

NEGRC ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED

The NEGRC presented its two annual awards at its May 16, 2024 Council meeting. Nominations for these two awards were invited in March from Councilmembers and later reviewed by a NEGRC Awards Committee comprising: **Mr. Terry Lawler**, Chair (Greene County), **Mayor Dodd Ferrelle**, Vice-Chairman (Winterville), **Chairman Bruce Henry** (Jasper County) and Oconee County **Chairman John Daniell**, as Ex Officio.

This year's NEGRC's "**Local Administrator of the Year**" award was presented to **Beverly Young**, City Clerk for City of Bogart. **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Executive Director, presented the award. In his remarks, he noted that Ms. Young started as an assistant clerk but advanced to full-time clerk when the city needed her most. She completed all the necessary trainings and certification to perform her duties and, most notably, helped the city regain regulatory status for state and federal grants. She has also made City Hall a very welcoming place for everyone.

Beverly Young (3rd from left), "NEGRC Administrator of the Year" receiving her award with NEGRC Chairman John Daniell (far right), Burke Walker (far left), and Mayor Jones (2nd from left) of City of Bogart.



The NEGRC's "**Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian**" award was also given and presented by **Terry Lawler**, Chairman of the NEGRC Awards Committee. This award, he noted, is given to recognize an individual who made a difference in the quality-of-life in the region and served as a leader for their community and in the region.

This year's NEGRC "Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian" award was presented to **Larry Cox** of Madison County. Mr. Cox's distinguished career started as only one of two patrol officers in Gwinnett County back in 1969. He later worked for 27 years in management at UPS. His civic and community involvement is equally as impressive with his dedication to the Regional Food Bank in raising over \$35,000, to "T.J. & Friends" in raising over \$235,000 for cancer patients, and his continual commitment to youths with the group "Young Farmers." As Chairman Todd Higdon remarked, Larry Cox 'just makes his community better.'

◀ *NEGRC Chairman John Daniell (left) presenting "Distinguished Northeast Georgian" award to Larry Cox (center) with Terry Lawler (right), NEGRC Awards Chairman.*



Larry Cox (left) with Todd Higdon, Madison County Chairman. ▶



NEGRC STAFF VOLUNTEER WITH ATHENS AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On May 4th, NEGRC staff and friends participated in a volunteer day with the Athens Area Habitat for Humanity. Our staff, along with Habitat staff, other community members, and the future homeowner, helped to bring the home another step closer to completion by spending a day applying final coats of paint.

A shortage of affordable housing has become a national issue, and the staff at the NEGRC in all departments try to make a difference in bridging the gap through grant applications, social services, and workforce training. Our staff participating in the volunteer day benefitted from learning more about the construction process and how local nonprofits can serve their communities in the housing sector.



NEGRC staff from the Planning & Government Services division and the Workforce division enjoy a break on the front porch during a Habitat for Humanity Build Day.

CITY OF MAXEYS RECEIVES HISTORIC MARKER FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DISTRICT

On May 18th, the City of Maxeys hosted an unveiling of a new historic marker for the Maxeys Historic District. The city received designation as a historic district under the National Register of Historic Places in 2023 and subsequently applied for assistance from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to receive a historical marker to be placed on State Route 77. Lydia Joffray, previous Historic Preservation Planner at the NEGRC, assisted Maxeys with the National Register nomination process. If you have interest in exploring historic preservation initiatives in your community, contact the **Planning & Government**

Services Division at (706) 369-5650 or pgsassist@negrc.org.



Historical marker installed on State Route 77 in the City of Maxeys on May 18, 2024.

NEGRC STAFF PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL BROAD RIVER PLANT WALK

Planning & Government Services Director, Mark Beatty, participated in an annual plant walk along the Broad River on the border of Elbert County hosted by the Broad River Watershed Association. The walk was highlighted by a rare perennial flower called the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*). The plant is endemic to the Southeastern United States and requires swift, shallow, water current and direct sunlight to grow. Much of the area around where the lilies are found is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This is a great example of the natural beauty found within the Northeast Georgia region. Conservation and management of unique ecosystems the area such as this is a regional goal as noted within our 2023 Northeast Georgia Regional Plan. For more information regarding the Broad River, you may visit the website of the Broad River Watershed Association at www.brwa.org.



*Rocky Shoals Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*) seen on the Broad River on May 18, 2024.*



Cecropia moth (Hyalophora cecropia) seen on the banks of the Broad River on May 18, 2024.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Vickie Scotland, NEGRC/WorkSource Northeast Georgia, Business Services and Outreach Representative, attended the Oglethorpe County Chamber of Commerce After Business Hours event on May 16th. It was hosted by **Classic City Flowers & Nursery** in Winterville. **Joe Stevens**, owner of Classic City Flowers & Nursery, hosted the event which included music, food, a tour of the property and greenhouses, and a fun teambuilding activity. Approximately 20 people attended.



The teambuilding activity included making a potted creation and explaining what it represented. Vickie's team included WorkSource NEGA, Pinnacle Bank and HydroFlow Soft Wash & Pressure Wash representatives.

Starting in July, this newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis.



Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS

JUNE

20th

Noon

NEGRC Council Meeting

Trumps Catering