

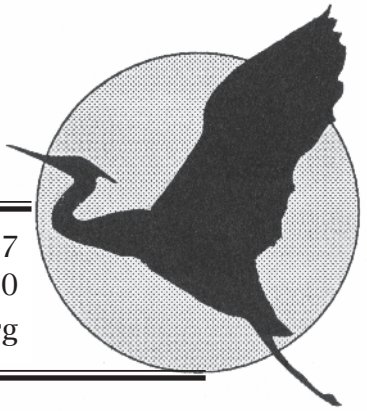
# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly August 2019 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)



## It's the 30th Year of the Haw River Learning Celebration for Schools!

For the 30th year the Learning Celebration will sprout up along the banks of the Haw River, moving from Chatham to Alamance to Guilford counties over 3 weeks. Volunteers will guide 4th-graders through the forest and along the river to explore and discover the wonders of their own watershed! Since 1990 we have been putting on this unique program that gets school kids outside into nature, and inspires them to be the next generation of conservationists. Students come from cities like Greensboro, Burlington, and Chapel Hill, and from rural schools in Rockingham County down to Chatham County. Our volunteer guides use nature as the classroom, and for many children this is their first experience ever hiking through a forest and along a river. The vision and passion for this program started with Louise Omoto Kessel, who had worked on the Hudson River Clearwater sloop with Pete Seeger, and wanted to bring a river education program to her hometown river. Haw River Assembly enthusiastically agreed, and with Louise at the helm we launched the first "Learning Celebration" in 1990 (known back then as the Haw River Festival).

Photo by Milada Vachudova



Over the years, so many volunteers and HRA staff have given their hearts, hands, and spirits to the continual creation of the Haw River Learning Celebration. Some come for a day, others join our "river camp" and set up a tent for the week. We have connected over 47,000 fourth-grade students to our beautiful river with the help of these amazing volunteers. Students experience activities where they observe, explore, and discover the life of the river and forest, learn how to protect the river, and use art to observe the natural world.

Come join us for an inspiring and fun day (or week) by the Haw River to volunteer as a guide – we provide the training! We also need volunteers to help with weekend field site set-ups and break-downs (Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon) and to cook meals. You can help as well by making a donation to support our

Crowdfunder for this wonderful program. Help celebrate our watershed community's dedication, and share in the excitement for this year's 30th Anniversary Haw River Learning Celebration. Read more on page 4 about "the Best Field Trip Ever!"

## It's Back! Wild & Scenic Film Festival Tickets Available Now

We're again bringing this nationally recognized film festival to Carrboro, on Thursday, Sept. 5th, 6:30–9:30 pm, at the Carrboro Century Center (100 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro, 27510). These 2019 films depict the beauty of the natural world, the challenges facing our planet, and the work that communities are doing across the globe to protect people and the environment. Tickets for sale online at <http://hawriver.org/2019-wild-scenic-film-festival/>, for \$20 - \$30; or call us at 919-542-5790 to order by phone.

We're very grateful to our local sponsors: Weaver Street Realty; Great Outdoors Provision Company; Fifth Season Gardening Co.; Dogwood Alliance; Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.; The Jester Group/Baird; Townsend Bertram & Co.; Peter Theye Electric; and Epting and Hackney, Attorneys at Law.



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**Kyleene Rooks**, *Outreach & Event Coordinator*  
**Emily Sutton**, *HAW RIVERKEEPER®*  
**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.

*Thanks for your support!*

*Individual: \$30 Family: \$45*

*Sustaining: \$60 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

### *Climate Change is Now*

This may be the summer that finally brings recognition that the effects of global warming are happening right now. We just saw the hottest June in earth's recorded history and are on track for July being the hottest month ever recorded. In our own region we saw the impacts of heavy spring rains and an intense July heat wave. The record breaking heat in the Arctic and the far north this summer sends out a new alarm, as glaciers, land ice, and sea ice are melting faster than predicted, speeding sea level rise. Climate change is intensifying droughts and floods, triggering more intense and frequent wildfires, and setting animals on the move. Without leadership in the White House to curb fossil fuel use, it will be up to us to push for change at the state and local level, and that includes the changes we can make by showing up at the ballot box this November.



### *Gratitude for ALL our Contributors*

We are often asked how the work we do at HRA is funded, and the biggest part of the pie is YOU! Our members, contributors, local business sponsors, and major donors are the backbone of our organization. We give special thanks to those who have made us recipients in their wills, or for memorial donations. We have been honored by the donations in memory of Barbara Beye Lorie, an amazing woman, community activist, and supporter of HRA, who died this past May. We also receive funding through grants, and are very appreciative of the support we receive for general operating expenses from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, for conservation advocacy from the Triangle Community Foundation, for our Swim Guide from the Clif Bar Family Foundation, for the Learning Celebration from the Alamance Community Foundation, and for our Haw Riverkeeper work on CAFOs and MVP from Waterkeeper Alliance.

### *Farewell, Maribel*

We bid a fond farewell to our HRA Board member Maribel Sierra, who received her Masters degree from UNC-CH School of Public Health this spring, and has moved to San Francisco for a great new job. We will miss her, and wish her well!

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

Our 2019 Annual Membership Meeting and elections for the Board of Directors will take place on the weekend of November 9-10 (day and location to be announced). If you would like information about serving on our Board of Directors, please contact Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director, at [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org).

*For the river, Elaine Chiosso, Executive Director*



*Trees fight climate change through carbon storage and shade. Public outcry to save more trees in the Chatham Park mega-development shows how important this is to our watershed (see page 5).*





# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## *Issues in the Watershed*

*from Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER®*

### ***Updates on Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) Southgate***

After 18 months of working with impacted landowners, community members, local governments and staff, and state agencies, the MVP Southgate project has entered a new stage of the process. On July 26th, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released to the public. The purpose of this document is to explain how little environmental impact the project will have. **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is accepting comments on this document until September 16th.** There will be public comment sessions in each county along the proposed route, which includes Pittsylvania county in Virginia, and Rockingham and Alamance counties. Comments can also be submitted electronically. Effective comments will detail what has been left out or overlooked in the DEIS, what is misleading or not true, and what has been concluded about impacts and why that matters. We need as many comments as possible to have the loudest voice to oppose this project. The state will review the permit and public comments to determine whether a critical permit (404 - Wetlands and Stream crossings) will be approved or denied. There is an interest in hosting postcard writing parties as a part of the comment process for the DEIS. This would mean we would supply you with blank postcards and postage ready to send in written comments, and you would invite all of your friends over to your own house to fill out as many comments as you'd like. Are you interested in hosting? Let me know!

This is a long fight, so let's not forget the progress we've made:

- Alamance County commissioners signed a unanimous resolution to oppose the pipeline project;
- Elon University student government signed a resolution to oppose the pipeline project;
- Stoneville signed a resolution to oppose the project;
- NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) wrote a letter critical of the project, stating they saw no demonstrated need for the pipeline;
- Every local government body along the proposed route in Alamance County has heard a presentation or public comments from us in opposition of the pipeline project;
- NC DEQ rejected MVP Southgate's first attempt to apply for the 401 certificate;
- Rockingham County Representative Jerry Carter (R) wrote a critical letter to FERC stating that this project was unnecessary. He also asked for a comment deadline extension for the DEIS, which was extended from 30 to 50 days;
- A federal judge recently revoked the US Fish and Wildlife permit for the big MVP project in Virginia and West Virginia, because of concerns for endangered species.



Photo by David Naylor

*Activists tell Governor Cooper "No Pipeline!" at our Paddle Against the Pipeline event.*

### ***Emerging Industrial Toxins in our Waters***

We have continued sampling for industrial compounds with Duke University and NCSU. Our partnerships with these great teams have allowed us to better understand potential sources of these compounds, and track patterns in high and low flow events. Duke University teams plan to study PFAS in the blood levels of Pittsboro residents this fall. Pittsboro is the only town in the watershed pulling drinking water directly from the Haw River, and we have seen the highest levels of PFAS at their drinking water intake. Pittsboro has hired a consultant to study treatment options for removal of industrial toxins in finished drinking water. In April, NC DEQ sent a letter to all wastewater treatment plants who receive industrial waste, notifying them that they were required to test for PFAS in their waste streams monthly until September. Initially, this requirement was going to be for only two PFAS compounds, but the requirement was extended to include 33 compounds. We are continuing to work with state agencies and elected officials to use this information to require strict discharge limits to treat this pollution issue at the source, and looking at options to hold polluters accountable.

### ***Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) – and Better Alternatives***

We have created a list of farming practices that promote clean water, reviewed and approved by small scale, sustainable farmers in our area. We are thrilled to have such a great network of sustainable farmers in our watershed – over forty farms are producing meat in a sustainable way, *continued on p.5*



Kyleene Rooks,  
Outreach & Event  
Coordinator  
(919) 542-5790;  
kyleene@hawriver.org

## ***Farewell to Erin Jobe - and Welcome to Kyleene Rooks, Our new Event & Outreach Coordinator***



Erin has taken a job as special events coordinator with the Town of Chapel Hill. We are very grateful for the talent and energy she brought to HRA, and we will miss her very much. We are very happy to introduce Kyleene Rooks, who began work at HRA on August 5, bringing lots of experience and enthusiasm for environmental education, outreach, and events with kids and adults. She'll jump right in with us, organizing the Learning Celebration and other HRA events and programs throughout the year. Let's give her a big welcome!

### ***Volunteer for the Learning Celebration!***

- ✿ Bynum: Sept. 21 – 27
- ✿ Saxapahaw: Sept. 28 – Oct. 4
- ✿ Camp Guilrock: Oct 6 – 11

\*School program days are Tuesday through Friday each week. Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays are for set-up and volunteer trainings.

### ***What do Volunteers do?***

**Program Guides:** Learning Celebration volunteers guide small groups of 4th-graders through activities that explore the woods and river through hands-on experiences at this field trip to the river. Volunteers can stay for the day or camp overnight, with meals provided. You'll have an amazing time being part of this river community!

**Meal Providers:** Do you love to cook? How about cooking a lunch or dinner for our volunteer crew of about 25 people? Your meal will be *greatly* appreciated – and we can help with ideas, expenses, or delivery to the site, if needed. We hope you will stay to share the meal with us!

**Set-up and Movers:** We always need help setting up our camp infrastructure at each site (Saturday afternoons and Sundays) and helping us breakdown and moving our camp supplies on Friday afternoons. Contact Kyleene if you'd like to help and she'll give you more information: kyleene@hawriver.org, 919-542-5790.

**Sign up to volunteer today** on our website, <http://hawriver.org/projects/4th-grade-field-trip/>, or call 919-542-5790 or send an email to kyleene@hawriver.org, to sign up or to get more information.

**Support the 2019 Learning Celebration Crowdfunder!** Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our Learning Celebration by keeping it funded. Our goal this year is to raise \$5,000 to help defray the cost of supplies, staff time, food, U-haul costs, and everything else it takes to create this 3 weeks of magic on the river! You can donate online at <http://hawriver.org/join-hra/> or send a check to HRA, PO Box 187, Bynum NC 27228.

**Summer LC Potluck Party – Sunday, August 25th, at the HRA Office in Bynum** Join us for a summer afternoon of painting, wading, swimming, food, and song. Come for any or all of the festivities—everyone is invited!

**When:** Sunday, August 25, from 3 to 7 pm. **Where:** HRA Office, 143 Bynum Church Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (additional parking available at Lower Haw River State Natural Area). Directions at <http://hawriver.org/about-us/contact-us/>.

✿ **Schedule of fun:** 3 – 5 pm is swimming, and painting LC signs & art frames; 5 pm is potluck meal and sharing some songs and stories (bring your musical instruments). ✿ **RSVP** to Kyleene Rooks, kyleene@hawriver.org.



### ***Wednesday Dinners with the Crew at this year's LC***

Each Wednesday evening on our 3 weeks at the Learning Celebration, you're invited to a potluck dinner with our Learning Celebration crew of volunteers and staff. Enjoy an evening with us, sharing a meal, as well as stories and song, at our campsites in Bynum, Saxapahaw, and Camp Guilrock (between Greensboro and Reidsville). Go to the LC page on our website for directions and more information: <http://hawriver.org/projects/4th-grade-field-trip/>.





# Standing in the Stream

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

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



*River watcher Caroline Sherman brushes up on macroinvertebrate identification.*

nearly every major rain event, our upstream sites have exceeded the EPA's threshold for safe bacteria levels. Our interns, Lauren Sprouse and Gianna Glass, have been an amazing team of qualified scientists, taking every precaution to collect the samples within our guidelines. The samples are collected weekly from eight sites and processed here at our very own laboratory within the HRA office. After incubating for 24 hours, the samples are removed and the E.Coli quantities are measured. We post our results on our social media accounts and in our weekly iContact. The Swim Guide application also displays a map of every monitored location across the U.S. and Canada, so download the application to check beaches outside of the Haw watershed. We had such a great response from you all this summer, so if it has been valuable to you, please donate to keep the program going next year!

**Haw River Watch** We have had three new teams join our River Watch program. This spring, we had an intern from Duke University look over the program and make some suggestions for improvement based on feedback from our volunteers. Based on that feedback, we have scheduled more events for our volunteers. We have already held two volunteer training refresher courses, and plan to have a social gathering in the fall. Stay tuned! If you are interested in joining the program and looking for a site, check out the interactive map on our River Watch page online. The map shows where our current teams are and where we could use a team.

**Haw River Swim Guide** This month will close out our last weeks of our Swim Guide program. We've had a lot of followers, and it's been so interesting to see the variation in water quality based on weather events. After



Photo by Erin Jobe

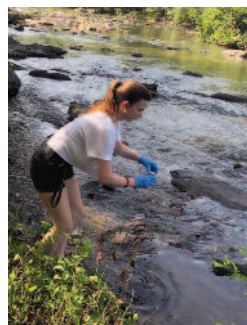


Photo of Lauren by Gianna; photo of Gianna by Lauren

*Interns Lauren Sprouse at Glencoe (left) and Gianna Glass at Jordan Lake (right) collect samples to test for e. coli, for HRA's Swim Guide.*

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*Issues in the Watershed, CAFO's, continued from page 3* providing an alternative to the industrial animal production practices that pollute our surface waters. See the list of recommended farming practices, a list of sustainable meat producers in the watershed, and a map of all sustainable farms in the state, at our website at <http://hawriver.org/river-issues/cafo-campaign/>.

We are also monitoring surface waters directly adjacent to industrial animal production operations twice a month, to observe continued impacts in all types of weather. This sample data is collected for several months at each site, and turned in to the state when there are ongoing water quality violations. Two sites have already been reported. We are working with NC Waterkeepers to advocate for corporate responsibility for better waste management at poultry, dairy, and swine operations. Meat production can be done in a way that does not put our surface waters and neighboring communities at risk. We're demanding that the large-scale, multinational corporations who profit from agribusiness invest in technologies that prevent pollution.

## Disappointing Environmental Rules for Chatham Park

The Chatham Park "Additional Elements" regulating environmental impacts as this mega-development is built have now been approved by the Town of Pittsboro. Overall, we believe these ordinances for Stormwater, Open Space, and Tree Protection will not be strong enough to protect our waters and environment. These were controversial Town Board discussions with mostly divided votes, with Commissioners Farrell, Fiocco, and Baldwin usually voting in favor of Chatham Park's proposals; and Bonitz and Foley voting against, asking for clearer language and protections.

With tremendous support over the past year from the Pittsboro and Chatham County community, we pushed for stronger protections than those proposed by Chatham Park. We are disappointed that our collective voices and research did not sway the Board members who voted to support Chatham Park. However, throughout this grueling and frustrating process, we were crucial in the changes that did get made and are very grateful for the strong public support. We saved more trees – not enough – but more than if we had not been there to speak for them. There will also be more oversight from the state for stormwater plans, and more of the beautiful existing trees near the Lower Haw River State Natural Area will be preserved. We will continue to provide information and advocacy as the next decisions are made about Chatham Park, including the North Village development. Elections will take place this fall for three of the Town Board seats, and we are planning a candidates' forum in partnership with Sierra Club – stay tuned for details.

📧 Sign up for weekly email updates on river issues by filling out the form on the frontpage of our website: [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).



# A Great Time at the Haw River Festival — (and we almost dodged the rain)

We had a great crowd and great music at the Festival on May 4, and it was wonderful to see all the people down at the Saxapahaw Island Park enjoying the river. The rain held off almost to the end, and as we hustled to get everything packed up, the band played on. The wonderful Ragweed Brass Band stayed on stage and played acoustic for a delighted audience. We were also treated to the sounds of the Triangle Afrobeat Orchestra, and Honey Magpie, who played earlier in the day. Huge thanks to our canoe guides, Joe Jacob, Lynn Featherstone and Woody Daly, for giving so many kids the opportunity to take a ride on the river. There



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

was also a big crowd taking part in the river monitoring with Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton and our macroinvertebrate experts, Maja Krickler and Jeannie Ambrose.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Adults and kids alike took part in the puppet parade, and learned a lot from the watershed model demonstration. Our Board and staff enjoyed chatting with festival goers about river issues at the HRA membership table. 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 displaying it, and sale of advance tickets. Many thanks to ♦ Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company for providing canoes for the guided rides for kids. Thanks to ♦ Paperhand Puppets for loaning us puppets for our parade, ♦ and to Saturdays in Saxapahaw for hosting us! Their Saturday music and market series continues on through the summer – see the full schedule at <http://www.saxapahawnc.com/bandschedule/>.

BIG THANKS to the BANDS!

♪ Triangle Afrobeat Orchestra (<https://www.facebook.com/triafrobeat/>)

♪ Honey Magpie ([honeymagpie.com](http://honeymagpie.com))

♪ Ragweed Brass Band (<https://ragweedbrass.bandcamp.com/releases>)



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

BIG THANKS to all the SILENT AUCTION DONORS and their beautiful contributions of art, crafts, venue tickets, services and more: Breakaway Cafe, Judith Brooks, Jan Burger, Lea Clayton, Chris Carter, R.J. Dobbs, Eliza and Molly DuBose, The Eddy Pub, Fair Game Beverage Co., Fifth Season Gardening Company, Roy

Girolami, Grove Winery, Haw River Ballroom, Hamish Jackson, Rachel Kelley, Patty Kenlan, Marbles Children's Museum, Morehead Planetarium, Museum of Life & Science, 2Puggles, Poppysol, River Landing Inn, Saxapahaw General Store, Emma Skurnick, Matt Spangler, Wanda Sunderman, TOPO Distillery, Uwharrie Valley Woodworks, Doug Wakeman, Allison Weiner, Nathalie Worthington, and UNC-CH Football.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Photo by Elaine Chiosso



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Roadless Races is bringing the Zen Squirrel Trail Run to Briar Chapel on September 28, in support of our work at HRA! The 5 and 10 mile race courses meander through the neighborhood trails of Briar Chapel, located in Chatham County, south of Chapel Hill. These forest covered courses include a mixture of dirt trails, and challenging hill climbs. Stick around for fun post-race festivities including breakfast burritos, music, massage/stretching, awards, the FREE kids 'Race for Treasure', and the presentation of The Jester Group's donation to the Haw River Assembly.

For details and registration go to <https://roadlessraces.com/>.

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FOR TICKETS AND INFO FOR THE MUSEUM SHOWS GO TO: [NCARTMUSEUM.ORG](http://NCARTMUSEUM.ORG)



## Upcoming 2019 HRA Events

**Sunday, August 25, 3 to 7 pm, Summer LC Potluck Party, at HRA office in Bynum, with Swimming & Art Projects. See page 4.**

**Thursday, September 5, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Wild & Scenic Film Festival at Carrboro Century Center. See page 1.**

**September 21-22, Haw River Watch Monitoring.** For more info, contact Emily Sutton at [emily@hawriver.org](mailto:emily@hawriver.org), 919-542-5790.

**September 21 - October 11, Our 30th Haw River Learning Celebration for 4th-graders.** To volunteer, contact Kyleene Rooks at [kyleene@hawriver.org](mailto:kyleene@hawriver.org), 919-542-5790. See page 4.

**Wednesdays, September 25 in Bynum; October 2 in Saxapahaw; October 9 at Guilrock: Learning Celebration Potlucks.** Join LC crews for a potluck meal each of the three weeks of the LC. See page 4 for details.

**Saturday, September 28, Zen Squirrel Trail Run at Briar Chapel, to support the work of HRA. See page 7. For details and registration go to <https://roadlessraces.com/>.**

**Sunday, October 13, Chicken Bridge Paddle with Frog Hollow Outdoors.** To register, visit [froghollowoutdoors.com](http://froghollowoutdoors.com).

**November 9 or 10, Day and Location to be announced. HRA Annual Meeting and Board Elections.** Details on page 2.

**December 21-22, Haw River Watch Monitoring.** 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 and Kayak Company, [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com); and Frog Hollow Outdoors, [froghollowoutdoors.com](http://froghollowoutdoors.com).

Updates & 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 2019 "Turtle" T-Shirt is Here!

Designed by Clyde Jones, our world famous Bynum folk artist! The shirt is soft dove gray with a multi-color turtle (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. Available at our office, and the Saxapahaw General Store.



**\$25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL**  
**\$25 (ladies style) S, M, L, XL**  
**\$20 (youth) S, M, L**

To 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. 21 - Oct. 11**

Address Service Requested

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