

Truth or Myth Questions:

Everyone lives in a watershed.....

(Truth – everyone lives in an area of land that eventually drains to some specific body of water)

Most of UNCW Campus is in Hewlett Creek's Watershed.....

(Myth – most of the UNCW campus is located in the Bradley Creek Watershed except for the Track and Field are in Burnt Mill Creek Watershed)

Rooftops, sidewalks, and roads are all impervious surfaces.....

(Truth – all of these are surfaces that water can't soak into and therefore runs off)

Most pollution in our waterways comes from point sources like factories or wastewater treatment plants.....

(Myth – most of the pollution in our waterways comes from non-point source pollution such litter, pet waste, sediment erosion, etc...)

Stormwater runoff is treated.....

(Myth – stormwater runoff is carried directly from impervious surfaces into and through the storm drainage systems untreated, and into our waterways)

All Tidal Creeks in the city limits are open to shell fishing.....

(Myth- there are no creeks open to shell fishing in the city due to polluted waterways)

Yard Waste is the number one pollutant in NC.....

(Myth – the number one pollutant in NC is soil and sediment erosion)

Cigarette butts are not biodegradable because they contain cellulose acetate.....

(Truth – cigarette butts contain a form of plastic fibers in the filter made of cellulose acetate which can take many, many years to break down)

DDT is a pesticide that caused a huge decline in Brown Pelican and Bald Eagle populations in the 1970s.....

(Truth – DDT bio-accumulated into the Brown Pelicans and Bald Eagles where is affected the thickness of their egg shells. The shells

were so brittle that the birds were unable to sit on them to incubate without the egg shell crushing)

There are 10,000 registered dogs in New Hanover County which produce a ton of pet waste per day.....

(Myth – there are actually almost 34,000 registered dogs in NHC that produce 25,350lbs or 12.5 tons of pet waste per day)

Wetlands are very beneficial because they can absorb polluted runoff.....

(Truth – the soil and plants filter the pollution naturally! They also help reduce flooding, they slow runoff, and recharge groundwater, and provide habitat, food, and shelter for wildlife)