

GREEN OPPORTUNITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



WATR has a long history of using student help to reach our goals. We have benefited from both unpaid and paid interns – for simple tasks and semester-long projects.

Please Read:

Most of our Eco-Workers are unpaid. The Association has limited funds.

Eco-work is technical and non-technical – Find your place on the spectrum

What's in it for you? A sense of service & accomplishment and a **hot contribution to your resume.**

Contact: Roger Clapp, Exec Director, WATRC

info@WATRnc.org or (828) 507-9144

Call me and let's negotiate your service to our watershed

GOALS and Opportunities for spring/summer 2016:

GOAL 1: Engage and educate citizens to protect water quality in our watershed.

Background: WATR has built a series of interpretive nature trails – called the **WATR Discovery Trails** — at Monteith Farmstead Park in Dillsboro. Our aim is provide one of the most detailed, engaging and informative outdoor environmental experiences in our region. The trails are located 15 minutes from the WCU & Jackson SCC campuses.

Increase visitation and host more guided tours – **ONLY PAID POSITION**

- **Have 50 positive messages** left at our “Feedback Boxes”
- **Hold 10 guided tours** for various groups – youth and adult
- **Enlist a crew of 2-4 student volunteers** to assist and to lead guided tours on a part-time basis
 - **Skills:** Communication, verbal and written; marketing; scheduling; outdoor leadership
 - **Ecology/ Natural Resources** knowledge is a plus
 - **Minimum time commitment:** 4 days x 6 hr per day x 6 weeks
 - **PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP from Ken Walton Fund**

Expand and improve the messages on trail signs

- Communicate scientific **food-web research** to the public
- **Show examples** of stream bank repair for homeowners
- Describe how groups (Cub Scouts, 4-H, Church) **practice conservation service**
- Start up and you will think of other messages
 - **Skills:** Ecology, earth science, - Non-technical: communication, illustration
 - **Minimum time commitment:** 8 hours per week, 4weeks, alternatively specific tasks: 8-10 hr.



Expand our system of signs

- Help design and fabricate **2 or 3 electronic signs**
- Help build and install 10 additional new signs (no electricity)
 - **Skills:** Carpentry, electronic makers, *joyful work-no special skills*
 - **Minimum time commitment:** 8 hours – your schedule; 2 hours per week, 5 weeks

Goal 2: Water quality monitoring to locate problems & help fix them

Not just geek stuff - we need activists, too.

Monitoring jobs

Conduct 2 Assessment Sampling Events by September

Expand our SMIE Macro-Invertebrate sampling. (Aquatic bugs are indicators of water quality)

- Go from 5 monitored streams to 12
- Increase monitoring team from 10 to 15 individuals
- Create additional team of about 2 or 3 to input and analyze data
 - **Skills:** WATR trains sampling teams in spring and fall, OTJ is very possible
 - **Minimum time commitment:** training-1 day followed by 3 sessions collecting bugs (spring and summer). May include OTJ training.

Locate a minimum of 2 sources of fecal sewage in creeks and rivers

- At scheduled times, team members fan out and collect water samples in creeks
- When contamination is found, create an upstream sampling plan to locate fecal sources
- Working with Jackson County public health, report and fix problems.
 - **Skills** – minimal, anyone can do this.
 - **Minimum time commitment** – 2 hr training, 2-4 hours for sampling for 4 weeks

Education and Monitoring to reduce erosion and sedimentation in the watershed

WoW – Watch our Water team – for Storm sampling and Mud chasing

Train and prepare

- 3-hr training
- Adopt a stream for sampling and exploring

Sample creek DURING STORM 2-3 times this summer

- When a storm is approaching the Team will be notified.
- **In the rain!** Sample creek as it flows into the Tuckasegee River
- Drive up the creek, and look for sources
(Construction, agriculture, abandoned roads and fields)

- Take pictures
- Get latitude & longitude on cell phone (not difficult)
- Perhaps work with landowner to fix erosion or report the problem to authorities
 - **Skills:** Less skill, and more determination, perhaps GIS capability for mapping results
 - **Minimal time commitment:** 2-3 hr per event, commit to 1 month of standby



Collect hydrologic data using loggers

Collect 2-months of continuous data

- Work with director
- Rate a stream section – relate stage to flow
- Install and maintain electronic data collection system
- Upgrade personal weather stations to report data on net
 - **Skills:** Hydrology and/or electronics
 - **Minimal time commitment:** Negotiable

SERVICE, SOCIABILITY, AND NETWORKING

Service Opportunities, for individuals and groups

- Work through WCU Service Learning
- Contact Jennifer Cooper, (828) 227-7184

Arrange social events on/off campus for Green-Minded students

- Contact WATR Director Roger Clapp
 - rogerclapp@WATRnc.org
 - 828 507-9144