

from the Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District led the Enviroscape presentation.

Kids in the Creek is a memorable experience for all the students; we always hear from those students that have been through the program how it was one of their best experiences in eighth grade! This event requires a lot of planning and coordination to ensure its success. Thanks to Haywood County schools, all the instructors and chaperones, the Lake Logan Episcopal Center, Lake Logan VFD, Haywood County Rescue Squad and the towns of Canton and Waynesville for providing access to their parks. Funding for Kids in the Creek is provided by the Great Smoky Mountain Trout Festival and the Pigeon River Fund.

It was a Great Year for Grants!

HWA and our partners received \$1,538,410 in grants. Grants were received from the Pigeon River Fund, Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Institute for Conservation Leadership, Mott Foundation, EPA 319 Program, and BassPro.

Most of the funds will go to construction projects to reduce non-point source pollution, including innovative storm water designs at the new Bethel Elementary school. HWA is responsible for the school storm water project. Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District designed and will supervise the construction projects. Funds from the PRF and EPA 319 program will go towards a new Integrated Pollutant Source Identification data set. Funds from the Community Foundation, Institute for Conservation Leadership, and Mott Foundation are being used for the Strategic Planning process. BassPro gave a significant discount towards the purchase of new waders for the Kids in the Creek program.


The remaining funds are being used for administrative and operating expenses to support us through much of the new year. Our Year 2006 operating budget projects \$7,950 dues and contributions, so please remember HWA in your budget next year. Encourage your friends to join HWA and remember HWA memberships make great gifts!


The HWA Board of Directors wishes to extend its sincerest thanks to all those contributing funds to help maintain and improve water quality in Haywood County, especially the Pigeon River Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for their continued support.


Looking for more info on
Haywood Waterways?
Check out the webpage—
www.haywoodwaterways.org

Event Summary

As with every newsletter, there is not enough space to fully cover every event. Below are a few highlights since the Summer 2005 newsletter:

 **It's Our Water workshop:** HWA helped Gary Peeples with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Susan Sachs with the National Park Service (Great Smoky Mountains National Park) host a workshop for western North Carolina teachers. The program is designed to increase water education in the curriculum of western North Carolina public schools. The event was well attended by teachers from around the region.

 **Flood Recovery Assistance:** HWA helped the County and the National Emergency Grant Program supervise work teams assigned to cleaning up debris from the floods last fall. The program was designed to employ workers displaced as a result of the floods.

 **Conservation Field Day:** HWA helped the Haywood Soil & Water Conservation District host its 24th Conservation Field Day for 5th graders in October at the Mountain Resource Station. The field day is a major production with 623 students attending over a two-day period. This year presented more challenges than most, including a rain delay and a school system order to cancel field days due to the cost of fuel. The challenges were overcome and the kids loved every minute of hearing about minerals, wildlife, trees, the water cycle and several other topics. One fifth grader wrote: "I personally think your field trip rocks the heavens!" That tells me we are giving the kids exactly what we want them to have, an exciting day filled with learning, fun and sunshine in a farm atmosphere that seems far, far away from a classroom. *Contributed by Gail Heathman. Gail works as Education Coordinator for the Haywood Soil & Water Conservation District.*



Students demonstrating awe at the water cycle! (Photo by Kathy Boydston)