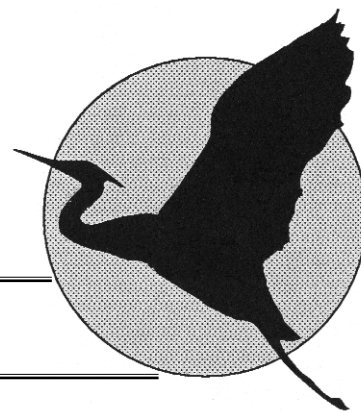


# Haw River Assembly Newsletter

April 2008



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)

## The Drought Next Time

Spring rains have ended the extreme drought, at least for now. Although reservoirs are full again, ground water is not back to normal, and we need to keep being smart water users--permanently. This drought was a wake-up call to local and state government that we will never have surplus 'easy' water supplies again. The population growth has put a high demand on a limited resource, and there may not be enough water if we don't make some big changes. Rate structures and rules that encourage conservation, water line repairs, recycled gray water systems, rain barrels, educational efforts, and water-saving devices are good starts. We know what to do--but when the reservoirs fill up we seem to forget the problem until the next drought crisis.

In the Haw River basin, the water supply crisis was very uneven. Cities that rely on their own local reservoirs such as Greensboro and Chapel Hill/Carrboro watched their reservoirs fall very low. Greensboro used their 'drought pipeline' to pump some water from the Haw River into Lake Townsend during one of the rare winter downpours. OWASA started talking about building a similar pipeline to bring water from the Haw River to the Cane Creek reservoir. Durham wants to start using its Jordan Lake allocation through a new shared water intake. Raleigh, having depleted its own Falls Lake, put out feelers about an interbasin transfer--a pipeline from Jordan Lake. Without serious planning it is easy to see how "water wars" could start in the next drought. (See Cat Warren's Indy article on page 10, "Jonesing for Jordan".)

### Teams Get the Trash Out at the 18th Haw River Clean-Up

See pages 8 & 9.



Sarah Slover (far left) and the Environmental Club at Green Hope High School in Cary stand satisfied with their trash haul from Jordan Lake at Hwy 751. See story on pages 8 and 9.

### Haw River Festival 2008

Saturday  
May 10  
1-6 p.m.  
At Old Bynum Bridge

**At the River:**  
Silent Art Auction of Clyde Jones' Ducks; Native Plant Sale, Nature Walks, River Monitoring, Environmental Booths and Canoe Raffle.

**Kids Activities:** Guided canoe rides; "Paint-a-Clyde-Critter". **Delicious food** for sale at the Ruritan Club.

**Live Music:** New River Rock Skippers, Rootzie, Risuenos, Jimmy Magoo, Lost in the Trees, Louise Kessel & Jef, Cynthia Crossen & the Festival Jam.

**Suggested Donation:** \$5 (\$3 for kids under 14, babies free)

long as the big cities in our watershed keep discharging wastewater effluent, the Haw River has water--as does Jordan Lake. Even in the worst drought there is a baseline flow from effluent. This is all the more reason for the state to finally pass the Jordan Lake rules to reduce pollution in wastewater and stormwater that flows to the lake, to protect its water quality.

We need to accept the limits of the "carrying capacity" of our region and put an end to policies that encourage sprawl and development when the water supply cannot meet the demand. We do *NOT* want to be the next Atlanta.

Haw River Festival "Learning Celebration" for Schools This Fall! Sept. 20 - Oct. 10 (see p.6)

## HRA Board of Directors

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## HRA Staff

**Elaine Chiosso**, *Executive Director*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *River Watch Project Coordinator*  
**Catherine Deininger**, *Stream Steward Project Coord.*  
**Justin Taylor**, *Learning Celebration Coordinator*  
**Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*

## Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Cynthia Crossen \* **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Justin Taylor, Cat Warren \* **Photos:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Ken Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Joe Jacob, Doug Wakeman \* **Logos & Festival Poster Artwork:** 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 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



Photo by Doug Wakeman

*Spring has come to the Haw. I've seen the first ospreys building nests at Jordan Lake, and had the amazing experience of seeing river otters mating on a sandbank below the Bynum Bridge! It is a pleasure to hear the sound of water in the river and creeks after the long drought.*

*The big news around here is that we moved our office to a lovely rental mill house in Bynum while we undergo renovations at our old office. We finally have enough room for staff, and for visitors, so please stop by. We are at 199 Bynum Hill Road--look for the white house with green trim and a white picket fence on the way up to the ballfield (Bynum Road is the next street down after you pass the Bynum General Store). We still have the same phone number (919-542-5790) and mailing address (P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228). Come see us!*

*Omega Wilson, director of the Mebane EPA-funded "Rights to Basic Amenities" project (that HRA has been a partner on) was selected to be part of the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAV). "I am very honored and proud to represent the community perspective for environmental justice communities that are exposed to adverse and disproportionate impacts from environmental hazards that create public health risks," said Wilson. We are proud to be associated with him.*

*Longtime international clean water advocate (and HRA member) Professor Daniel A. Okun died on December 10. He was Kenan Professor of Environmental Sciences and Engineering and had served the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for over 50 years. Professor Okun was widely recognized for the engineering insight and passion he brought to protection of the world's water resources, especially those dedicated to human consumption. He will be greatly missed, but long remembered for his achievements and influence.*

*There are so many amazing people who care passionately about water and the environment in this watershed. Community initiatives, non-profits and outstanding colleges and universities in our area make this a special place. The Haw River Assembly is grateful for the efforts of our volunteers and members in, as Thomas Berry says, "the great work".*

*Please come celebrate with us on May 10 at the Haw River Festival!*

*From the river,  
Elaine*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Justin Taylor, our new Education Coordinator, and Elaine Chiosso, our Executive Director, stand in front of HRA's new office in Bynum.*



# STREAM STEWARD PROJECT NEWS

from Project Coordinator Catherine Deininger Email: [deininger@hawriver.org](mailto:deininger@hawriver.org)

## Robeson Creek Watershed

In December 2007, Karen Hall of NCSU and I sat down with the Pittsboro's Town Manager and Town Planner to discuss updating Pittsboro's Subdivision Ordinance. The Subdivision Ordinance is what is used in many towns to regulate the design of new developments. Pittsboro's Subdivision Ordinance has rules ranging from street width and landscaping to stream buffers and stormwater management. Since that early winter meeting, we've formed an initial Pittsboro Ordinance Review Committee--David Monroe, Town Planner; Christy Perrin and Karen Hall, NCSU; Fred Royal, Pittsboro resident; Philip Culpepper, Preston Development; and myself. We are now reviewing Pittsboro's Subdivision Ordinance by comparing it to model development principles developed by the Center for Watershed Protection ([www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org)). We hope to develop a Subdivision Ordinance that will protect stream corridors and encourage green development designs.

## Two Streams Project

**Pokeberry Creek Community Meeting** Over a dozen concerned citizens from the neighborhoods in the headwaters of Pokeberry Creek attended a community meeting on a chilly day in January to become informed about water quality issues within their watershed. Heather Boyette from DWQ and Dave Penrose from NCSU came as well to participate in the discussion of how to protect this threatened creek. I gave a presentation on the work that we are doing to monitor and study Pokeberry Creek under the Two Streams project. Pokeberry Creek has been impacted by runoff from several older neighborhoods, farms, and golf courses. The creek is now also suffering from increased sediment due to the construction of several new developments within its watershed. Protection of this threatened creek can happen only with the combined effort and will of the communities within its watershed. I talked about how people could help by acting as stewards of the creek in their own backyards. We had a much-needed discussion about how septic systems in some of the older communities are potentially affecting water quality in Pokeberry Creek. Neighbors



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Two Streams Project Manager Catherine Deininger (at computer), with volunteers Betsy Kraus, Neville Handel, and Jeannie Ambrose (at microscope).*

on Creek Edge Road in Polks Landing expressed interest in setting up a new River Watch Team.

**Two Streams Volunteers** The Two Streams project continues to attract amazing volunteers. We've had two wonderful volunteers join us recently. Jeannie Ambrose has joined us in collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates from Dry and Pokeberry Creeks. She has an impressive knack for dissecting small critters and posing them for viewing and photographing under the microscope. Neville Handel recently received a Master's Degree from the UNC Ecology Department. He has already become proficient at identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates, and has been assisting Kathy Buck and myself with visual stream assessments. This month he will be getting his feet wet with stream monitoring in both Pokeberry and Dry Creeks.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Catherine Deininger (center) talks about impacts to Pokeberry Creek at its headwaters, at the Pokeberry Creek community meeting.*



Photo by Catherine Deininger

*Two Streams volunteer Neville Handel assesses Pokeberry Creek with Kathy Buck.*



# The River Watcher Haw River Watch Project News

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 by Cynthia Crossen

We are happy for the rainfall in the last few months, which is refreshing our streams and replenishing our water supply. May we learn from this drought never to take the gift of clean water for granted.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Carolina Environmental Students Association (CESA) has been monitoring Bolin Creek in Chapel Hill since 2003.

**River Watch Teams:** Students in the Carolina Environmental Students Association of UNC-CH have been monitoring Bolin Creek since 2003. Each year, as old members graduate and new members come into the club, the River Watch torch is passed to a new team leader. Our recent monitoring of Bolin Creek yielded very few macrovertebrates--a result of the drought, or Bolin Creek's impaired status? Thanks to CESA, we can track these changes over time to answer such questions. Welcome to new members of the Bynum team, Larry Crum and Maggie Frantz, who are training to become team leaders for Bynum Beach.

**Macro-Micro Workshop:** Despite cold and wet weather on March 29, we were able to get out into the Haw River at Bynum Beach to collect macroinvertebrates during our Macro-Micro workshop. We took our specimens to the Ruritan Club, where after enjoying hot drinks and lunches, we looked at what we'd

found under microscopes. Thanks to REI's gift of a microscope and software, we were able to project the microscope's view onto the big screen, and marvel together at the intricate details we could see. Betsy Kraus showed us the hidden world of algae. Ken Crossen videoed mayflies and the lovely movement of their feathery gills, for our website. Thanks to the River Watch and Two Streams committees (Catherine Deininger, Betsy Kraus, Jeannie Ambrose, Neville Handel, Deborah Amaral, Chris Carter) and to Ken Crossen for help with this workshop. Join us for upcoming riverside events this summer in Saxapahaw.

You can read all about the **Two Threatened Streams Project**--including our Lab Notes--at the project's new page on HRA's website (go to [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), under Projects, Two Streams Project). We have successfully counted and identified all the specimens we have



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

A \*Big Thank You!\* to expert aquatic entomologist Dave Penrose (center, with dog Zoey, Project Manager Catherine Deininger on left, and Field Leader Betsy Kraus on right), for helping verify our specimen identifications for the Two Streams Project, and serving as Quality Assurance Advisor for the project.

collected on Pokeberry and Dry Creeks during 2007. With the

help of Dave Penrose, we now have an extensive photo reference collection.\* I am creating online tutorials for macroinvertebrate identification for our river watchers and others, using a wonderful tool called VoiceThread. You can check out my first efforts at the Two Streams Project page under Tutorials. Try this link to a tutorial on Stoneflies: <http://voicethread.com/share/62795/>.

**New Project:** Neuse River Keeper Dean Naujoks is leading trainings on a new project called Muddy Water Watch, designed to teach citizens how to monitor construction sites for proper sediment and erosion controls. Along with other HRA staff, I am attending these trainings, and will keep you posted on how you can learn to help us correct problems with sediment and erosion at on construction sites.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

At the March 29 Macro-Micro Workshop in Bynum, Two Streams volunteer Jeannie Ambrose (left), locates macroinvertebrates in the microscope for River Watcher Maria Hitt (right), while further down the table Ken Crossen takes mayfly videos.

## Haw River State Park Victory

Earlier this year, the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources and Bluegreen Coporation reached an agreement for the state parks system to acquire 692 acres near the headwaters of the Haw River in Guilford and Rockingham counties to expand the developing Haw River State Park. The property, assembled by Bluegreen for a residential golf course community, will instead be added to the over 300 park acres which the state parks system has acquired since 2004 and which includes The Summit environmental education center.

This was a great accomplishment by citizens advocating for the park. Spearheading the effort were Citizens for Haw River State Park ([www.citizensforhawriversp.org/](http://www.citizensforhawriversp.org/)). The Haw River Assembly was part of this effort urging local governments and the state to find a way to create this happy ending.

And now, more good news is in the works for the Haw River State Park! Supporters are waiting with fingers crossed for officials in Raleigh to approve the second major land purchase for the park this year. The Council of State will consider a \$5.75 million acquisition, adding another 140 acres to the five-year-old park in Guilford and Rockingham counties. The two purchases would nearly quadruple the current acreage of the park, which is envisioned as eventually spanning several thousand acres.

We are very excited that this beautiful land will become part of the Haw River State Park that all of NC's citizens will be able to enjoy. Kudos to the citizens working for the park, the State of North Carolina, and the folks at State Parks!

## \$100,000 Capital Campaign -- We're Over Halfway There!

The Haw River Assembly launched a Capital Campaign in October, 2007 to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. With your generous donations, we have now reached just over the halfway mark! As of March 20, 2008 we have raised **\$51,600**. Thanks to all the donors who have gotten us this far.

### *The Capital Campaign will fund:*

- **A better HRA office.** We are working on a rebuilding plan for our old office that will result in a structurally sound, and "greener" office, including an ecological wastewater system. In the meantime we have moved up the street to a rental house at 199 Bynum Hill Road.
- **Expanding our Learning Celebration program** into a year round effort to educate the public and schoolchildren, and making the Coordinator's position a permanent one.
- **Supporting our existing staff with fair pay**, and being able to hire equally gifted staff in the future.
- **Professional fundraising and outreach help** to focus our efforts more effectively on raising money, increasing our membership, and publicizing the great work HRA does.

**Match Opportunity!** A generous donor has pledged to match new contributions up to a total of \$20,000 in 2008.

## River Issues: Mud & Sludge

Mud is probably the most visible pollutant in our waters, and the surge of new development in much of North Carolina has made it the largest problem as well. The **Muddy Water Watch project**, led by the NC Riverkeepers, trains citizen volunteers to recognize and report poorly maintained erosion and sediment control measures at construction sites. Since the start up of the project this winter, over 200 volunteers have already gotten involved in the training program in Raleigh and Asheville. The Haw River Assembly staff have been attending the Raleigh trainings and we hope to start the program in the Haw River watershed in the coming year.

Sewage sludge from wastewater treatment plants has been an almost invisible pollution threat to our waters--but hopefully no longer. The Haw River Assembly joined with other organizations and local governments (including Chatham County) that asked for a public hearing on Burlington's permit to apply sludge to farmland. The hearing date has not been set by the state yet. There are many other cities that also use farmland in the Haw River watershed to spray millions of gallons of treated sludge from waste water treatment plants. We have questions concerning what is in the sludge and the effectiveness of current regulations and applications of sludge to protect public health and surface waters and groundwater. We are working with the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Carolina Concerned Citizens, and the UNC School of Public Health to get better answers to these questions.

**Won't you help us** by making your donation or pledge today? Your contribution enables us to put this plan into action right away. The Haw River Assembly is a 501[c][3] non-profit, and your gift is tax-deductible.

Thanks for your support!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*The Haw River Assembly Board of Directors (shown at its December meeting) is working hard to meet its Capital Campaign goal.*

# Learning Celebration News

It has been a pleasure to meet some of the wonderful people that come together to protect and enjoy the Haw River. Every time I walk by the soft rush of flowing water under the bridge, the sounds of life in its many diverse forms reminds me why I came to this place. I grew up around rivers in southern Arkansas and often wondered about the many creatures that live off them. Everywhere I go, I find myself drawn to water. I have worked in environmental outreach and management in several different places, but none so rich as this.

The idea of the Learning Celebration is new and inspiring to me. My hope is to use the existing community as a foundation to spread the message about this wonderful event and to invite new people and ideas to be a part of the community. I know this will be a genuine learning experience for me and everyone else involved.

If you want to come experience, learn and grow with us at the 2008 Learning Celebration, NOW is the time!! Spread the word to your friends, family and neighbors. Even if this is your first time, we welcome your participation. Imagine what a weeklong experience of sharing, teaching and learning can do for you and the community!

Thank you very much, *Justin Taylor*

To be a volunteer in the 2008 Learning Celebration, contact Justin at [arkanseno@gmail.com](mailto:arkanseno@gmail.com) or call (919) 542-5790 to register. For more information, visit our website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), Learning Celebration for Schools page.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

from Justin Taylor,  
our 2008 Education  
Coordinator



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Fourth-graders discover the adventure of being at the Haw River in Bynum, with guide Maria Hitt.

## Learning Celebration 2008:

**Week One:** September 20 - 26, in Bynum at the State Natural Area

**Week Two:** September 27 - October 3, in Saxapahaw at Lea and Donovan's land

**Week Three:** October 4 - 10, at Camp Guilrock in Reidsville/Rockingham County



Photo by Ken Crossen



Photo by Ken Crossen

Kids learn about clay from Jesse Crossen at the Haw River Learning Celebration in Saxapahaw.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

## 2008 Haw River Festival T-shirt!

*Clyde Jones models sunflowers on blue shirt*

**\$ 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.

# A River Worth Saving -- The Lower Haw River Corridor Project

What is so special about the Haw River? Is it the white water rapids or the lazy flatwaters of the old mill dams that attract all levels of paddlers? Is it the beautiful trees overarching the river, and the sense of wilderness in the midst of an urbanizing landscape? Is it the chance to see herons and ospreys and eagles, beavers and otters, and to spend a quiet day fishing or sitting on rocks watching the waters flow by?

The Haw River is all these things, as well as an endangered ecosystem, and waters that carry too much pollution from urban run-off, agriculture, and wastewater. As the forests are replaced by housing developments and shopping malls, we are working harder than ever to save the special riparian lands. We have many partners in this work, but none are more important than the landowners who have made a commitment to save their special part of the river for future generations.

On March 31, HRA and Elon University wrapped up a special two year project funded by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) to assess the lands along 27 miles of the main stem of the Haw River: from I-85 in Graham all the way down to the 15-501 bridge near Bynum. This project continued the Haw River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan that covered a 20 mile stretch of the Haw River between I-40/85 and the Guilford County line (Kron et al. 2005).

David Welch worked with Dr. Janet McFall at Elon University to complete the project (with initial work by Andrew Downs). Rudy Langley ably assisted with outreach to farmers along the river. HRA provided administrative support, and knowledge of the river and community based on our 25 years in the field. A key piece of this effort was contacting landowners and providing information on conservation options, both in individual and community meetings. We were greatly aided in this project by staff from the Triangle Community Foundation who collaborated with us in numerous ways on this successful project.

*Excerpts from the Executive Summary by David Welch:*

“The report is a tool for conservation professionals to use for project planning. It provides information on natural history, environmental conditions, as well as social conditions specific to the project’s geographical area. Environmental analysis in this report includes an interpretation of land cover from aerial photos and sampling of vegetation and river bank conditions in the field.

Land cover within 500 feet of the river is about 80% forested. The southern stretch of the study area has 90% forest cover and the northern reaches has 70%. Field collected data on riparian forest composition and riverbank erodibility provide information on current environmental conditions. Deciduous trees dominate the riparian forest canopies. Uncommon species such as mountain laurel and magnolia exist, but the invasive exotic shrub, autumn olive, is pervasive in these environments. River bank assessments measured with the Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) indicate

that the majority of the banks are moderately erodible. This study provides baseline information crucial for grant seekers who wish to detect future ecological and environmental changes in the watershed. Additionally, this project has compiled and organized key datasets into a GIS data base. Conservation professionals need this information to seek funding and prioritize their efforts along this stretch of river.

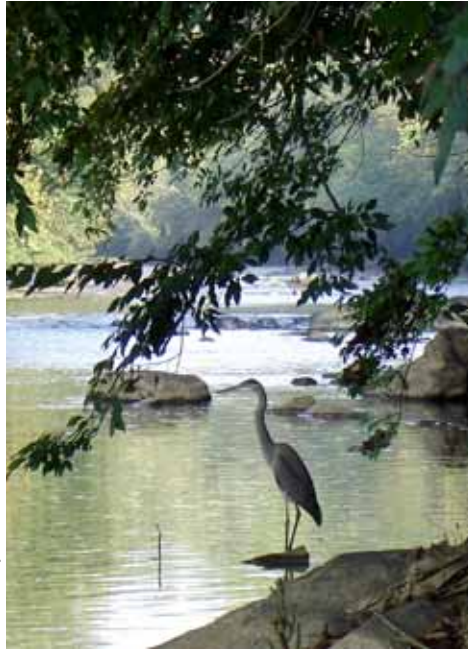


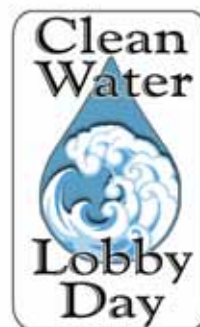
Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Landowner contacts established for this project will serve to initiate on-the-ground conservation. Individuals have expressed interest in pursuing farmland conservation, allowing a recreational corridor and establishing river and stream vegetation buffers. This report includes information on programs and agency contact information so that landowners have an overview of the options available to them.

This planning document represents a commitment several organizations have made to protect and enhance the natural resources of the Haw River. This strategy involves various non-profits and governmental organizations who will pursue conservation projects in this corridor. Outcomes from this work catalyze the process of protecting the environment of this important Piedmont watershed.”

HRA is grateful to all the partners who made this project possible, including our own Land Conservation committee members and the faculty and students who took part at Elon University. A special thanks to Bill Delano for use of the Triangle Training Center. We were greatly aided in this project by staff from the Triangle Community Foundation who collaborated with us in numerous ways on this successful project. And most of all we thank the NC CWMTF, and Nancy Guthrie, for support of this project, and their dedication to saving North Carolina’s waters. To view the full report, please go to the Publications page at HRA’s website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).

**Wed. June 4th, 9:30 am - 3 pm**



Join Us For Clean Water Lobby Day in Raleigh, Wednesday June 4, 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. \* It’s a great way to **BE democracy in action!** There will be a car pool from Bynum (and possibly from other locations).

If you are interested in going or want more information, please contact us at [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org) or (919) 542-5790.

# 2008 Haw River Trash Clean-Up Biggest Ever!

## (And it all comes down to the Lake)

213 volunteers cleaned up 586 bags of trash, 179 tires and much more on Saturday March 15. Though rain threatened, most teams were able to get finished before it started. This huge amount of trash was hauled out of the river, off banks and islands, and from under bridges and along roadsides. Volunteers covered over 60 miles of river from Burlington to the Highway 64 bridge in Chatham, plus two creeks and four sites at Jordan Lake. When you take a look at the trash totals, it's clear that our slogan to get new rules passed to clean up nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake rings true for trash as well -- "It all comes down to the Lake."

Brad Carey, with the Army Corps of Engineers at Jordan Lake, headed up a big team of volunteers that removed 215 bags of trash and 110 tires! They are definitely the winners in the "most trash collected" category. We also want to recognize Sarah Slover's team, with volunteers from the Environmental Club at Green Hope High School, for tackling the horrible amount of trash on Hwy 751 where it crosses the eastern part of Jordan Lake. Larry Ausley and Bob Bruekner from the Carolina Canoe Club put in a huge effort with fellow paddlers, cleaning up the river on a long stretch in Chatham County. "Most heroic effort" goes to volunteers in Bynum who wrestled both an old couch and a huge metal industrial frame out of river mud. "Spirit Island" near Swepsonville is a much more beautiful place after the valiant team work led by Joe Jacob and Cynthia Crossen to remove unsightly trash that had washed downstream over the years.

As always, lots of balls and toys were found, along with building materials, signs and appliances. The 2008 Weird Trash Award went to the Caspar the Ghost doorhanger found on Spirit Island. The nominees included: a big (disemboweled) toy stuffed shark found at Glencoe, a plug-in car refrigerator and 25 feet of firehose from Bynum, and a dog carrier from the Hwy 751 team.

Thanks to all our volunteers and all the local businesses and other sponsors who supported this effort. We appreciate all the youth groups from schools and churches who took part. But we sure wish we didn't have to have an annual river day to clean up what others throw away. It is truly unconscionable that so much trash despoils our landscape and waters. A huge amount of it is plastic bottles and cans -- would a bottle deposit bill in NC be a solution?



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Graham High School's Ecology Club helps out in Swepsonville.*

### Join Us in Thanking Our 2008 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors

- ❖ Additions Plus (Stan & 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
- ❖ Benjamin Wineries, 6516 Whitney Road, Graham 27253 (336) 376-1080, www.benjaminvineyards.com
- ❖ Bynum United Methodist Church, 54 Bynum Church Rd. Bynum, (919) 542-4715
- ❖ Carolina County Builders (Paul Konove), 1459 Redbud Road, Pittsboro 27312, (919) 542-5361, www.greenhomedesignbuild.com
- ❖ Chimneys Plus, 1250 Sanford Rd. Pittsboro (919) 542-1631 Charlie@chimneysplusgutters.com
- ❖ Community Realty (Mark Chilton and Tom Whisnatt), 201 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro 27510, (919) 932-1990, communityrealtync.com
- ❖ Cure Nursery (Bill and Jennifer Cure) 880 Buteo Ridge Rd. Pittsboro 27312, (919) 542-6186
- ❖ Entity Incorporated, 48 Mary Charles Lane, Chapel Hill 27516, (919) 422-3056, todd\_entityconstruction@yahoo.com
- ❖ Hartley Construction, 302 W Weaver St., Carrboro 27510 (919) 942-0077, www.hartleyneighborhoods.com
- ❖ Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co., P.O. Box 22, Saxapahaw 27340, (336) 260-6465 www.hawrivercanoe.com
- ❖ Landco Realty 10 Sanford Rd., Pittsboro 27312 (919) 545-2200
- ❖ Marcopolis Construction, (919) 968-0056
- ❖ Mellow Marsh Nursery (Sharon Day), (919) 663-1945, www.mellowmarshfarm.com
- ❖ Nested, 118 E. Main St. Carrboro (919) 338-8023, www.carrboro.com/nested/
- ❖ PHE, 302 Meadowlands Dr., PO Box 8200, Hillsborough 27278, (919) 644-8100
- ❖ Swanson & Associates (David Swanson), The Courtyard Suite 13, Chapel Hill 27516, (919) 967-3355, dswansonla@earthlink.net
- ❖ Susan R. DeLaney, N.D., 301 Weaver St., Carrboro 27510, (919) 932-6262, www.thewellnessalliance.com/SusanDeLaney.html
- ❖ TechView Corporation, Carr Mill Mall, Carrboro
- ❖ Townsend Bertram Outfitters, Carr Mill Mall Carrboro 27510, (919) 933-9712
- ❖ Weaver Street Realty, 116 E. Main St., Carrboro 27510, (919) 929-5658, www.weaverstreetrealty.com



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



Photo by Joe Jacob

*This team is smiling because they found such a big pile of trash to clean up and carry out from Spirit Island.*

♣ **Jeff Pettus**, *Chicken Bridge in Chatham*, 1 volunteer picked up 10 bags of trash (*metal tripod, 2 large Styrofoam pieces, a length of metal wire, and several sheets of vinyl*)

♣ **Wanda Sundermann, Mary Longhill**, *Saxapahaw Boy Scout Camp*, with Homeschool Community Service Group, 21 volunteers, 59 bags of trash (*Toy kid-size truck w/motor, fire extinguisher*)

♣ **Cecelia Vassar** with Alamance Parks & Rec, *Glencoe Village, Burlington*, 12 volunteers picked up 35 bags of trash & 30 tires (*Birdbath, stuffed shark, TV*)

♣ **Spencer Kennedy**, *Old Greensboro Hwy*, 9 volunteers picked up 13 bags of trash & 3 tires (*Metal kerosene heater, pipe & gutters*)

♣ **Cathy Markatos**, *Dry Creek at Old Graham Road, Chatham*, 1 volunteer picked up 1 bag of trash (*trash from house construction*)

♣ **Elaine Chiosso**, *Bynum bridge, beaches, river trails, Bynum Creek*, 31 volunteers (including Community Independent School volunteers) picked up 32 bags of trash (*25 foot fire hose, orange candle, car plug-in refrigerator, big couch, full beer cans, pvc pipes*)

♣ **Debbie Tunnell**, *15-501 bridge Bynum*, 14 volunteers picked up 14 bags & 3 tires (*PVC pipe, fishing rods, car headlamp, propane tank*)

♣ **Joe Jacob, Cynthia Crossen**, *Spirit Island in Swepsonville*, 23 volunteers picked up 87 bag of trash & 18 tires (*Old fridge, lawn chairs, lots of balls, Caspar the ghost doorhanger, old Drugstore sign, toys and dolls*)

♣ **Larry Ausley**, *Carolina Canoe Club Paddler Team 1*, 15 volunteers picked up 54 bags of trash & 3 tires

♣ **Bob Brueckner**, *Carolina Canoe Club Paddler Team 2*, 12 volunteers, 25 bags of trash & 5 tires (*Kiddie scooters, boogie board*)

♣ **Catherine Deininger**, *Robeson Creek in Pittsboro*, with St. Bartholomew's youth group, 9 volunteers picked up 9 bags of trash (*Large metal pipes, old metal sign and post*)

♣ **Sarah Slover**, *Sierra Club, Jordan Lake Hwy 751*, with Green Hope High School Environmental Club, 15 volunteers picked up 28 bags of trash & 6 tires

(*TV, Dog carrier, needles and condoms, dead animals, patio umbrella*)

♣ **Barry Saunders**, (canoe), *Jordan Lake--Upper New Hope near Stagecoach Rd.*, 2 volunteers picked up 1 bag of trash

♣ **Archana Aragon**, *Jordan Lake, Rivers Junction*, 4 volunteers picked up 10 bags of trash (*street sign*)

♣ **Larry Fox**, *Highway 64 bridge over Haw*, 1 volunteer picked up 1 bag of trash & 1 tire (*Large metal highway culvert*)

♣ **Brad Carey**, *Army Corps of Engineers team, Jordan Lake, Haw River below spillway*, 43 volunteers picked up 215 bags of trash & 110 tires (*Bobble head dolls & can of blue paint*)

**Totals: 213** volunteers at 16 sites picked up **586** bags of trash and **179** tires (*plus weird trash items listed in italics!*)



*HRA Board member Cecelia Vassar and friend display their weird trash: a disemboweled stuffed toy shark and fishing pole found at Glencoe Village in Burlington.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*The McCauley-Vanderbourg family of four ferries trash from Spirit Island in Swepsonville.*

*The extreme drought we just endured showed how precious our supplies of drinking water are. The Jordan Lake nutrient reduction rules are expected to finally be voted on by the NC Environmental Management Commission in May (following the latest postponement in January). We urge EMC members to not wait any longer--and to pass strong rules to protect one of NC's most important reservoirs.*

# Jonesing for Jordan

This article originally appeared in the Independent Weekly on March 5, 2008. Reprinted with permission.

## *Everybody wants a piece of the “drought-proof” lake* by Cat Warren

Lake Jordan, polluted and sediment-laden, is looking downright gorgeous these days to cities desperate to install new pipes that can suck its impaired waters into treatment plants and then through a half-million faucets and sprinklers across the region.

“Drought-resistant” and “under-allocated,” say state and city officials, pointing to the fact that Jordan Lake is a foot over full right now. “A pretty pool,” says The News & Observer’s lead editorial suggesting that Raleigh “explore sharing” Jordan Lake. “We’d be drought-proof,” says one Raleigh water official, somewhat enviously, referring to Jordan’s ample watershed.

Often when you speak of a “body of water,” the unfortunate gendered metaphors multiply. So in this case, let’s de-gender Jordan. Just view it neutrally, like a Big Gulp, surrounded by a team of rowdy football players who all want to stick their straws into what several environmentalists and water experts say is actually a vulnerable water system; Jordan Lake is not as “drought proof” as everyone would like to think.

“That’s the great thing about Jordan. Everybody thinks they deserve more of it,” says Hope Taylor, executive director of Clean Water for North Carolina.

Everybody deserves more, even though some of those municipalities eyeing Jordan haven’t been responsible stewards of their existing water supplies. It’s the tragedy of the common waters, and it’s creating regional tension.

Of course, everybody also has been contributing generously to Jordan Lake. And like a United Way campaign, not in equal amounts. More than 75 million gallons of treated waste flow into it daily from 65 sewage treatment plants. Its lovely teal color is thanks to the algae growth nurtured by the nitrogen and phosphorous from the treatment plants and storm water run-off from Durham, Chapel Hill, Burlington and Greensboro.

Euglena algae blooms light up the lake with the colors of anti-freeze, or, if you prefer, Chartreuse liquor. High pH and low oxygen levels contribute to summer fish kills. Reddish-brown plumes of mud drift down from the huge Amberly development in Cary. And tributaries from Chatham developments contribute some distinctly orange sediment to the mix. The state listed part of Jordan’s upper region as impaired in 2002.

But now that we live in drought country, that rainbow of pollutants apparently helps lead cities to the pot of water at the end. So what if the water needs some work to be potable? A few pipes. A new treatment plant on the western end of the lake. Many tens of millions of dollars.

And nobody seems to remember that during the 2002 drought, instead of water, Jordan Lake had acres of grass as far as the eye could see. City and state officials seem to assume that lake levels will stay steady even when everyone’s pulling water out of it—up to 100 million gallons a day.

Ironically, the very communities that have fought tooth and nail about the costs of cleaning up Jordan Lake are now discussing how many millions they’re willing to spend to treat that water to make it drinkable.

Durham, Chatham and Orange county governments—and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority—are discussing a new water intake and treatment plant at the western end of Jordan, where OWASA owns property. But there’s trouble in pipeline paradise.

Durham has already received permission from the state to withdraw up to 10 million gallons a day from Jordan. But the city would ultimately like more. Currently, it’s buying 2 million gallons daily through Cary, which is treating that water. Nonetheless, Durham officials, in an enthusiastic draft resolution, said the city “does hereby commit to taking a leadership role in a partnership for regional water supply planning.”

Several OWASA board members, Carrboro officials and Chapel Hill council members are expressing serious concern. The cost of new pipes and a treatment plant, said several officials, must be weighed against using that money for conservation, storm water reuse projects, and watershed protection. While those pushing for more pipes and treatment plants are calling that approach “regional planning,” some opponents are viewing it more as regional folly.

“What is it going to cost? What could we do with that many dollars with reuse and conservation in town here?” asks former OWASA board member and current Chapel Hill town council member Bill Strom. “We have made extraordinary decisions about protection and watershed. We’ve also made a huge commitment to conservation, and we’ve kept our eye on the ball, and been much more conservative than our neighbors during the drought.”

“We’re dependent on the actions of other local governments,” says Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton. “These Triangle local governments are not on the same page with us. The middle of a drought is a terrible, terrible time to be making decisions about the allocation of Jordan Lake. I hate the notion of deciding the future of Jordan Lake when we’re all in a panic.”

OWASA board member Alan Rimer, an international water expert, agrees with Chilton and Strom. “I personally will not vote that we immediately go build that western intake,” he said. “We’ve got a serious situation, but we haven’t done the homework and planning.”

Rimer, though, with the entire OWASA board, agreed to start discussions with other communities about Jordan Lake at the board’s Feb. 28 meeting, with some clear provisos. Noted OWASA Director Ed Kerwin in an e-mail about the meeting: “Although our primary goal is to maximize the use of our local

water resources through additional conservation measures and use of reclaimed water, the Board recognizes that participation in a regional approach to Jordan Lake may provide very important strategic benefits to OWASA ....Our actual participation in the development of future facilities at Jordan Lake will depend on the results of that comprehensive evaluation, and consideration of the public input we receive in response to that work.”

But caution, conservation and environmental sustainability may not be rewarded or even acknowledged during a drought crisis. Environmentalists have pointed out that a number of cities, including Durham and Raleigh, have partly cornered themselves by waiting to institute serious conservation measures. In Raleigh, the Neuse River ecosystem is suffering because of decreased water flow out of Falls Lake. Durham’s putative solution to its water woes seems to be Jordan Lake.

Even Durham Council member Eugene Brown, who led the charge on conservation in the city, supports the western intake project. He asked with some frustration, “What do they want us to do? Not build this? Does Durham need to do a better job with both conservation and transparency? Obviously. But we’re looking at a regional challenge. There are no panaceas. But Jordan is there.”

And the power of elected or appointed officials in Chapel Hill and Carrboro to stand in the way of large technological fixes, intakes and interconnections may be limited. The state, including Gov. Mike Easley, is lobbying for such interconnections to make communities “safe” from future drought.

Some municipalities conserve water year-round, have tiered rate structures already in place that encourage consumers to use less by charging more for higher volumes, and are relatively careful with protecting their watersheds. Others, perhaps not so much. And some areas do some things right, but fail on others. This inequity is starting to create some mutual resentments and finger-pointing about who is developing too fast and too irresponsibly.

Durham County Commission Chair Ellen Reckhow points out that Durham is doing a number of progressive initiatives with watershed regulation and protection around Jordan Lake.

Durham also has a long history of resisting environmental rules that would reduce Jordan Lake pollution, according to Haw River Assembly Executive Director Elaine Chiosso. Durham, along with Chapel Hill, has been a major polluter of the upper New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, the first part of the lake to be placed on the federal impaired waters list due to nutrients in storm water runoff and wastewater.

And while Chatham has had a bad reputation, says Chiosso, it is now adopting some of the most protective environmental regulations in the state. Chatham’s Board of Commissioners implemented a development moratorium while these ordinances are put in place.

It’s probably too early to talk about Triangle Water Wars, along the lines of Georgia’s recent drought-inspired aggression to claim a piece of the Tennessee River by redrawing state lines. But the Tennessee legislature—after it picked itself up off the floor where it had fallen amid gales of laughter—just introduced a bill stating that the border should not be changed because it has “served both states well for nearly 200 years.”

Levels of frustration, however, are clearly rising just as quickly as the pace of water projects. Environmental groups and river keepers are watching with dismay. Dust storms were kicking up on Falls Lake a couple of weeks ago. Invasive Japanese stilt grass is getting an extra toehold on the Eno River, as Durham has pumped 98 million gallons of water out of that river since late December. The Neuse River environment, including its striped bass population, is suffering from the reduced flows. Bad drought? Of course. Bad decisions about conservation?

“The drought has been deeply exacerbated by cities not taking timely action on consumption,” says Upper Neuse Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks. “You have less water to play with, and you have to make drastic decisions.”



*Sunset over Jordan Lake.* Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Some of those decisions won’t be easily undone.

“The potential danger of the drought is that we’re putting in place pipelines to communities that haven’t shown they are responsible,” says Amy Pickle, staff attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center. “Once that pipe is there, no one is going to cut it off.”

While rumor and editorializing have run rampant, it appears unlikely that either Greensboro or Raleigh will vie for a big piece of Jordan in the near future. Greensboro Water Resources Director Allan William says the city doesn’t need Jordan’s water now that it has Randleman Dam on line. Raleigh water experts, while hoping to get a temporary emergency boost through an old Cary pipeline, and clearly envious of what lies just to the west of them, say it will probably simply be too difficult and time-consuming to figure out how to get the permits required, to say nothing of

returning treated water back to the Cape Fear River basin from whence it came. And if Durham does pull more water out of Jordan instead of Lake Michie and Little River Reservoir, it will probably provide some relief to the Falls Lake levels.

But because desire and prudence should be measured in equal amounts in any discussion of the drought, perhaps it’s time to talk about creating a regional project to tap into the largest lake of all. It’s sitting out there somewhere in the distance, and lies within every municipality’s watershed. The water isn’t necessarily cheap. It will cost real money, and involve changing local and state regulations. But it won’t cost the environment. States and municipalities wouldn’t have to fight over it. You can’t boat on it, but you can’t pollute it either. Its beauty is utterly unspoiled.

I’m no Carl Sagan. But this particular body of water potentially holds “billions and billions” of gallons: Big ol’ Lake Conservation.

## Upcoming 2008 HRA Events

**Saturday, May 3, Stargazing Float in Saxapahaw**, led by Joe Jacob, (336) 260-6465

**Friday, May 9, Wetland Planting at RAFI in Pittsboro.** Contact Catherine Deininger at [deininger@hawriver.org](mailto:deininger@hawriver.org) for info.

**Saturday May 10, 1-6 pm, Bynum Haw River Community Festival** (see colored insert for details)

**Wednesday June 4, 9:30 am - 3 pm, downtown Raleigh Clean Water Lobby Day** (see page 7 for details)

**June 21-22 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend**

**Saturday, July 12, 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](mailto:riverwatch@hawriver.org)

**August 23, 2008, Haw River Paddle, Swepsonville to Saxapahaw**, Haw River Canoe & Kayak guide, (336) 260-6465

**September 20-21 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend**

**September 20 - October 10, Haw River Learning Celebration for schools** (see page 6 for details)

**Saturday, October 4, Jordan Lake State Recreation Area Heritage Day at Jordan Lake**

**Saturday, October 4, River Cleanup** Leader: Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

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

**November 2008** (date to be announced) **HRA Annual Membership Meeting**

**Saturday, November 25, Harvest Full Moon Paddle on the Haw in Alamance**, led by Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

**A Saturday in December** (date to be announced) **Historic Haw River Mills Tour**, led by Elaine Chiosso, 919-542-5790

**December 13-14 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend**

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

**Haw River Festival  
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