

Caler Fork 33.3 POOR

Very turbid site, apparently from Wildflower Development upstream. Turbid, despite lack of rain. Upstream inspections revealed both Tippet and Dalton running turbid.

14 volunteer hours

Watauga Creek (new site) – 45 FAIR

14 volunteer hours

Tippet Creek above Ruby Mine Road

Last year this site was visibly turbid and sedimented from Wildflower, but this year accumulation of sediment is even greater. No rain for several days, but Tippet creek running turbid.

Caler Fork above Ruby Mine Road

much more abundant macroinvertebrates than Tippet Creek. greater fish count than Tippet Creek.

2006 IBI Summary

Tellico Creek - 52.2 rated good – Merck Family Fund – lack of warpaint shiners, lack of fish in pools, absence of telescope and mirror shiners. First record of yellowfin shiner for this site, invasive exotic (previous limit was Burningtown Creek)

41 volunteer hours

Rabbit Creek – 44.1 Fair, but best ever at this site. Joan Willis' biology class. Cleanest substrate ever observed – why? elimination of sediment sources?

25 volunteer hours

Licklog Creek – Hightower Rd. Needs macroinvertebrate data – should score 49.5 as good. Spotfin Chub absent, most likely due to culvert. Possible acidification – low diversity of ephemoptera

9 volunteer hours

Blaine Branch – need macroinvertebrate data for final score. presumed positive effect of beaver dam presence is accumulation of silt behind dam. possible negative effects – higher water temperature, lack of access of migratory species, notably trout. metrics show improvement and deterioration. reduction in incidence of disease and parasites is striking. resurgence in creek chub disturbing. shade and shoreline habitat have improved.

5 volunteer hours

Burningtown Creek - highest native species count ever recorded – 18 species. Poorest ever for specialized insectivores. 54.9 IBI GOOD best score ever Possible to suggest that increased development pressure in upper Burningtown still has not had an effect here. 817 fish – most ever.

43 volunteer hours

Peeks Creek – 87 Rainbow trout, 13 YOY, 44 1-3”, 27 3-6”, 3>6”
4 Brown small parr
1 mottled sculpin

Increase in macroinvertebrates from last year. Ephemeroptera more abundant and diverse. channel appears to be stabilizing, but becoming less deep. clear improvement in biotic community. most striking change is in size of RT from last year. 2004 only one RT over 3” long. This 30 of 92 were in that range. First sculpin in a reach dominated by sculpins previously. 2005 – one cambarus bartoni, this year 27.

12 volunteer hours

Ellijay Creek - 46.8 FAIR Extreme shortage of darters, large Hellbender

42 volunteer hours

Wayah Creek - 46.8 FAIR may be that total numbers of fish are still depressed from 04 flood. less fish than expected in upper riffles. Tempted to make it GOOD but hard when specialized insectivores are scarce. Complete absence of shiners. Possible Gilt darter observed which would have changed metric and increased rating to GOOD. In general, site has not shown much improvement since elimination of WWTP point source. No observed increase in sedimentation. Possibly due to residual chloramines in sediments of Wayah creek.

32 volunteer hours

Iotla Creek - 46.8 FAIR sample is evidence of continued improvement of Iotla creek but causes are unclear. Increase of IBI from 38.7 (2004) to 46.8. Explosive growth in warpaing shiners. Drop in tolerants. Negative factor: almost total absence of fish from backwater areas where one would expect to find creek chubs, redbreast or green sunfish,

blacknose dace, juvenile bluegills, etc. – suggests toxic residues in sediments and/or anoxic conditions.

18 volunteer hours

Watauga Creek - 46.8 FAIR most fish ever collected here (639) Site has changed a lot due to increased siltation. no fish in good cover along shoreline. possible nutrient loading and increase in blacknose dace. mosquito fish for first time.

23 volunteer hours

Crawford Branch - 22.5 POOR – presumptive, waiting on macroinvertebrate sample. few total organisms. three macroinvertebrates taken in sample from rocks and wood segments.

8 volunteer hours

Skeenah Creek - 33 POOR lower catch rate and lowest number of native species ever recorded here.

24 volunteer hours

Cowee Creek - 54.9 GOOD 882 - the largest number of species and numbers taken ever. Water surprisingly turbid for a drought period. greater number of fish suggests increased nutrients. darter/sculpin ration worst ever here. increase in numbers due to large increase in sculpins. something changing.

56 volunteer hours

Little Tennessee River -441 Bypass - 42 FAIR best ever for the site.

35 volunteer hours

Lower Cullasaja River Boat Sample – structure of pools has changed from Ivan. limited riffle habitat. Spread of yellow perch – expanding its range and average size is increasing.

Little Tennessee River at Needmore (TVA Fixed Station) - 56 GOOD. Was it a drop from excellent? Healthier darter component

8 Volunteer hours

Little Tennessee River at Georgia Line 42.9 FAIR below bridge. 38.5 FAIR, POOR above bridge. few macroinvertebrates, few crayfish at above bridge site.

Most ever native species with 21 at the below bridge sample.

Yellowfin shiner distributed throughout entire area. Confusing factor is sudden abundance of Golden Shiners. Source is undoubtedly Goldmine Creek.

Closing of Fruit of the Loom plant – which accounts for 95 percent of the permitted industrial discharge into the Little T above Fontana Dam it will be very important to track this site.

Podostemon present at this site. Effects conductivity.

22 volunteer hours.

Lake Emory 30 POOR 37.8 POOR

2 large Redear sunfish shows species is well established outside private ponds.

2 Volunteer Hours

Cartoogechaye Creek at big bend above mouth. demo for FROGS

absence of lamprey and shortage of fish along shore suggest some form of pollutant concentrated in sediments

Caler Fork 33.3 POOR

Very turbid site, apparently from Wildflower Development upstream. Turbid, despite lack of rain. Upstream inspections revealed both Tippet and Dalton running turbid.

14 volunteer hours

Watauga Creek (new site) – 45 FAIR

14 volunteer hours

Tippet Creek above Ruby Mine Road

Last year this site was visibly turbid and sedimented from Wildflower, but this year accumulation of sediment is even greater. No rain for several days, but Tippet creek running turbid.

Caler Fork above Ruby Mine Road

much more abundant macroinvertebrates than Tippet Creek. greater fish count than Tippet Creek.

Crawford Branch at Franklin Memorial Park

awaits macroinvertebrate data. appears to be much better than in previous years.

8 volunteer hours

Crawford Branch at Heritage Hollow

score awaits invertebrate data very poor catch rate low species diversity 73 percent of fish were tolerant species, 95 percent were omnivores
sedimentation is more severe
most interesting event of the sample was the capture of a small Necturus (mudpuppy) app. 3 inches long. caught one a few years ago in muddy backwater of Cullasaja near Macon Middle School.

6 volunteer hours

Burningtown Creek above Younce Creek Rd 57.6 EXCELLENT

3 adult hellbenders to 18"

36 volunteer hours

Cullasaja River at Peaceful Cove 53.9 GOOD

58 volunteer hours

Coweeta Creek below 441 LTLT Property – 41.4 FAIR

Poor IBI Site, because of proximity to river. convenient site for Coweeta Interns. superabundance of lampreys.

42 volunteer hours

Licklog Creek Needmore Road

supplement to Licklog Creek IBI sample - focused on culvert barrier to fish movement

Cartoogechaye Creek – Macon County Rec park 47.3 FAIR

remarkable improvement over past three years - 36.3 in 2004. record number of Rock Bass and Tennessee Shiners. unusual number of Wild Brown Trout . lowest disease rate ever. highest catch rate ever.

55 volunteer hours

Brush Creek at Hampton Farm 46.8 FAIR

drastic reduction in numbers of darters and sculpins and absence of smoky dace. Previous years 46.8 was considered GOOD.

42 volunteer hours

Little Tennessee R at Wolf Fork 38.7 FAIR

Severe sediment accumulation, physical level recovery from 2004 flood damage is not apparent. improvement on biological level. apparent hybridization of yellowfin shiner with river chub (photographed) was the first example of this hybrid observed.

31 volunteer hours

Cullasaja River at Wells Grove (below Belleview Bridge) 45.1 FAIR

possible large necturus seen but not captured. slight improvement in IBI. deterioration of shoreline habitat. few fish found on shoreline sample. lamprey absent since 2001

14 volunteer hours

Middle Creek at springs Rd. 49.5 GOOD

represents a return to normal for Middle Creek after severe drop in 2003, recovery in 2004 and then loss in 2005 after 2004 floods.

22 volunteer hours

END OF SEASON