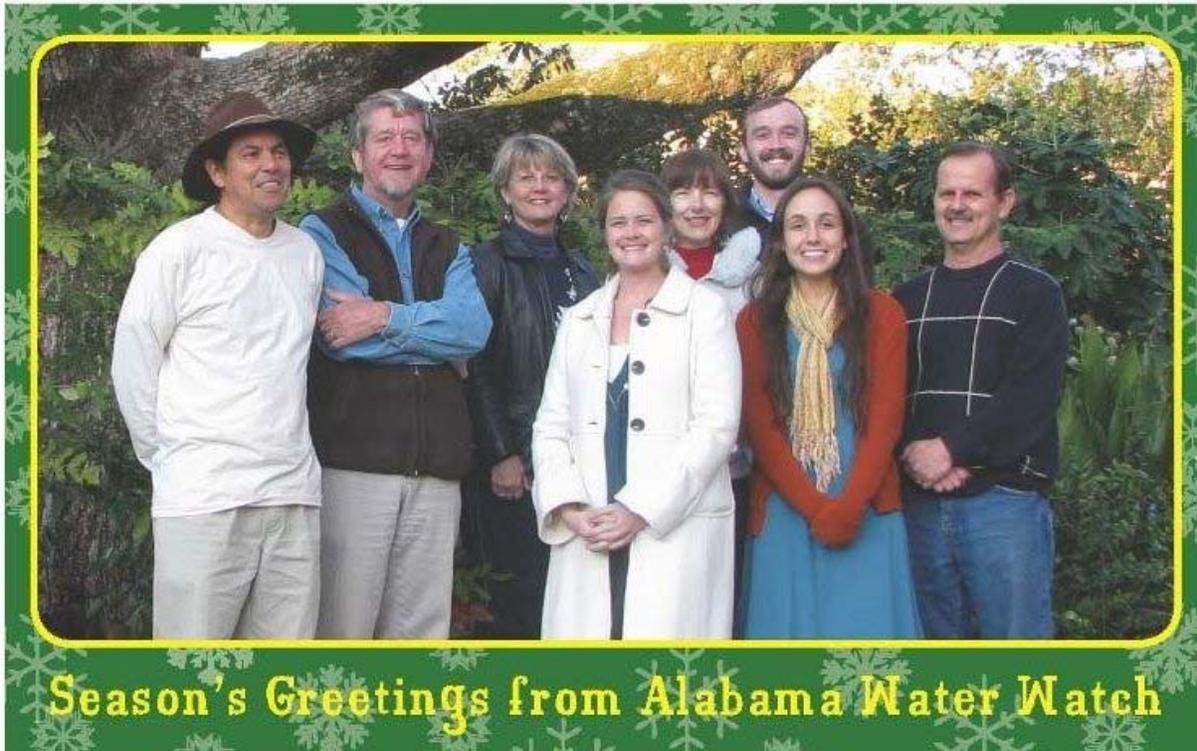


AWW Awareness

Newsletter of Alabama Water Watch



Winter 2011



Pictured from left to right: Sergio Ruiz-Córdova, Bill Deutsch, Wendy Seesock, Mona Domínguez, Rita Grub, Daniel McCoy, Liz Brennan, Eric Reutebuch

Dear AWW Monitors, Members, and Friends,

2011 has been one of the most up-and-down years we've experienced at Alabama Water Watch. We started the year very encouraged about a strong sense of renewed interest in AWW statewide, with revived veteran groups and several inquiries for training workshops by new groups. It seems others recognize as we do that now more than ever citizen monitors are needed to watch over and protect our water resources. There is still so much to accomplish if AWW is to expand and increase its impact. It is promising to note that we've had a great year of productive meetings and workshops with groups and volunteer trainers, full of ideas for collecting strategic data and putting that data into action.

Would you like to help AWW continue to offer free water monitoring workshops, chemicals to monitors, and data interpretation sessions to watershed groups and other valuable citizen services?

You can do so by becoming a member of the AWW Association or by making an end of the year tax deductible donation.

[Click here to donate online.](#) .

or

[Click here to download our](#)

Needless to say, the news about funding cuts from ADEM has largely influenced the second half of 2011. The EPA pass-through funds, managed and distributed by ADEM, provided core funding for AWW for almost 20 years. As an initial response we quickly initiated a campaign by sending out hundreds of letters to our monitors and friends, encouraging them to lobby ADEM for continued funding. Thanks to your response, ADEM's Director, Mr. Lance LeFleur, received hundreds of messages in support of AWW. In spite of this dramatic show of support, it looks like a permanent loss of this funding source (approximately \$165,000 this year). This means we must dramatically change our funding model if AWW is to remain viable.

While asking our supporters to lobby ADEM, we also asked for more financial support from our friends, supporters, and monitors. As a result, membership and donations to the AWWA have increased considerably, resulting in gifts and pledges that range from \$25 - \$2000 and total nearly \$16,000.

Wow...that's a fine showing of solidarity and support that we need to foster and perpetuate.

Other articles in this newsletter will elaborate on our busy year, but let me emphasize that I am ending 2011 with tremendous gratitude to our AWW staff, monitors, funding agencies including ADEM, and supportive friends that go way beyond Alabama. We are moving full speed ahead in planning our 20th Anniversary, and have decided to take this celebration on the road to 4-6 venues starting with the Gulf Coast in March to be followed by stops in Birmingham, Huntsville and Auburn between April and June. We hope you will plan to attend at least one of these celebrations.

Let me give a final encouragement for you to join us in our quest to ensure the future of AWW, a unique grass-roots organization that is science-based and community-based, so that we can continue our work of empowering citizens to protect our aquatic resources. We are all bombarded with funding appeals this time of year, so it's easy to gloss over requests like ours. We hope you'll pause over our request just long enough to think about your personal role in keeping AWW strong and effective for years to come. Your donation to is an investment in a clean, healthy environment for the next generation. You can donate at our website, send us a check, or call if you have other ideas about funding support. Our contact information can be found elsewhere in this

mail-in membership form.

Thanks for Your Support!

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View and register for upcoming workshops by [clicking here.](#)

Contact Us:

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newsletter.

In addition to your tax-exempt membership and additional tax-exempt donations to the Alabama Water Watch Association, please point us to appropriate foundations, small businesses and corporations. One of the most effective ways to raise funds is for people to network through their local contacts: your AWW group members, neighbors, etc.

Share your AWW experiences with others, use our new brochure to inform folks, and educate others about what AWW is and does. I am confident that by working together we can keep AWW strong and growing.

Sincerely,

Bill Deutsch, Director of AWW

Like us on Facebook 

AWW Biomonitoring Workshop a Big Hit!

On Saturday, December 10th, 2011 a group of enthusiastic citizens braved the chilly but beautiful Saugahatchee Creek to learn how benthic macroinvertebrates or "aquatic bugs" can tell us a great deal about water quality.

Read more by [clicking here](#).



Monitors Have Smith Lake Covered at the 2011 'State of the Lake Address'

Over 50 area residents gathered at the Dodge City Restaurant on the east side of Smith Lake on October 29th for the 15th Annual *State of the Lake Address*. Staff from Alabama Water Watch (AWW) have been invited to the lake by the Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee (SLEPC) since 1997 to discuss lake water quality and watershed stewardship activities in the Smith Lake Watershed.

Read more by [clicking here](#).

Taking AWW to the Next Generation

In November, AWW Program Staff dove into somewhat uncharted AWW territory with the first unofficial Young Water Watchers (YWW) workshop. For some time, AWW has been working to develop a way for younger individuals to take part in water quality monitoring, but because of safety concerns and data validity it has taken some time to get there. With

support and collaboration of the Mill Creek Watershed Project, coordinated by Katie Dylewski, a pilot chemistry and bacteria workshop was facilitated at Central High School (CHS) in Phenix City.

Read more by [clicking here.](#)

Five Years of Bacteria 'Blitzing' Makes Auburn-Area a Cleaner Place to Live

Area volunteer monitoring groups began collaborative watershed-level water monitoring in the Saugahatchee and Chewacla watersheds in and around Auburn, Alabama back in 2007. Members of Save Our Saugahatchee (SOS) and Friends of Chewacla Creek and the Uphapee Watershed (CHEWUP) had been trained and certified in Bacteriological Monitoring by Alabama Water Watch (AWW), and had monitored a few sites for *E. coli* in the two watersheds.

Read more by [clicking here.](#)



Huntsville Water Monitoring Workshop - One of Largest Ever!

A group of dedicated area residents dipped tubes and collection bottles into the Indian Creek Canal in downtown Huntsville to test an array of water chemistry parameters on November 19th 2011.

Read more by [clicking here.](#)

Logan Martin Water Watchers Document Successful Resolution of Bacteria Contamination

Logan Martin Lake Protection Association (LMLPA) gathered in October 2011 for their annual meeting at the Pell City Civic Center on the Cropwell Embayment of Lake Logan Martin. LMLPA volunteer water monitor have been testing sites on the lake and its tributaries since 1996, amassing a database of over 2,400 water quality records.

Read more by [clicking here.](#)

About Us

Alabama Water Watch is a citizen volunteer, water quality monitoring program covering all of the major river basins of the state. The mission of AWW is to improve both water quality and water policy through citizen monitoring and action.