



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contact: Sarah Young
Phone: 919-707-9033

Statewide organization announces first drinking water protection award winners

RALEIGH – A statewide drinking water protection group recently announced eight inaugural winners of an awards program that recognizes individuals, organizations and others that protect sources of public drinking water.

The N.C. Source Water Collaborative presented the awards at the March 18 Water Resources Research Institute’s annual conference. Any individual, group, organization, or agency that engages in activities to protect drinking water at its source may be eligible for an award. Awards were given for three categories: Surface water implementation, education and groundwater planning.

“We were fortunate to receive nominations for several innovative and transferrable projects,” said Rebecca Sadosky, who helps lead the N.C. Source Water Collaborative. “It is our hope that inspiration for future projects will be gained from this year’s award recipients.”

For surface water implementation, the 2015 winners are:

- Wilkesboro and Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants for the Cub Creek Stream Restoration and Stormwater Mitigation
- Durham Soil and Water Conservation District for the Upper Sandy Creek Watershed and Stream Restoration
- Raleigh Public Utilities Department for the City of Raleigh Watershed Protection Program
- Lincoln County’s Source Water Protection Plan for the Rock Springs Nature Preserve

For education, the 2015 winners are:

- Kerr Lake State Recreation Area for the Kerr Lake State Recreation Area water resources exhibits and education programs
- Concord Water Resources Department for Public Education and Involvement

For groundwater planning, the 2015 winners are:

- Jackson County for its Water Recharge Ordinance
- Wake County Environmental Services’ Groundwater Protection and Wells Program for the Strategic Plan for the Contaminated Groundwater Initiative

Nominations for next year’s awards are being sought for candidates that demonstrate innovative and collaborative solutions to protect North Carolina’s drinking water and the watersheds that support it. The awards program is intended to support local drinking water protection, while identifying successful projects that can be duplicated statewide.

The six award categories are surface water planning, groundwater planning, surface water implementation, groundwater implementation, education and leadership. To nominate an individual, group, organization, or agency, go to: <http://ncswc.org/>.

The N.C. Source Water Collaborative is a statewide partnership with volunteers from non-profit organizations, university programs, state, local and federal agencies, professional associations, and regional councils of government. The group develops and supports strategies that preserve the lakes, streams, rivers and aquifers used for drinking water and the land that protects and recharges these sources of water. The new awards program was designed in direct support of the group’s mission and is expected to be an annual event. Nominations are being accepted and must be received by Dec. 1. Additional information is available on the N.C. Source Water Collaborative’s website at: <http://ncswc.org/>, or by contacting Rebecca Sadosky at 919-707-9096, or Rebecca.Sadosky@ncdenr.gov.

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