the City's appreciation for the efforts of the AAS volunteers in the community.

Increased public awareness is highlighted by the **City of Gainesville's** program. In 2005, they spoke with over two thousand citizens of all ages through fairs, festivals and presentations. As a result, their Rivers Alive cleanup participation has increased by 20% from one year to the next. In 2004 they had a record turnout of 104 people, and in 2005 the turnout increased to 250 people. They also provide chemical and biological monitoring kits free of charge, and currently have two AAS trainers on staff.





significant amount of baseline data for the Etowah Watershed.

The **Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority** encourages partnership in two ways: first, between citizens and local governments and second, between local government agencies. CCWSA has been a major sponsor of Celebrate Etowah for the last two years. For the last five years, they have partnered with the Upper Etowah River Alliance. Their rain garden project incorporated partnerships with the Master Gardeners, Native Plant Society and Environmental Impact. The most recent partnership is with six County entities and the Army Corp of Engineers to work on a comprehensive Etowah Watershed Assessment. CCWSA's involvement in the Etowah Watershed Assessment will provide a

## 2005 Rivers Alive Awards

There were approximately 80 attendees at the second annual Rivers Alive Outstanding Waterway Cleanup and Leadership Awards held at the Georgia Power headquarters on Friday, February 24. Linda MacGregor, Chief of Watershed Protection Branch (WPB) started the program with an overview of the WPB and Rivers Alive's role in the WPB, followed by a presentation by Jeff Swanagan from the Georgia Aquarium. Awards were given to the following:

### **Ocean Category for cleanups over 200 volunteers:**

Cobb Adopt-A-Stream and Partners, Cobb County Natural Resources Management Unit - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs, Keep Cobb Beautiful, and Mabry Middle School

### **Lake Category for cleanups with 51-200 volunteers:**

Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful

### **River Category for cleanups with 21-50 volunteers:**

Putnam County 4-H

### **Individual Leadership Award:**

Phillip Nowicki

### **Business Leadership Award:**

International Paper

## Rivers Alive Cleanup Organizer Workshops

These workshops are designed for volunteers who are interested in starting a cleanup and will provide the basics of how to create a fun, interactive and educational waterway cleanup. The following sites and dates have been set:

**June 7 - Dawson**

**June 10 - Statesboro**

**July 22 - Albany**



There will be others as select current organizers are trained to hold workshops in their local community.

For more information, contact Mitch Russell, Rivers Alive Coordinator at 404.362.6536 or

[mitch\\_russell@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:mitch_russell@dnr.state.ga.us)

## Amphibian Workshop



The Newman Wetland Center, AAS and DNR Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) are hosting an amphibian monitoring workshop on **May 19** at 7:30pm. WRD herpetologist John Jensen will be leading the workshop. There is a 25 person limit, so please RSVP to Carol Lambert at 770.603.5603.

## ADOPT-A-STREAM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following workshops, taught by certified AAS trainers, provide training in visual, biological and chemical monitoring of streams. Teachers may receive 1 PLU credit for participating. Please visit the AAS website under the Teacher Corner heading for more details. Please call to register for a workshop.

| <b>What</b>        | <b>Who</b>                  | <b>When</b> | <b>Where</b>   | <b>To Register</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Biological         | Sandy Creek Nature Center   | April 29    | Clarke County  | 706.355.8148       |
| Chemical           | Cobb Co. Adopt A Stream     | April 29    | Cobb County    | 770.528.1782       |
| Chemical           | Forsyth Co. Adopt-A-Stream  | April 29    | Forsyth County | 770.355.6477       |
| Biological         | Forsyth Co. Adopt-A-Stream  | May 13      | Forsyth County | 770.355.6477       |
| Intro/Bio/Chemical | Elachee Nature Center       | May 19-20   | Gainesville    | 770.535.1976       |
| Chemical           | Chattahoochee Nature Center | May 20      | Cobb County    | 770.992.2055       |
| Intro/Chemical     | Savannah Riverkeeper        | May 20      | Augusta        | 706.364.5253       |
| Biological         | Savannah Riverkeeper        | May 27      | Augusta        | 706.364.5253       |

**NOTE: Workshop times vary. Please call to get exact times and locations. Workshop information is updated weekly on our website at [www.riversalive.org/aas.htm](http://www.riversalive.org/aas.htm)**

**QA/QC Recertification:** All QA/QC volunteers must renew certification on a yearly basis. This can be accomplished by participating in the second half of our regular chemical or biological workshop. To register, please contact one of our scheduled workshops.



### Paddle Georgia 2006

Paddle Georgia, a project of the Georgia River Network, will be held on the Etowah and Coosa Rivers from **June 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>**. AAS and Project Wet are partners and will be assisting with workshops and monitoring on the Etowah. The trip will cover almost 120 miles of the snaking Etowah as it travels from Dawsonville to Rome, where the trip will end on the Coosa.

For more information call 706.549.4508 or visit [www.garivers.org/paddlegeorgia/pghome](http://www.garivers.org/paddlegeorgia/pghome).

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) 675-1636 or 1635  
[www.riversalive.org/aas.htm](http://www.riversalive.org/aas.htm)**

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