

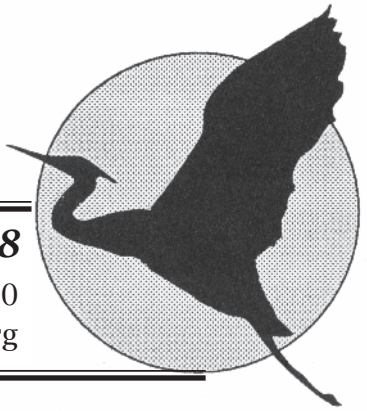
# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly August 2018

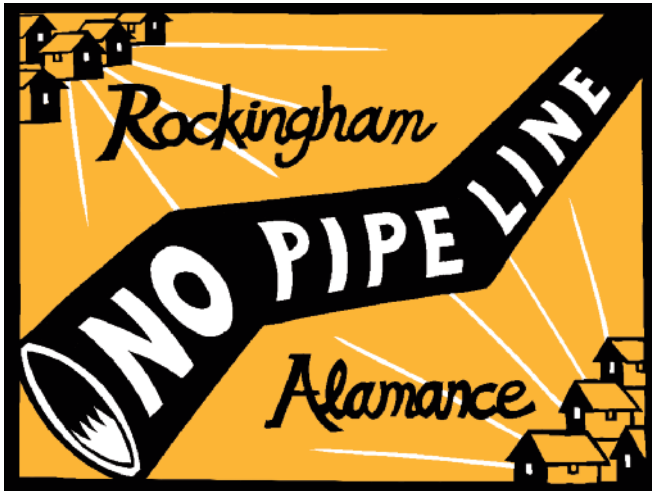
P.O. Box 187 · Bynum, NC 27228 · (919) 542-5790

email: [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org) · [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org)



## HRA Fights the Mountain Valley Southgate Fracked Gas Pipeline

We found out in April that the Mountain Valley Pipeline was applying for a permit to build an extension of their big fracked (“natural”) gas pipeline in WVA and VA down into NC, through Rockingham and Alamance counties to a terminus just south of I-85. This 24” diameter pipeline, MVP Southgate, would cut a 100’ swath through private lands in the Dan and Haw River watersheds, drilling through creeks, destroying forest and farms, and posing very real threats to public health. The current route is very close to the Haw River and alternative routes include drilling through the Haw River twice.



Graphic by Jan Burger

We are only the latest region to deal with the fracked gas pipeline frenzy. All across the United States, land is being bulldozed to build these pipelines. There are about 3 million miles of mainline and other pipelines that distribute natural gas in this country. Just about everywhere pipelines are being built, they are being opposed. People from all walks of life are fighting back in rural places, tribal lands, and urban areas, to save their communities, to prevent more environmental damage, and to stop the drilling and burning of fossil fuels that contribute to global climate disaster. People in NC are fighting the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, which would bring fracked gas from West Virginia through Virginia, and down to Robeson County, NC, where Piedmont Natural Gas wants to build a massive 50-acre liquefied natural gas storage facility.

The Haw River Assembly mobilized quickly to organize opposition to Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) Southgate. Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton has held meetings for landowners and concerned residents in Alamance and Rockingham counties, and filed to intervene in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permit that MVP will need. We are working with other organizations including Sierra Club and *continued on page 3*

## Get Your Tickets for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival!

**What:** Wild & Scenic Film Festival

**When:** Thursday, September 6th, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**Where:** Carrboro Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro, NC 27510

**Tickets for sale online:** \$25 HRA member, \$30 non-member. Visit [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), or call us at 919-542-5790 to order by phone.

**For more information and tickets:** Visit [hawriver.org/2018-wild-scenic-film-festival/](http://hawriver.org/2018-wild-scenic-film-festival/)



The Haw River Assembly is bringing the nationally recognized Wild & Scenic Film Festival to Carrboro! Join us for a night of environmental and adventure films that depict the beauty of the natural world, the challenges facing our planet, and the work communities are doing across the world to protect the environment. The films inspire activism and call us all to protect the places we love.

## HRA Board of Directors

**Chris Carter**, President, *Saxapahaw*  
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**Mac Jordan**, Emeritus Member, *Saxapahaw*  
**Omega Wilson**, *Environmental Justice Advisor*

## HRA Staff

**Elaine Chiosso**, *Executive Director*  
**Emily Sutton**, *HAW RIVERKEEPER®*  
**Erin Jobe**, *Event & Outreach Coordinator*  
**Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *Newsletter Editor*

Thanks to **Jan Burger** for art throughout this newsletter: HRF Heron, Boy with Butterfly, River Watch Heron, and Clean-Up-A-Thon logo.

**To join the Haw River Assembly** or renew your membership, send a check to **HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228**; or go online at <http://hawriver.org/join-hra/>. All contributions are tax-deductible.

*Thank you!*

*Individual: \$25 Family: \$40*

*Sustaining: \$50 Heron Circle: \$100 & above*

*Low Income: \$10*

*The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grassroots organization founded in 1982. Our mission is to protect and restore the Haw River, its tributaries, and Jordan Lake; and to build a community that shares this vision.*

**(919) 542-5790    [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org)**

## Notes from the Haw

Fireflies, crickets, and dragonflies! The magic these summer insects bring to our balmy southern nights is something I treasure each year. It's easy to take insects for granted, whether they are beautiful or annoying to us, without thinking about the enormous role they play in the ecosystem as pollinators, predators and decomposers. So, it is alarming to hear from recent studies that their numbers are declining dramatically in many parts of the world, which even refer to it as an "Insect Armageddon." Researchers say various factors are to blame for the plight of insects, which are also essential to agriculture, including honeybees and all pollinators. Monoculture farming (which can create biological deserts), deforestation, large scale use of insecticides, habitat loss, and nighttime lighting, are all factors. Is climate change also playing a role? Many people in our region have lamented the fewer numbers of common butterflies and moths to emerge this spring and summer, possibly due to record cold this past January, followed by warming and freezing into spring. Doing whatever we can to increase resiliency, such as planting native wildflowers and shrubs, not using pesticides, and increasing biological diversity in our yards can help these small beings.

We will be exploring many aspects of how we can be activists to help our planet, and save beautiful places, at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival on September 6. People all over the world bring us inspiring stories of how they have made a difference in their own communities, or on an even larger scale. We hope you can join us for this evening of thought-provoking and beautiful films.

*(P.S. We were donated a beautiful wooden canoe by a generous supporter, that we plan to auction online. This is a 2004 Chestnut Canoe from Canada, of cedar and canvas with black cherry and spruce trim, handmade by Kenneth Solway. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact us at 919-542-5790, or [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org).)*

*From the river,*  
*Elaine Chiosso,*  
Executive Director



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

### ***HRA Annual Membership Meeting & Board Elections***

We'll be holding our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday afternoon, November 3.

We are looking for a great location – if you know of a place (free or inexpensive) that is near the Haw River or one of its creeks, please let us know. We will have outdoor activities and a potluck.

Stay tuned for more details. The Annual Meeting is also when we hold elections for our Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining our Board (we meet 6 times a year alternating between Bynum and Saxapahaw), and would like to offer your talents, please contact Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director, at [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org).





# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## Issues in the Watershed

from Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

### *MVP Southgate Pipeline, continued from page 1*

Good Stewards of Rockingham to reach out to all landowners and communities in the “blast zone”, with information about their rights in dealing with MVP. Contractors associated with MVP have misled landowners, and trespassed on their properties. MVP representatives paint a rosy picture to local officials and community members about the benefits and safety of their pipeline, but this same company has received over 150 violations and complaints along the current project in Virginia and West Virginia, and was under a stop work order in VA for causing damage to streams.

We are opposing MVP Southgate not just on environmental grounds, but also because it puts communities at risk. MVP has a legacy of misleading community members and landowners by providing minimal compensation for land, or using eminent domain to take the land if landowners refuse.

Pipelines and compressor stations close to homes or businesses can cause threats to public health, including exposure to toxic fumes, contaminated drinking water, respiratory problems, and severe headaches. Proximity to pipelines significantly lowers property values, as we have already seen in Eastern NC with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Pipeline explosions are a real threat. There were three fracked gas explosions in the US just between June 7 and July 11, including a fatality in Wisconsin. The MVP Southgate pipeline route is through populated areas, near homes and schools, including the campus of Alamance Community College. With a pipeline of this diameter and pressure, the Evacuation Zone Radius is 2,051 feet. Data shows that pipelines built since 2010 are failing at a rate similar to the failure rate for pipelines constructed pre-1940.

We don't need this pipeline. A 2016 report by Synapse Energy Economics shows that the current capacity for fracked gas in NC exceeds the projected demand for the next 10 years. MVP could be guaranteed up to 14% rate of return by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, putting all the risk on the public. North Carolina currently ranks second in the nation for solar energy production, which employs nearly 8,000 people. Wind energy lags behind in NC because of the needless moratorium imposed by the NC legislature, but solar and wind projects made up roughly 62% of new power construction in 2017 in the US, as their cost continues to plummet. With the current infrastructure and the growing trend towards renewable energy sources, North Carolina should not allow another fossil fuel pipeline.

To get involved in the opposition to MVP Southgate Pipeline, visit [noMVPSouthgate.org](http://noMVPSouthgate.org) or contact Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton directly at [emily@hawriver.org](mailto:emily@hawriver.org). Contact your local city



Photo by Caroline Hansley

Emily and community members in Rockingham County spoke to commissioners to present a resolution opposing the MVP Southgate proposal.

### **Updates on Industrial Contaminants in Our Waters**

Across the state concerns are growing about perfluorinated compounds and other emerging contaminants in our surface waters. HRA made comments in July to the Environmental Management Commission to advocate for enforceable water quality standards for 1,4 Dioxane, Bromide, and the entire class of perfluorinated compounds, during the Triennial Review process. Currently, some of these industrial contaminants have “protective value” recommendations, which are not enforceable for discharges. In our watershed, these toxins come from industries, usually through municipal wastewater treatment plants, where industrial waste is mixed into the municipal waste stream. These treatment plants don't have the technology to reduce or remove these contaminants. The residual solids are usually applied to fields as sludge, where rain and wind can carry the toxins into adjacent streams. HRA continues to monitor surface water for these contaminants, and relies on the limited capacity of our dedicated lab partners to analyze the data and provide us with results. These results will be made public as soon as possible. Contact [emily@hawriver.org](mailto:emily@hawriver.org) with questions or to take part in this project.

### **Chatham Park Stormwater**

The Town of Pittsboro continues to delay approval of a stormwater management plan for the massive Chatham Park development. The Town received a letter from NC Division of Water Resources on May 3 noting that the commitments and mitigation strategies that Pittsboro made in 2010 to protect the Haw River and environment from the secondary and cumulative impacts that would result from the development of Chatham Park “are not being properly implemented and enforced.” Enhanced stormwater treatment and wider *continued on page 5*



# Learning Celebration 2018!



from Erin Jobe, Learning Celebration Coordinator  
(919) 542-5790; erin@hawriver.org

I am excited to be back for my second year as coordinator for the Learning Celebration (LC)! Lawrence Peterson will be joining us again as our Safety & Logistics Coordinator, and Rufus King will be back again as our Assistant Coordinator. Last year's Learning Celebration left us with so many incredible memories, and we are looking forward to another season of happy children playing on river rocks, becoming bug experts, and singing along with us about all the Haw's critters!

The Learning Celebration has been going on for so long now that we often meet adults who attended when they were children, and they still remember the fun and excitement of their field trip to the river. There are lots of ways you can help us ensure that children have a memorable experience this year. Sign up for any of the volunteer opportunities below, and donate to the Learning Celebration at hawriver.org, under the Projects tab, or contact Erin at erin@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790.



## ***This Year's LC Dates:***

Bynum: Sept. 22 – 28

Saxapahaw: Sept. 29 – Oct. 5

Camp Guilrock: Oct. 7 – 12

***Join the Learning Celebration volunteer crew.*** We need about 20 volunteers each day to make this program come alive! Volunteers spend the day guiding children to activities along the river or leading hands on learning stations. Afternoons and nights are spent enjoying delicious meals and conversations and relaxing along the river. We invite all volunteers to camp out with us! Please consider signing up for a few days or a whole week!



Photo by Milada Vachudova

***Donate a meal.*** Meals are an essential part of Learning Celebration crew life! Volunteers work up quite an appetite, and donated lunches and dinners are needed to feed our crew (about 25 people) each day! Please consider providing a vegetarian meal for our crew. We can help you come up with easy meal ideas if you don't know what to make.

***Contribute to the LC crowdfunder.*** It takes a huge amount of resources to make this program happen each year. Rather than passing these costs on to the schools and families attending the program, HRA keeps program fees to \$3 per student and does not turn down school and families that can't pay. Please help us cover the cost of the program by making a monetary contribution to our crowdfunder campaign to raise \$5,000!

## **Haw River Assembly Summer Potluck Party – Sunday, August 19th 3 - 8 pm**

Join us for a summer afternoon of fun, games, swimming, food, and song! Come for any or all of the festivities! Everyone is invited – past Learning Celebration volunteers, future volunteers, friends, family, HRA supporters – all are welcome!

***When:*** Sunday, August 19, from 3 to 8 pm

***Where:*** HRA Office, 143 Bynum Church Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (additional parking available at Lower Haw River State Natural Area)

### ***Schedule of fun:***

3 pm - Swimming and games

4 pm - Painting/art projects

5:30 pm - Potluck meal

7 pm - Stick around after for singing!

***RSVP:*** To Erin Jobe, erin@hawriver.org



*Potluck fun in years past – painting LC privy covers!*





# Standing in the Stream

Project News from Emily Sutton, **HAW RIVERKEEPER®**

(919) 542-5790; emily@hawriver.org

## River Watch

We have added three River Watch teams to our program! This brings our total of active teams to 32. We have had so many teams in the past year that we are running low on equipment, which is a nice problem to have. If you have unused River Watch equipment, let us know! We'd like to keep our costs to volunteers as low as possible to encourage people from all walks of life to get out on the water and investigate their streams.

Department of Water Resources is creating a new smartphone application to allow more volunteers to enter data they collect directly into the statewide database, and Haw River Assembly is participating in the pilot program to test this application. The application will have several different layers for monitoring groups, including aquatic macroinvertebrates, visual stream assessment, pollution source tracking, and two layers of trash collection information. The data is immediately entered into a statewide database with geo locations for each report. We are thrilled to make our monitoring data more useful for state departments, and have direct actions in response to our efforts.

## Muddy Water Watch

We have had a dry summer, but our efforts to stop sediment pollution have resulted in Notices of Violation against careless contractors in Durham County at the newest development near Southpoint Mall (see photo at right). If you or anyone you know lives near any new construction, please let them know about this program to protect our waterways from sediment pollution.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Issues in the Watershed, (Chatham Park), continued from page 3

stream buffers were included in these strategies for Pittsboro's NPDES permit. The development already taking place along 15-501 (allowed by the Town before all Chatham Park "Additional Elements" were to be developed and approved) has caused sediment and erosion violations that impact Havens Creek and its wetlands, which flow to the Haw.

## Industrial Meat Operations and Water Pollution

In April, Emily Sutton joined other NC Riverkeepers in water quality sampling to demonstrate the impacts of industrial meat facilities. She identified five industrial poultry operations adjacent to streams in our watershed where water sampling was done. Of those five locations, four were found to be in violation of fecal bacteria levels. These facilities store dry poultry litter in piles, where it is exposed to rain and wind that carry fecal and E.Coli bacteria into adjacent surface water, along with ammonia, nutrients, and antibiotics. The reports were submitted to Department of Water Resources, where the sampling procedures must be replicated in order to enforce any violations. She is also working to identify small scale meat producers in the watershed who take measures that protect water quality and the environment. If you eat meat, please check out the list of sustainable meat producers in our watershed at our website. If you don't know where your meat comes from, you could be contributing to a system that pollutes our waters, and harms communities surrounding the facilities.

## Chatham County Energy News

The Chatham County Commissioners voted on June 18 to **extend the county moratorium on gas and oil drilling** until Jan. 31, 2019, in order to put safeguards in place to protect people, water and land from fracking. The NC General Assembly has forbidden local governments to ban fracking. At the same meeting the Chatham County Commissioners unanimously **supported a request by Chatham Clean Path** to begin assessing the feasibility and economics of solarizing county buildings and other facilities. Chatham Clean Path is a citizen action team made up of Chatham volunteers who support a move to local, reliable, and cheaper solar power. They are one of many local teams working to implement NC WARN's Clean Path 2025 plan. More at [www.ncwarn.org](http://www.ncwarn.org).

And the latest on coal ash storage in Chatham County is a report commissioned by BREDL, EnvironmentalLEE, and Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump, that finds the monitoring plan for the coal ash repository in Chatham at Brickhaven to be inadequate for detecting groundwater contamination, and that there has been an increase of heavy metals in groundwater near the site. Read more at: <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article214396719.html>.



Photo by Erin Jobe

*Emily tests fecal bacteria levels in streams near industrial poultry operations, and finds violations in four out of five.*



Photo by Emily Sutton



# A Great 29th Haw River Festival!

We had a great 29th Haw River Festival on Saturday, May 5th! And no rain! Thanks to all the volunteers, bands, silent auction donors, and everyone who came out to enjoy the day at the river.

We had a great crowd, great music and a lot of folks taking part in activities on the river at Saxapahaw Island, which is now a county park. This was the first time in 3 years that the river level was safe enough to offer canoe rides to children, and about 60 kids had a wonderful adventure. Huge thanks to our canoe guides – Joe Jacob, Lynn Featherstone and Bob Bruekner – plus their on-land assistants, Brenda Featherstone and Woody Daly. People also enjoyed taking part in river monitoring with Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton and our expert, Maja Kricker. Others enjoyed



HRA President Chris Carter (far right) “works the HRA booth”, with (left) HRA Vice-President Melvin Dubose and HRA Board member Maribel Sierra.

taking part in the puppet parade, learning from the watershed model demo, and chatting with us about river issues at the membership table (especially about the proposed MVP Southgate pipeline). The raffle winner of the Perception Kayak was Johnny Waken, a great musician and great friend of Haw River Assembly. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped us set up, staff, and break down the Festival – we couldn’t do it without you. It was also a great fundraiser, bringing in over \$4,000 that will help us to keep protecting our waters!

**Special Thanks to:** ♦ Great Outdoors Provision Company for donating the Perception Kayak for our raffle, and to ♦ Saxapahaw General Store for sale of advance tickets. ♦ Thanks to Paperhand Puppets for loaning us puppets for our parade. ♦ Thanks to Saturdays in Saxapahaw for hosting us! Their Saturday music and market series will continue on through the summer – see the full schedule at [www.saxapahawnc.com/bandschedule/](http://www.saxapahawnc.com/bandschedule/). ♦ Many thanks to Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company for providing the canoes for the guided rides.

**BIG THANKS to the BANDS!** We all loved the music! 🎵 The Village Band ([www.thevillageband.org/](http://www.thevillageband.org/)) 🎵 Saludos Compay ([www.saludoscompay.com](http://www.saludoscompay.com)) 🎵 Onyx Club Boys ([www.facebook.com/OnyxClubBoysNC](https://www.facebook.com/OnyxClubBoysNC)) 🎵 Jaafar (<https://store.cdbaby.com/Artist/Jaafar>)

**BIG THANKS to the SILENT AUCTION DONORS** and their beautiful contributions of art, crafts, venue tickets, services, and more: Judith Brooks, Carolina Brewery, Carolina Tiger Rescue, Lea Clayton, Chris Carter, Conservators Center, Eliza and Molly DuBose, The Eddy Pub, Fair Game Beverage Co., Gerri & Co., Roy Girolami, Haw River Ballroom, Sarah Howe, Jim Hood, Kindred Seedlings, Morehead Planetarium, Museum of Life & Science, 2Puggles Jewelry, Patti Richardson, Reverence Farm Cafe, Roots Jewelry by Maliyah Austria, Saxapahaw General Store, Emma Skurnick, Matt Spangler, Starrlight Mead, Starworks Glass, Wanda Sunderman, TOPO Distillery, Weaver Street Market, Allison Weiner, Nathalie Worthington, and Yoga Garden Pittsboro.



Learning Celebration Enviroscope expert Sutton King (far left) teaches how we can prevent pollution in our watershed.



Joe Jacob of Haw River Canoe & Kayak introduces young paddlers to the magic of the river.



The Village Band brings the Big Band sound to the Festival.

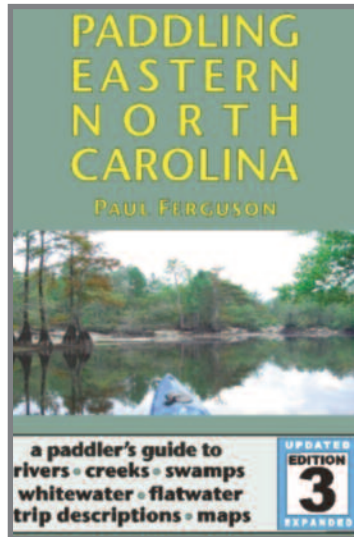


## **“Paddling Eastern North Carolina” Now Available**

Paul Ferguson’s 3rd Edition of “Paddling Eastern North Carolina” is now available. The section on the Haw River is invaluable for information on access areas, difficulty of runs, and tips on paddling.

To purchase go to:

[pocosinpress.com/Stores3.htm](http://pocosinpress.com/Stores3.htm)



## ***We Need Your Input to Help Us Plan for the Future!***

The Haw River Assembly is creating a new strategic plan to guide the work of the organization for the next 3 to 5 years. An important part of the process is to gather feedback from our members, volunteers, and supporters.

We hope you have already responded to this quick survey that we have been doing online. If not, please go to this link and take 5 minutes to fill it out:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSGXST5>

We’ll close the survey on August 31, and look forward to finishing our strategic plan in early 2019, when we’ll share the results. We appreciate your input.

**OUR 19TH ANNUAL GIANT PUPPET PAGEANT FOR ALL AGES**

# PAPERHAND

**MASKS, SHADOW PUPPETS  
LIVE MUSIC AND  
CARDBOARD  
TRICKERY**

**AUG 3  
THRU  
SEPT 3  
AND  
SEPT  
14-23**

**AT THE  
FOREST  
THEATRE  
CHAPEL HILL**

**WITH ONE  
WEEKEND  
AT THE  
NORTH  
CAROLINA  
MUSEUM  
OF ART  
RALEIGH**

**SEPT 7-9**

**THE FOREST THEATRE SHOWS  
ARE SUGGESTED DONATION  
GENERAL ADMISSION  
AT THE DOOR ONLY  
\$15, \$8 KIDS  
NO ONE TURNED AWAY  
FOR LACK  
OF FUNDS**

**EVERY  
FRIDAY  
SATURDAY  
SUNDAY  
AND  
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PRE SHOW**

**MATINEES  
SEPT 2, 16, 23 AT 3:00  
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**FOR TICKETS  
AND INFO FOR THE  
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## Upcoming 2018 HRA Events

**August 19, 3 to 8 pm**, HRA Summer Potluck Party, with Swimming, Art Projects, & Singing! See details on page 4.

**September 6, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**, Wild & Scenic Film Festival at Carrboro Century Center. See details on page 1.

**September 22-23**, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend. For more info, contact Emily Sutton at [emily@hawriver.org](mailto:emily@hawriver.org), 919-542-5790.

**September 22 - October 12**, Our 29th Haw River Learning Celebration for 4th-graders. Sign up to volunteer now! For more info or to volunteer, contact Erin Jobe at [erin@hawriver.org](mailto:erin@hawriver.org), 919-542-5890; or visit [hawriver.org/projects/4th-grade-field-trip/](http://hawriver.org/projects/4th-grade-field-trip/). See details on page 4.

**Saturday afternoon, November 3**, Location to be announced. HRA Annual Meeting and Board Elections. See details on page 2.

**December 15-16**, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend. For more info, contact Emily Sutton at [emily@hawriver.org](mailto:emily@hawriver.org), 919-542-5790.

For **paddle trips on the Haw River** contact our partners Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company, [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com); and Frog Hollow Outdoors, [froghollowoutdoors.com](http://froghollowoutdoors.com).

Updates and details can be found at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), on our Haw River Assembly Facebook page, and from our weekly E-newsletters which you can sign up for at [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org).

## Our 2018 "Butterfly" T-Shirt is Here!



Designed by Clyde Jones, our world famous Bynum folk artist! The shirt is soft pumpkin orange with a multi-color print (and Haw River map on the back).

It is 100% organic cotton, featuring non-toxic inks. Custom printed by makers of sustainable T-shirts in Burlington-T.S. Designs.

**\$25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL**

**\$25 (ladies style) S, M, L, XL**

**\$20 (youth) S, M, L**

To mail order from HRA, send check to HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC, 27228. Add \$4 per shirt for postage and transaction fee.

**SIGN UP for the  
Learning Celebration  
Sept. 22 - Oct. 12**

Address Service Requested

**Bynum, NC 27228**

**P.O. Box 187**

**Haw River Assembly**

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