

## WATERSHED AND LONGITUDINAL MONITORING EVENTS

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Georgia Adopt-A-Stream partners annually with many organizations, universities and watershed groups to conduct sampling events with volunteers at a watershed level. These monitoring events range from one-day snapshots to week-long paddle trips. One-day sampling events, also called “Blitzs,” River Adventures and River Rendezvous, generally target 20-50 sites within a watershed. The multi-day events involve sampling anywhere from 10 to 20 sites per day, 70-120 sites per event, and are usually part of a larger activity called “Paddle Georgia.” The multi-day events are located on a different Georgia river each year and bring along hundreds of citizens on the adventure. Partners for these events include local governments, watershed organizations, Adopt-A-Stream groups and many other entities which provide sampling equipment, technical support and sponsorship. Depending on the objectives of the event, data can be collected on many parameters including water quality chemistry, bacteria, macroinvertebrates and physical characteristics. Data is posted on our website/database and is available for citizens and partners to view in graphs and basic GIS or download for analysis. In addition to collecting and sharing the data, small reports are written and shared with the community, and the information has been used at the local, state and federal level. During this presentation we will discuss Georgia’s volunteer water quality monitoring program and how we’ve used watershed-wide sampling events to connect with a larger audience, collect and share quality assurance water data, and lessons learned.

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