



Summary of Accomplishments (1990-2010)

<p>Early 1990s</p>	<p>A meeting was held at Ogden School in Brasstown where reportedly more than 80 people showed up with concerns about Brasstown Creek.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the three Soil & Water Conservation Districts and four counties in the watershed to establish the Upper Hiwassee River Watershed Water Quality Coalition.</p> <p>First funding received from the NC Nonpoint Source Pollution program for best management practices. Andrew Blankenship in Clay County and Randolph Shields in Cherokee County were two of the first participants. Old homemade wooden signs are still up at their properties.</p>
<p>September 1995</p>	<p>Upper Hiwassee River Watershed Water Quality Coalition incorporated as the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, Incorporated in Towns County, GA.</p>
<p>1996</p>	<p>First office is established in the old Towns County Water Department building on Mining Gap Trail.</p>
<p>July 1997</p>	<p>Gil Nicolson hired as first employee – a part-time “Coordinator”</p>
<p>1998</p>	<p>A float trip was held on the Hiwassee River; Erosion control and stream dynamics workshops were held.</p>
<p>1999</p>	<p>Adopt-A-Stream volunteer water quality monitoring program began; First Lake Chatuge shoreline clean-up; Helped establish outdoor classroom at Hayesville High School.</p> <p>Awarded first NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$2.1 million for improving water quality in Brasstown Creek!</p>
<p>2000</p>	<p>First stream restoration project completed on Brasstown Creek (Mathot).</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>\$216,000 grant awarded by the GA legislature for study of Chatuge and Nottely.</p> <p>Lucy Cole Gratton & Bob Wallus are hired; Hosted a tour of farms and water quality-related practices.</p> <p>Oland stream restoration project on Brasstown Creek and at the John C. Campbell Folk School project on Little Brasstown Creek are completed.</p>
<p>2002</p>	<p>Held extensive public meetings all over the watershed; Lake studies ongoing; Extensive study of Valley River watershed biological communities.</p>
<p>January 2003</p>	<p>Callie Dobson hired as first full-time executive director.</p>
<p>2004</p>	<p>Second grant received from CWMTF for Little Brasstown Creek watershed; New Nottely volunteer monitoring team established; First grant for Valley River received; Began CREEK summer youth education program.</p>
<p>2005</p>	<p>Celebrated 10-year anniversary; began the Yunwi Gunahita Society.</p>
<p>2006</p>	<p>Tom Bennett became an active volunteer; started writing the WATR Column.</p>
<p>2005-2007</p>	<p>Peachtree-Martins Creek local watershed planning initiative; An intensive study of the Brasstown Creek restoration projects with recommendations for future maintenance and improvement.</p> <p>Funding from NC 319 and TVA to develop and hold riparian buffer planting workshops, develop and publish a series of educational fact sheets, and develop a workshop focused on mountain road building for local contractors.</p>
<p>May 2007</p>	<p>Lake Chatuge Watershed Action Plan completed, published.</p>
<p>2008</p>	<p>Tony Ward hired as first full-time restoration coordinator.</p> <p>Held first private access road building workshop for contractors; Valley River Watershed Action Plan completed.</p>

2009	Developed a riparian corridor plan for the Hiwassee & Valley Rivers to help guide a local land trust's conservation efforts; restoration project at Murphy High School completed; Hosted first Alternative Spring Break group from Michigan State University.
2010	Began restoration efforts in the Butternut Creek watershed; secured funding for a Lake Chatuge watershed coordinator; became a site host for the Bonner Leader program at Young Harris College, kicking-off a strong partnership with YHC that continues today.