

## **Watershed Education in Elementary Schools Utilizing Existing Programs**

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### **Abstract**

One of the goals of the Education and Human Resources Portfolio of the Georgia Sea Grant Program is to develop and encourage elementary school level watershed education. This two-year project will utilize and modify where necessary existing materials and strategies for watershed education developed by and adapted from the Georgia Adopt A Stream (AAS) Program of the GA Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division. Using these materials, resources and procedures, the project will implement its educational program by drawing on the established network and organization of the Georgia Science Teachers Association (GSTA) and specifically the GSTA District 8 (14 southeastern Georgia counties) organization. One of the most important aspects of this project, however, is that the educational structure and methods of implementation utilize continuous on going, hands-on processes and activities (classroom, lab and field) for the target audience for implementation rather than a single-event presentation. The PI is an experienced Adopt A Stream trainer in coastal Georgia and has worked with and trained many groups of all ages and levels of organization. The PI is also a member of the GSTA and has served as the college representative on the GSTA executive board and as the GSTA vice-president. The project seeks to provide community-wide watershed education based at two elementary schools in each of the 14 District 8 GSTA southeastern Georgia counties. Because regular periodic reports from AAS groups are part of the established AAS procedure, continuous evaluation of each community/school/group's progress and activity is possible. Upon introducing the project to potential school-based leaders, the PI will travel to the school and conduct classroom, lab and field based training workshops and assist each group get organized and started. The project will provide the materials and resources for each group to conduct regular visual, chemical and biological monitoring of its adopted waterway or water body.