

# High biodiversity found in Kings Creek

by Ben Goff  
News Editor

A recent study conducted by Dr. Jenifer Frick's BIO 281 "Animals and Plants of the Southern Appalachians" class revealed that all species present in Kings Creek before a major restoration project

completed in 2006 are now found there once again, with the notable exception of trout.

Kings Creek was channelized (strained out) at an unknown time in the past, which disrupted the natural ecosystem and led to flooding and erosion problems. A large-scale project to "re-meander" a section of

the creek downstream of the track in order to return it to a more natural state and alleviate these problems was completed in the spring of 2006 and has proven to be a successful effort.

According to Frick, who has monitored biodiversity in Kings Creek for nearly nine years, macroinvertebrates (small aquatic animals) returned to the restored creek section almost immediately, with trout being the last species in the ecosystem to return.

Trout are very sensitive to variances in water temperature and, according to Frick, water temperature in the restored section of the creek may have been altered due to the loss of trees and shrubs near the creek that provided necessary shade. Trout will likely return within a few years, once vegetation along the stream banks grows sufficiently thick to provide adequate shade.

Frick has seen consistently higher species diversity in the section of creek that was restored than in sites upstream. Because the up-stream section shade and the deeper pools that are present in the more natural downstream section this part of the creek is not able to support trout and some other species.

The electroshock fishing technique used in these studies involves passing a mild electric current through the creek that temporarily paralyzes fish, allowing them to be easily captured and inventoried before being returned to the creek.



Photo courtesy J.Frick

A fisheries biologist assistant from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (front) works with students (left to right) Chad Campbell, Ben Goff, and Devin Gentry to conduct an electroshock fishing study of Kings Creek. The assistant is using an electroshock device to pass a current through the water between two probes, temporarily paralyzing fish and allowing them to be captured in nets.

## Breaking News: Body found downtown

from Staff Reports

The Brevard Police Department dug up a body on Wednesday that had been buried in the backyard of a home on South Caldwell Street.

According to Police Chief Dennis Wilde, the body was buried in a shallow grave in the backyard.

Police were alerted after Thomas Reid, the owner of the house, noticed a patch of what appeared to be freshly dug dirt in his backyard. The man began digging at the spot and found an arm.

The body was exhumed last night, and is being sent to Raleigh for an autopsy. Police have not ruled out that the body is that of David Morgan, a local man who went missing on Monday.

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