

Waterway Views

WINTER, 2000

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Haywood Waterways Association, Inc.

Aerial Survey To Aid In Improving Water Quality

What is an IPSI?

- a) an aquatic insect
- b) a Latin expression
- c) an acronym

For the past 3 years, volunteers have been faithfully gathering water quality information in many stream segments of Haywood County. It soon became evident that the water quality in the County was very variable, with stream conditions ranging from excellent to poor. Sediment and nutrients were identified as problems in many area streams. However, the results of the sampling told only a part of the story. More information was needed to help identify and quantify the sources of this pollution.

That is where IPSI comes in. It is an acronym for Integrated Pollutant Source Identification. After obtaining a grant from the Pigeon River Fund, the Haywood Waterways Association entered into a Cooperative Agreement with TVA to conduct an IPSI for the Pigeon River watershed in Haywood County. This agreement was executed in the spring of 1999, and the aerial photographs were taken in April.

The color infrared images were examined by photo analysts to identify geographic features that contribute to non-point source pollution within the watershed. For example, eroding stream banks that contribute sediment to the waterways were mapped. Many other features of interest were also identified including eroding road banks, disturbed areas, livestock operations, riparian zone condition, dump sites, percent of impervious cover, and other land use categories. The data generated from this inventory of landscape features are being analyzed by a desktop GIS (Geographic Information System) and computer models to estimate

pollutant loading by sources within the watershed. The modeling should be completed in February, 2000.

IPSI will provide a useful set of tools to help address water quality issues. It serves as a sound basis for requesting grant funds to reduce non-point sources. It helps focus local efforts on solving the most significant water quality issues in the County. Since the information is in a digitized database, analysis and project planning are more effective. On another level, it demonstrates the initiative of a forward looking County, committed to addressing local issues at a local level. Working together, we can make a real difference.

The IPSI information will soon be made available to interested residents of Haywood County. This four-letter acronym will be a

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key element of our efforts to maintain and improve the water quality of Pigeon River watersheds in Haywood County.

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



HWA Named Water Conservationist of the Year

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation has selected HWA to receive the Water Conservationist of the Year in the 1999 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards program. This awards program is sponsored by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation, and recognizes individuals and organizations that exemplify conservation achievement across the state.

The HWA officers and Executive Committee member, Joetta Rinehart, will attend the awards banquet in Raleigh, February 12, 2000, to accept our award. This is a tremendous honor and a testimonial to the benefits of citizens working together. Thank you to our Board, our members, and staff for all your hard work and support!

What A Year!

What a Year - What a Month! We have just completed our first year as a new non-profit membership organization and we couldn't be more pleased with the results! After only one year, we have 86 dues paying members, including 62 individuals and families, and 24 businesses and organizations. Thank you all for your tremendous support!



We educated our young people about the value of our water resources through the extremely popular Kids In The Creek event held in the spring. Our Technical Advisory Committee partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to conduct an inventory of nonpoint sources of pollution within the watershed. The information provided by the Integrated Pollutant Source Identification (IPSI) will enable us to develop a Watershed Action Plan to protect or improve water quality in our streams and lakes.

During the past few months, people throughout the state and region have noticed the great work being accomplished by our Association. At our Annual Meeting in October, TVA presented HWA with its Partner of the Year Award. In November, we were selected as one of three nonprofits to make presentations at a conference sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere organization.

January has been one incredible month! First we received a federal grant to develop our Watershed Action Plan and work with landowners to install soil erosion and pollution control measures to improve water quality. This will be a project carried out over several years.

We also received word that HWA was selected as the Water Conservationist of the Year by the NC Wildlife Federation. What an honor! If all this wasn't enough, we learned that Lake Logan and surrounding forestland will truly be saved for future generations to enjoy! Several of our members played key roles in saving this beautiful and valuable water resource. This project truly demonstrates what a small group of dedicated citizens can achieve!

I want to personally thank our board, committee members and all of you for making 1999 a year of great accomplishments!

Bill Eaker

Bill Eaker, President
Haywood Waterways Association, Inc.

HWA Receives Three Grants From The Pigeon River Fund

Haywood Waterways Association received three grants, totaling \$36,000 from the Pigeon River Fund during the Fall 1999 Cycle.

HWA received \$20,000 for administrative and operating expenses for the year 2000. These funds, along with the remaining 1999 Z. Smith Reynolds grant funds, will help fund us through much of the new year. Our Year 2000 operating budget projects \$4,245 in donations and contributions, so please remember HWA in your budget next year. Encourage your friends to joint HWA and remember HWA memberships make great gifts.

We also received \$6,300 for the Volunteer Water Information Network (VWIN) program. This will fund the current VWIN sites for 12 months, beginning December 1999. We will expand the program this year with additional sites. Watch for more information about VWIN and the Watershed Action Plan in future newsletters.

HWA Participates In Appalachian Conference

The tenth anniversary Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) Conference was held November 1-3, 1999 in Gatlinburg, TN. The conference theme this year was "Community Solutions." Eleven federal agencies and three states--Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee--were represented. The conference goal was for community stakeholders, resource managers, and researchers to discuss challenges, practical solutions, and needed actions that relate to the sustainability of the southern Appalachian environment, its culture and its communities.

The Haywood Waterways Association was one of three grassroots organizations selected to give a presentation on their community based programs and efforts to protect and preserve southern Appalachian natural resources. HWA Director, Ron Moser and HWA Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Burline Pullin gave a presentation on the Haywood County Integrated Pollutant Source Identification (IPSI) project currently underway, how our

partnerships made this project a reality and they told HWA's story.

The presentation focused on the progress we have made to identify non-point sources of water pollution, efforts to engage the public in our mission and how, working together, state, federal, and local agencies can cooperate with local citizens to preserve Haywood County's water resources.

It was an honor for HWA to be identified and chosen as a community solution. We have



made great progress here in Haywood County. Working together, we can protect our outstanding streams and do the things necessary to improve the degraded ones. It is a community effort that will succeed if we work together. So get involved and make a difference!



Recent grants will allow HWA to expand their educational programs, set up an internet site, and establish other programs aimed at improving Haywood County's water quality.

The third grant, in the amount of \$9,700, will enable us to expand our educational programs and establish an Internet site. We are working with the Waynesville Recreation Department to start a one to two week summer youth program at the new recreational facility on Richland Creek. This will be a pilot program with funding for two part-time teachers and an assistant position. We also are offering mini-grants to Haywood County Public Schools for water quality education projects and/or related equipment purchases. If you are interested in these programs, working on the Internet page or would like to be considered for the part-time positions, call Ron Moser at 452-9077 for additional information.

The HWA Board of Directors wishes to extend its sincerest thanks to the Pigeon River Fund for their continued support of HWA and water quality improvement in Haywood County.

Gordon Small Joins HWA As Project Manager

The Haywood Waterways Association is pleased to announce that Gordon Small has joined the Association as Project Manager. Gordon and his wife, Ginny, moved to Haywood County from Rockville, Maryland about 3- 1/2 years ago after Gordon retired from the USDA-Forest Service. Gordon has a forestry degree from the University of Maine. He served in several assignments with the Forest Service in locations that included Kentucky, Georgia, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Washington, DC. During his assignment in Wisconsin, he served as the Regional Watershed



Director for the Eastern Region of the Forest Service. Gordon can be reached at (828) 452-3323.

Gordon and Ginny live in the Balsam area of Haywood County and attend First Baptist Church in Waynesville.

- FEB. 11** -- Pigeon River Fund Meeting, Lambuth Inn, Lake Junaluska
- FEB. 12** -- Water Conservationist of the Year Award Ceremony, Raleigh, NC
- FEB. 17** -- HWA Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, Federal Bldg., 515 S. Haywood Street, Waynesville, 5 p.m.
- FEB. 22-23** -- DENR Draft French Broad Basinwide Water Quality Management Plan Public Meetings -- Regional High Tech Center on 2/23 (from 9 - 11 am) 112 Industrial Park Drive, Waynesville
- FEB. 24** -- Richland Creek Action Committee, Waynesville Recreation Center, 44 Boundary Street, 4:30 p.M.
- MARCH 7** -- HWA Board Meeting, SWNC RC & D Council, 367 Dellwood Road, Waynesville, 8 a.m.
- MARCH 15-16** -- Project Wild Workshop, River Bend Elementary, 71 Learning Lane, Clyde
- MARCH 16** -- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, Federal Building, Waynesville, 5 p.m.
- APRIL 4** -- HWA Board Meeting, SWNC RC & D Council, 367 Dellwood Road, Waynesville, 8 a.m.
- APRIL 12-13** -- Aquatic Wild Workshop, River Bend Elementary, 71 Learning Lane, Clyde
- APRIL 20** -- HWA Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, Federal Bldg., 515 S. Haywood Street, Waynesville, 5 p.m.

CALENDAR

Watershed Coalition Obtains Grant For Haywood County

A cooperative effort by several Haywood County conservation organizations and agencies has resulted in State approval of a grant in excess of \$250,000. The grant will enable the partnership to work with willing landowners to reduce non-point source water pollution in Haywood County. The NC Division of Water Quality approved this application on January 4, 1999. The grant comes from Section 319 funding provided by EPA. This award amount is tentative, as EPA must approve the dollar amount before any money can be spent. The estimated cost of this three-year project is \$479,300.

The Haywood Waterways Association (HWA) and the Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District, with assistance from several cooperating entities, are coordinating this project. Key partners include the Southwestern NC RC&D Council, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, TVA, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The HWA Technical Advisory Committee initiated the project in January of 1999. Using water quality information gathered by the Volunteer Water Information Network (VWIN) volunteers, the group began assessing the quality of Haywood County streams. This information, combined with other available data, indicated a wide range of water quality in local streams. It also indicated which streams had some of the more serious water quality problems and the nature of the pollutants in the stream. It confirmed that sediment, caused by soil erosion, continues to be the most significant non-point source pollutant.

As helpful as the data was, it did not indicate the sources of the sediment. Haywood Waterways Association obtained a \$73,500 grant from the Pigeon River Fund to conduct an Integrated Pollutant Source Identification (IPSI) project in cooperation with TVA. In April of 1999, TVA flew over the county and obtained color infrared

photography of the Pigeon River Watershed. These photographs were interpreted, and the surface water information digitized for computer analysis. The IPSI project is providing excellent information about the amounts and sources of the sediment -- such as eroding stream banks, degraded riparian zones, eroding pastures, and gravel roads.

The next step is to identify the most effective means of dealing with our water quality problems. Public participation will be an important part of this project. There will be a series of public meetings and discussions with local elected officials, state and federal agencies, and landowners. The results of this process will be documented in a Watershed Action Plan for Haywood County.

The majority of the funds will be used to assist in putting



water quality improvement practices on the ground. The Haywood Soil & Water Conservation District will lead this part of the project and work with landowners to design site specific improvements necessary to deal with the problems encountered. Landowner participation is voluntary and encouraged. Money has also been made available for additional water quality monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the practices. Additional VWIN volunteers will be needed.

If you would like more information about this project, you may contact HWA staff: Gordon Small at 828-452-3323 or Ron Moser at 828-452-9077 or the Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District at 828-452-2741. If you are interested in becoming a VWIN volunteer, please contact Dave Dudek at 828-627-4564 or Ron Moser.

Public participation is key to this project that will ultimately result in a Watershed Action Plan for Haywood County.

HWA Develops Year 2000 Management Plan

With the membership growth and program expansion HWA is experiencing, the Executive Committee felt a comprehensive management plan was needed. The proposed plan includes organizational goals, sets HWA's direction and clarifies areas of responsibility. The restructuring will best utilize the strengths of our staff, officers and volunteers. The final draft will be adopted at the next Executive Committee meeting in February.

Two personnel changes have been made for 2000. Ron Moser will now serve as Director, and focus on the management of HWA. He will be responsible for most of the administrative duties and the financial management of the organiza-

tion. Gordon Small will serve as Project Manager and be HWA's lead person for the EPA funded watershed demonstration project (see separate articles on this project and Gordon). He and Ron will work together with our partners to ensure this project is a success.

In addition to this project, Ron and Gordon will support one another on other projects as needed, assist the HWA committees and share in the grant writing duties. These are exciting times for HWA. With continued member support, we can expect even more for Haywood County.

Please note the new HWA phone numbers: 452-9077 and for Gordon Small 452-3323.



Members of the HWA Executive Committee including (from left to right) Bill Schaefer, Dave Dudek, Bill Eaker and Ron Moser. (Not pictured -- Joetta Rinehart)

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- Gordon Small
Project Manager



TO:

HAYWOOD WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION INC

P.O. Box 389, Waynesville, NC 28786
Our Thanks to the Pigeon River Fund for supporting HWA in this newsletter.
Design by Thomas Henschel & Associates

HAYWOOD WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION INC

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 () Individual \$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: 828-452-9077, or 828-452-3323.

Web Site: www.haywoodwaterways.org -- E-Mail: ronmoser@asap-com.com or gordons891@aol.com