

Kentucky River Authority Watershed Grant

FY 2005-06

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Recipient: Appalachian Heritage Alliance

Watershed: Red River

Project Name: Hands-On Biology with Wolfe Co High School Biology Classes

We received a grant from the KY River Authority to give hands-on field biology experiences to a biology class at Wolfe County High School. The proposal included 2 trips to the Red River with various biologists. Both trips have been accomplished to date. The students were from Cynthia Gullett's freshman honors biology class at Wolfe County High School. On September 18th John Webb went into the classroom and introduced the students to water chemistry sampling methods and the concept of a watershed. The first trip to the river was taken on Sept. 19th and covered water chemistry, aquatic invertebrates and fish. Biologist conducting the trip included Matt Thomas (DWF), Paulette Akers (DOW), Skip Call (LCC), John Webb and Kim Feeman. The students were very enthusiastic about the trip, and showed awareness of the interconnection between water quality and species diversity. Unfortunately the second trip was canceled once due to the extreme amount of rains in late Sept, early October. When it was finally rescheduled in late October the cold temperatures didn't allow the students to get into the river. Still Monte McGregor (DWF) met the students at Gladdie Creek Interpretive Center on October 23rd and presented his extremely educational presentation on freshwater mussels and their host fish. Although the students were disappointed in not being in the river, they had great presentation from one of the best biologist in his field.

Grant moneys received were \$1,495.00. Of this money \$1133.06 has been spent which leaves \$361.04. The extra moneys are mostly due to less spent on transportation costs as well as less needed for equipment. The remaining money will be used for similar endeavors within the Red River watershed.

Your support for this grant has been greatly appreciated. The students were very enthusiastic about the field trips. Many students exclaimed that they wished there would be more educational experiences like the hands on trips we were doing! That's the engagement we wanted!

Kim Feeman

