

Volunteers Prepare Preserve for Fall Activities

About 30 volunteers gathered at the Catawba Center for the Environment Sept. 11 to prepare the college's 189-acre ecological preserve for fall activities.

Two teams worked on cleaning and repairing wood duck boxes for the fall migration, and two worked on trail maintenance and clean up in preparation for classes and student research projects. Those who donated their time and effort included alumni from the Environmental Science Program, high school students, Catawba students and staff and friends of the Center.

Marry Etle, bibliographic instruction and reference librarian at the Corriher-Linn-Black Library on the college campus, helped locate and assess the state of wood duck boxes. "We were able to wear waders and slosh around in the waters of the lake," she says. "It was so much fun."

She volunteered because she feels that the ecological preserve is one of the primary assets of the campus. "I was interested in exploring the preserve with many people and giving back to the environment through a clean-up," she says.

Andy Miller, district soil conservationist with the Davidson Soil and Water Conservation District and chair of the Area 8 Envirothon, says he and his wife volunteered because of the assistance he received from Center director John Wear and special projects coordinator Kurt Cribb during the Envirothon, which was held last March at the Center for the Environment facility and adjacent preserve.



"Helping at the work day was a very small way for us to say thank you for all that the folks from Catawba have done to help with the Envirothon," he says. "It was also a way for us to express our appreciation for all that the Center does to promote environmental education for the students in our part of the state."

Brandi Orbin, fund-raising and volunteer coordinator, expressed gratitude to the volunteers for their effort. "These volunteers got up early on a beautiful fall Saturday morning to help us get the preserve ready for the waterfowl and students who use it each fall," she said. "We greatly appreciate their time and hard work." ■

