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ment, technical and financial support since HWA was first organized in 1998. Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District was honored with our "Pigeon River Award for Outstanding Service" for their water quality work in Haywood County. The District is an important HWA partner and its staff and supervisors are key players on the Technical Advisory Committee. The District also has two seats on our Board of Directors. Our sincerest thanks go out to these dedicated folks that were recognized in our awards program.

In addition to our annual awards program, special thank you awards were given to all



Robin Minick receives Volunteer of the Year Award

who helped make Kids in the Creek (KIC) a reality last year. The KIC program began on a beautiful morning on September

11th. The tragedy our nation suffered that day halted the program around 10:00AM as the TVA staff were ordered

back to their office. Over the next three weeks, calendars were shuffled and meetings rescheduled to continue KIC for 2001. All the KIC volunteers made sacrifices to ensure our eighth graders received the program. Those honored were: Richie Ruth and TVA, the Pigeon River Fund, the Trout Festival, Town of Canton, Canton Fire Department, Canton Rescue Squad, Steve West, Skip Thompson, Gail Rhinehart, Derric Brown, Melanie Hager and Haywood Community College Fish and Wildlife Management students. The HWA Board of Directors and Haywood County eighth grade students and teachers thank you all!

Technical Advisory Committee Investigates Sediment Monitoring

One of the provisions of the recent CWMTF grant is to develop more quantitative and qualitative information about the sediment in our streams. This is also a strategy in the Watershed Action Plan. It is particularly needed for the Lake Junaluska Watershed.

Quantifying the sediment as to its bedload and suspended solids components is a key part of this analysis. The usual techniques for bedload sampling are labor intensive with very variable results. Therefore, the TAC invited Dave Braatz to attend a meeting to discuss a new approach to sediment monitoring and removal. This equipment is being offered by a new company called Streamside Systems (www.streamsidesystems.com). In addition to promising to do a better job of bedload monitoring, the system is designed to remove the bedload it monitors. Intrigued by the possibilities, the TAC arranged a demonstration on March 14th adjacent to the Blue Ridge Paper Products site on Howell Mill Road. About 70



Streamside Systems representatives demonstrate new technology

folks from around western North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee came to view the demonstration. Blue Ridge Paper Products graciously provided the sample site with parking and access for the visitors. It was a good experience for all that attended.

Many of the visitors were interested in the promise of sediment removal. The size and distribution of the sediment in the water column has a great bearing on the installation and ef-

fectiveness of the system. A sample of silt in Lake Junaluska was obtained to perform a particle size analysis to further investigate whether the system has practical promise for the sediment problems in the lake.

The system has real promise for sediment monitoring. The TAC will be working with Dave Braatz to determine the most practical and cost effective monitoring configuration that will meet the grant and plan objectives.

Haywood County Commissioners Endorse Pigeon River Watershed Action Plan

The Haywood County Commissioners unanimously endorsed the Watershed Action Plan at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 18, 2002. This endorsement is very good news. It increases the credibility of the plan in addressing nonpoint pollution in the Pigeon River Watershed, which in turn will help raise funds to address water quality issues. It also demonstrates how local residents can help solve local problems. Additional endorsements are being sought from the municipal governments in Haywood County.

These points were further emphasized at the 11th Annual Southeastern Lakes Management Conference in Winston-Salem in mid-March. Many of the granting entities (Federal and State) indicated that funding in the future would likely be predicated on a watershed action plan covering the