



STORMWATER steward

A Stormwater SMART publication

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PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

FIRST ANNUAL ALAMANCE CREEK WEEK

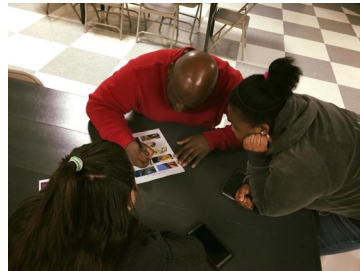
Staff at Stormwater SMART took on the exciting challenge of pioneering the first annual Creek Week in Alamance County, NC, held from March 17th-24th this year! Our AmeriCorps Member, Lauren Huffstetler, took the lead on coordinating this week-long event focusing on the importance of healthy waters. Encouraging residents to take ownership of their watershed, Creek Week offered opportunities for individuals to volunteer in cleaning up their local creeks as well as educational and fun events that encouraged them to learn about water quality, water pollution, and even where their drinking water comes from. We kicked off the week with a Saturday full of litter cleanups all across the county. Partnering with local non-profits, businesses, schools, and municipal departments, we collected over 6,000 pounds of trash from creeks, parks, and



Volunteers from the Little Alamance Creek Cleanup on March 17th hosted by the Healthy Streams Cooperative.

school campuses. Creek Week participants could also sign up to attend water and wastewater treatment plant tours to get an inside look at how their drinking water gets to their faucet and where it goes to be treated once used. Pictured below, Graham residents and Girl Scout Troop

#2517 came out to learn where our water goes when we flush the toilet or wash our hands at the Graham Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour event. Throughout the week, we also hosted water-themed trivia nights at both pubs and youth centers in the area to target a variety of age groups. Trivia questions centered around local water facts and even included a 'Name That Song' round, featuring popular songs with the water theme.



The Brown Family tests their water knowledge at Thataways Youth Center's Creek Week Trivia Night in Burlington.

If you wanted to learn more about rain gardens for managing stormwater or composting to keep your soils healthy, we had educational workshops hosted by NC State Cooperative Extension and the Soil & Water Conservation District throughout the week addressing these issues, creating an opportunity for the public to become more aware of how they can play an active role in reducing water pollution. To round out

Creek Week with a fun event, NC Wildlife Resources Commission partnered with us to host a Family Fishing Fun day at Graham-Mebane Lake. Families could come learn how to rig their fishing lines, tie on their hooks using a clinch knot, and cast. They learned about the fish species living in the lake and how human impact could affect the aquatic life in this area. Attendees were provided with free fishing for the day as well.

The 1st annual Alamance Creek Week offered almost 30 events and activities, each of equal importance in creating awareness for this cause. Most events were provided at no cost to participants, allowing everyone to get involved in some way. Prizes and giveaways were raffled off, including gifts cards and our hugely popular Creek Week t-shirts. Over 1,400 individuals participated in Creek Week events this year, all receiving education on the importance of protecting our water resources. We look forward to next year to make Creek Week even bigger and better!

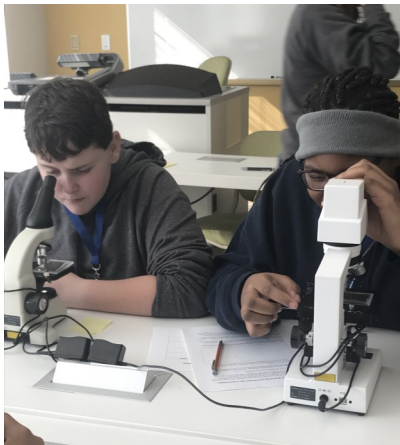


Sisters flaunt their Creek Week t-shirts!

UNCG BRIDGES SATURDAY ACADEMIES

UNCG's Heidi Carlone, PhD hosted a series of "BRIDGES Saturday Academies", which stands for BRoadening Identities for Diverse Groups Engaging in STEM Design Principals) with help from a \$1 million National Science Foundation grant.

The goal of the program was to create a teaching model that would engage students in socioenvironmental problems relevant today even if they didn't have an interest in science directly. The program focused on stormwater issues and involved students from Rockingham, Guilford, and Randolph counties. The Acade-



Students check out slides of bacteria found in a nearby wetland on campus.

mies began on Saturday, February 24th, reoccurring every following Saturday until March 17th. Students were placed into interest groups, including conservationists, altruists, analysts, strategists, engineers, designers and "tinkerers" based on their own interests and perspective. Using different approaches based on these groups, students attacked the stormwater issue to come up with some of their own solutions. The students were given the opportunity to learn field ecology, engineering, and science communication techniques with the help of Stormwater SMART. Exposing them to these different topics would help them reach the ultimate goal of identifying areas on UNCG's campus where stormwater innovations could be used.

Activities included a stormwater scavenger hunt where students had to find stormwater management practices already implemented across the campus. Stormwater SMART co-facilitated the field ecology and engineering groups, with the help of additional EnviroScapes from the City of Greensboro Water Resources Department and the Yadkin River Keeper. "These middle school youth



BRIDGES participants search for macroinvertebrates collected using a kick-seine net in a campus stream.

were delving into, problem-solving and putting emotional and intellectual energy into stormwater. I mean, stormwater!" said Dr. Heidi Carlone, professor of science education and the Hooks Distinguished Professor of STEM Education. Allowing students to be creative and use their own passions to work through a problem yields an effective result. At the last Saturday Academy, the students presented their findings and ideas in an open-to-the-public science fair.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

The highest award that a Girl Scout can earn is the Gold Award. This award requires the Girl Scout to complete several requirements, all which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. "As a Gold Award Girl Scout, you're challenged to change the world—or at least your corner of it," according to the Gold Award guidelines. Stormwater SMART is thrilled to serve as the Project Advisor for Troop # 40665's Olivia Soto-

Allison for her Gold Award Project, *H2O Detectives: In Search of Clean Water*. As the project advisor, we will guide Olivia through the multitude of ways that she can determine water quality by testing for chemical and biological factors, and doing bio-indicators assessments. She will utilize the information she gathers to educate local citizens about water quality in her area and the steps they can take to protect and enhance water quality.



Earth Day Paddle Cleanup in Haw River

Join Stormwater SMART for a paddle cleanup in honor of Earth Day on Friday, April 20th!

Participants must be 16 or older, and you must register to sign-up. Boats will be launched on the Haw River at the Red Slide Park Access in Haw River, NC. We will do some on-foot trash collection around the access and then head upstream from the access in kayaks to cleanup any debris in the water or surrounding areas.

Boat rentals have been sponsored by River Run Outfitters, so there will be no charge to participants. However, there is a limited number of kayaks, so reserve your spot now! If you would like to bring your own boat, that works too--just let us know!

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren at lhuffstetler@ptrc.org or 336-904-0300 ext. 8006. You must register by using the Eventbrite registration provided on our Facebook Event listing or by contacting Lauren.

Snacks and water will be provided for volunteers. We hope to see you out on the river!

Boats & supplies provided but limited space available. Contact Lauren at lhuffstetler@ptrc.org or 336-904-0300 ext. 8006 to register.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PIEDMONT TRIAD WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP

Summer is just around the corner, and you know what that means for us here at Stormwater SMART? You guessed it . . . summer library programs! Last year, we developed a summer reading program that adhered to the theme: "Build-A-Better-World". This year, the theme is "Libraries Rock!", and we've developed a fun and interactive summer reading program to follow this year's theme. However, this year's library programs are special, because we've partnered up with the Piedmont Triad Water Quality Partnership! Through this collaboration, the PTWQP is helping provide supplies for the program's crafts, and will be donating a copy of *Tap Tap, Boom Boom* to participating libraries in our summer reading program. To follow the "Libraries Rock!" theme, our program goes a little something like this:

1. A Reading of *Tap Tap, Boom Boom* by Elizabeth Bleumle

-This fun and quirky children's book takes readers through the different sights and sounds of a thunderstorm, and shows how a storm can bring a community together!

2. Craft Time: Something for every age!

-Rain Sticks (Ages 10+)

-Paper Maracas (Ages 6-10)

-Spoon Maracas (Ages 5 and below)

3. Activity: Project WET's A-Maze-Ing Water

-Children will understand how rain can carry pollutants down the storm drain.

4. Activity: Project WET's The Thunderstorm

-Utilizing the children's new rain instruments, they will go through a series of motions and sounds to reenact their own thunderstorm!

5. Alternate Activity

-If The Thunderstorm activity would be too loud to facilitate at your library, we can have children do everything listed above, except they would do a watercolor sun catcher craft instead.

If your library is located in Alamance, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, or Rockingham County, and you would like for us to visit your library to facilitate this program, please send an email to:

lbijas@ptrc.org

We look forward to hearing from you and having another fun filled summer with our libraries!



Davidson County
Randolph County
Rockingham County
Archdale
Asheboro
Burlington
Elon
Gibsonville
Graham
Green Level
Haw River
Lexington
Mebane
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PIEDMONT TRIAD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

THIS SEASON'S FOCUS: BACKYARD STREAM REPAIR

For citizens that own property or live alongside creeks, they typically find that their most common issue deals with stream-bank erosion. Traditional methods of stabilizing streambanks tend to be costly and prone to failure. However, to address this issue, N.C. Cooperative Extension created a "Backyard Stream Repair" Program in 2012. Through this program, workshops are held throughout the state to educate participants and provide them with a "tool-kit" of information to tackle their stream-bank erosion issues. Since the program's pilot 6 years ago, 9 workshops have been held with 259 participants from a variety of fields!

In order to implement some small-scale solutions to your eroding streambank, there are a few steps you need to take.

Step 1: Take a walk around and evaluate the area. Some questions you could ask yourself about your stream are: Does the stream rise and fall quickly with rainfall events? Are there a variety of plants pre-

sent on your shoreline? Are the existing plants there native or invasive?

Step 2: Once you've evaluated and addressed some of those questions, you have 2 options. You can 1) do nothing and let it grow wild, or 2) you can plant some native vegetation! Now if you want to grade your banks to a slope of 18° (recommended) before planting, you'll have some extra steps to do such as contacting local resources to determine if a permit is needed to continue.

Step 3: Choosing the right plants is critical, and they should be selected based on soil moisture, sun, height and width, or spread.

Step 4: Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance! With proper maintenance, your shoreline garden will be successful in reducing your streambank erosion.

For more detailed information, check out this guide: [Small-scale Solutions to Eroding Streambanks](https://forsyth.ces.ncsu.edu/backyard-stream-repair/). Source: <https://forsyth.ces.ncsu.edu/backyard-stream-repair/>

LOOK FOR STORMWATER SMART AT AN EVENT NEAR YOU

- April 18 — Archdale Library Earth Day Event
- April 19 — Four Saints Brewing 'Without Water, There is No Beer' Trivia
- April 20 — Red Slide Park Earth Day Paddle Cleanup
- April 21 — DRBA High Rock Ford Cleanup & Riverside Cookout; Earth Day Celebration at the NC Zoo
- April 28 — Mebane Dogwood Festival
- May 5 — Lexington Multicultural Festival
- May 10 — Lake Reidsville Water Festival
- May 19 — Graham Youth Fishing Day; Summerfield Founders Day
- May 31 — Eden Public Meeting for Clean Water
- June 2 — Oak Ridge RidgeFest; Reidsville Kids Rodeo Fishing Day
- June 9 — Summer Reading Program at High Point Public Library
- June 16 — Randleman Food Truck Championship Festival
- June 18 — Family Fishing Day at Randleman Lake
- June 19 — Summer Reading Program at Gibsonville Public Library
- June 21 — Summer Reading Program at Archdale Public Library

Stormwater SMART was created by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (formerly Piedmont Triad Council of Governments) to help Phase II communities comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Jordan Lake Public Education and Outreach requirements. Stormwater SMART is supported through dues paid by member governments.