

Monitoring, Education and Partnerships Through the Georgia Southeast and Coastal Region Training Center

Joseph P. Richardson

Savannah State University, Marine Sciences Program, P.O. Box 20583, Savannah, GA 31404

Biographical Sketch of Author

Joseph P. Richardson is a professor of marine sciences in the Marine Sciences Program at Savannah State University. He joined Savannah State University in 1979 after earning a Ph.D. in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina. A native of Tennessee, he earned a BA in Biology from the University of Tennessee. His research includes coastal water quality and Caribbean seaweeds. Presently he teaches graduate and undergraduate marine science courses at Savannah State, and he serves as the Director of the Coastal Region Training Center for the Georgia Adopt A Stream Program that serves southeastern Georgia counties.

Abstract

The Coastal Region Training Center at Savannah State University was established in 1996 to promote participation in the volunteer-based Georgia Adopt A Stream Program throughout southeastern and coastal Georgia. Since its initial establishment, the Center has maintained operation through acquisition of external grants. Presently the Center is supported by grants from the Coastal Zone Management Program of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Division, and from the Georgia Sea Grant College Program. The Center promotes participation in the Georgia Adopt A Stream Program by: providing assistance to individuals and partners interested in starting a local volunteer-based water quality monitoring program; conducting training workshops for visual, chemical and biological water quality monitoring (including QAQC certification); serving as a technical and educational resource; collecting, reviewing and transmitting water quality data from local volunteer groups; and by providing supplies and equipment to school-based monitoring groups. Since the Center's development, interest in water quality and watershed issues in southeast Georgia has increased, and the establishment of volunteer-based water quality monitoring programs has increased steadily. Since its establishment, three southeastern Georgia Riverkeeper programs have become established, and the Center provided chemical monitoring training for each. Recently many school-based watershed education projects have been developed which provide for local hands-on field and lab activity-based educational opportunities for students and teachers in southeastern Georgia. Water quality chemical parameters collected by participating groups include: temperature, Secchi disk depth, settleable solids, pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, nitrate-nitrogen, and phosphate. Biological monitoring utilizes macro-invertebrate collection, identification and quantification.