

# NATURE'S BENEFITS

NC STATE EXTENSION

Community Knowledge of Plant and Animal Connections to Water Quality



## WHAT WE LEARNED

Central and eastern NC communities connected plants and animals to helpful functions that support what scientists refer to as **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** (for example, contributing to safe water for recreation). Presence or health of plants and animals were important **INDICATORS OF WATER QUALITY AND BALANCE IN NATURE** (for example, having the right amount of algae or vegetation). Community impressions aligned with knowledge of scientists, who use similar language, including "indicators." These findings may **EMPOWER NC COMMUNITIES** to participate in water quality management discussions, and **HELP SCIENTISTS ENGAGE** with communities on important issues related to ecosystem and community well-being.