



## 2018 State of the Water Program Area Highlights – Whole Watershed

### Monitor

#### 2017-18 Highlighted Past Accomplishments

- Conducted three water chemistry and three bacterial workshops, training 30 new volunteers! We also located and assigned sites, continuing to provide support until volunteers got comfortable with procedures for most of these folks.
- Held six re-certification workshops, renewing annual certifications for 25 existing volunteers
- Brittaney Dyer, a 3-year volunteer sampling Upper Nottely River and Stink Creek, won Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's Volunteer of the Year in March. She is our second team member to win that award.
- Secured grant funding to purchase a complete set of equipment to be housed in Hayesville
- In addition to our Adopt-A-Stream program, we assisted the GA Department of Natural Resources and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission with sicklefin redhorse sampling by making landowner contacts and helping install monitoring equipment on Brasstown Creek, Valley River and Nottely River.

#### 2018-19 Proposed Future Work Plan Highlights

- Conduct targeted monitoring in the Upper Bell watershed
- Establish a new equipment check-out location in Hayesville, NC, for a total of five locations across the four counties
- Increase funding to purchase more AAS sampling equipment (we'd also like to have a check-out location in Andrews, NC)
- Continue to assist with state agency efforts to collect more fish and macroinvertebrate population data in our watershed

# Restore

## 2017-18 Highlighted Accomplishments

- In December 2017, completed a bank stabilization project along Tatham Creek at the Valley River Park in Andrews, NC
- Continued with Phase II of the Corn Creek Riparian Enhancement Project on the Young Harris College campus, with two tree planting workdays in January and November and foliar spraying of invasive exotic plants during the growing season. This project is in partnership with the YHC Student Government Association, which is actually funding the work!
- Coordinated planting of more than 400 native trees and shrubs along a small tributary to the Nottely River flowing through the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center campus. Volunteers from the GMREC and our alternative breaks program worked together on the project.
- Created vegetation management plans for Marble Springs Outdoor Education Area in Cherokee County and Lloyd's Landing and Mayor's Park for the City of Hiawassee and began implementation.
- Responded to 10 calls for technical assistance, three of which led to riparian enhancement projects and one fairly large shoreline stabilization project on Lake Chatuge that will likely be implemented in winter 2019.

## 2018-19 Proposed Work Plan Highlights

- Seek funding to implement stormwater management practices at Hinton Center on Lake Chatuge
- Implement the vegetation management plans at Marble Springs Outdoor Education Area (Marble, NC) and Lloyd's Landing and Mayor's Park (Hiawassee, GA)
- Continue implementation of recommended bank stabilization and riparian enhancement activities along Town Creek (Hayesville) and Lake Chatuge (Clay Co) that stemmed from technical assistance calls in 2018
- Begin outreach and hold workshops as part of the Southeastern Hellbender Conservation Initiative
- Continue working in partnership with Young Harris College to improve the riparian area and stream habitat along Corn Creek

# Educate

## 2017-18 Highlighted Accomplishments

- Hosted the initial kick-off field day for Tri-County Early College's 10-week Water program focus, rotating 146 students through seven sessions, including a 30-minute canoeing session on Hiwassee Lake at the confluence of Hiwassee and Valley Rivers
- Mentored nine student groups during the 10-week project development period.
- Also new this year, we presented our Beginnings of Aquatic Food Chains activity during the Towns County Outdoor Expo on the first weekend in April
- Co-hosted Kids in the Creek at Fires Creek for the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Hayesville Middle School for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year
- Raleigh received certification through the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) program

## 2018-19 Proposed Work Plan Highlights

- Seek funding/partnerships for a Lake Chatuge educational kiosk along US 64 in NC
- Continue to provide/expand the Kids in the Creek program
- Continue to participate in partner field days (e.g. GMREC, Soil & Water Conservation Districts) and to work with various disciplines at Young Harris and other area colleges
- Provide streambank stabilization courses and other adult education seminars

## Connect

### 2017-18 Highlighted Accomplishments

- Since the Art, River & Music Festival in Murphy is no more, we hosted a new event this year called Fun on the Valley in order to continue offering the opportunity for free canoe and kayak trips on Hiwassee Lake. Cub Scout Pack 400 took full advantage of the opportunity and we had a great time providing activities for 14 youth and 12 adults on that July day.
- Also new this year, we hosted a summer nature walk series that included at least one walk in each of the four counties in the watershed from June through October. One person new to HRWC actually participated in three of the five walks!
- Continued our very popular Alternative Breaks Program! In 2018, 26 volunteers from three universities in two states donated a total of 750 hours to the HRWC restoration program, for a total donation valued by the IRS at \$ 18,105. The value of this program is actually priceless in terms of the work that gets done maintaining our past stream restoration projects.
- Organized the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Chatuge Shoreline clean-up – 90 volunteers, 270 hours, and 3,000 (1.5 tons) pounds of trash collected. The challenge is on for Saturday, November 3!

### 2018-19 Proposed Work Plan Highlights

- Continue to host Alternative Break projects and community volunteer workdays
- Organize the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Chatuge Shoreline Cleanup and coordinate with/assist other groups for organized litter sweep efforts
- Host more “Get To Know Your Watershed” outings

## Other/Organizational Development

### 2017-18 Highlighted Accomplishments

- Continued involvement with the Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership
- Assisted MountainTrue with hosting, and served on the panel for, a discussion of the forest management planning process in Andrews. Very successful. Good attendance, including three local elected officials
- Reviewed the proposed Buck Project in the headwaters of Shooting Creek (Clay Co) and summarized concerns...watching for the EA which was supposed to be released months ago.
- Exerted pressure on the owners/managers of Ridgefield Farm (Brasstown Beef) to improve pasture conditions and water quality associated with the operation
- Began work to expand the major donor program
- Continued the very successful Fall Native Tree/Shrub Sale Fundraiser that we started last year...get your plant price list and order form here!

### 2018-19 Proposed Work Plan Highlights

- Continue working to ensure improved water quality in the Little Brasstown Creek watershed
- Investigate sources of high E.coli in the Upper Bell Creek watershed and seek funding for improvements
- Continue work with the Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership and involvement in projects on public lands
- Expand major donor program for greater financial sustainability
- Continue to build and engage membership
- Work with other organizations to explore ways to expand capacity