

Moore...continued from Page 1A

and then we would have two locations in Lake Nottely from TVA," said Moore. "And those state sites are only sampled on a five-year rotating basis."

"So every five years, we would have water quality data from four locations in Union County. Is that enough information to know whether we have good water quality or not? I think the answer is no. So, we have a two-pronged program at the coalition."

"One is a staff monitoring program, and so the staff monitors using meters and professional equipment in watersheds that are a high priority for us in terms of, we've determined that there are impacts there."

The other part of the two-pronged monitoring approach is through volunteers, in which "volunteers are trained by us through the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program," said Moore.

"People just like yourselves go out and sample sites in Union County every month, and they enter their data into a computer database," said Moore, adding that waters are tested for E. coli, dissolved oxygen content and more at 58 monitoring sites across the entire four-county area.

Added Moore: "We can always use more volunteers, and we're going to be having a training toward the end of September, so if you're interested in that, the cost is completely free. We have equipment here in Union County in Blairsville."

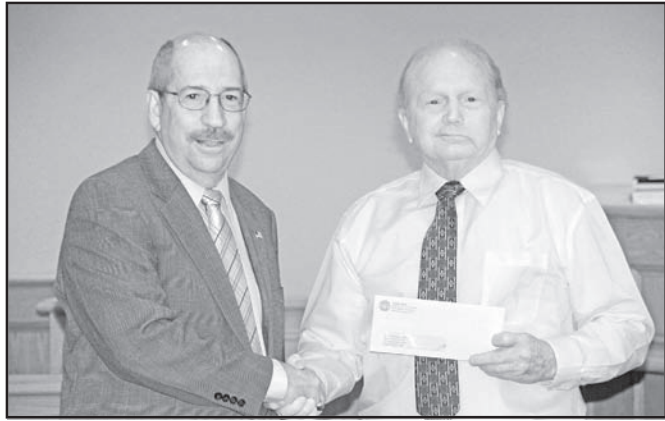
This year's HRWC State of the Water Address and Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 25, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Union County Community Center, and local water quality will be a primary topic for the evening. For more information, visit www.hrwc.net.

Also in the meeting, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris awarded Substance Abuse Grant Awards to three area counseling services: Freedom Ministries, H.O.U.R. Ministry Inc. with its SMART Recovery system, and New Hope Counseling.

"In 2010, we passed an alcohol referendum, and I made the commitment to set aside \$50,000 each year from the alcohol license fee and tax receipts to put back into the community for the purpose of helping to combat alcohol and drug abuse problems that already existed in the county before this happened," said Commissioner Paris. "Up to \$15,000 was committed to our



Commissioner Paris presents Joe Dyer of Freedom Ministries of North Georgia with a Substance Abuse Grant in the Aug. 18 county meeting



Commissioner Paris presents Roger Lampert of H.O.U.R. Ministry Inc. with a Substance Abuse Grant in the Aug. 18 county meeting



Commissioner Paris presents Troy Beaver of New Hope Counseling with a Substance Abuse Grant in the Aug. 18 county meeting

own Union County Anti-Drug Coalition, which I'm sure you've heard of and about."

According to the commissioner, the funds have gone for local grants over the past several years, and representatives from the aforementioned substance abuse counseling services applied for and were granted funds from that grant this year.

After the commissioner presented checks to the organizations, representatives from each of the three services spoke in the meeting last Thursday, explaining what it was they did and why they did it.

Also in the meeting, the commissioner accepted an agreement between the county

and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security, which will see the state submitting federal and state funds to Union County for the flood damage sustained between Dec. 22, 2015, and Jan. 13, 2016, during which time it was determined that the county was part of a federally declared disaster.

The next county meeting will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Union County Courthouse, instead of the regular third Thursday of the month meeting day.

In the July county meeting, Commissioner Paris was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Standard of Excellence Award, given by Jeff Christie, who is the leadership development deputy director

Community Council at the GMREC receives donation

Snap-on Tools stepped up once again in support for the Community Council at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center with financial and physical support! They consistently send a team of volunteers into the Murphy & Ranger schools to help with the first grade bird program where children learn about bird ID, their importance in the forest ecosystem, and closing by making their own take home bird feeder. This program served 653 children this past year that included Clay and Cherokee counties.

Snap-on Tools are an industry leader, providing high quality tools to industry professionals in over 130 countries. Their franchisees support professionals in Blairsville and the surrounding area, providing premium products to the service industry. Whether it's hand tools, diagnostic equip-



(L-R): Robyn Truhan, Lillie Barnes, Rose Jones, Tony Dyer (Community Council Resource Chair), Lynn Williams and Gail Brown

ment, or tool storage solutions, innovation is a quality found throughout their product line. In Murphy, NC they have a manufacturing facility employing over 215 Snap-on associates.

A donation was presented to the Community Council. Chairperson of the Resource Committee Tony Dyer stated, "Without the support of the fine people like at Snap-on

Tools we would not be able to provide the resources for these programs. This contribution will help us continue to provide meaningful environmental education programs that we hope will inspire the next generation of like minded stewards". Last year the Council served over 4000 youth and adults through the education, outreach and preservation programs.

Brushfire at Old Courthouse on the Square August 26

Brushfire, old-time favorite bluegrass band, will perform, in concert at 7 p.m. in the Old Courthouse on the Square in Blairsville on Friday, August 26.

The Bluegrass band Brushfire, formed in 1977, has become one of the best-known bluegrass bands in Georgia. Known for their superb vocal harmony, the group is fan favorites at major festivals throughout the southeastern United States.

The group was a founding member of the International Bluegrass Music Association, was showcased at the IBMA World of Bluegrass and is an active member of the Southeastern Bluegrass Association.

Brush Fire has thus far recorded and published five CDs, performed at the Pyrenees Folklore Festival in Oloron, France, is a member of the Atlanta County Music Hall of Fame and was previously selected as Bluegrass Band of the Year by the Atlanta Society of Entertainers.

The band was inactive from 2005 until 2009, and then the three longest serving mem-

bers, Eddie Turner, Kerry Warbington and Mike Fleming, decided to revive the group. Since then, they've booked a limited number of shows each year and are reconnecting with friends and fans.

The band members are as follows: Eddie "Dumplin'" Turner (mandolin) was a founding member and provides strong lead and tenor vocals as well as outstanding mandolin work. Kerry Warbington (banjo) is well known in the bluegrass community. He plays regularly at the Hiwassee Mountain Fair and numerous other locations. Mike Fleming (guitar), another founding member, contributes lead and harmony vocals and serves as emcee for the stage shows. The newest member is Robert Brewer (guitar, mandolin and upright bass), who has been playing bluegrass all over north Georgia for the past 26 years.



The concerts in The Old Courthouse on the Square are presented by the Union County Historical Society as a public service and to keep alive the tradition of music in the old building. There is never an admission charge; the musicians donate their time and talents. Voluntary donations to the maintenance fund are always welcomed and appreciated.

Thanks to Ron Priest who composed the picture.

of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

The award, presented on behalf of the ACCG and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, recognized the dedication of Commissioner Paris to lifelong learning.

Having continued to train extensively in his capacity as commissioner over the years, he has joined the ranks of a select few others in earning the prestigious award.