

## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

Gov. Jim Hunt (right, in photo at right) and John Kent, of Stream Watch, pull a water sample from New Hope Creek to check the life and water quality.

(Below) Kent and Hunt talk with students from nearby Githens School about protecting and preserving New Hope Creek.

The governor participated in several environmentally related events Thursday to help celebrate Earth Day.



## Hunt lends hand to save environment

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Conservationists working to preserve New Hope Creek got a boost Thursday from Gov. Jim Hunt, who turned out in a chambray work shirt and rubber boots to help monitor the stream.

Hunt worked with John Kent, coordinator of the group's Stream Watch project, to survey bottom-dwelling organisms at a site near Resurrection United Methodist Church in southwestern Durham County.

The catch included a glass shrimp and mayfly larvae, results Kent pronounced as "pretty good."

"The mayfly larvae wouldn't be there if the stream were bad," Kent said.

Hunt took part in several environmentally related events in the Triangle to help celebrate Earth Day.

Stream Watch is a volunteer program administered by the state Division of Water Resources. The division assists about 180 Stream Watch groups, each of which has adopted a waterway and started projects to take care of it.

Earlier, Hunt signed an executive order encouraging

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state agencies to buy recycled products. He also visited Northern Telecom Inc., which was among the 1993 recipients of the Governor's Awards of Excellence for Outstanding Achievement in Waste Management.

At New Hope Creek, Hunt was joined by Stream Watch volunteers, state officials and a science class from nearby Githens Middle School.

"We want you to be volunteers — volunteers to keep our streams clean," Hunt told the students.

Seventh-graders Catherine Cerne and Jarrett Alston said they were impressed by the governor's interest and willingness to wade into the stream.

"He must want to see it pretty bad," said Alston, who observed from the creek bank.

Stream monitoring at New Hope Creek also includes tests for acidity, temperature and murkiness, which are performed near the church and at five other sites, Kent said.

The project is sponsored by the New Hope Audubon Society, but also draws volunteers from groups such as Sierra Club and The Triangle Land Conservancy.

Hunt's executive order expanded North Carolina's solid-waste reduction program. It requires state agencies to use products containing recycled materials and to start programs that would reduce and recycle the solid waste generated by their operations.

To help create markets for recycled paper, the order also includes a timetable with goals for increasing state purchases of such products. The goals increase gradually over the next five fiscal years, from 25 percent of such purchases in 1993-1994 to 65 percent in 1997-1998.

In a prepared statement at Northern Telecom, Hunt urged corporations to develop similar purchasing goals. He also praised North Telecom's success in eliminating ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons from its manufacturing operations.