

# GEORGIA

## Adopt-A-Stream

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Allison Hughes and Vicki Yeh, Editors



### 2006 Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Award Winners



Al Browning and Tony Burgman display equipment purchased through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Grant

This year's **Volunteer of the Year, Al Browning**, has been involved with AAS since 2003. His dedication to water quality monitoring inside and outside of the classroom has been outstanding. Not only has he partnered with the South Georgia Regional Development Center, local banks and the Rotary Club, but he was awarded an U.S. Fish & Wildlife grant that provided \$5,000 to bring Adopt-A-Stream into the classroom in Berrien and Lowndes counties. Currently, there are 23 students from 2 schools monitoring along the Withlacoochee River. Al takes Adopt-A-Stream one step further in his classroom by requiring his students to compose a research project that includes background information on the parameters and protocols used for chemical and biological monitoring as well as a map of their watershed.

**West Atlanta Watershed Association (WAWA)** has made huge strides in community partnerships and outreach on the watershed level, earning the **Extraordinary Volunteer Watershed Effort Award**. WAWA has more than ten years of momentum behind its initiatives to protect Proctor, Utoy and Sandy Creeks in Southwest Atlanta. WAWA is working with the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management, Adopt-A-Stream and Project WET to coordinate teacher education in West Atlanta schools. Students from Mays High School have received Adopt-A-Stream training, and have adopted a segment of Utoy Creek flowing through their school grounds. WAWA also facilitated an Adopt-A-Stream training for faculty and staff at Spelman College who plan to incorporate monitoring into their curriculum. They are also developing a module for community action workshops that will involve Proctor Creek residents in Adopt-A-Stream and Project WET training, ensuring that involvement will continue in the future.

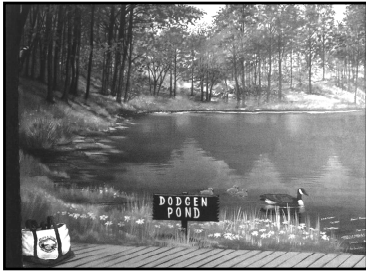


Members of WAWA have worked with AAS to promote water education in southwest Atlanta



Alex Fay leads the Ogeechee Citizens Brigade

This year's **Red Flag Award** winner, the **Ogeechee Citizens Brigade**, is a family group led by high school junior Alex Fay. The Fays have been monitoring the Ogeechee River since 2004 and regularly send photos with their data collection forms as well as detailed observations of the local flora and fauna around their site. In addition to their meticulous attention to detail, they have taken a stand for wildlife by reporting alligator poaching and abuse to DNR and UGA MAREX. Alex and his family have also reported illegal pollution and stream buffer violations by a local developer. The Ogeechee Citizen's Brigade has definitely set an example that everyday citizens can make a difference in their communities!



Mural painted by Dodgen students

**Cobb County Adopt-A-Stream** has been awarded the **Adopt-A-Stream in Action Award** for their “Color Your Watershed Mural” program. Since 2003, Cobb has awarded 9 local schools with a grant to produce watershed murals. By participating in this program, schools can bridge the gap between arts and science through watershed based lesson plans, which focus on the mural. Through this effort Cobb County has expanded watershed education into schools without access to a stream.

**Mark Dallas** and **Ron Ellison** of the **Fifteen Mile Creekdippers** are the recipients of this year’s **Excellence in Data Collection Award**. Both have been Biological and Chemical QA/QC certified since 2003 and have been thoroughly and consistently collecting data ever since. Because of their careful field techniques, detailed data collection forms and seasonal reports, they are truly deserving of this award. In addition to data collection they have identified problems with the starch indicator solution, experimented with different methods for measuring dissolved oxygen, including a comparison of DO meters and Winkler Titrations, and reported any issues associated with each. Mark and Ron have also identified the impact of herbicides on macroinvertebrate populations at their site, and have investigated low water levels. Always helpful to new volunteers within their watershed, they are model AAS volunteers!



Mark and Ron carefully monitor Fifteen Mile Creek

**Fannin County Middle School (FCMS)** has gone above and beyond everyday citizen monitoring, making them the obvious choice for this year’s **Outstanding Partnership Award**. Their teachers have been QA/QC certified since 2005 and have integrated AAS activities into their curriculum, with 95 7<sup>th</sup> graders certified in the past 2 years. Students at FCMS have presented information about AAS and the results of their yearlong monitoring on Weaver and Mineral Springs Creeks to the Fannin County Board of Education, as well as taken the initiative to educate lower grades about AAS. As a result of a partnership with Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited, waders have been provided for the students. Two trout tanks have also been provided to the school as a part of the first “Trout in the Classroom” program in the state, through a partnership between FCMS and North Georgia Trout On-line, Women Flyfishers of Georgia and Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited.



FCMS 7<sup>th</sup> graders and teacher Jeff Weaver

**Judy Cox**, a teacher at Dodgen Middle School, is the recipient of this year’s **Outstanding Outreach Award** for her dedication to teaching her students about water quality. Judy has adopted 8 sites with 5 middle school classes, and each site is tested monthly. Besides the basic chemical parameters, they are also conducting a visual survey of the spread of the invasive parrot featherweed plant. She has participated in Cobb County’s “Color Your Watershed” program, creating a beautiful mural of their site in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade hallway, as well as worked with Walton High School teachers to develop their own stream monitoring program. Judy will be retiring this spring, and has already made arrangements for the incoming educator to take over the Adopt-A-Stream program. Thank you for your commitment.



Students participate in monthly monitoring at Dodgen Pond

## 2006 Adopt-A-Stream Watershed Award Winner

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream is pleased to honor the efforts of City, County and Regional governmental agencies through our Watershed Award. Through a competitive application process, the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Advisory Board has selected **Fulton County Public Works** for this year's **Watershed Award**. Sharon Smith, Fulton's Environmental Education Coordinator, held a mind-boggling 23 Adopt-A-Stream workshops and certified over 350 new volunteers in 2006! Increased public awareness of watershed issues has been made possible with programs such as: an Annual Drinking Water Festival, Cool Waters, Back to the Chattahoochee Festival and a Rivers Alive cleanup, among others. In addition, Fulton County has increased awareness of water issues by presenting to over 1,600 students this year by partnering with Georgia 4-H, Cochran Mill Nature Center and many schools in throughout the county. Citizens in Fulton County can make a connection to their streams and rivers through watershed boundary signs and storm drain stencils that decorate the roads and educate the public throughout the county. Fulton County serves as a role model for other communities to follow.



Sharon Smith demonstrates chemical monitoring with local students

## 2006 Rivers Alive Awards

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Rivers Alive recognized the tremendous work of its volunteers at the 2006 Rivers Alive Outstanding Waterway Cleanup and Leadership Awards Ceremony held at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Famed fisherman and outdoors television/radio host and producer Oneill Williams was the honored keynote speaker. During the ceremony, a letter from U.S. Congressman John Linder was presented to Rivers Alive applauding the efforts to protect and preserve Georgia's waterways. We would like to thank our volunteers for their tireless dedication to Rivers Alive - the continued success of our program depends on you. The following individuals, groups and businesses were recognized:

### **Outstanding Individual Leadership**

Liz Tannhauser

### **Outstanding Business Leadership**

Reynolds Plantation

### **Most unusual item (40 satellite receivers)**

Keep Lowndes/Valdosta Beautiful

### **Best data collection**

Dunwoody Nature Center

### **Participated in most cleanups**

Bonny Putney

### **Most recycling**

Keep East Point Beautiful

### **Best media hound (most coverage)**

Help The Hooch

### **Most organizations participating**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and  
the Lake Hartwell Association

### **Outstanding Waterway Cleanup - Creek level (up to 20 participants)**

City of Hampton/Stevenson & Palmer Engineering

### **Outstanding Waterway Cleanup - Lake level (51-200 participants)**

Keep Walton Beautiful and Partners

### **Outstanding Waterway Cleanup - Ocean level (over 201 participants)**

Keep Roswell Beautiful and Keep Sandy Springs/North Fulton Beautiful and Partners



### **Paddle Georgia 2007 – 10 Teacher Scholarships**

Paddle Georgia, a project of the Georgia River Network, will be held on the Ocmulgee River from **June 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 29<sup>th</sup>**. Adopt-A-Stream and Project WET are partnering with GRN to provide a teacher workshop during the trip. Through this workshop teachers will receive training in Chemical Monitoring and Project WET. Ten teacher scholarships are available. Please visit [www.garivers.org](http://www.garivers.org) or call Allison Hughes at 404.675.1635 for more information.



# ADOPT-A-STREAM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Workshops are taught by certified AAS instructors and provide stream monitoring training. 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.

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>To Register</b>
Chemical	Fulton County Adopt-A-Stream	March 24	Fulton County	404.730.8006
Chemical	Clayton County Adopt-A-Stream	March 24	Clayton County	678.422.2838
Chemical	Upper Oconee Watershed Network	March 24	Athens	706.613.3615
Chemical	Cobb County Adopt-A-Stream	March 24	Cobb County	770-528-1480
Biological	Upper Oconee Watershed Network	March 31	Athens	706.613.3615
Biological	Clayton County Adopt-A-Stream	April 7	Clayton County	678.422.2838
Intro/Visual	Georgia Wildlife Federation	April 14	Covington	770.787.7887
Watershed Survey	Upper Oconee Watershed Network	April 14	Athens	www.uown.org
Chemical	Georgia Wildlife Federation	April 21	Covington	770.787.7887
Biological	Georgia Wildlife Federation	April 28	Covington	770.787.7887

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

**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.

**Healthy Water Healthy People** (for educators Grade 6 – college) March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Helen, Georgia

Learn to address science standards through interactive activities and receive 1 PLU credit.

**Contact Sheila Humphrey at (706) 878-3087 or [sheila\\_humphrey@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:sheila_humphrey@dnr.state.ga.us) for more information.**

**Cool Waters** (For educators) June 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, Cobb County

Earn PLU credits while learning about drinking water, wastewater, and surface water through field trips and hands-on activities.

**Please visit [www.gawp.org](http://www.gawp.org) or email Sharon Smith at [sharon.smith@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:sharon.smith@fultoncountyga.gov) for more information.**

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) 675-1635  
[www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org)**

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