



Summary of 2012 Accomplishments

Lakes Program

- ◆ Hired a full-time coordinator for implementation of the Lake Chatuge Watershed Action Plan!
- ◆ Worked with the City of Hiawassee to develop and adopt a stormwater ordinance – the first such tool to be used by a local government in the Hiwassee River watershed!
- ◆ Established guidelines for a septic system repair program in cooperation with the Towns Co. Health Department and began repairing leaking and failing septic systems
- ◆ Initiated a pilot project for agricultural best management practices on a livestock operation and began recruiting for an advisory committee to help prioritize and select future agriculture projects
- ◆ Successfully transitioned our volunteer monitoring program over to Georgia Adopt-A-Stream; held two training workshops; and certified 14 volunteers in both physical/chemical and bacterial monitoring!
- ◆ Secured funding from Union Co. for Nottely bacterial monitoring program for 2013.
- ◆ Entered into a new partnership with Towns County High School to train 9th graders in biological and physical/chemical monitoring – trained about 60 this year!
- ◆ Assisted with a Chatuge shoreline clean-up in spring and organized a Rivers Alive clean-up on Lake Chatuge in the fall
- ◆ Helped publicize Lake Nottely Improvement Association's events and clean-ups
- ◆ Provided assistance for the Hiwassee Lake Big Sweep event

Restoration Program

- ◆ With help from more than 45 volunteers from six local groups, planted 2,500 native trees and shrubs and created more than eight acres of new riparian habitat in the conservation easement areas at the Cherokee County Heritage Park in Andrews, NC
- ◆ Completed stream restoration activities along 1,100 linear feet of Town Branch and developed stormwater management plans for the upstream end of the stream flowing into the park.
- ◆ Continued monitoring and maintenance along Butternut Creek at the Union County Farmers Market, including eradication of nonnative invasive plants on the opposite side of the creek
- ◆ Conducted riparian buffer enhancement, including eradicating invasive plants and planting native trees & shrubs, along 4.7 miles of streams in the Brasstown Creek and Valley River watersheds
- ◆ Hosted three Alternative Spring Break groups over three weeks in spring, generating more than \$17,000 in matching funds for grants in addition to getting a ton of work done!
- ◆ Facilitated a \$16,000 grant from the Partners for Fish & Wildlife program for riparian and aquatic habitat enhancements on LTLT's Welch Farm property on Valley River in Marble, NC.
- ◆ Secured \$145,000 of new funding for restoration work in the Valley River watershed for 2013-14 from the NC Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution program.
- ◆ Hosted two Bonner Leaders from Young Harris College during the spring semester and FOUR 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!

- ◆ Helped facilitate a project to install a canoe launch on Nottely River in the Ranger community and developed comprehensive plans for public access along all major rivers
- ◆ Continued our low cost no-till grain drill rental program
- ◆ 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 restoration plan for a short reach of Town Creek
- ◆ Worked with Heritage Partners/Murphy Riverwalk on eradication of nonnative invasive plants along Valley and Hiwassee Rivers
- ◆ Responded to eight landowner calls for technical assistance

Education Program

- ◆ Participated in the GA Mountain Research & Education Center's environmental education days, providing the interactive activity, "Everyone Lives Upstream!" for 415 students from eight schools in five counties in two states!
- ◆ Held two "Day at the C.R.E.E.K." summer youth education events; 20 students participated, bringing the total number of youth served by the C.R.E.E.K. program to 128!
- ◆ Secured \$2,500 in funding for the C.R.E.E.K./education program
- ◆ Taught Hiwassee Dam High Schools' Advanced Placement environmental science class about biological water quality indicators and sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates
- ◆ Assisted The Learning Center! charter school with its "Art in Education" week by heading up their "Aquatic Animals" lesson
- ◆ Participated in Union County Cooperative Extension's environmental field day at Vogel State Park on May 21.
- ◆ Helped train the Ranger Middle School Envirothon teams, one of which went to the state Envirothon competition!
- ◆ Worked extensively with other nonprofit organizations in southwestern NC on a regional erosion and sediment control education initiative and secured funding to develop a standard curriculum for training grading contractors locally!
- ◆ Established a new relationship with Tri-County Early College and began implementation of a service learning project in the McComb Branch watershed
- ◆ Made six community presentations – 2 in Cherokee; 1 in Clay; 2 in Towns; and 1 in Union Co.

Planning & Organizational Development

- ◆ Increased membership in the organization, adding 50 new members! (as of Dec 18)
- ◆ Developed and implemented a community outreach and social media marketing plan
- ◆ Secured a 2-year organizational development grant from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to help bridge the gap left by loss of TVA operating support funding
- ◆ Entered into a new partnership with Cherokee County government for office space in Murphy
- ◆ Updated our Facebook page at least weekly and brought the number of "Likes" up from 85 to 194!
- ◆ Engaged community leaders in the nominating process and filled several vacancies on the board of directors