

# CWA NEWS

FALL 2008

The Coosawattee Watershed Alliance has been very active in the last year. Our primary responsibility is advocacy for Gilmer County's streams and rivers. There are many issues that we deal with regularly to protect our waterways from the abuse created by siltation and sedimentation.

their local waterways, encourage partnerships between citizens and their local government, and collect quality baseline water quality data.

Several of our members and volunteers have sought training in sedimentation and erosion control through the EPD's **Get the Dirt Out** program, and two of our members are now certified as trainers for this program.

To engage our local county commission candidates and to allow them to inform the voters of their positions on several environmental issues, the CWA created the **Commission Candidates Questionnaire**. The candidates' responses to these questions was published in the local newspaper prior to the November election.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit status – which permits tax deductible contributions, grant applications, funding
- Initiated the Upper Ellijay River Clear Water Restoration Project
- Monitored upper Tickanelley Creek and lower Cartecay River sedimentation problems
- Coordinated the Earth Day lower Cartecay River Clean-ups
- Hosted the Get the Dirt Out educational program
- Assisted the county commission in formulating its opposition to the state's proposed water plan
- Certified two members as erosion and sedimentation control trainers
- Hosted the Adopt-a-Stream training programs
- Grew membership to over 50 individuals



We are also in the process of erecting the **CWA Mud-Meter**. The Mud-Meter will indicate the daily turbidity (amount of dirt in the water) of the Cartecay River at East Ellijay's First Avenue Bridge.

Also, we coordinated the **Earth Day Cartecay River Cleanup** where numerous volunteers in canoes, kayaks and on foot removed trash and debris from the river and its banks.

To further involve our community we have hosted several training sessions for the **Georgia EPD's Adopt-a-Stream** program. The goals of this program are to increase public awareness of the State's nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues, provide citizens with the tools and training to evaluate and protect



## COOSAWATTEE WATERSHED ALLIANCE

### THE COOSAWATTEE WATERSHED

The Ellijay River and its tributaries combine with the Cartecay River and its tributaries to form the Coosawattee River which flows into Carters Lake.

### CWA'S MISSION

The CWA is the Coosawattee Watershed Alliance, a local, grass-roots, non-profit organization, dedicated to protecting, conserving and restoring the water resources of the Coosawattee River watershed. The CWA achieves this mission through education, research, science, advocacy, information-sharing and lots of hard work.

### MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 252 • East Ellijay GA 30539

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CoosawatteeWatershedAlliance

Conserve, Protect, Restore

In addition to continuing our numerous activities, the CWA is currently preparing for two very exciting events that will take place in 2009.



*Volunteers joining hand-to-hand to restore the rivers of Gilmer County.*

**Hands Across the Water**

To further involve local volunteerism and awareness of our rivers and streams, the CWA in cooperation with local businesses, government leaders and volunteers will conduct an intensive river cleanup of the Cartecay and Coosawattee rivers as they flow through downtown Ellijay. We plan to enlist enough volunteers to actually link hands from one end of the project area to the other during the Earth Day 2009 celebration. This project is the first phase in Hands Across the Water, a program that will restore, revitalize and create access for these very visible waterways.

**Paddle Georgia 2009**

The Georgia River Network has just announced that Paddle Georgia 2009 will be held on the Coosawattee and Oostanaula rivers from Ellijay to Rome, June 20-26, 2009. This will be a week-long paddle that will involve hundreds of participants. This is far more than just a recreational activity.



Participants will have the opportunity to be trained in environmental issues and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

**Keep in Touch**

The CWA website is updated regularly and is a great resource for members. Learn about upcoming events, workshops, and gatherings.

Be alerted to issues that require your attention and action. Use the linked resources to learn more about water related issues in our community.



[www.CoosawatteeWatershedAlliance.org](http://www.CoosawatteeWatershedAlliance.org)

**Membership Renewal Time**

All CWA memberships expire on January 1, 2009. If you think that the work of the CWA is important, and you want to be a part of our work in the future, please take a moment to renew your membership.

The Coosawattee Watershed Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your membership and donations are tax deductible.

You may complete the form below and mail it with your check to the address on the form. Your continued membership will allow the CWA to continue its good works and reach our goal of healthy streams and rivers for Gilmer County.

Coosawattee Watershed Alliance  
*Conserve, Protect, Restore*

**JOIN THE CWA TODAY**

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

HOME PHONE OTHER PHONE

EMAIL

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

- Sponsor \$1,000 or more
- Life Member \$500 or more
- Business \$75
- Family \$40
- Individual \$25
- Student \$15
- Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are my/our annual membership dues of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in the Coosawattee Watershed Alliance (Memberships are tax deductible).

Please make your check payable to:  
COOSAWATTEE WATERSHED ALLIANCE  
PO Box 252  
East Ellijay, GA 30539