

Maggie Valley Workshop and Planning Underway

On August 4, 2004, Billy Case, a member of the HWA Board of Directors and the Maggie Valley Planning Board, invited HWA to a public meeting with the Town's Planning Board. The discussion focused on water quality issues and the Town's zoning and development regulations. The Town was concerned with development within the critical area of the Maggie Valley Sanitary District's raw water intake structures (the critical area is within one-half mile of the water intake). They were seeking input from local individuals and groups with technical expertise in water quality issues. A workshop was planned as the next step.

The Maggie Valley Planning Board hosted the workshop on Aug 25, 2004. Attendees included several members of the HWA Technical Advisory Committee including Neil Carpenter from the Maggie Valley Sanitary District, Haywood County Planner Kris Boyd, Lynne Newton from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bill Yarborough from the Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District and Bill Eaker and Ron Moser also from HWA.

The aim of the workshop was to: 1) develop lines of communication between experts in the field of soil and water conservation and the Town's Planning Board, 2) allow open/creative discussions between the Planning Board and the panel of experts on the water quality issues facing Maggie Valley, and 3) gather current methods and ideas that will allow responsible growth while protecting the critical watershed areas.

In addition to protecting the public water supply, flooding and safety issues are very important considerations. Topography, soil characteristics, riparian buffers, the amount of impervious areas and storm water management must all be considered to properly evaluate the impact of a new development. The group urged the Planning Board to look at all these issues instead of just density of development. Using a combination of conservation practices (such as on-site mitigation) can often achieve the desired results while allowing higher density developments. As a result, the community's water supply is protected, the potential for flooding is reduced and the developer is able to use more of the building site. It can be a win-win situation.

In November, Maggie Valley Aldermen voted to protect a critical watershed area and adopted the county ordinance for erosion and sediment control. These standards are stricter than state law that covered the town. We commend the Planning Board for their efforts to improve and protect water quality in Maggie Valley.

Kids in the Creek Postponed

Due to the recent floods in Canton, the annual Kids in the Creek program has been postponed. The new dates are May 23 through May 26th, 2005. The program is usually conducted each fall at the Canton Recreation Park. Flood water destroyed park facilities and made river access very difficult in many areas. Alternate locations are being evaluated for the current eight grade classes. Hopefully the program for the 2005-2006 school year will be back at the Canton Park next fall.

Haywood Students Qualify for State Envirothon

Eight teams, the largest number yet from Haywood County, traveled to Deep Creek Campground at Bryson City on October 16th to compete in the Area I Envirothon. The Area Envirothon is sponsored each fall by the Area I Association of Conservation Districts, which is made up of the sixteen westernmost counties in North Carolina. Students rotate among five stations: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, and Current Environmental Issues. After lunch, they are tested as a group. Three to five students make up Envirothon teams, and the seven highest-scoring teams in each category – middle school and high school – are eligible to compete in the State Envirothon held in Burlington each spring. Fourteen middle schools and twenty-five high schools competed. When the final scores were announced, five of the top fourteen teams were from Haywood County schools. Waynesville Middle School took top honors, finishing first and second in the middle school division. The teams are sponsored in both the Area and the State Envirothon by the Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District, located in the USDA Service Center on Raccoon Road in Waynesville.

High School Qualifiers: Third Place: Tuscola's "Mountaineers" – Teacher advisors: Mark Ethridge, Amy Tiller and Sue Miller

Middle School Qualifiers: First Place: Waynesville Middle School's "Trek II-Krons" – Teacher advisor, Angie May; Second Place: Waynesville Middle School's "WMS Trek" – Teacher advisor, Jennifer Beasley; Fourth Place: Canton Middle School's "Clear Cutters" – Teacher advisor, Harold Shepard; Seventh Place: Canton Middle School's "Team Destruction": – Teacher advisor, Tim Shepard. -*Courtesy of Gail Heathman, Education Coordinator, Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District*



The first place winning middle school team, the "Trek II-Krons", from L-R, Sally Dixon, Keiffer Owens, Oliver Marth, Nick Teates, Rachel Sease.

Our webpage has been updated!
Be sure to check it out at
www.haywoodwaterways.org