



Waterway Views

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Balsam Meadows Subdivision Demo Project

One of the projects included in the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grant proposal was a demonstration project to correct storm water and erosion problems in a residential subdivision. One doesn't have to look very far to find storm water problems in local subdivisions. As reported in the local newspapers, damage from storm water can be devastating and very expensive to fix. The repairs can easily bankrupt a homeowner or a homeowners association. It is a tragedy to see a family lose their home. Without special flood or mudslide insurance they could easily lose everything and have no means to replace it. As a result, storm water management is a growing concern in Haywood County and throughout the state.

The Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with HWA on the CWMTF grant

application. HWA was responsible for writing the proposal and getting the money here (the GIS database and Watershed Action Plan were instrumental in this process). The District designed the improvements, provided cost estimates, and most important of all, put it on the ground. The District and HWA identified Balsam Meadows as a good candidate for the grant program. The project was needed, doable and not so large that it would be a "budget buster". After several



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meetings with the homeowners and many hours of design and leg work by its staff, the District finalized the plan.

The Balsam Meadows Homeowners Association inherited serious storm water, erosion and road maintenance problems from the developer. The subdivision was a prime example of a poorly planned development with inadequate

Continued on page 2

Many Thanks Gordon!

After four years of service, Gordon Small resigned his posts as Project Manager and Chairman of our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). His depth of natural resource knowledge and experience as a Forester were invaluable. He took HWA to new levels of expertise and credibility. As a result, we are recognized as one of the best volunteer watershed groups in the Southeast. Much of this is due to



Gordon's efforts and dedication to HWA and our mission.

After many meetings with the TAC, Gordon authored our Watershed Action Plan. This document is a marvelous example of Gordon's work. The plan is being used by EPA as a model plan for watershed groups around the country. He helped write the state and federal grant applications that enabled Haywood County to secure critical funding for many stream restoration projects. His close work with the Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District has cemented a lasting and critical partnership with them. He also led our sediment monitoring program, conducted numerous presentations for civic, professional and government groups and was the technical expert many of us turned to for answers. And to top it all off, he is a cherished friend. Gordon will be missed by us all, especially me. Ron Moser, Director HWA.