



## Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, Inc.

### Summary of 2011 Accomplishments

#### Restoration Program

- ◆ Planted a 25-foot wide strip of native trees and shrubs along Butternut Creek at the Union County Farmers Market
- ◆ Completed a bank stabilization project at Murphy High School using bioengineering techniques
- ◆ Conducted riparian buffer enhancement, including eradicating invasive plants and planting native trees & shrubs, along 3.6 miles of streams in the Brasstown Creek watershed
- ◆ Hosted four Alternative Spring Break groups over three weeks in spring, generating nearly \$15,000 in matching funds for grants in addition to getting a ton of work done!
- ◆ Implemented a \$45,000 grant from the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership for habitat restoration in the Valley River watershed
- ◆ Contracted an engineering firm to develop restoration plans for 1,100 linear feet of Town Branch in Andrews, NC. [This is the first of three restoration projects to be conducted under a new \$150,000 NC Section 319 grant for the upper Valley River watershed.]
- ◆ Assisted the Hiwassee-Valley Land Trust with its efforts in the Hiwassee River watershed
- ◆ Hosted two Bonner Leaders from Young Harris College during the spring semester and FIVE during the fall semester, generating more than \$3,500 in matching funds in addition to getting a ton of work done and providing work experience for young adults!
- ◆ Continued our low cost no-till grain drill rental program
- ◆ Completely overhauled the landscaping in front of the other units on the lower side of our office complex (Peachtree Place) using native plants
- ◆ Assisted The Learning Center! charter school in Murphy, NC with its attempts to remove invasive plants and restore the buffer of a small creek
- ◆ Worked with Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA) on a grant application for a greenway trail along Town Creek
- ◆ Began planting native trees and shrubs in the conservation easement areas at the Cherokee County Heritage Park in Andrews, NC
- ◆ Developed a plan for stormwater management and installation of best management practices at the Ranger Community Center
- ◆ Responded to 10 landowner calls for technical assistance

#### Lakes Program

- ◆ Hosted a shoreline clean-up and workday to remove invasive plants on Lake Chatuge in conjunction with Young Harris College
- ◆ Made significant progress toward hiring a Lake Chatuge Watershed Coordinator (finalized contract with the State of Georgia, created a job description, and posted a job announcement!)

- ◆ Got the Ani'ama' volunteer water quality monitoring program back in full swing – volunteers sampled March-November in both the Lake Nottely and Lake Chatuge watersheds under the new EQI program
- ◆ Provided assistance for the Hiwassee Lake Litter Sweep

### Education Program

- ◆ Held three “Day at the C.R.E.E.K.” summer youth education events; 35 students participated, bringing the total number of youth served by the C.R.E.E.K. program to 108! This was an especially important accomplishment because this program was cut in 2010 due to lack of funding.
- ◆ Assisted with the Clay County Soil & Water Conservation District Field Day
- ◆ Participated in an event organized by the Eastern Band of Cherokee to re-build a native fish trap on the Nottely River and educate youth about streams and water quality
- ◆ Worked extensively with other nonprofit organizations in southwestern NC on a regional erosion and sediment control education initiative
- ◆ Made seven community presentations – 2 in Cherokee; 1 in Clay; 2 in Towns; and 2 in Union Co.
- ◆ Assisted with the Union County Middle School Appalachian Trail outdoor education events
- ◆ Co-hosted a lecture (with LTLT and the Robbinsville Museum) on Cherokee history in Cherokee and Clay counties

### Organizational Development & Outreach

- ◆ Made substantial changes to the chart of accounts in QuickBooks to insure accurate and transparent recording of grant revenues and expenditures
- ◆ Completely overhauled the membership database to insure accuracy and consistency
- ◆ Developed new business membership recruitment materials and renewal reminders
- ◆ Formed two new board committees (Publicity/Membership & Board Recruitment) and made good progress with each
- ◆ Held our second Annual Meeting, doubling the attendance of the 2010 event
- ◆ Updated our Facebook page weekly and brought the number of “Likes” up from 18 to 85!
- ◆ Held three fundraisers – Holman Water Quality Stewardship Award Banquet, Spring Lakes Celebration (wine tasting), and Trout Dinner
- ◆ Bought into a new web site program that will allow multiple people in multiple locations to update our web site online – without the need to install additional software
- ◆ Began to plan a extensive 4-year drive to increase our base of local operating support