



Etowah Meanderings

Spring 2003

Streambank Restoration on the Etowah River

Ms Harriet Allison owns a gorgeous piece of property on the Etowah River in Cherokee county. In the past, cattle used to graze the property and would amble down the river bank to get a drink of water from the Etowah. Over the years, the cattle trampled down all the vegetation stabilizing the bank and huge chunks of soil washed into the river.



Rehabilitation of the stream bank will include planting willow stakes near the waters' edge and other small native trees and river cane on the eroded bank. Rye grass will be planted to hold the soil in place during the winter and then the slope will be re-seeded in the spring with a warm season grass. Larger native trees, including sycamore, service berry, river birch, tulip poplar and others, will be planted on the floodplain to help establish the riparian buffer of trees and shrubs whose roots will help protect the riverbank when the river rises during rain storms. When the rehabilitation project is established the restored riparian buffer will prevent further sedimentation from the property into the Etowah River.

Stream Mitigation Workshop

Approximately 30 people attended a workshop in Dawsonville on February 27th to learn how they can receive funding to restore or protect streams on their property. Many of the landowners in attendance were very interested to learn that there are financial incentives available for landowners who would like to protect or restore their streams.

Robin Goodloe of the US Fish and Wildlife Service explained that developers and other who engage in any of the following activities must obtain a 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers to do any of the following activities:

- *culverting or piping a stream,
- *damming a stream to create a pond or impoundment (other than a farm pond),
- *straightening a stream's natural curves,
- *stabilizing stream banks with riprap,
- *installing pipelines or other utility lines, if excavating is required.

Generally, to receive a permit the applicant must mitigate for unavoidable impacts to streams by:

- *preserving or restoring vegetated riparian buffers,
- *fencing livestock from riparian buffers,
- *stabilizing stream banks,
- *installing in-stream habitat structures,
- *re-shaping streams to make them more stable and less likely to erode.



If you think you might be interested in doing stream mitigation on the streams on your property, see the following web site for more information on the program:
<http://www.etowahriver.org/stream%20mitigation.pdf>

The workshop was sponsored by Limestone Valley RC&D Council, the Upper Etowah River Alliance, The Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Kids Just Love to Hear About the Etowah!

Diane Minick, Secretary of the Upper Etowah River Alliance, traveled to Lumpkin County in January to teach several classes about the importance of the Etowah watershed. Here is one of the "thank-you's" she received.

Diane:

It was a pleasure to meet you today and listen to the excellent program you provided for Ward New's sixth grade science classes. Your presentation was interesting for the students. They grasped an understanding how the Alliance works and what they can do to help preserve our natural beauty. The reading, slides and music set a tone to possibly motivate some of these children to protect our watershed.

I appreciated your time traveling to Dahlonega and teaching four classes. This is just another example where a community takes action to make a change and involve young people. I thank you for your effort to make a difference for the children in Lumpkin county. This may set a precedent for others to come to Lumpkin county and teach students.

I look forward to working with you again in the near future.

*Sincerely,
Ian Cowie
4H Program, Lumpkin County*

If you'd like to learn how to give a presentation about the Etowah to students in one of the following counties, please contact Diane Minick at 678-493-9574 or dianeminick@msn.com.

Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream Volunteers Receive Awards!

Every year the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program gives out six awards to recognize outstanding volunteers who demonstrate outstanding commitment and dedication to protecting Georgia streams. Two of the six awards this year in Georgia are going to Adopt-A-Stream volunteers in the Etowah watershed!!

Red Flag Award - Doug Mayer

When the Amicalola River was added to the state's list of impaired waters (303(d) list) in 2001 for fecal coliform violations, Dawson county resident Doug Mayer adopted the Amicalola and began gathering data on bacterial levels throughout the entire watershed. After obtaining landowner permission, Doug began sampling seven sites on the mainstem and all the significant tributaries every week for ten months. The fecal coliform data produced by this project along with the land use information from a concurrent land use survey has been submitted to Georgia's Water Protection Branch for review.

Doug is now identifying sampling sites on the two Amicalola tributaries with the highest fecal coliform counts, with the intention of pinpointing the locations of sources of fecal pollution. He is also beginning to sample at the popular swimming beach at Devils Elbow on Amicalola Creek. He is considering including sampling on nearby Shoal Creek, the neighboring watershed to Amicalola.

Word of mouth in Dawson County has led numerous local residents to call Doug with water quality questions and concerns. His steadfastness and commitment has made the Amicalola Fecal Project a tremendous success and a model for future monitoring projects. GREAT WORK DOUG! If you would like to contact Doug Mayer, please call or email at 706-265-3075 or mayer_doug@hotmail.com.

Excellence in Data Collections Award - Nolton Johnson

Nolton Johnson first became certified as a QAQC data collector in the summer of 1998. He then spent the next year conducting reconnaissance work to determine what monitoring location best fit the needs of their newly formed group, Toonight Neighbors. After settling on a monitoring site, Nolton and the Toonight Neighbors have not missed a single month of data collection (41 months and counting!) or the quarterly biological sampling in 3 1/2 years. Every year, Nolton dutifully gets recertified exclaiming, "It's fun, I learn something different from each training."

In addition, Nolton has recently expanded the test program to include bank profiling and erosion monitoring. For best trend monitoring, Nolton receives the 2002 Adopt-A-Stream award for Excellence in Data Collection.

CONGRATULATIONS NOLTON!

Project RESTORE

One of the Alliance's partners, the Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority (LAPA), has just completed a shoreline restoration project on Lake Allatoona in conjunction with the VCCI Community in Cherokee County and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The project was funded with monies donated by the Robert W Woodruff Foundation, the Turner Foundation, the cities of Acworth, Austell, Canton and Kennesaw and private homeowners.



Shoreline Before Restoration

This was demonstration project that utilized various techniques (hard armoring and bioengineering) to stabilize shoreline on Lake Allatoona and reduce future erosion and sedimentation problems. The project included techniques such as seawalls, slope matting made from recycled soda bottles, tri-lock block interlocking blocks and *Seashore paspalum*. A variety of applications are being tested to determine their effectiveness for erosion and sedimentation control on the lake. The next of three scheduled demonstration projects will be on Lake Acworth utilizing the same grass with other erosion control techniques. For more information, contact Paul Rose at LAPA at 678-801-4013.



Shoreline After Restoration

Upcoming Events

Etowah River Clean-Up

March 29, 2003 9:00 - 12:00

Canton, GA (meet at Boling Park in Canton)

Sponsored by the Upper Etowah River Alliance, the Cherokee County Board of Education and Cherokee County.

For more info contact Stan Hall, 770-517-7650.



Please join us to help beautify our precious Etowah River and her tributary streams!

Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Workshop

May 29, 2003 9:00 - 12:00

Cherokee Justice Center, Canton GA

Fish as Indicators of Stream Health

Join us to learn about fish sampling and the Fish IBI (Index of Biotic Integrity) used in Georgia to evaluate stream ecology based on fish populations.

Speaker: Patti Lanford, Senior Fisheries Biologist
GA DNR Stream Survey Team

Date: March 27, 2003 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Cobb County Water System
Water Quality Laboratory, Training Room
662 South Cobb Drive, Marietta

Fee: FREE

Sponsor: The WET FOOT Workshop series is an educational opportunity sponsored by the Cobb County Water System, Water Protection Division

Registration: Contact Jennifer McCoy at 770-528-1482 or jennifer.mccoy@cobbcounty.org

Adopt-A-Stream Breakfast Club

When: April 26, 2003 9:00 - 12:00
Location: a local stream TBD
Topic: Stream Restoration Techniques
Marjorie Hicks of Biohabitats

For more info contact Lori Cross at 770-591-7156 ext 5 or brenaucrew@hotmail.com.



Learn how you can Adopt-A-Stream and find out about all the critters that live in it!

Adopt-A-Stream Workshops

Get to Know Your Watershed (tentative)

Date: April 19, 2003
Time: 9:00 - 1:00
Location: TBD
Contact: Duncan Cottrell

Chemical Monitoring Workshop (tentative)

Date: May 3, 2003
Time: 9:00 - 1:00
Location: TBD
Contact: Duncan Cottrell

Getting Started With Adopt-A-Stream

Date: April 26, 2003
Location: TBD
Contact: Duncan Cottrell

Biological Monitoring Workshop

Date: May 31, 2003
Location: TBD
Contact: Mary Sorensen, 678-640-2563

Getting Started With Adopt-A-Stream

Date: July 12, 2003
Location: TBD
Contact: Duncan Cottrell

Chemical Monitoring Workshop

Date: July 19, 2003
Location: TBD
Contact: Duncan Cottrell

Biological Monitoring Workshop

Date: August 2, 2003
Location: TBD
Contact: Mary Sorensen, 678-640-2563

Contact information for Duncan Cottrell: 770-735-2778 or duncancottrell@yahoo.com.

New Members

Corporate

Bronze

The Better Information Group (Dr Michael Myers)
Etowah Water & Sewer Authority
Chattowah Open Land Trust

Student

Cory DeBord

Individual

Linda Teachey
Mike Morrissey
Doris Cook
Doug Cabe

Family

Judge Frank Mills and Mrs Amanda Mills
Stan Barnett family (renewal)

Lifetime

Kevin & Julie DeVries



Make sure to take time to enjoy the gorgeous Mountain Laurel blooming on the Etowah this spring!

Photos courtesy of Candace Stoughton.

Upper Etowah River Alliance County

Contacts

Cherokee: Mark Cagle, Jimmy Bobo
Dawson: Clark Beusse, Kurt Kratinger
Forsyth: Paul Kreager, Tim Perkins
Lumpkin: Steve Gooch, Marshall Mahone
Pickens: Stan Barnett, Barbara Decker

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JOIN THE UPPER ETOWAH RIVER ALLIANCE TODAY!

_____ Student	\$15.00	
_____ Individual	\$25.00	
_____ Family	\$40.00	
_____ Lifetime	\$500.00	
Corporate		
_____ Bronze \$100		_____ Gold \$750
_____ Silver \$500		_____ Platinum \$1000
\$_____ Other tax deductible amount.		

CONTACT US!

Name _____

Address _____

Contact Phone _____

E-Mail _____

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Canton GA 30114
770-704-7280
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email: info@etowahriver.org
www.etowahriver.org

"eventually all things merge into one and a river runs through it"

Norman MacLean

Upper Etowah River Alliance
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