

June 2008– May 2009

Volume 7

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## Program At A Glance

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Cobb's Watershed Stewardship Program (WSP) provides free water quality programs for classrooms, community groups and businesses within Cobb County. These hands-on programs teach community members about the sources and impacts of water pollution and what individuals can do to protect rivers, lakes and streams. We also provide community service projects, teacher workshops and education resources for checkout and distribution.

WSP is housed in the Water Quality Laboratory of the Cobb County Water System (CCWS) in the Office of Environmental Compliance. We work closely with the staff from Cobb's Stream Monitoring Program and Stormwater Management Water Quality Unit to ensure our outreach programs are educational, accurate, and fulfill the needs of the community.

In 2009, we focused on developing programs designed to reach a wider audience and facilitating opportunities for enhanced understanding of the processes impacting the landscape. By providing enriching, age-appropriate educational events that engaged the audience, we reached new populations in the community. The current status of these programs is summarized in this report.

### Items of Interest...

- ◆ 24 new streams sites were adopted
- ◆ 313 volunteers were trained
- ◆ 3,696 students received outreach programs
- ◆ 549 storm drains were marked
- ◆ 226 rain barrels were provided

## Cobb County Watershed Stewardship

*Connecting community with local ecology*

- ◆ Biodiversity Preservation
- ◆ Habitat Creation
- ◆ Pollution Prevention
- ◆ Data Collection



## Program Progress

### Community Programs

#### Volunteer Opportunities



*Adopt-A-Stream* - Cobb County continues to facilitate free Georgia Adopt-A-Stream training programs and provide residents with shallow water monitoring kits, conductivity probes and d-frame nets to complete their data collection projects. Staff actively contribute to the ongoing development of the statewide program by serving on the Advisory Board, participating in Community Coordinators meetings, and assisting with the revision and development of new programs. Specifically, this year we are helping to organize a volunteer symposium, assisting with the revision of the visual monitoring protocol, and serving on the bacteria monitoring protocol development team.

*Waterway Clean-ups* - By supporting volunteer efforts (providing bags, gloves, reflective vests and litter sticks), over 400 volunteers spent 972.5 hours cleaning eight Cobb County streams. Volunteers removed 238 bags of trash from 12.5 miles of streams. Cobb also donated \$1000.00 to Rivers Alive in 2008, participated on the Rivers Alive Advisory Board, covered the disposal fee for tires pulled from local streams, and coordinated local clean-up efforts in schools and in the community.

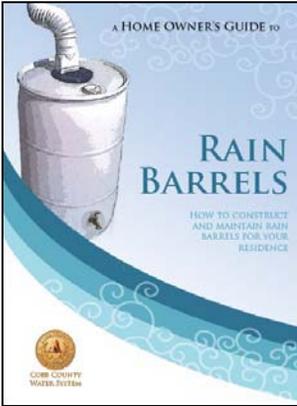


*Storm Drain Marking* - CCWS provides volunteers with aluminum storm drain markers, adhesives, and water quality educational materials in biodegradable door hanger bags. Volunteers spent 50 hours distributing the educational materials and marking 524 storm drains in residential areas. Over 600 bags with educational handouts and magnets were distributed. Volunteers also reported on and cleaned up pollutants found in and within ten feet of each storm drain. The pollutants most often reported were grass clippings and yard waste. The first annual Storm Drain Marking Event was also held this year.

*Frog Monitoring* - Cobb County initiated an Anuran Monitoring Program during the spring of 2008. The program involves volunteers learning frog and toad calls using the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' *Calls of the Wild - Vocalizations of Georgia's Frogs* CD. The volunteers walk in their neighborhood once a week and note the anuran vocalizations that they hear. Out of 24 site adoptions, 16 volunteers have spent 50 hours monitoring their neighborhoods throughout this year. Participants are helping educate their communities about bioindicators and the water quality issues with non-point source pollution.



Website and Newsletter - Our Watershed Stewardship website [www.cobbstreams.org](http://www.cobbstreams.org) launched in the summer of 2008. The site is designed to provide water quality education and promote our programs. Stormwater Management also launched <http://stormwater.cobbcountyga.gov> to keep the community informed about stormwater programs, current projects, county maps, FAQs and proper stormwater best management practices (BMPs). We also published four issues of our newsletter *The Thalweg* and are considering paperless options for this publication.



Rain Barrel Project - Despite reduced funding this year, we were able to continue to provide free make-and-take rain barrel workshops for residents. Coca-Cola Bottling Company in Marietta donated over 250 55-gallon drums to our program, allowing the funds allocated to the project to be used to purchase the other necessary supplies (faucets and assorted hardware). We continue to provide up to five barrels per school and fund a Community Stewardship Grant that can be used to offset the cost of making barrels with civic groups. We've expanded our education materials from a two-page fact sheet to a detailed instruction manual with an accompanying DVD about the materials needed and steps involved in constructing rain barrels.

Libraries - During the summers, we present our programs to county libraries for their children's outreach programs. In 2008, the summer reading theme was "Catch the Reading Bug". We presented dragonfly and butterfly programs at six different libraries. Each of these programs consisted of a story, natural history lesson with animal specimens, and a craft.

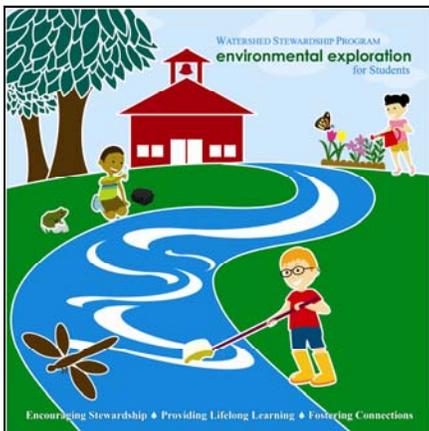


Household Hazardous Waste - We published *A Healthy Environment Starts At Home: A Guide to Reducing Our Use of Household Hazardous Products* and developed a hands-on outreach program, including a make-and-take cleaning product activity. This program was available at two open house events held at the Wright Environmental Education Center during the summer of 2008 and two public workshops at the Water Quality Lab (fall 2008 and winter 2009) for citizens to learn about alternative cleaning products and raise awareness about the volume and type of chemicals being brought into homes. This publication was also distributed by storm drain marking volunteers.

Clean Water Campaign Programs— Each year we partner with the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District and University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service to host a series of Clean Water Workshops. As discussed in the 2008 report, due to low attendance, we switched from evening workshops to mid-day *Brown Bag* lunch time sessions to see if attendance would increase. Unfortunately that change did not result in greater participation. Five programs were scheduled and promoted and all five events were canceled due to lack of registration. Two sessions were new landscaping topics (Seasonal Color and Ornamental Plantings). Also planned were Lawn Care, Composting, and Tree Planting. Cobb Cooperative Extension has suggested we take a break on the workshops for now. We continue to distribute Clean Water Campaign materials and participate in the six education technical advisory committee meetings hosted at the Atlanta Regional Commission.

## Program Progress Continued

### *School Programs*



School Outreach Programs - We redesigned our promotional brochure for the 2008-2009 school year, including descriptions of our outreach offerings and correlations to the Georgia Performance Standards. Each school received a mailing with copies of the brochure and flyers about upcoming educator workshops. Program staff worked with 41 schools in the reporting year, providing free resources and hands-on presentations in the classroom and outdoors. Our focus continues to be teaching about the causes and effects of water pollution and what individuals can do to protect our rivers, lakes, and streams. See page 11 of this report for a breakdown on the specific topics shared this year.

Grants and Sponsorships - Two stewardship grants were funded this year for habitat creation projects on school grounds. Nicholson Elementary received \$250.00 and Park Street Elementary received \$500.00. We hope to continue this program as funding allows.

Educator Workshops - Program staff facilitated eight curriculum courses and offered free Professional Learning Unit (PLU) training for educators. These courses included Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, Native Seasons, Native Waters, and Our Shared Forests. We also hosted a Leopold Education Project (LEP) educator and facilitator workshop where staff received the LEP facilitator training. We plan to offer another LEP educator workshop this year along with Monarchs In The Classroom, Project Learning Tree and Project WET.



Green Schools Initiative - CCWS works with Keep Cobb Beautiful and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (Natural Resources Unit) to encourage environmental education in local schools. Teachers and schools that offer environmental education in the classroom are supported and recognized with signage and window clings. Over 350 classrooms in 26 schools achieved "Green School" status this year.



## *Stormwater Compliance Education Programs*

Landscapers/Detention Pond Maintenance - In addition to developing a seasonal newsletter for commercial landscapers offering detention pond maintenance services, staff partnered with Cobb County Cooperative Extension to offer a session during their Green Industry Update educating landscapers about water quality, proper pond maintenance, and what needs to be done to ensure compliance with Cobb County code. We anticipate this will help improve the state of commercial detention ponds and facilitate a greater understanding among landscape professionals regarding the water quality impact of the industry.



Community Partners for Healthy Streams - This voluntary program encourages local business to take a critical look at the practices taking place in their facility, specifically addressing potential stormwater pollution problems. Several promising partners have been approached to participate, but due to economic hardship, all have declined to initiate the process until markets stabilize. They simply can't afford to implement voluntary changes when budgets are tight. Instead, we focused on working with county facilities this year. Cobb Fire Station 4 and Police Precinct 3 are completing the process.

Cobb County Water System Staff Lunch & Learn Sessions - These monthly workshops are educating employees about water quality issues being addressed within the Water System. The 2009 topics included a reservoir and dam tour, gray water update, Brooke and Branch puppet show viewing, household hazardous waste, septic tank maintenance, collection system repair and overflow cleanup, stormwater plan review, geomorphology, engineering division overview, and water conservation update. The sessions continue to be very popular. Upcoming topics include solar cooking and water purification.



Pet Waste Stations - As part of a continuing effort to reduce bacteria levels in local waterways, Cobb WSP partnered with Cobb County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (Natural Resources Unit) to install pet waste stations along the Silver Comet Trail and other county parks experiencing high pet traffic. We continue to maintain these sites, replacing the signs and providing bags and waste bins.

Fact Sheets - Two new factsheets were created this year: Iron Bacteria Fact Sheet and Pressure Washing Fact Sheet. Both were developed in response to customer calls reporting problems and concerns that related to these subjects. The iron bacteria fact sheet provides information and images explaining how to tell if what you are seeing is a naturally occurring iron bacteria film/foam or a spill in need of reporting and investigation. The pressure washing fact sheet provides commercial power washing business operators and their customers with information about local regulations and restrictions. Both are intended to educate the community about pollution prevention and water quality. These resources can be downloaded from our website and are available for distribution by our field and inspection staff as needed.

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## Reaching Diverse Audiences

Special Needs Youth - During the summer, staff worked with Cobb County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (Therapeutic Recreation Services), to bring ecological programs to mentally challenged teens. Two groups of 20 children received a presentation about snakes and wildlife.

Senior Programs - Two sets of programs were presented at the Windy Hill Senior Center during the summer: wildlife biodiversity and Monarch butterfly biology. Through weekly nature walks and presentations, the wildlife series covered wildlife species and overall ecosystem concepts. The Monarch butterfly series covered butterfly ecology, citizen science programs, and habitat creation. Participants received free materials to start their own pollinator gardens and observe butterflies in their yards.

Girls, Inc. - During the summer and fall of 2008, we worked with Girls Inc. of Marietta, a non-profit organization that focuses on mentoring lower income and minority females. We presented ecologically minded programs to their summer camp and after school groups, focusing on three age groups. We also organized several female speakers from Cobb Water to present about their careers to the girls.

English as a Second Language (ESOL) - Our efforts to work with ESOL students in elementary schools have resulted in several school programs and the development of a butterfly garden at one local school. We've discovered that Cobb schools follow an inclusion strategy where the ESOL students are integrated into English speaking classrooms, so this effort has reached a broad audience in mostly Title One schools.

## Partnerships

Emory University - After participating in a Monarch citizen science study with the University of Georgia and noticing trends in the amounts and types of parasites affecting Monarchs in our milkweed garden, we formed a partnership with local expert Jaap de Roode and his Emory University laboratory where they study Monarchs and monitor the health of the species. This ongoing collaboration involves using our garden as a data site for their studies monitoring protozoan infection, tachinid fly infestation, and host plant species preference. We currently have four milkweed plots—three of which have been dedicated to a scientific study that will examine the effect of the three different milkweed species on both Monarchs and their parasites. This collaboration will strengthen our efforts in the conservation of this species and provide a site for scientific inquiry for volunteers.

Georgia Conservancy - In addition to serving on their Education Committee, CCWS has been working with GA Conservancy education staff for several years promoting and judging their Youth Environment Symposium and facilitating their curriculum courses (Georgia's Native Seasons and Georgia's Native Waters). This year we invited their education manager to facilitate training on the Leopold Education Project for staff and colleagues. Over 25 educators attended the training sessions. GA Conservancy also presented at three water festivals held in Cobb County this school year.

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia - Program staff are members of the organization and active volunteers that serve on various committees including the Board of Directors. As the organization for EE professionals in our state, we feel it is important to take a leadership role in helping promote and facilitate improved ecological awareness and literacy in our state and ensure opportunities are shared locally. We help organize the annual conference and support several initiatives targeted at local schools.

*Outdoor Classroom Council* - Jennifer McCoy is serving as co-chair for this committee, which is responsible for coordinating the organization of the annual symposium to encourage teachers to use the landscape as classroom and to help students make meaningful connections with nature.

*Monarchs Across Georgia* - All three staff members are active participants on the committee. Responsibilities include creating the semi-annual newsletter, milkweed distribution mapping across the state, organizing local habitat projects, and training teachers in butterfly curriculum classes.

Coca-Cola Bottling Company - With the help of Coca-Cola Enterprises, CCWS was able to secure a donation from the local bottling facility in Marietta for 250 55-gallon syrup drums. These drums were distributed to the community through our rain barrel program. The market value of the barrels is \$22.00 each, equaling \$5500.00. This partnership has allowed our free make-and-take workshop to continue for another year. We hope to secure a second donation in the coming year to provide additional barrels to our residents.

Vickery Hardware - We have partnered with the Vickery Hardware Store in Smyrna to supply the materials needed for our rain barrel program. They special order supplies and give quantity discounts off the purchase price of the materials. CCWS has worked with Vickery in constructing a rain barrel kit that the public can purchase for under \$10.00. This convenience allows the customer to buy supplies in the appropriate quantity, eliminating the unnecessary expense and extra quantities of some pieces (o-rings, zip-ties, screen). Cobb County residents interested in making a rain barrel are informed of the rain barrel kit available at Vickery for their rain barrel projects.

Georgia Association of Water Professionals - We continue to work with GAWP on several projects including the Cool Waters Workshop for educators. We facilitate this program and offer an in-kind donation of materials and staff each year. In 2008 we sponsored three teachers to attend this event.

Children's Water Festival - Each year Cobb WSP partners with other area utilities to plan a special water event. On May 5, 2009 Fulton County Public Works, Marietta Water, DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management, and National Park Service hosted a festival for fourth graders during Drinking Water Week. This year the event was held at the Paces Mill Unit of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. Approximately 300 children attended the event from three school districts.

Smith Gilbert Gardens - Our newest partner is the newly opened 16 acre public garden owned by the City of Kennesaw. We have been invited to share several of our children's wildlife programs this summer including snakes, frogs and toads, birds, and butterflies. We are expecting this to become an ongoing relationship and hope that other programs will be offered at this botanical garden including educator workshops and volunteer training sessions.

## New Happenings

### *Community Programs*

*E. coli* Monitoring Program - Georgia Adopt-A-Stream launched its bacteria monitoring program in late 2008. The Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program became a local contact for volunteers, providing tools and training. Participants collect, plate, and incubate water samples from local waterways to determine the number of *E. coli* colonies present. Thirteen kits have been assembled and distributed to active Adopt-A-Stream volunteer groups working in both the Etowah and Chattahoochee watersheds. The data is posted on the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream website. We plan to offer a second training in the next fiscal year as funding becomes available to supply additional kits.

### *School Programs*



Brooke and Branch Puppet Show - After extensive development, we launched our newest outreach resource in schools in early 2009. The program is targeted at third grade students and features many characters and songs that teach important ecological and environmental concepts including watersheds, habitats, stormwater pollution, and water quality. Each classroom receives a classroom set of student activity books to reinforce the vocabulary and concepts presented in the show. We plan to continue offering this resource to Cobb County and Marietta City schools, libraries, and summer camps. The program has been popular, receiving positive feedback from the student audience and many compliments from teachers.

Our Shared Forests Program - Our Shared Forests is a partnership between Georgia and Ecuador to protect and educate about migratory birds and their habitats. Part of this initiative includes an educator curriculum that focuses on respecting natural resources, culture, and ecosystems health. In addition to providing training for this curriculum, we have also become a host for the Our Shared Forests Science Night Kit. The kit contains over two dozen activities that teachers and schools can borrow to host their own science night for students. Staff coordinated programs for three schools this year and we are working with Cobb County's science curriculum coordinator to make sure schools are aware of this resource and to encourage the implementation of family science night programs in Cobb.

Butterfly Lab - Our program has offered programs for several years to educate citizens and teachers about the importance of pollinators and the impact of landscape chemicals on the habitat. After receiving repeated requests from teachers to bring our butterfly program into the classroom to share these resources with their students, we decided it would be appropriate to develop a student version of the program. We came up with five self-learning stations including the stages of the lifecycle, the process of metamorphosis, and how pollinators are beneficial to our ecosystem. We utilize live specimens found in the garden at the water quality laboratory and focus on healthy habitats to connect the lesson back to pollution prevention and stewardship.

***Resources Developed\****

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b># Distributed</b>
Volunteer Opportunities	Brochure of volunteer initiatives that citizens can participate in.	general public	200
Environmental Exploration for Students	Brochure with description and GPS standards of our school program offerings.	teachers, home schools, scout groups	1300
A Home Owner's Guide to Rain Barrels	How to construct and maintain rain barrels for your residence.	general public	200
Bookmarks	Featuring Georgia's bioindicators	students, teachers	2000
A Healthy Environment Starts at Home	A guide to reducing our use of household hazardous products.	general public	60
Newsletter: The Thalweg	Community events and ecological articles. (4 issues per year)	general public/ mailing list	2971
River to River Card	Fact card describing the drinking water and wastewater treatment processes.	students, general public	20
Brook and Branch Activity Book	Coloring and activity book that reinforces concepts presented in the Brooke and Branch Puppet Show.	students	1000
Website: <a href="http://www.cobbstreams.org">www.cobbstreams.org</a>	Watershed Stewardship program clearinghouse with volunteer opportunities, educational programs and resources, publications, and workshop calendar.	general public	n/a
Green School Initiative	How teachers and schools can participate in the Green School Program.	teachers	700
Iron Bacteria Fact Sheet	What is iron bacteria and how to identify it as an indicator of water quality problems.	general public	0
Pressure Washing Fact Sheet	BMPs, regulations, and requirements for commercial power washing business operators.	targeted industry	0
Commercial Detention Pond Winter Newsletter	Proper maintenance activities for the season.	commercial detention pond owner, landscape professionals	160

\*copies of each publication attached

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## Under Development

### *Community Programs*

Bats - Local expert and volunteer speaker Jackie Belwood will be presenting two sessions this summer on the conservation of Georgia's bat populations. There is an interesting connection between water quality and bat health that the speaker will be focusing on for the first session. Bat food sources are being reduced due to stream health. Emerging aquatic macroinvertebrates are among the top food source for these animals and due to poor habitat and impaired water quality the bats are suffering. We will be bringing this interesting ecosystem connection to the attention of participants and offering a second session focused on field studies at a local park. We are also considering the development of a bat focused Project Wild workshop for local teachers and creating a education kit for checkout on bats based on the demand for further resources.

### *School Programs*

Georgia's Geographic Regions - We spend a great deal of time talking to kids about different aquatic habitats, the physical features of landscape, and how areas of the state look different. It seems appropriate to move forward and develop a program that takes the time to educate fully about the diversity of Georgia's landscape, explores the unique features of each ecoregion, and discusses the aquatic habitats that can be found in our state. We plan to offer this new program in the coming school year.

Bacteria Lab - In conjunction with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's new bacteria monitoring project, we will be offering bacteria monitoring equipment and training to local high schools. This project allows students to monitor levels of *E. coli* in their waterways.

Life Cycles - After many requests from lower elementary school teachers, we are developing a life cycles program to correspond to the second grade curriculum. This program will explore the lifecycles of trees, insects, and amphibians and how clean water is connected to healthy habitats.

Clean Water Around the World - Designed for middle school and high school students, this program teaches about world-wide access to clean water and addresses the issue of waterborne diseases.

Traveling Treasure Trunk - One of our most in demand resources has been our library on wheels. Housed in an antique steamer trunk, our traveling treasure trunk is an amazing collection of water and nature resources for the classroom including books, games, music, and videos. The truck is checked out to elementary schools for a three week period. Staff drop off and pick up the resource. In response to numerous requests we've received for this resource, we are assembling a second trunk to be available beginning in the 09-10 school year.

## *Stormwater Compliance Education Programs*

Fact Sheets - The need for education materials addressing specific commercial and industrial issues has been noted and prioritized. We plan on developing two sets of resources, one targeting commercial businesses (carpet cleaners, painters, pools/spas, and carwashes) and the second to target specific industrial situations (detention ponds, storage tank labeling, dumpsters, drum storage, illicit discharges, and storage and handling of hazardous materials and waste). These sheets will be available on the website, distributed during inspections, and mailed. We also plan to draft a stormwater BMP publication that addresses how to manage general housekeeping issues.

Pharmaceutical Collection- In support of our efforts to promote household hazardous waste reduction and raise awareness of chemical contamination sources, CCWS will be partnering with Keep Cobb Beautiful's effort to implement pharmaceutical collection days for our residents. This has been an ongoing initiative of KCB that requires public safety support in addition to disposal coordination. KCB hopes to hold the events this fall. Program staff will be supporting the effort by providing onsite manpower for the collection events.

Residential Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) - We are redesigning this campaign by separating commercial from residential education efforts and adding content focused solely on household fats, oil, and grease education to [www.cobbstreams.org](http://www.cobbstreams.org). Past residential efforts have primarily been focused on distributing printed materials in areas where blockages occur. We are developing a proactive outreach program that encourages residents to take action to prevent blockage problems from occurring. We have invited field crews from our System Maintenance Division to share their knowledge and experience with the public, demonstrate their equipment and answer questions for both an adult and youth audience. This endeavor was successful in engaging the audience and raising awareness of the blockages that residential grease can cause. We hope to develop this into an ongoing effort that we can use to reach people and change behavior.

Green industry Updates - Stormwater Inspection staff have been invited by Cooperative Extension to speak on an ongoing basis during their meetings. Staff will be sharing compliance information each meeting about specific areas where landscapers can improve their practices to protect surface water. Topics to be addressed include illicit discharge and detention pond do's and don'ts.



## Watershed Stewardship Adoptions - Chattahoochee

STREAM NAME	GROUP NAME	# SITES MONITORED	YEAR ADOPTED
Mud Creek	Riverstone Middle School	1	2007
Mud Creek	Steve Meacham	1	2008
Mulberry Creek	Friends of Mulberry Creek	1	2003
Rottenwood Creek	Sierra Club Centennial Group	3	2004
Rottenwood Creek	Marietta Center for Advanced Academics	2	2007
Rottenwood Creek	Info Mart	1	2002
Rottenwood Creek	Vanessa Thrasher	1	2008
Rottenwood Creek	Friends of Victory Creek	1	2008
Rottenwood Creek	Froggy Buddies	1	2008
Sewell Mill Creek	Dodgen Middle School	8	2002
Sewell Mill Creek	Boy Scout Troop 955	1	2004
Sewell Mill Creek	Emerson Universalist Unitarian Congregation	1	2008
Sewell Mill Creek	Tritt River Kids	1	2007
Sewell Mill Creek	Sumter Lake	1	2006
Sewell Mill Creek	Walton High School AP Environmental Science Class	1	2006
Sewell Mill Creek	Isabel Ott	1	2008
Sewell Mill Creek	G-Unit	1	2008
Sewell Mill Creek	Brian Duke	1	2008
Sewell Mill Creek	Ina Allison	1	2008
Sewell Mill Creek	Junipers	1	2008
Sope Creek	Walton High School Environmental Club	1	1995
Sope Creek	Walker School	1	2007
Sope Creek	Rock Griswold	1	2007
Ward Creek	Durham Street Stream Preservation Society	1	2007
Ward Creek	A.L. Burruss Elementary	1	2008
Willeo Creek	Loch Highland Watershed Alliance	1	2001
Willeo Creek	Higgins Family	1	2003
Willeo Creek	Bishop Lake	7	2008
Willeo Creek	Taylor Measures	1	2008
Willeo Creek	Connie Ghosh	1	2008
Willeo Creek	Vicky Malcolm	1	2008
Willeo Creek	Peggy Higgins	1	2008
Willeo Creek	Willeo Watershed Warriors	1	2009

## Watershed Stewardship Adoptions - Etowah

STREAM NAME	GROUP NAME	# SITES MONITORED	YEAR ADOPTED
Allatoona Creek	Jackie Belwood	3	2008
Clark Creek	Loch	1	2008
Little Noonday Creek	Leigh Lyjak	1	2008
Noonday Creek	Chalker Elementary	1	2008
Noonday Creek	Timber Lake Froggers	1	2009
Noonday Creek	Delon Barfuss	1	2008
Noonday Creek	Annette Simpson	1	2008
Noonday Creek	Eileen Simms	1	2008
Noonday Creek	Whiten Family	1	2008
Proctor Creek	North Cobb High School	1	2008
Rubes Creek	Whitfield Woods	1	2008
Rubes Creek	Brandon Court Monitoring Group	1	2008
Rubes Creek	Boy Scout Troop 479	1	2004
Rubes Creek	McCleskey Middle School	1	2006
Rubes Creek	Nicholson Target Stars	1	2006
Rubes Creek	David Zandstra	1	2008
Rubes Creek	Ric & Sharon Donato	1	2009

## Watershed Stewardship Adoption Breakdown

GROUP TYPE	# IN CHATTAHOOCHEE	# IN ETOWAH	TOTAL
Schools	8	4	12
Scouts	1	1	2
Families	13	11	24
Community	11	1	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>



## Events and Activity Summary

### *Volunteer Service and Value*

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b># of Hours</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b># of Events</b>	<b>Value (x \$20.25*)</b>
Stewardship Training	313	43	909.5	16	\$18,417.38
Data Collection	974	187.75	2699.75	306	\$54,669.94
Storm Drain Marking	121	52.75	104.5	28	\$2,116.13
Cleanups	414	31.15	972.5	17	\$19,693.13
<b>Totals</b>	1820	313.65	4686.25	366	\$94,896.58

*Value rate based on current dollar value for volunteer from [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)*

### *Program Activity Totals*

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b># of Hours</b>	<b># of Units</b>
Adopt-A-Stream Workshops *	265	47	14 workshops
Facility Tours	530+	33	33 tours
Rain Barrel Workshops	324	10	4 events
Community Presentations *	1775	72	49 events
Displays	755	12	4 events
Educator Events/Workshops	104	161	9 events
School Festivals	1082	16	4 events
School Presentations/Site Visits *	3157	348	29 Schools
Committee Work (EEA, GAWP, Water District, etc)	n/a	300	9 organizations
<b>Totals</b>	7992	999	n/a

\* Breakdown of specific activities/workshop types on page 11.

<b>Activity</b>	<b># of events offered</b>	<b># participants</b>
<b>Adopt-A-Stream</b>		
Chemical Workshops	9	195
Biological Workshops	4	54
Bacteria Workshops	1	16
	<b>14</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>Community Presentations</b>		
Frog Workshops	3	72
Rain Barrel Workshops	4	324
Household Hazardous Waste Workshops	3	51
Girl's Inc.	10	625
Library	9	315
Senior Center	12	61
Other	8	327
	<b>49</b>	<b>1775</b>
<b>School Presentations/Site Visits</b>		
Non-Point Source Enviroscope	5	240
Wastewater Enviroscope	4	78
Adopt-A-Stream Demos	10	508
Anuran Lab	8	197
Puppet Show	6	912
Wildlife	4	229
Water Festivals	3	932
Other	4	61
	<b>44</b>	<b>3157</b>
<b>Stormwater Compliance</b>		
Staff Lunch and Learn Workshops	11	139
Green Industry Presentation	1	65
Community Partners	1	n/a
Homeowner's Association Presentations	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
Storm BMP Watch DVD	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>
	<b>23</b>	<b>278</b>

# Reflections



Girl Scout Troop 21 marked 126 stormdrains in 11 neighborhoods, earning them the 2008 Stormdrain Markers of the Year award.



Teachers explore Our Shared Forests science night stations.



Bob Bourne leads a lunch and learn session about stream morphology.



5th graders at The Walker School clean up trash during their monthly monitoring events at Noses Creek in Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park.



7th grade Dodgen Middle School students sample their pond for aquatic macroinvertebrates.



The Brooke and Branch Puppet Show, created to meet 3rd grade GPS standards, debuted in Cobb County Schools in early 2009.



Cobb County's youngest watershed monitoring group leader.

Volunteers share stories during the 2009 Watershed Stewardship Fair.



Summer campers from Girl's Inc learned to monitor Rottenwood Creek at Larry Bell Park.

Casa Montessori students study specimens during a butterfly lab.



Tim Phillips and Stacey Haire were honored as the 2008 Watershed Volunteer of the Year from Cobb County, as well as 2008 Excellence in Data Collection from Georgia Adopt-A-Stream.



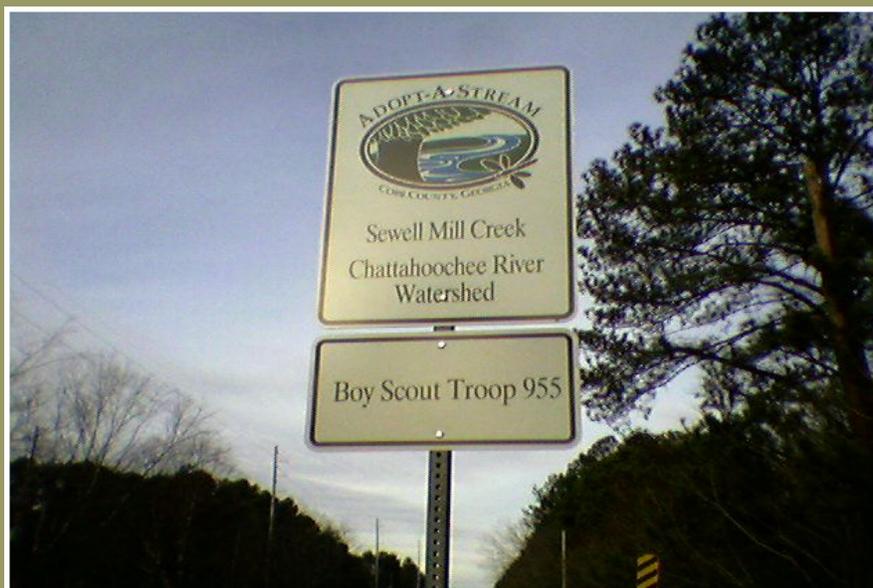
4th graders make edible aquifers and learn about non-point source pollution during our annual Children's Water Festival.



## Program History

- ◆ 1975 Cobb County Water System starts collecting stream data
- ◆ 1986 Stream Monitoring Program is established
- ◆ 1995 Biological Monitoring is added to routine data collection
- ◆ 1998 R. L. Sutton Watershed Study
- ◆ 2000 GA EPD accepts stream monitoring data for the Stormwater Permit
- ◆ 2000 Stream Monitoring staff is expanded to two full-time employees
- ◆ 2001 Adopt-A-Stream Program Coordinator is hired
- ◆ 2002 Adopt-A-Stream Program is launched
- ◆ 2002 Cobb AAS recognized by GA EPD  
*Outstanding Outreach and Partnership Award*
- ◆ 2002 Cobb County Water System recognized by GW&PCA  
*Public Education Award*
- ◆ 2003 Cobb County Watershed Protection Plan implemented
- ◆ 2003 Cobb County Water System implements Watershed Staff meetings
- ◆ 2003 In-house Fish Monitoring is added to data collection
- ◆ 2003 Etowah Watershed Assessment Agreement signed
- ◆ 2004 Demonstration Rain Garden installed
- ◆ 2004 Cobb AAS and citizen volunteer recognized by GA EPD  
*Watershed Award & Excellence in Data Collection Award*
- ◆ 2005 Adopt-A-Stream staff is expanded to two full-time employees
- ◆ 2005 Cobb County receives *Water First Community* designation from GA DCA
- ◆ 2005 Cobb AAS recognized by Rivers Alive  
*Outstanding Cleanup, large category (over 200 participants)*
- ◆ 2005 Cobb AAS Volunteer recognized by GA EPD  
*Red Flag Award*

- ◆ 2006 Rain Garden Demonstration Site certified as a *Back Yard Wildlife Habitat*, a *Monarch Waystation* and a *Pollinator Garden*.
- ◆ 2006 Cobb County Water System recognized by GAWP *Public Education Award*
- ◆ 2007 Watershed Stewardship Program staff is expanded to include a part-time Program Assistant
- ◆ 2007 Cobb AAS and citizen volunteer recognized by GA EPD *Adopt-A-Stream in Action Award*, for our Color Your Watershed Mural Grant Program & *Outstanding Outreach Award*
- ◆ 2008 Cobb AAS and citizen volunteer recognized by GA EPD *Watershed Award & Outstanding Outreach and Partnership Award*
- ◆ 2008 Cobb WSP staff recognized by Georgia Conservancy *Teaching Conservation Facilitator of the Year*
- ◆ 2008 Cobb WSP staff recognized by Rivers Alive *Most Cleanups Attended*
- ◆ 2009 Cobb citizen volunteer recognized by GA EPD *Excellence in Data Collection Award*



## **Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program 2009 Annual Report**

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**This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System,  
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**Tim Lee**, *District Three*

**G. Woody Thompson**, *District Four*

**David Hankerson**, *County Manager*



*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*