Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's Amphibian Monitoring Program

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Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
GEORGIA

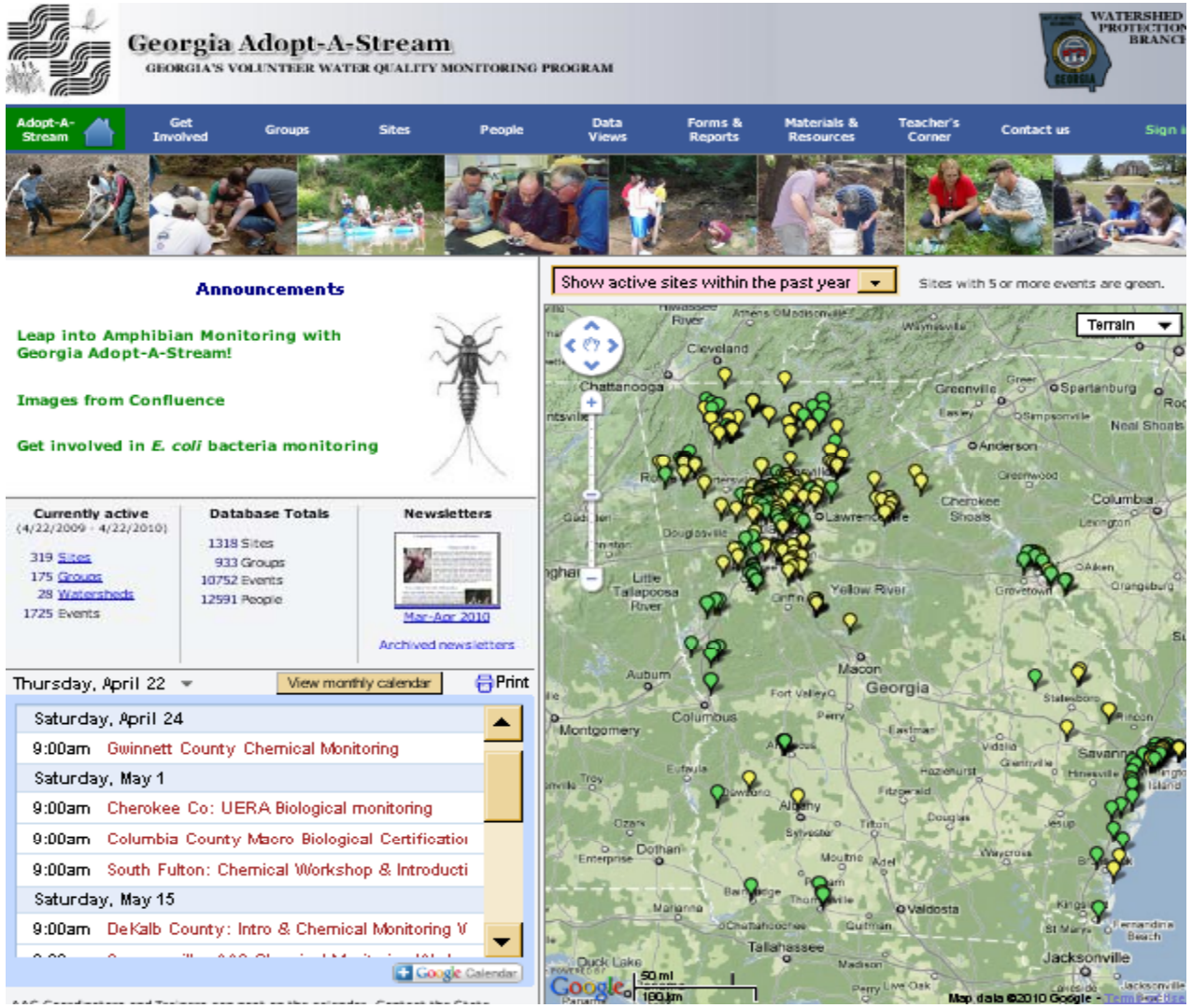
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

- **What is it?**
  - **Georgia's volunteer water quality monitoring program**
    - **stream/rivers~ wetlands~ lakes~ coastal waterways**
- **Four Program Goals:**
  - Increase ***public awareness***
  - Provide ***tools & training***
  - To ***encourage partnerships***
  - To collect ***baseline water quality data***

Click on a program below to visit each website
Georgia
Project WET
Water Education
for Teachers
Georgia
River of Words
Environmental
Poetry & Art Project
Georgia
Adopt-A-Stream
Volunteer Water
Monitoring Program
Georgia
Rivers Alive
Volunteer Waterway
Cleanups
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Protection Branch
Outreach

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Resources

- **Online Database & Website at** www.georgiaadoptastream.com



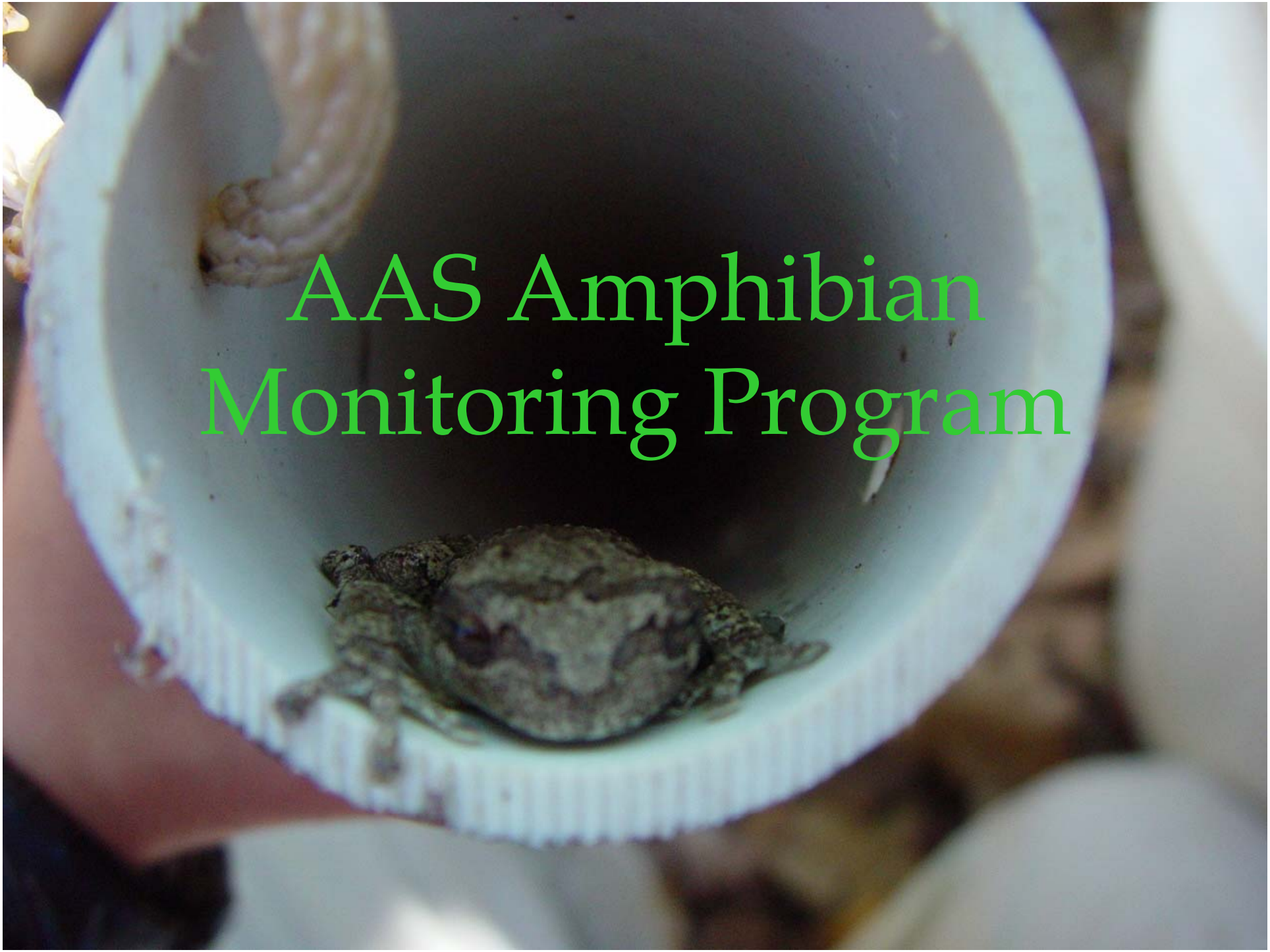
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Resources cont'd

- **Trainings for Monitoring and Manuals**
  - Introduction to AAS
  - Getting To Know Your Watershed
  - Visual Stream Survey
  - Macroinvertebrate Stream Monitoring
  - Chemical Stream Monitoring
  - Bacterial Monitoring
  - Wetland Monitoring
  - Adopt-A-Lake
  - *Amphibian Monitoring
  - Train the Trainer
- **Educator's Guide, Teacher PLU Credits**
- **Outreach Materials:** Videos, Field Guides, Posters & Brochures, 6 bi-monthly newsletters
- **Technical and Logistical Support**

AAS Program Structure: Quality Assurance Project Plan

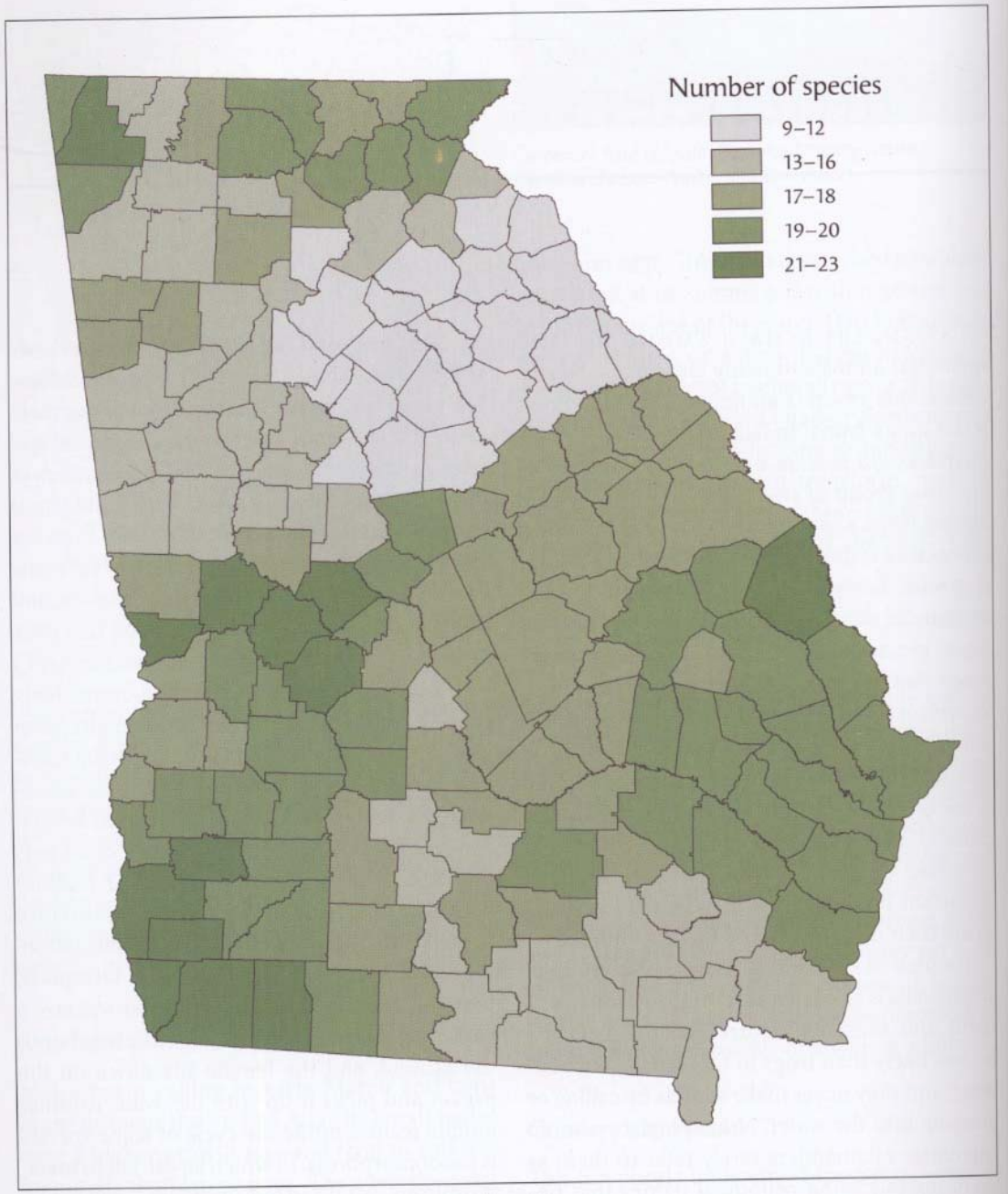
- QAQC Monitoring
  - -Bacterial
  - -Chemical
  - -Macroinvertebrate

- Non-QA/QC Monitoring
  - -Visual/Physical
  - -Watershed
  - -Wetland
  - -Amphibian


AAS Amphibian
Monitoring Program

- Created in 2004 in response to volunteer interest but has really taken off in the past year
- To date we have conducted over 20 workshops
- We have created an Amphibian Advisory Committee

  - charged with creating a QA/QC protocol

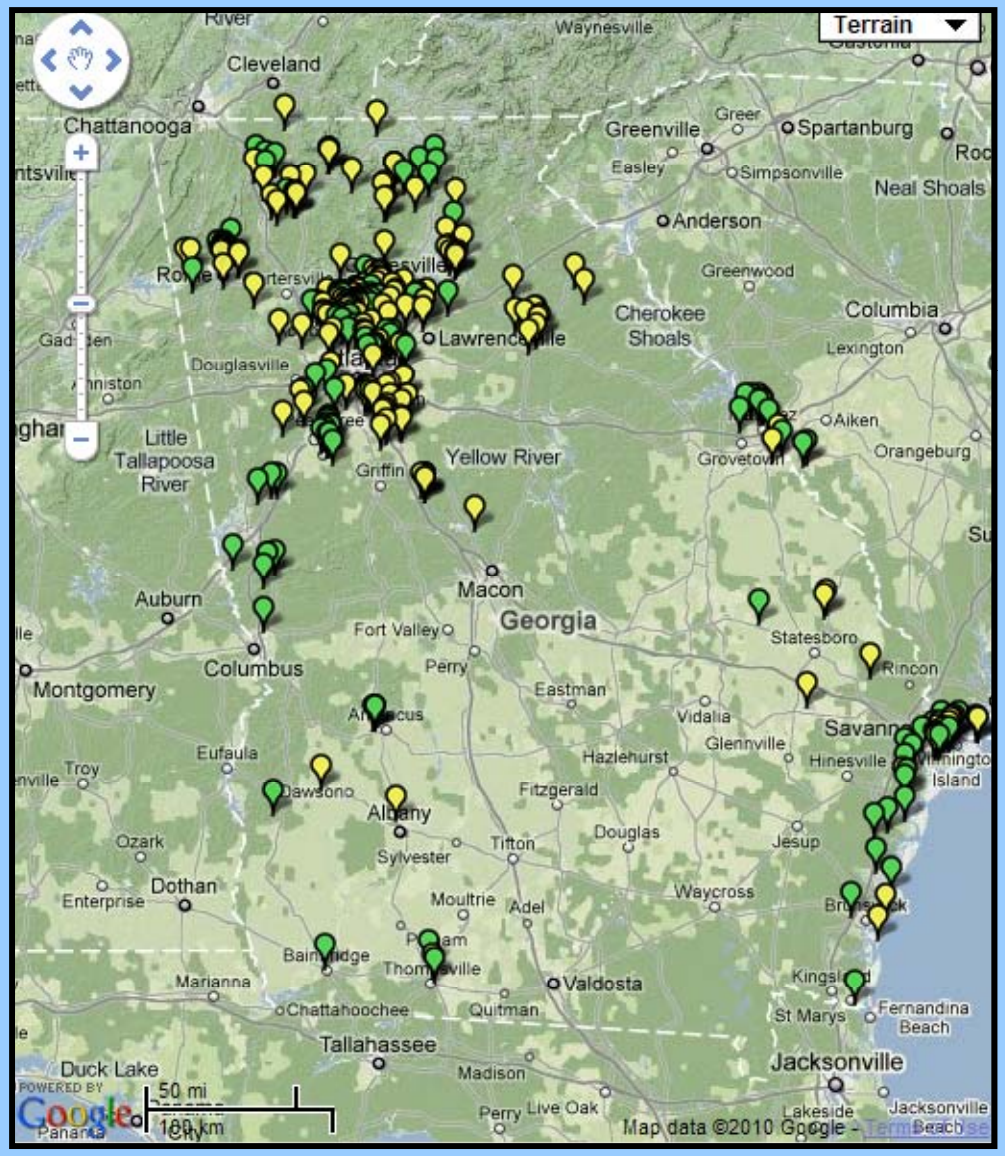


Salamander Species Richness by County, Based on Predicted Ranges

Georgia's Diversity

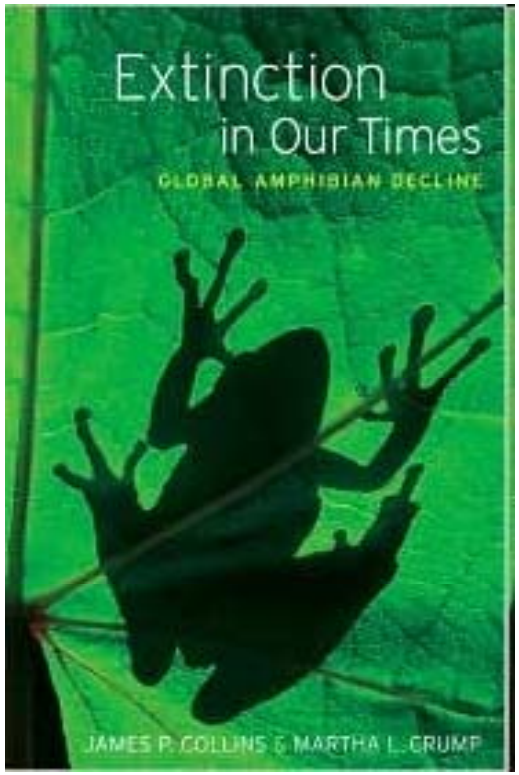
- 5 Physiographic provinces
- 32 species of frogs/toads
- 56 species of salamanders

Active Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring Sites



Amphibians as a Target Group

- SOME are sensitive to disturbances, but not necessarily a 'canary in the coal mine'
- Widespread reports of declines?
- We are careful in not stating that they are indicators of water quality, as this is not known



Amphibian Survey Methods

Tree Frogs

1) PVC ground or tree pipes

Salamanders

1) Artificial cover/ coverboards
2) Invertebrate collections (larvae)

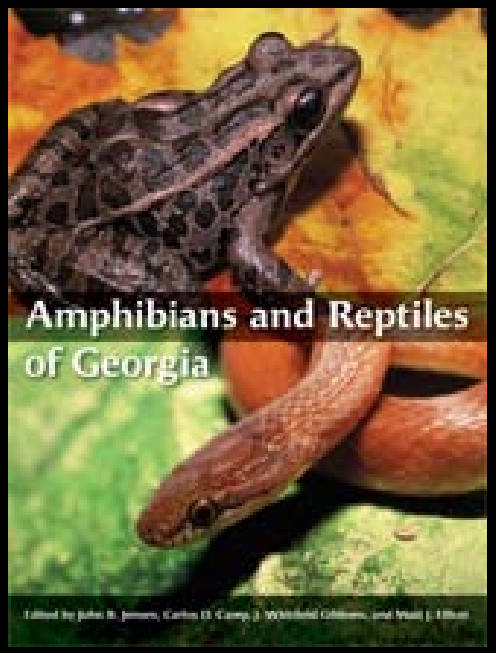
Monitoring Design: Stream & Wetland

- Six stations within the adopted reach* or ecotone
- Check monthly
- At each station:
  1 pipe & board at 0ft
  1 pipe & board at 3ft
- Total of 12 pipes and 12 boards to monitor

AAS Training Workshop

- 3 hour workshop
  - Life History
  - Current challenges
  - Identification
  - Safe Handling
  - Invasive species
  - Malformations
  - Methods/datasheets
  - Frog calls
  - Field experience
  - Manual

Useful ID Guides



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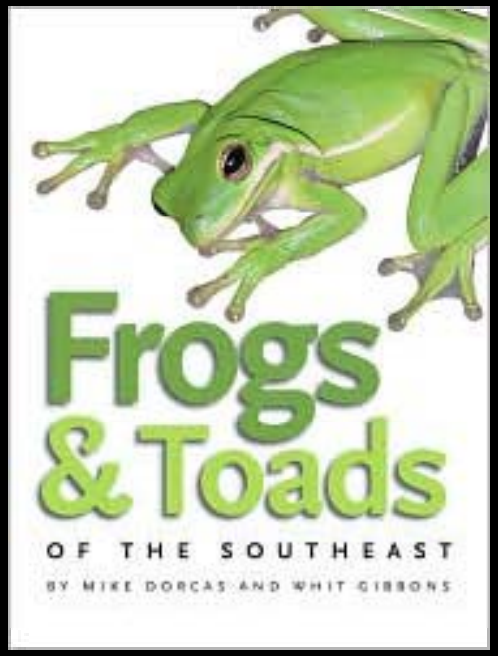

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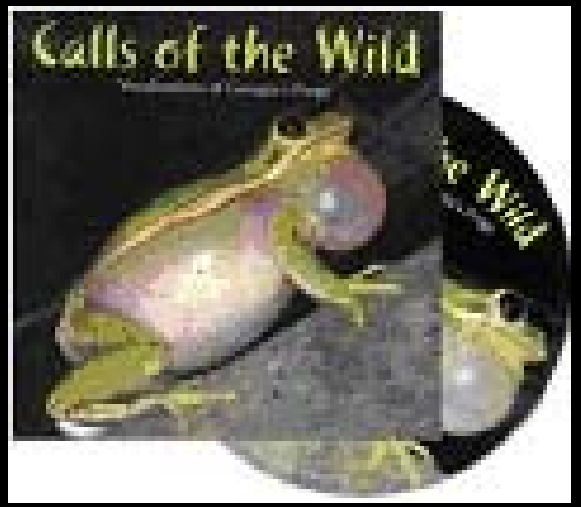

Georgia Frog Call CD
Wildlife Resources Division
116 Rum Creek Drive
Forsyth, GA 31029

Future

- **Incorporate Additional Methods:**
  1. **Leaf Litter Bags: Larval Id to Genus**
  2. **Frog Call Monitoring: Partner with Frogwatch USA**
- **QA/QC Workshop: Tier levels of training**
- **Seeking Funding for volunteers**
- New Educator's Guide Activities

Thank You Partners

- Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)
- Dept of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources, Nongame Section
- Zoo Atlanta
- Amphibian Arc
- Atlanta Botanical Gardens
- Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center
- Stone Mountain Environmental Education Center
- The University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology

- Special Thanks to YSI for making my participation possible

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