

Waterway Views

"It's Crystal Clear & Starts Right Here - Our Water"
The Quarterly Newsletter of the Haywood Waterways Association, Inc.

We Want to Hear From You

Haywood Waterways just released a survey to gauge the public's opinions about Haywood County's waterways, as well as us as an organization. Thanks to Dr. Kathleen Brennan and her students at Western Carolina University for creating it; they'll also be evaluating the data. The information will be valuable for helping us and our partners focus our technical and financial resources.

The survey only takes about 10 minutes and is completely anonymous unless you choose to reveal your name. The electronic version is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HWApublicsurvey>. Contact Eric Romaniszyn at info@haywoodwaterways.org or 828-476-4667 for a hard copy.

Welcome Tim! Thank you Lauren!

Tim Petrea is the new President of Haywood Waterways Association. Tim works as Program Supervisor at the Waynesville Recreation Center, where engaging participants in outdoor experiences, especially around water, are common. When asked about his new role and responsibilities with Haywood Waterways, Tim said, "We are blessed in Haywood County to be a headwaters county, this is an amazingly special responsibility and gift. As a recreation programmer, I am thankful that we have many streams running along many of our trails in this county. These make for very relaxing hiking, picnicking, reading, and other recreational opportunities. As President of Haywood Waterways, I look forward to working with everyone to help spread our reach and protect our waterways."



Tim first joined the Board of Directors in 2015 and is replacing outgoing President Lauren Bishop, who served from 2015 to 2017. Tim recognizes he has big shoes to fill. Lauren's outgoing personality and dedication to Haywood Waterways and clean water certainly set high standards. Even though she is stepping down as President, Lauren will remain on the Board of Directors. Thank you, Lauren and Tim, for your service to the community and clean water.

Lucas Cody Wins T-shirt Contest

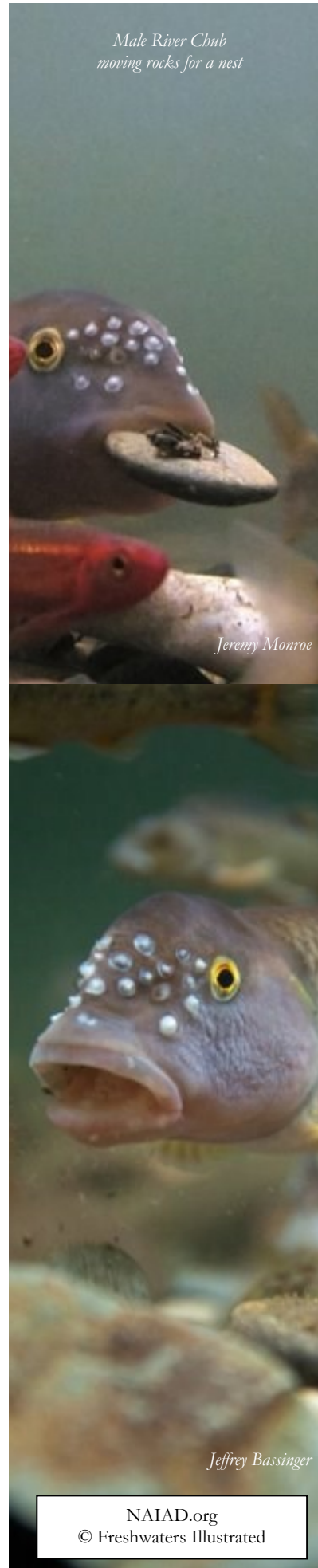
This year's winner of our Kids in the Creek t-shirt design contest was Lucas Cody of Bethel Middle School. Lucas will have his artwork printed on 650 t-shirts for this fall's Kids in the Creek participants. Lucas also received a Visa gift card from HomeTrust Bank and was given a private tour of Rikki Tikki Tees Screen Printing and Design shop and a demonstration of the manufacturing process. First and second runners up were Kaylee Grace Leatherwood of Bethel Middle School and Skylar Camby of Canton Middle School. Kaylee received a gift certificate to Jukebox Junction Restaurant & Soda Shoppe and Skylar received a gift certificate to Jack the Dipper Ice Cream Parlor.

Although this was Lucas' first time entering and winning an art contest, his artwork has not gone unnoticed. Lucas is designing the yearbook cover for Bethel Middle School and designed the logo for a non-profit organization working with a Hattian orphanage. "It is hard for me to think of a time when he didn't have a note pad and pens in his hands," said Jennifer Cody, Lucas' mother. "Drawing just comes naturally to him."

After Rick Thomas, owner of Rikki Tikki Tees, demonstrated how to print a t-shirt, Lucas jumped in and printed several for his family. When asked what inspired his design, Lucas replied, "I just picked out one thing that I remembered from each station and incorporated it into one logo."



Rick Thomas (left) and Lucas Cody show off the winning design.



Male River Chub moving rocks for a nest

Jeremy Monroe

Jeffrey Bassinger

NAIAD.org
© Freshwaters Illustrated

Welcome to our newest members:

- Bucky and Judy Dykes
- Kay and Lindsey Kirkman
- Debra Savage
- Brian and Joslyn Schaefer
- Elizabeth Teague

Thank you for supporting clean water in Haywood County!

Our thanks to the Pigeon River Fund of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina for supporting HWA

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P.O. Box 389, Waynesville, NC 28786



It's Crystal Clear and Starts Right Here....Our Water Membership and Donation Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Business Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Profession/Occupation/Organization _____

1-Year Membership Dues: (please circle; 10% off for 2-year membership)
Brook Trout \$1,000 Hellbender \$500 Dragonfly \$200 Stonefly \$100 Mayfly \$50 Caddisfly \$25 Tadpole (student) \$10

In addition, here's my contribution to support:
Joetta Rinehart Endowment Fund: \$ _____ Kids in the Creek Fund: \$ _____ Water Restoration Fund: \$ _____

Write Check Payable to: Haywood Waterways Association, PO Box 389, Waynesville, NC 28786

Credit cards accepted at: www.haywoodwaterways.org

Please Recycle - Pass to a Friend

Recognizing Our Water Heroes



John Ottinger, NRCS (left) and Duane Vanhook, SWCD

At the annual meeting we were very pleased to honor five “Water Heroes” for their work to protect and improve Haywood County’s rivers, streams, and reservoirs in 2017. The Pigeon River Award is given to the individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to protecting Haywood County’s land and water resources. However, this year we broke tradition and gave it to a project - the Dotson Branch Stream Corridor Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Project, a multi-partner, large-scale effort that is having tremendous impact on the county’s waterways. The project is locally managed by the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service and Haywood County Soil & Water Conservation District.

From the mouth of the stream at the Pigeon River to the top of the watershed, Dotson Branch flows through primarily agricultural land. Water quality was extremely degraded by sediment and nutrient loading from livestock, and there was very little stream side vegetation to help filter pollutants. The solutions included restoring 10,000 linear feet of stream channel to proper hydraulic function, stabilizing 18,600 linear feet of eroding stream bank, planting 10.7 acres of stream side trees and shrubs, and fencing 3.5 miles of stream bank to exclude livestock access.

John Ottinger, Supervisory Soil Conservationist with NRCS, said, “Thanks to the farmers who were willing to participate and improve water quality. To date, over \$1 million has been secured and is being used for solutions that are improving water quality and protecting valuable farmland.”

The Big Creek Award for Partner of the Year was presented to Lynn Sprague from the Southwestern NC Resource Conservation & Development Council. Lynn was recognized as one of our primary partners, helping to develop projects and manage grants. Most recently these projects include working to remove a dam and creating a Watershed Action Plan for Beaverdam Creek; starting the Fines Creek Watershed Restoration Project to remove it from the state list of impaired waterways; implementing stormwater collection and treatment practices in Maggie Valley to help protect Jonathans Creek; and starting stream restoration projects at East Street Park and Chestnut Park in Waynesville.



Lynn Sprague, RC&D Council

Volunteers are an essential part of our community. They help promote our work, collect water quality information, and help protect waterways through such activities as planting trees, picking up trash and stenciling storm drains. The Volunteer of the Year Award was renamed this year in memory of the late Richard T. Alexander, long-time member and active volunteer throughout Haywood County. This year’s went to three individuals, Bob Kimzey and the husband and wife team of Les and Julie Taylor.

Bob was recognized for his service collecting water samples as part the Volunteer Water Information Network. He was responsible for the Plott and Allens creeks sites and faithfully sampled them once a month between 2008 and 2017 before retiring this year. Julie and Les are new members and are already having a big impact. They collect water samples for the VWIN program and have participated in multiple stream clean-ups. They also frequently help with other opportunities and even recruit new members to join the organization.

Financial support for the membership dinner and awards was provided by Derric and Donna Brown, Yvonne Kolomechuk/Keller Williams Great Smokies, Pigeon River Fund of the Community Foundation of Western NC, Town of Clyde, and Town of Waynesville.

Nature Corner: Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*)

When people think of migrations they may likely think of birds, but did you know some dragonfly species migrate? The Common Green Darner is among a small group of migratory dragonflies. You can find them throughout North America during the summer months, but in the fall the migrate to Central and South America where they lay eggs and die leaving their offspring to make the return flight. These large dragonflies have a 5” wing span and can be 3 to 4” in length. Males have a bright blue abdomen making it easy to differentiate them from females with green to purple-brown abdomens. Females choose their mate based on who controls the best egg laying habitat. Once the brief courtship concludes, the female attaches her eggs to vegetation just underwater in a pond or slow moving stream. The eggs hatch into nymphs where they remain in the water and consume other insects, crustaceans, small fish and tadpoles. The nymph stage lasts one to three years before it emerges as an adult. As adults, Common Green Darners feed on flying insects including mosquitos and midges. Their population is considered stable throughout its range.



Photo: K. Schneider (from Creative Commons, it is not an endorsement of Haywood Waterways or our work)



Les and Julie Taylor



Bob Kimzey

Board Welcomes New Director – Brian Schaefer



Brian Schaefer is an attorney with Griffin & Schaefer, P.A. who practices in the areas of elder and special needs law, estate planning, and estate administration. Brian has lived in Waynesville for about a year and half. His wife Joslyn is the Rector of Grace Church in the Mountains in Waynesville. Brian and Joslyn have two children, Elias (9) and Susannah (2), and the entire family has welcomed the move to Waynesville and enjoyed the beauty of its natural surroundings. As a first career, Brian taught philosophy at the college level and was particularly interested in the area of moral philosophy, and he considers it to be a natural extension of that background to be engaged in issues that concern the local environment and natural world. For that reason and others, Brian is grateful to be a part of Haywood Waterways Association.

The Plunge!

Water temperature = 54°F; 134 Plungers

Total raised = \$28,000. Thank you to the Haywood County Schools who alone raised \$5,150, including Bethel Middle School, Canton Middle School, Haywood Community Learning Center, Pisgah High School, Shining Rock Classical Academy, Tuscola High School, and Waynesville Middle School. We want to give very special thanks to the **Town of Canton** for hosting The Plunge and use of the **Champion Credit Union Aquatics Center**.

Thank you to the community teams that Plunged: Maggie Valley, Beverly Hanks Realty Group, Haywood Regional Medical Center, Skyland Camp for Girls, Champion Credit Union, REMAX Executive, A Small Miracle, Haywood Community College Natural Resource, Town of Waynesville, Smoky Mountain Roller Girls, Miss Asheville, Blue Ridge Valley, WCU Pageants, Elizabeth Chapel UMC, Single Stop, Town of Canton, and the Haywood County Gleaners.

We also want to thank those that donated their time and services to make it another great day: A Shot Above of WNC, WLOS News 13/WMYA MY40 and Jason Boyer as emcee, DJ Master P (Frank Pollifrone), Jim Blythe for the fire pits, WNC Tents, and media coverage from Mountaineer Newspaper, Smoky Mountain News, Laurel of Asheville Magazine, and WISE Sports Radio.

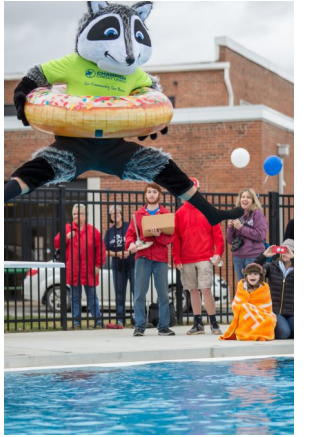


Photo by Killillay Photography

Polar Bear Sponsors

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Stonefly Sponsors (continued)

Keller Williams Great Smokies - Yvonne Kolomechuk, Gina Kinder, and Chris Forga
Maggie Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
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Smoky Mountain Dentistry
Taylor Ford
Town of Maggie Valley
United Community Bank
Proben Enterprises, Inc
Town of Clyde
Waynesville Properties/
The Boyd Family



Thanks to Aaron Mabry for the great new logo!

Recent Events

- Haywood Soil & Water Conservation District Poster and Speech Contest Judging (Feb. 5-6)
- The Plunge! (Feb. 17)
- HSWCD EnviroThon Aquatics Station (Mar. 23)
- Rough Creek Watershed Hike (Mar. 24)
- HCC storm drain stenciling (Mar. 28)
- North Canton Elementary Field Days (Apr. 5)
- Invasive plant removal at Vance Street Park (Apr. 13)
- Big Creek Wildflower hike (Apr. 14)
- Richland Creek stream clean-up (Apr. 21)
- State of the Watershed lecture (Apr. 24)
- Rain barrel construction workshop (Apr. 26)
- Riparian Food Forest Systems lecture (Apr. 26)
- All About Septic Systems lecture (Apr. 27)
- Recycle and Be a Winner (Apr. 28)