



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CCWS Celebrates Water Education and Community Engagement Recognitions**

Marietta, GA - Cobb County Water System (CCWS) is proud to share the latest awards received by the Communications and Education Division (CED) and its volunteers for excellence in water education, outreach, and environmental stewardship.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented CCWS with the 2024 WaterSense® Excellence Award for Education and Outreach for outstanding promotion of water-efficient products, practices, and campaigns. They also received the Platinum Award for Education Program of Excellence from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), celebrating its leadership in public education on water, wastewater, and watershed protection.

To celebrate volunteers' achievements and the impact of community engagement, CCWS hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Event in April, recognizing the contributions of its dedicated volunteers. Stories and accomplishments on community outreach events, water quality & aquatic life monitoring, and their love for the environment were shared by all. Special awards were presented to:

- Carol Schneier - Excellence in Data Collection for Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring
- Edward "Eddie" Richards - Volunteer Service at the Wildlife & Rain Garden
- Gemma Fletcher - Student Achievement for Protecting Cobb's Amphibians
- Rohil Vallabhaneni - Student Achievement for Protecting Cobb's Water Resources
- Mary Plache - Outreach Volunteer of the Year
- Nan Maddox - Outreach Volunteer Service Award

CCWS staff and several dedicated volunteers were also recognized at the Environmental Protection Division's 2025 Adopt-A-Stream Confluence for their contributions and commitment to water quality. The awards and their recipients are:

- Cobb County Water System - Watershed Award
- Mike Kahle (CCWS staff) - Adopt-A-Stream Trainer of the Year Award
- Sam Foster (CCWS Volunteer) - Excellence in Education Award
- Cathy Czarnonycz (CCWS Volunteer) - Nymph Award
- Carol Schneier (CCWS Volunteer) - Nymph Award

For more information on the Adopt-A-Stream monitoring program, volunteer opportunities, and CCWS events, visit [www.cobbcounty.gov/water](http://www.cobbcounty.gov/water).

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