

Waterway Views

Summer/Fall, 1999

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Haywood Waterways Association, Inc.

KIDS GET A BIG SURPRISE

Our Haywood County students made an important discovery during the Kids in the Creek activities in April. A wavy-rayed lampmussel, thought to no longer exist in the Pigeon River, was found in the river at the Canton Recreation Park. This mussel is on the North Carolina Special Concern List. TVA reports it has not been found here in many decades and thought to have been killed off in the early part of this century. It is an exciting find and suggests water quality is improving in the Pigeon River.

The two-day Kids in the Creek Program was a big success. The support from our volunteers was outstanding. Approximately 251 students and teachers from Waynesville Middle School and Bethel Middle School enjoyed this hands-on

scientific study of our aquatic ecosystem. We also invited the Bethel Christian Academy to participate on the first day. We hope to expand the program for the 1999/2000 school year to include a session for each of the three middle schools.

A special "Thank You" goes out to the businesses, individuals, and organizations that manned the four educational stations, provided safety support or made donations for this program: TVA, Tom Posey and Haywood County Schools, Dave Dudek and his students, Lee Barnes, Skip Thompson, Ron Moser, Haywood County EMS, Canton Fire Department, Johnny on the Spot, Haywood County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Pigeon River Fund. We appreciate all your support.

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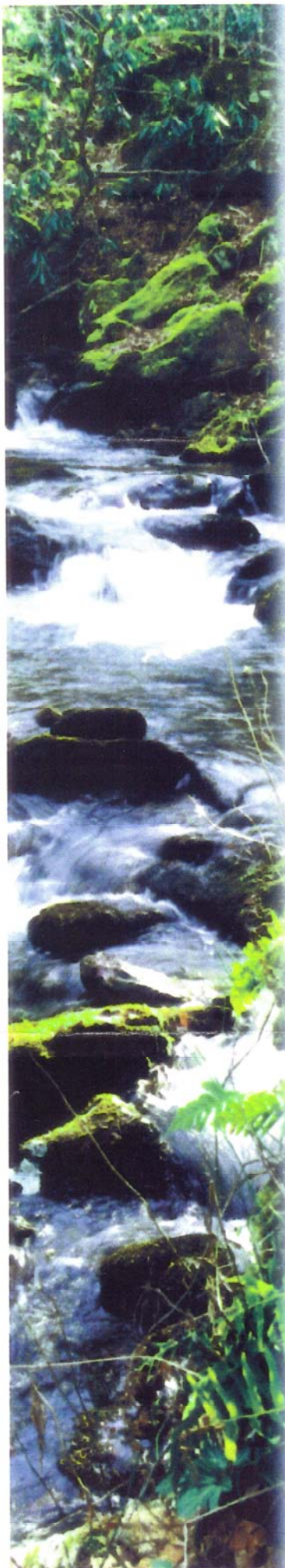
See Our Membership Application On Back Cover. You Can Help In Work Worth Doing!

BIG SWEEP

Scheduled for Saturday Sept. 18

The annual statewide First Citizens Big Sweep is an important project that moves us closer to achieving our association's mission. Held on the third Saturday in September, this event brings together private citizens, community organizations, businesses, churches, schools, and governmental organizations in every county throughout the state to take a stand against careless littering. Volunteers help collect and properly dispose of trash and

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Get Involved As A Steward Of Our Waterways

It was great to see many of you at our summer membership meeting on July 17th! In addition to the good food, fun door prizes, and fellowship, we heard reports from committee chairman and others on all the valuable work HWA is doing. I'm always impressed when I hear these reports. We can all be proud of our accomplishments to date. I can tell you that others (including folks outside of Haywood) have noticed what HWA is doing and are quite impressed. Did you see the wonderful editorial in the Enterprise-Mountaineer praising our efforts?

I want to encourage every member to volunteer some time for "Work Worth Doing"! There is so much more we can do to protect and improve our waterways if every member gets involved. Here are few examples of how you can help:

- Serve on a committee (Education, Technical Advisory, Communications, Membership, Nominating).
- Help organize stream cleanups in your community during the upcoming Big Sweep on Sept. 18th.
- Volunteer to help with the next Kids in the Creek event.
- Work with a young group to stencil "Don't Dump" messages on storm drains.
- Plant trees and shrubs along creekbanks to stop bank erosion.
- Make presentations to school/youth groups on protecting our waterways.
- Sign up your friends and relatives as members.

There are many opportunities to help make a difference! Please give me a call at 456-9508. You will be glad you did!



Zora Rhodes, HWA board member and educator for N.C. Wildlife Recourse Commission teaching teachers at the Aquatic Wild Workshop held at Riverbend Elementary School.

Technical Committee In Action

Community Outreach Underway

The Technical Advisory Committee is reaching out to the community, enlisting support for the Haywood County Watershed Action Plan. Burline Pullin, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee, presented an initial outline for the plan at our July meeting. Several committee members have delivered a total of 10 Power-Point and slide presentations about the NPS inventory and the watershed action plan. Community and civic clubs, business organizations and local government boards have hosted the programs. If you have not had the opportunity to see this presentation, check with Bill Schaefer at 926-6199, for the dates of upcoming programs.

If you know of a group that would be interested in the program, let Bill know and he will get it scheduled.

The watershed action plan will be an important part of our Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant application due 12/1/99. Public input is a critical part of the planning process. Community support and participation are essential for the plan to be successfully implemented. Please encourage your friends, neighbors and family to get involved. We need everyone's ideas for this plan to fairly represent the County's various interests. This is your chance to be heard. Remember its our water, our future and our quality of life.

Greenway Projects Making Great Strides

Plans are being finalized for three public greenway programs this fall. Ed McMahon, Director of the Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program, will be the speaker. He is a renowned expert on greenways and the positive impacts they have on communities. The presentations will include an evening session followed by a breakfast program and luncheon program the next day. September 28th and 29th are the expected dates, so watch for more information. You don't want to miss it.

Local greenway projects are making significant progress. Both the Maggie Valley Greenway and the Richland Creek Greenway each received a \$20,000 grant from the Pigeon River Fund. Richland Creek Action Committee also received a \$24,000 NC DENR grant for easement

acquisition. Haywood Waterways Association wrote the three grant applications for these two projects. Easement negotiations are underway for the Richland Creek project and Maggie Valley has begun construction on its first demonstration trail segment. Let's support these projects. Volunteer your time and talents and encourage corporate sponsors to support them too.

The Greenways Council agreed on a common logo for greenway projects in Haywood County. Canton recently unveiled its beautiful new greenway sign displaying the new logo. So take a stroll in Canton and enjoy this beautiful greenway here in Haywood County. You'll enjoy the trip. Thanks Canton for all your hard work.

BIG SWEEP (cont)

debris littering our creeks, streams, lakes and rivers; doing so helps keep our state and county clean and attractive, while helping to protect wildlife and preserve our natural resources, making our community a great place to live, work, and play all year long.

This effort requires support from all our citizens with leadership from members of Haywood Waterways Association. You are invited to become a member of the Big Sweep Planning Team. This team will help recruit, train, and place volunteers/volunteer groups; create and distribute flyers and posters; contact local media to encourage interest; solicit sponsors for volunteer incentives; and coordinate logistics for Big Sweep Day.

We can increase Big Sweep participation in our county by simply involving our members in the planning and implementation of the event. Please consider becoming actively involved in this important Haywood Waterways initiative. For more information on how you can help call Dave Dudek, Big Sweep Coordinator, at 627-4564.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Alexander enjoy fellowship with other HWA members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 18-Big Sweep
- September 21-TAC Committee Meeting
- September 28 and 29-Greenway Programs with Ed McMahan
- October 23-Annual Meeting At Camp Hope



SAVE LAKE LOGAN





Bethel Middle School 7th Graders Study Aquatic Insects and Fish, on April 27th



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HAYWOOD WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Our Thanks to the Pigeon River Fund for supporting HWA in this newsletter.

"Give to a Friend"

You Can Help To Save Your Waterways Join Haywood Waterways Association, Inc. Annual Membership Application



Name _____ Home Phone _____
 Address _____ Bus. Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Fax _____
 Profession/Occupation/Organization _____ E-Mail _____

Work Worth Doing

Check Annual Membership Category: () Family \$20 () Single \$15 () Student \$10 () Organization \$30
 () Business (5 employees or less) \$30 () Sponsor \$50 () Donor \$100 () Benefactor \$500

Write check payable to: Haywood Waterways Association, Inc. Please return this form with your tax deductible contribution and mail to: Haywood Waterways Association, Inc. P.O. Box 389 Waynesville, NC 28786. Phone: 828-456-2981, or 828-456-5195.

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