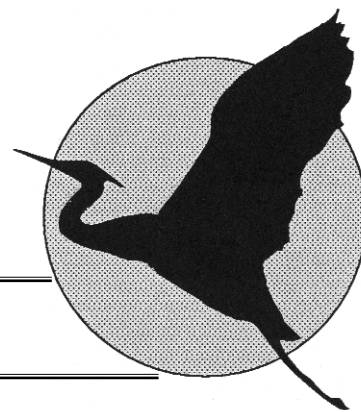


Haw River Assembly Newsletter

April 2007



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

email: info@hawriver.org • www.hawriver.org

Celebrating 25 Years Protecting the River!

Two Journeys Down the Haw - 1982 and 2007!

In 1982, the Haw River Assembly organized a “Clean Water Canoeathon and Hikeathon” to promote its mission of gathering folks together to protect the Haw River. The event took place over 11 days, starting with a ceremony on April 20 at the headwater springs in Forsyth County to fill a jug to accompany the intrepid crew downriver, and ending at the official dedication of Jordan Lake--and presenting the jug to Governor Hunt. The point was made that the only way to get clean water from the headwaters to the Lake was to carry it in a jug!

From the headwater springs, the next four days required strenuous hiking and paddling (portaging!) down through the upper 40 miles of the Haw. From there on the team paddled and camped their way along the river, stopping to meet with residents of river towns along the way, including Williamsburg, Altamahaw, Town of Haw River, Swepsonville and Saxpahaw. The group visited many of the wastewater treatment plants that are on the river and brought attention to some of the worst pollution sites, as well as awards to towns that were making good efforts for clean water. On April 30, they reached Bynum for a campfire and Clean Water Celebration--and then on to Jordan Lake on May 1, joined by a flotilla of paddlers with banners and signs to present Governor Hunt with the jug of clean water from the Haw headwaters, at the official opening ceremony for the Lake.

Here's the report of the Canoeathon from the June 1982 Haw River Newsletter, written by co-founder Chuck Brady:

“One of the finest sights I believe I have ever seen was the flotilla of canoes, rafts, kayaks C-Is, a washtub, and numerous hikers assembled together at Jordan lake on May 1 at the conclusion of the Haw River Assembly Canoeathon. Families, children, old and young, members of the Assembly and other sympathetic citizens came out to the dedication of the B. Everett Jordan Dam to show their support for the protection of the Haw River basin. Many, many of you worked long and hard for that day and I can't begin to express my gratitude. (continued on page 6)



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Matt Steible and Nolan Wildfire near the end of their journey down the Haw, at Dry Creek and the Haw in Chatham near Rock Rest.

Join us for the Haw River Community Festival Saturday May 12!

Celebrate the beautiful Haw River with us on Saturday May 12 down at the old Bynum Bridge from 1 - 6 pm. Kids' canoe rides; kids' paint-your-own Clyde Critter; great live music; critter catching at Bynum Beach; good food; walking and “chalking” on the pedestrian bridge; hiking along the river; environmental awareness displays and activities; native wetland plant sale; crafts for sale; a silent auction; and more. Details on the colored insert.



Photo by Glenn Forsythe

Festival-goers parade over the Haw River pedestrian bridge, at last year's Haw River Community Festival in Bynum.

HRA Board of Directors

Notes from the Haw

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- Cynthia Crossen**, *River Watch Project Coordinator*
- Catherine Deininger**, *Stream Steward Project Coord.*
- Aakara Wiegand**, *Learning Celebration Coordinator*
- Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Chuck Brady, Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Ken Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Matt Steible, Aakara Wiegand * **Photos:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Glenn Forsythe, Mike Holland, Eli Lowery, David Peterson, Ken Tunnell, Doug Wakeman, Nolan Wildfire * **Cartoon:** Chris Carter * **Logos:** Jan Burger

To join The Haw River Assembly

or renew your membership, send a check to:

HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228.

Individual: \$20 Family: \$30

Sustaining: \$50 Heron Circle: \$100 and above

Low Income: \$10

The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grass-roots 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

(From the Haw River Assembly Newsletter, Number 2, 1982)

A lot of us had heard good-natured kidding that the "Haw River Assembly" sounded like a church name. After twelve days in the forest, swamp, and some of the most beautiful river imaginable, I got to thinking about that. The overwhelming feeling I had on the river was one of awe, reverence and respect for what we have been given. In knee deep water in the middle of a beaver pond, surrounded by deer and lush vegetation, it is not difficult to remember that we are stewards of God's world. I believe that with people like you, we are not going to let Him down.



Chuck Brady, first HRA Director in 1982, dipping water from the Haw headwaters (from the HRA Newsletter, Number 2, 1982)

*HRA Director, Chuck Brady
June 1982*

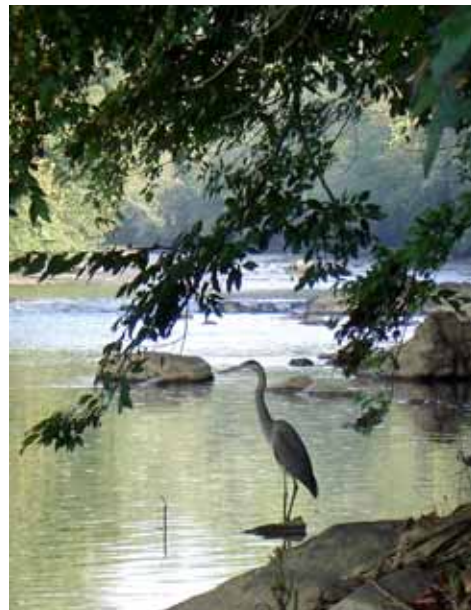
Twenty five years later, we share Chuck's feelings of awe and reverence as we watch the herons fishing along the Haw's white-waters, as we marvel at the eagles and ospreys soaring over Jordan Lake, or as we paddle down a lazy stretch of river under the arching sycamore trees.



Photo by Doug Wakeman

We pledge to carry on as stewards of the Haw.

From the river, Elaine



A great blue heron hunts in the early morning, on the Haw in Bynum. Photo by Elaine Chiosso



STREAM STEWARD PROJECT

Project Coordinator: Catherine Deininger

Email: deininger@hawriver.org

Two-Year Haw River Outreach Project Completed

We've had an amazing time during this project touring communities throughout the Haw River watershed, distributing Stream Steward Handbooks, and talking about how we all can "Save and Protect the River One Backyard at a Time" by adopting good stream stewardship practices. These practices can be as simple as cleaning up after your pets to as complex as putting land along a stream in a perpetual conservation easement. In the last two years we've visited communities along Back and McAdams Creeks in Mebane, the Haw River in Alamance, Robeson Creek in Pittsboro, Dry and Bush Creeks in Chatham County, North and South Buffalo Creek in Guilford, and Bolin and Morgan Creeks in Chapel Hill. We've also given numerous talks to communities in Chatham and Orange County on the impaired condition of Jordan Lake and the new rules being developed by the NC Department of Water Quality to address high level of nutrients in this important water resource.

This grant also provided us with the funds to revise and reprint our Stream Steward Handbook. (See our website to download a copy of the revised handbook.) Let us know if you would like to host a showing of our Stream Stewardship PowerPoint presentation for your organization, class or neighborhood (contact us at info@hawriver.org).

We are grateful for the funding provided for the Stream Stewardship Campaign under the EPA Section 319 Grant by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Nonpoint Source Program, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, and REI Environmental Stewardship Program.

Continued Efforts in Robeson Creek Watershed

The HRA Stream Stewardship Campaign began in 2001 with the Pittsboro community in the Robeson Creek watershed. We are now reaping the rewards of six years of continual effort in this watershed. In 2006, the EPA and NC DENR chose Robeson Creek to be one of seven "Priority" watersheds for the state, because they believe that the strong presence of an active partnership, the Robeson Creek Watershed Council (RCWC), is crucial in focusing efforts to improve the creek's water quality so that it can be removed from the State's 303(d) list of impaired waters. Tony Able of EPA, and Paul Clark of NC DENR have been working closely with HRA and NCSU Water Quality Group to achieve that goal, and the additional resources they have brought have been invaluable. We were able to organize a recent meeting in Pittsboro between the Town of Pittsboro, Region 4 EPA representatives from the Clean Water Revolving Fund program, and RCWC, to discuss potential funding sources for repairs to Pittsboro's sewer lines and Pittsboro's plans for providing reuse water with their new wastewater treatment plant.



Photo by Catherine Deininger

Two Streams Project Advisor Dave Penrose, River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen, and Two Streams Field Leader John Wagner collect macros on Terrell's Creek.

TWO THREATENED STREAMS PROJECT

At the end of January we mailed the 113 landowners along Pokeberry and Dry Creek a letter describing our Two Streams project and outlining how they can participate in this project. We've had a number of responses from people interested in becoming involved. Patricia Tidwell and her son Alec have already established a new Stream Watch Team along Dry Creek with the help of our River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen.

Kathy Buck and I have spent a good bit of time the last few months exploring back roads in and around the Pokeberry and Dry Creek watersheds, getting to know the lay of the land and looking for possible access to creeks for monitoring efforts. We've already started to note potential issues that hopefully we can help address--failing septic systems, golf course runoff, cattle in the creeks, and eroded streambanks.

We've begun talking with landowners about the problems that they are seeing in their watersheds. Many landowners on Pokeberry Creek are concerned about the runoff from failed septic systems. I've had two meetings with representatives from Briar Chapel, the large mixed-use development being built in the headwaters of Pokeberry and Wilkinson Creeks. At the first meeting we discussed the Two Stream project goals. The next meeting was spent walking the power and gas easements that run through Briar Chapel, and discussing various options for decreasing the muddy runoff caused by the damage done by motorized vehicles.

Kathy and I spent one glorious morning in March conducting a visual stream assessment on Terrell's Creek, our reference (high quality) stream for this project. We have begun to explore the possibility of obtaining Outstanding Waters designation from NC Department of Water Quality for this particularly pristine stream.

We've submitted the Quality Assurance Project Plans needed by the State for our planned macroinvertebrate and stormwater monitoring. NCSU has collected all the equipment that they need to set up four monitoring sites. We've determined the location of three of the stormwater sites and hopefully will have the fourth determined in the next couple of weeks. April is our big month for setting up stormwater sites and starting our macroinvertebrate monitoring. --Catherine Deininger, Project Coordinator



Project Coordinator: Cynthia Crossen Email: riverwatch@hawriver.org
P.O. Box 25, Saxapahaw, NC 27340 (919) 967-2500 (office); (919) 542-3827 (home)

Standing in the Stream

Despite wading through chilly waters this winter, HRA staff, volunteers, and students haven't gotten cold feet about protecting our streams! With the help of Catherine Deininger and Betsy Kraus, I led stream monitoring at Bynum Beach for Amy Kennedy's Environmental Science class at CCCC in February. Chilly early morning temperatures didn't cool the enthusiasm

of over 20 students, who plunged into the challenge of macroinvertebrate sampling and pH, nitrate, and phosphate testing. On March 31, I was back at Bynum Beach training new river watchers. Shannon Crane will be taking over as team leader for the Bynum team that Catherine has led for many years. Patricia Tidwell, her son Alec, and Patricia's mother were there to learn how to monitor Dry Creek near their home, after talking with Catherine during a stream assessment for the Two Streams project.

Two Threatened Streams Project: Having submitted the EPA-required Quality Assurance Project Plan for this grant, we have begun our more extensive macroinvertebrate sampling on Dry Creek and Pokeberry Creek. Field leaders Catherine Deininger, Betsy Kraus, John Wagner, and myself will sample 9 sites (four on Dry Creek, four on Pokeberry, and one on our reference stream Terrell's Creek), each April for the next three years. We hope to get information about the impacts on these threatened creeks of large-scale developments, as well as other sources of nonpoint source pollution.

Stream Delineations--A Stream or Not A Stream? That is the Question (From the N.I.M.B.Y.--Not In My Back Yard--department)

We need a way of protecting ephemeral creeks throughout the water-



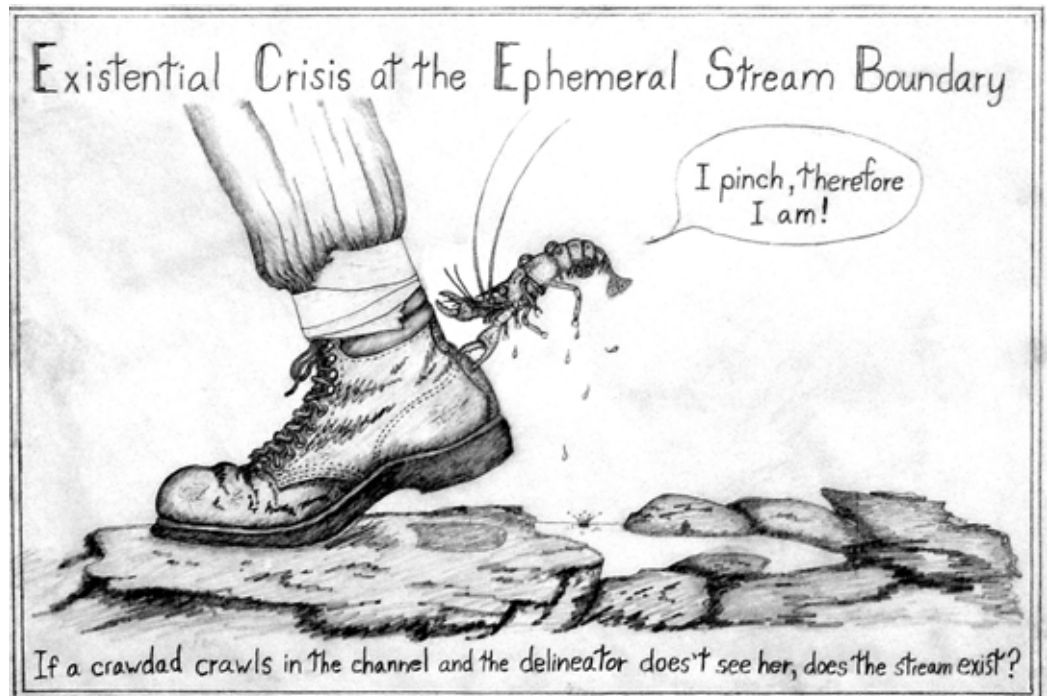
Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Catherine Deininger (left) helps train Shannon Crane (center) to lead the Bynum Beach monitoring team, while Patricia Tidwell (right) learns to identify critters so that she and her son Alec can monitor Dry Creek.

shed! I have been trying to get riparian buffers for three streams flowing onto my property from the proposed development The Glens. We've loved these beautiful creeks since we moved to Chatham in 1976. So far, I have managed to get riparian buffers for 2 out of the 3 streams. The unprotected stream and one of the protected streams were designated ephemeral (wet weather) streams, and thus are not required to be buffered by Chatham's current watershed protection ordinance. Based on my experience of getting a second opinion from the N.C. Division of Water Quality (DWQ) on the Army Corps' delineations of these streams, I have urged the new Chatham Environmental Review Board to look for some non-subjective way of stream determinations (for example, drainage area) that do not depend on the kind of judgment-call assessments currently used by the Army Corps and NC DWQ. I feel very strongly that even though two of my creeks are designated "ephemeral", they carry a significant amount of water, and should be buffered. **The protection of smaller creeks such as these is crucial** in protecting our larger perennial streams, the Haw River, and Jordan Lake.

Happy spring!

Cynthia Crossen, Haw River Watch Coordinator



Cartoon by Chris Carter, HRA Board and first River Watch Coordinator!

HRA Celebrates! 25 Years of Protecting the Haw River Watershed & Jordan Lake

What fun we had at our 25th Anniversary Celebration on March 31st! We had a great turn-out, fabulous food, a very exciting live and silent auction, and “Too Much Fun” dancing to the band of that name. Paperhand Puppet masks, Jan Burger’s hangings, and beautiful spring flowers (from Ken Moore) provided a wonderful setting at the Chapel Hill Community Church. We enjoyed watching a projection of beautiful photos of the Haw River and our volunteers and projects that stretched back over 25 years. Thanks so much to Ken and Cynthia Crossen for creating it. An amazing array of items and services were donated to the silent auction--thanks so much to all the donors, and to Kathy Buck and Margaret Jemison for organizing it.

Thanks to Gary Phillips for running our live auction, which included a gorgeous quilt by Wanda Sundermann, a fantastical “Heron” critter by Clyde Jones, two camping and boating packages from REI, a bicycle donated by Ken and Debbie Tunnell, a tent from Townsend Bertram Outfitters, a two night stay at Crews Inn (owned by Alton Ballance) at Okracoke, a pitcher by Mark Hewitt, and the ten gorgeous Dragonfly sculptures Chris Carter created.

There are so many folks to thank for helping with the planning, set-up, clean-up, cooking, decorating, bar-tending, tech support, and much more. We especially want to thank Wanda Sundermann who envisioned and then organized the entire event--Wow!! And special thanks to Rachel Winters for organizing and making food, to Jay Miller for providing the sound system, to the Lantern restaurant for the wonderful salmon sushi, to Louise Kessel for her beautiful art on our invitation and flyers, and to Doug Wakeman for designing and donating the fabulous new HRA bumper stickers--hot off the press just in time to give out as party favors! Donations to our bounteous food table included delicious treats from the Lantern restaurant, Chapel Hill Creamery, Chapel Hill Restaurant Group, Chi Phi Fraternity and Amante’s Pizza.

It was a very successful fundraiser as well--we made \$7,000 after expenses! We wish to thank those who made donations to sponsor our 25th Anniversary event and to our 25th Anniversary Campaign.

DRAGONFLY DONORS: Susan and Larry Hicks, Steve and Betsy Wing, Thomas Patterson, Allen and Sue Spalt, Daniel Okun, Burton and Nan Weiss, Jef and Dencie Lambdin, Thomas and Cheryl Neal, Lamotte Akin, Bill Holman and Stephanie Bass, John and Carmen Chasteen, William Sommers, Max and Ann Drake, Deborah Amaral

HERON DONORS: PHE Inc., Jo Sanders, Margaret Fallers, Townsend Bertram Outfitters, Mellow Marsh Nursery, Jake Horwitz

OSPREY DONORS: Ken and Cynthia Crossen, Nancy Hillmer

EAGLE DONORS: Margaret Jemison, Ed and Mary Hayes Holmes

We have now raised a total of over \$26,000 for our 25th Anniversary Campaign thanks to this event and many generous donors.



HRA supporters celebrate the Haw River Assembly by dancing the night away to music by Too Much Fun.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen



HRA Board members Chris Carter & Deborah Amaral...or...Possum & Fox?

Photo by Ken Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

(Left to right:) HRA Board members Margaret Tiano and Anne Cassebaum, 25th anniversary party organizer Wanda Sundermann, and HRA Office Manager Kathy Buck take tickets and run the silent auction.

(continued from page 1) “All up and down the river we were so encouraged by the support and feeling people had for the Haw. Baskets of food were lowered from bridges as we crossed under during our trip. Many citizens came down to the banks to talk with us about their respect for the river and to let us know that they were concerned about its many problems. For every pollution problem that discouraged us, we got many words of encouragement from people who were affected and longer willing to let the problems continue. We began to realize that these same feelings of concern and need for constructive hard work at solving the river’s problems



Kayakers participate in the first Haw River Assembly Canoeathon demonstrating for clean water, at the dedication of Jordan Lake, on May 1, 1982. (from HRA’s second newsletter, June 1982)

were felt equally in Forsyth, Rockingham, Guilford, Alamance, Caswell, and Chatham counties, and the counties of the Cape Fear Basin. The river truly belongs to all of us, and in creating the Canoeathon, the many people of the Haw River Basin could feel the stirrings that will eventually lead to a clean, healthy and beautiful Haw.

There was the man of eighty who told us that as a boy of thirteen he would float from Altamahaw down to Fayetteville on an inner tube and still remembered that as a high water mark in his life. He brought his three grandchildren down to see us that day and gave us food. There was a fire and gleam in that man’s eye that I’ll not soon forget. As he told us about his Haw River adventures, I began to see the same gleam in his grandchildren’s eyes. *Roll on Haw!*” --Chuck Brady

Twenty-five years later, in the spring of 2007, Matt Steible, a junior at Elon University, decided to honor that Canoeathon by organizing a paddle trip down the Haw River himself. Matt and his friend Nolan Wildfire have completed their journey this past March. Here is Matt’s story.

Is this the Finish Line or Just Another Start?

Monday - Started from Brooks Bridge and canoed through the town of Glencoe. Notable events included blasting over the little Indian Valley Dam, paddling with Joe Jacob in some fresh Class II rock gardens below Glen Raven, and picking up a lot of trash river right of Indian Valley Golf Course. We had some time in the afternoon and so we filled ten trashbags of bottles, glasses, and washed up styrofoam. Camped downstream of Glencoe, all those different colored mill houses are really a sight to see.

Tuesday - Paddled through Burlington, Haw River, and Graham. Again a lot of rock gardens, good thing the river was up. We were pressed for time, trying to make up that day that was washed out, so we passed right through Swepsonville and incidentally right over that little sunken dam. I had forgotten it was there. No holes in the canoe though. Certainly portaged over the big Swepsonville dam and poked around in the grist mill ruins. From then on it was 5 miles of flatwater to Saxapahaw. Flatwater, but the wildlife was abundant, more turtles, geese, and ospreys. In the mud flats before Saxapahaw, there were carp jumping and tail-walking all over the place. I think it’s to stir up the bottom for food, but I could be wrong.

Wednesday - A difficult two-miler. Took the morning to resupply from Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company (I had left a food drop there) and then took the afternoon to speak and meet with the students of the New Century Charter School. I will say that Saxapahaw hosts a school of very enthusiastic, energetic learners in New Century. It’s a small school, but the walls are covered with student art and it’s great to see the kind of community in the common room. I’d like to thank Principal Huth for giving us lunch and the opportunity to talk to the students, it was my first time seeing a charter school in action. They’ve got some great projects lined up and are already very involved in the river with water quality tests. On the water by 4 pm and just floated a couple miles to a camping spot. (continued on next page)



Photo by Eli Lowery

Youth retreat members at Haw River State Park brave the rain to launch Matt with a “Hawsome” send-off as he begins his trip down the Haw.

Thursday - From Old Greensboro Hwy to below Chicken Bridge rapids. Just floated in the morning, sunburn is becoming a factor, but that's part of the reason why spring breaks were created...The river has become a lot wider and slower paced, but then you get to the Class II stretch below Chicken Bridge and it's a welcome change. Thursday night, the Rock Rest Community held a potluck dinner for us and let us camp on their land. After days of eating my own cooking (mixture of easy-mac, garlic, texas pete, chicken and clams) this was the greatest meal ever. I really appreciate the community for doing that and the Swenbergs for hosting.

Friday - The Swenbergs gave us breakfast! The weather is also getting a lot warmer, the night was hardly cool and it's supposed to be in the 80's for the rest of the weekend. We paddled the last class II, Final Solution, and hit the flatwater stretch above Bynum. This morning we've portaged Bynum Dam and then we walked over to the Assembly office where Elaine Chiosso let me use her computer. Hence, the words I type. Also, Bynum's having a potluck dinner tonight, the food has been AMAZING on this trip. I am deeply grateful and thankful for all the help and support I've received on this trip.

Today, at 3 pm, Nolan and I reached Mermaid Point, a thin, sliver of land that separates the channels of the Haw and the Deep. There, a molecule away from its utmost crag, the two rivers join, forming the Cape Fear. Two canoes bearing three paddlers joined us at Mermaid Point. Mark Garner, and Lyn and William McDuffie have been canoeing Bear Creek and the Deep River throughout the week. Same mission, different river. Both groups brought jugs of water from their headwaters. We started miles apart; days later, we met here.

Mark and the McDuffies are from Robbins, N.C., hometown of Charles E. ("Chuck") Brady. Their paddle, as well as mine, is a celebration of the improvement of the waters that Chuck Brady helped improve with his Haw River thru paddle of '82. Just as his was to warn the community about worsening river conditions, ours shouted out "Look how much they've changed since then! And for the better!"

What a week to celebrate these changes. I saw the Haw from the end of winter to the bursting of spring in these last ten days. Gray and over swollen banks changed like a flash into a picturesque burbling river that attracted scores of paddlers, fisherman, nature lovers, and just ordinary PEOPLE on this weekend...It's also amazing to think that, twenty-five years ago, conditions were so much worse, but poised to flow in the right direction. It just took a little nudge, or should I say, 'paddle'; William McDuffie put it best today: "I don't think paddling will ever mean the same to me again." I agree.



Photo by Nolan Wildfire

Will McDuffie of the Deep River and Matt Steible of the Haw pour the headwaters of their rivers into the Cape Fear River, where the Haw and Deep come together.



Photo by David Peterson

Matt Steible (center, holding jug) and Nolan (to his left) are greeted at Rock Rest by (left to right) HRA Executive Director Elaine Chiosso, Haw River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen, and HRA Board member Joe Jacob.

I would say that the last ten days have been a rollercoaster. That's true for the rapids, but it wouldn't be giving the flat, scenic stretches of the Haw their credit...

*We poured those jugs of water into the Cape Fear today, and watched as two groups from two rivers were united in a common goal--the conservation and celebration of our watershed and the paying of homage to a local quest for the same. To quote from The Sandlot, "Heroes are remembered, but legends and rivers never die." I added the river part. Today was the recognition of Charles E. Brady's efforts and paddle. May such an act and the reasons for it never be forgotten. The turbulent, bottled-up rainwater from a past Friday leapt eagerly for the Cape Fear--what an odd way to arrive here. Long ago, the joke went "The only way you'll get clean water below Lake Jordan is if you carry it there in a jug." Today it is *not* the only way, but I was happy to add another gallon to the end of the river and the start of a new one. And fittingly, to this Haw River, the jug even had a bit of mud in the bottom. Thanks. --Matt Steible*

Learning Celebration 2007

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



Welcome Aakara Wiegand, our 2007 Learning Celebration Coordinator!

I am excited to be joining this dynamic community of people, who are so dearly committed to the water that surrounds their lives! I am new to the town of Carrboro as of January, having moved from Winston Salem. I have been involved with water education for 6 years, & work part-time doing organic farming.

My vision for the Learning Celebration this year is to re-establish the sincere community that comes together for the three weeks along the river and volunteers all their efforts and energy towards creating a special celebration. I was told by one of your own, that the LC began 18 years back, as a way to bring people together, build community, and educate our children.

If you have an interest in being a part of the 2007 LC...**NOW** is your opportunity. If you won't be able to join the fun, then you can help by recruiting your neighbor, friend, relative or co-worker--in fact recruit them all! It can be their first time at the Learning Celebration; they can commit to a **weeklong experience**, gain a world of love, commitment and peace from being there, and help me achieve my goal of an even stronger community of volunteers.

Thanks, & see you on the river, **Aakara Wiegand**

Volunteer now for the 2007 Learning Celebration!

Visit our website, www.hawriver.org, Learning Celebration Link for more details.

Contact Aakara by email at aakarawater@gmail.com or call (919) 542-5790 to register.

- Dates: * September 22 - 28: Week one, Bynum
 * September 29 - October 5: Week two, Saxapahaw
 * October 6 - 12: Week three, Guilrock

Win A Brand New Old Town **Allagash** Canoe
 See insert to order raffle tickets, or buy tickets at the May 12 Festival. You do not need to be present to win.



**Wed. May 2th,
9:30 am - 3 pm**

Join Us For Clean Water Lobby Day in Raleigh, Wednesday May 2, 9:30 am to 3 pm, at the legislative building in downtown Raleigh. HRA will join with N.C. clean

water activists to speak with legislators about important water quality issues. This year we are focusing on sediment pollution, the hog farm moratorium, and the interbasin transfer "water wars"--which will become more of a hot issue throughout the state as more demands are made on water supplies.

Join our group who will meet with representatives from the Haw River watershed--no experience needed, and it's a great way to **BE democracy in action!** There will be a car pool from Bynum (and possibly from other locations if there are enough people going). If you are interested in going or want more information, please contact us at info@hawriver.org or (919) 542-5790.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

2007 Haw River Festival T-shirt!

Clyde Jones flying ducks on pale moss green or pale yellow shirt, modeled by HRA Vice-President Ruth Lucier and HRA President Debbie Tunnell

\$ 20 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL

\$ 16 (youth small & medium)

Available at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Great Outdoors Provision Co., Pringles in Fearington, and the Haw River Assembly office in Bynum.

Jordan Lake

A RESOURCE IN NEED OF PROTECTION

Chatham And Cary: Protecting Jordan Lake Through Joint Planning

The Haw River Assembly urges the Chatham County Commissioners to adopt a Joint Chatham-Cary Comprehensive Plan that will provide the greatest protection for both water quality and the environment at Jordan Lake. The joint planning region is a crucial resource for drinking water, recreation, wildlife, and significant natural areas in a fast growing and increasingly thirsty region.

Chatham and Cary officials have held public meetings and presentations on future planning for an area between Jordan Lake and the Wake County line, north of Hwy 64. Three maps showing land use and zoning recommendations have been proposed. These maps can be viewed on the Chatham Planning website: <http://www.co.chatham.nc.us/chathamcaryplan/>. Go to “Maps Displayed for Joint Meeting” to see the three options and other information.

Of the three maps on the website, the “New Draft Map” offers the greatest protection for Jordan Lake. We strongly agree with the use of 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres close to the lake, and 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres in much of the remaining area. However, we do not agree that in this study area there should be any zoning less than 1 dwelling unit per 1 acre, or any zoned areas for mixed-use development; and we believe that all streams and wetlands should be buffered. You can read our full comments to the Chatham Board of Commissioners on our website, www.hawriver.org.

Jordan Lake is already impaired due to existing development in the entire watershed--but developments in close proximity have a much greater immediate impact. Virtually all new major developments built near Jordan Lake, in both the Chatham and Cary jurisdictions, have created large plumes of muddy water that degrade water quality and recreation areas. Many of these developments have been issued Notices of Violation for sediment pollution (see “Pollutions Reports” at www.hawriver.org).

Dense developments--which require large-scale forest removal and massive grading--cannot be built without harm to the lake. We urge the elected officials of both Chatham and Cary to prevent more pollution.

Draft Jordan Lake Rules for Public Comment - SOON

In March, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) voted to finally send out, for public comment, the draft Jordan Lake rules to reduce nutrient pollution. As we go to press, the comment period and public hearing dates have not been announced, but we expect it to be in May or June. HRA, and other statewide environmental groups, support the major goals of these rules to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous from *all* sources that contribute to Jordan Lake, including development, agriculture, and wastewater effluent. But we strongly feel that nitrogen reductions from the major wastewater treatment plants must begin in 2011, as originally recommended, instead of 2016.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

4-H Campers enjoy Jordan Lake, summer 2006.

The Lake Can't Wait for Delayed Pollution Reductions Algae blooms from nutrient pollution have troubled the lake since it was first built. As the population in our watershed grows, so does the pollution. It threatens aquatic life, recreation, and drinking water supply. The state first proposed nitrogen reductions by all wastewater plants in the watershed in 1997, under the Clean Water Responsibility Act. The implementation was deferred for further study--and Jordan Lake ended up on EPA's Impaired Waters list in 2002. Although wastewater effluent is only part of the problem, once nitrogen decreases we will see significant improvement in water quality where effluent enters the Haw River and Jordan Lake.

New Rules will mean cleaner water throughout the watershed Many of the tributaries that receive wastewater effluent and stormwater pollution from cities in our watershed are also on the EPA impaired waters list (Little Troublesome Creek in Reidsville, Greensboro's Buffalo Creeks, Big Alamance Creek in Burlington, Town Creek in Graham, Robeson Creek in Pittsboro, Morgan and Little Creeks in Chapel Hill, Northeast and Third Fork Creeks in Durham). These new rules will mean reductions in stormwater and wastewater pollution that will result in cleaner water everywhere – as well as for the target, Jordan Lake.

HRA will alert our membership on the hearings and provide information. Get ready to tell the state how important clean water in Jordan Lake is to all of us!

Join HRA's Lake Watch Initiative

Contact us for a Lake Watch form, or download one from www.hawriver.org (the Jordan Lake page) to report fish kills, algae blooms, outgassing, dangerous trash, or sediment plumes on Jordan Lake. We'll ask for date, section of the lake where you saw the problem, and digital photos if any.

2007 CLEAN-UP TEAMS BRAVE COLD WEATHER AND HIGH WATER

Cold breezes and high water didn't stop our fearless Haw River Cleanup volunteers on March 17! Nineteen teams went out along the river from Burlington down to the Jordan Lake dam to clean up trash along the water's edge. Four teams of paddlers picked up trash on the islands and log-jams and ferried it to shore. Together they filled 278 bags of trash, and pulled 47 tires and mounds of old metal, wood, appliances and just plain weird trash from the river.

The "Weird Trash Award" was a tough call this year (we held the vote at our 25th Anniversary celebration). The very waterstained vintage babydoll, found at Saxapahaw (with her bottle and rattle), squeezed out the competition, with the 4-foot high plastic cactus (in cement flower pot) found by the Robeson Creek team a close second.

The "Most Trash Found" award went to the Army Corps of Engineers team, who were joined by a church youth group. Ten volunteers collected 43 bags of trash and 14 tires (and a red fox skeleton!).

The "Most Heroic Team" award was shared collectively this year by the paddler teams--three teams from the Carolina Canoe Club, and one led by Mike Holland in Saxapahaw--who braved high waters to get that trash. To stay safe, many of the paddlers found flatwater areas to clean up instead of the roiling river.

And finally, we have the "Most Ironic Trash" award this year, which goes to the construction site erosion control fencing found in the river (clearly not getting the job done).

Thanks to all 165 volunteers! The river looks a whole lot better today thanks to your efforts. Their work was supported by 30 local businesses, who made contributions to HRA to help us protect the river all year long. Thanks to all our business sponsors too!

The Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon has been an annual event for 17 years. Come join us next March!



Photo by Ken Tunnell

Volunteers pick up trash in Bynum..

Special Thanks To *Clean-Up-A-Thon Team Leaders & Volunteers!*

- 👉 **Bill Daigle, Jeff Pettus**, *Chicken Bridge in Chatham*, 2 volunteers picked up 11 bags of trash
- 👉 **Wanda Sundermann**, *Saxapahaw Boy Scout Camp*, with Homeschool Community Service Group, 10 volunteers picked up 23 bags of trash and 5 tires (*burned shot up stop sign, baby doll*)
- 👉 **Lamonte Stokes (Alamance Parks & Rec)**, *Glencoe Village, Burlington*, 6 volunteers picked up 11 bags of trash & 4 tires (*metal baby crib*)
- 👉 **Spencer Kennedy**, *Old Greensboro Hwy*, 4 volunteers picked up 15 bags of trash & 8 tires (*terrarium in trash bottle, muffler*)
- 👉 **Cathy Markatos**, *Dry Creek in Chatham*, 1 volunteer picked up 3 bags of trash (*scratched off lottery tickets*)
- 👉 **Elaine Chiosso**, *Bynum bridge, beaches, river trails, Bynum Creek*, 47 volunteers picked up 28 bags of trash & 4 tires (*road sign, "Tushkin" that survived mill fire*)
- 👉 **Debbie & Ken Tunnell**, *15-501 bridge, Bynum dam, river trail*, 7 volunteers picked up 26 bags of trash & 1 tires (*surge protector with instructions, toy wagon, propane tank*)
- 👉 **R. C. Duckson**, *Army Corps of Engineers team, Jordan Lake, near dam*, 10 volunteers picked up 43 bags of trash & 14 tires (*red fox skeleton, Nascar jello mold*)
- 👉 **Cynthia Crossen**, *Rock Rest in Chatham*, 2 volunteers picked up 1 bag of trash (*mystery rubber auto part*)
- 👉 **Sam Berryhill**, with Boy Scout troop, *Saxapahaw islands*, 14 volunteers picked up 18 bags of trash (*barb wire and metal pieces*)
- 👉 **Bob Brueckner, John Grimes**, *Paddler Team, Bynum above dam, Carolina Canoe Club members*: 5 volunteers picked up 10 bags of trash & 2 tires
- 👉 **Bob Brueckner**, *Paddler Team, Bynum to Hwy 64, Carolina Canoe Club members (post-flood)*: 8 volunteers picked up 13 bags of trash & 4 tires
- 👉 **Sarah Goddin**, *Redbud in Chatham*, 16 volunteers picked up 18 bags of trash



Photo by Mike Holland

Heroic Kayaker versus Trash Mountain in Saxapahaw.

Thank You To *Our 2007 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors*

- ❖ Additions Plus (Stanley & Patti Stutts), 2267 Manns Chapel Road, Pittsboro (919) 968-3737, sestutts@mindspring.com
- ❖ Alicia Ravetto, AIA, Architect PA, 400 W. Weaver St., Carrboro 27510, (919) 933-0999, www.aliciaravettoarchitect.com
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- ❖ Grove Winery & Vineyard, 7360 Brooks Bridge Road, Gibsonville 27249, (336) 584-4060, www.grovewinery.com
- ❖ Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co., P.O. Box 22, Saxapahaw 27340, (336) 260-6465 www.hawrivercanoe.com
- ❖ Heartwood Realty (Elizabeth Anderson), 184 Hwy 64 East, Pittsboro 27312, (919) 542-6555, www.heartwoodrealty.com
- ❖ Hill Creek Veterinary Hospital, 23 Rectory St. Pittsboro 27312, (919) 542-1141, www.hillcreekvet.com
- ❖ Jordan Properties/Saxapahaw Rivermill, P.O. Box 128, Saxapahaw 27340, (336) 376-3122, www.rivermillvillage.com
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- ❖ The Trail Shop (Adam Van Slyke), 308 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, (919) 929-7626, www.thetrailshop.com
- ❖ WDL (Mark Estill) 220 Chatham Business Dr., Pittsboro 27312, (919) 545-2500, marke@wdsystems.com
- ❖ Weaver Street Realty, 116 E. Main St., Carrboro 27510, (919) 929-5658, www.weaverstreetrealty.com

Please Support Our Supporters!

- ♣ **Catherine Deininger**, *Robeson Creek in Pittsboro*, 5 volunteers picked up 12 bags of trash & 3 tires (*four-foot plastic cactus*)
- ♣ **Brian Rosa**, *Robeson Creek Canoe Access*, 4 volunteers picked up 14 bags of trash & 1 tire (*four-foot plastic cactus*)
- ♣ **Connor Boyle**, *Swepsonville River Park*, 9 volunteers picked up 16 bags of trash & 1 tire (*oil furnace*)
- ♣ **Eric Schwartz**, *Highway 64 bridge over Haw*, 3 volunteers picked up 8 bags of trash (*blob of metal, 3 basketballs*)
- ♣ **Mike Holland**, *Haw River through Saxapahaw*, with Saxapahaw Paddler Team, 6 volunteers picked up 2 bags of trash (*5 balls, Mad River canoe, 1 freshly shot goose*)
- ♣ **Anne Geer**, *Brooks Creek in Chatham*, 6 volunteers picked up 6 bags of trash

Totals: 165 volunteers at 19 sites picked up 278 bags of trash and 47 tires (*plus weird trash items listed in italics*)!



Saxapahaw paddler team cleans up the Haw.

Photo by Mike Holland

Upcoming 2007 HRA Events

For info see Upcoming Events at www.hawriver.org; for info and to volunteer contact HRA at (919) 542-5790; info@hawriver.org

Wednesday May 2, 9:30 am - 3 pm, downtown Raleigh Clean Water Lobby Day (see page 8 for details)

Saturday May 12, 1-6 pm, Bynum Haw River Community Festival (see colored insert for details)

Saturday, May 19, Stargazing Float in Saxapahaw, led by Joe Jacob, (336) 260-6465

Wednesday, June 6, Eagle Watch at Jordan Lake, led by Donna Riggs, (919) 542-3676

June 23-24 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend

Saturday, July 14, 4-6 pm, Saxapahaw, Finding River Critters: Citizen Water Quality Monitoring, led by Haw River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen; for info, contact (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org

Sunday, August 19, Haw River Paddle, Swepsonville to Saxapahaw, led by Lynn & Brenda Featherstone, (919) 545-0017

Saturday, September 8, 10 am - noon, Bynum Finding River Critters--Citizen Water Quality Monitoring, led by Haw River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen; for info, contact (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org

September 22-23 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend

September 22 - October 12, Haw River Learning Celebration for schools (see page 8 for details)

Saturday, October 6, Jordan Lake State Recreation Area Heritage Day at Jordan Lake

Saturday, October 6, North Carolina Big Sweep Leader: Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

Wednesday, October 31, Pumpkin Paddle in Bynum, led by Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

Saturday, November 24, Harvest Full Moon Paddle on the Haw River in Alamance, led by Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

Saturday, December 1 Historic Haw River Mills Tour, led by Elaine Chiosso, 919-542-5790

December 15-16 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend



Festival in
Bynum
Sat. May 12!

Address Service Requested

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Haw River Assembly

Permit No. 490

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