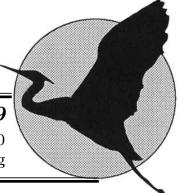
Voice of the Haw





Photo by Cynthia Crossen

P.O. Box 187 · Bynum, NC 27228 · (919) 542-5790 email: info@hawriver.org · www.hawriver.org



Jordan Lake Rules Come Before Legislature A Special Report from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Jordan Lake – **Polluted AND Shrinking?** Jordan Lake is in the news these days for two different issues, and both will determine the future of the lake. We continue to battle to get strong rules passed to reduce pollution, and we have also joined in the struggle to keep Durham from shrinking the lake's boundary line.

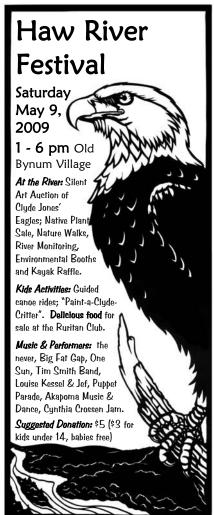
The Rules As we go to press, the Jordan Lake rules have finally reached the General Assembly. We believe rules will be passed this session – and we are fighting to keep them as strong as possible. Kristina Millhiser, our Jordan Lake Organizer based in Greensboro, has been working to fight the misinformation about the rules upriver. The biggest controversy surrounds the existing development rule. Exaggerated cost estimates assume cities would have to build expensive large retrofit projects (like buying up urban land for stormwater basins). In reality, the rule has a wide variety of low cost solutions available to local governments, such as rain gardens, pet waste ordinances, and rainwater capture. Each local government is only asked to do what is practicable within their budget, and there is no final deadline for compliance.



The HRA team talks about Jordan Lake rules with N.C. Speaker of the House Joe Hackney, center.

Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso has been urging downriver local governments to support a cleaner Jordan Lake. Strong resolutions in support of the rules have been passed by Chatham County, Apex, and Cary to date. We ask all our members to urge their local governments, state senators and representatives to support the rules. Please go to our website, www.hawriver.org, to add your voice and to check our latest updates.

The Lake Boundary Dispute in Durham HRA has waded into the hotly disputed decision by the Durham County Commissioners to ask the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) to accept a developer's survey that will shrink the size of the boundary line for normal pool elevation of Jordan Lake on the upper New Hope arm. Durham activists brought this issue to light this winter and it continues to heat up. DWQ approved the survey – but it has become clear that there is no explicit guidance given by the state on how these kind of surveys should be done. The fact that this boundary change will benefit the developer by shifting the buffer zone makes it an even more controversial issue with citizens. HRA asked the Southern Environmental Law Center for their opinion on the issue: it can be seen on the HRA website, along with maps they created using LIDAR that suggest the real normal pool elevation may be larger than the original, not smaller. HRA has also signed on to a petition to the state Environmental Management Commission asking for a "declaratory ruling" on DWQ's decision.



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Editor: Cynthia Crossen * Contributors: Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Jenna Schreiber, Germane James * Photos: Anne Cassebaum, Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Mary Longhill, Martha Pentecost, Johnny Randall, Heather Yandow * Logos & Poster Art: 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

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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

Notes from the Haw

It appears that EPA is back in business. In the past few weeks important decisions have been announced by the agency that could bring crucial protections to streams and wetlands, including challenges to permits for mountaintop removal coal mining, and expansion of the PCS Phosphate mine



on the Pamlico River. EPA has also proposed listing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as pollutants under the Clean Air Act, which could bring important new tools for slowing climate change.

In March, I was part of a group of Riverkeepers and other leaders of water protection groups that met with Region 4 EPA staff in Atlanta. We discussed our concerns that current stormwater and sedimentation controls are not protecting water quality in the Southeast region. It was a constructive conversation, and I retuned to the Haw River with expectations we will see renewed leadership for environmental protection at the federal level.

We say farewell and THANK YOU to our Rainmaker Logan Yonavjak, who has taken a position in Washington D.C., and a big WELCOME to our new Rainmaker, Germane James. As our new Development and Outreach Coordinator. Germane has jumped right in to help with Clean-up-thon, the Haw River Festival, outreach events, fundraising, and much more.

Turtles sunning on river rocks, ospreys retuning to the lake to nest, and wildflowers blooming along the streambanks all herald spring's arrival. And with spring comes plenty of opportunities for HRA to meet the public at Earth Day events, street fairs and festivals. We need lots of volunteers for these events - so please let us know if you can help.

And, come join us at the 20th Haw River Festival on May 9 in Bynum! We've got a wonderful line-up of performers, and fun times on the river!

Look forward to seeing you there,

Elaine Chiosso HAW RIVERKEEPER®



Hikers take in the beauty of the Haw, as they walk the west side of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, from 64 bridge.

STREAM STEWARD PROJECT NEWS

Project Coordinator Catherine Deininger Email: deininger@hawriver.org

A Day at Dry Creek by Cynthia Crossen, Haw River Watch Coordinator

On March 23, Catherine Deininger, Jeannie Ambrose, and I duck under the Highway 87 bridge to walk Dry Creek downstream for about a mile and a half, to assess its health as part of HRA's Two Streams Project. At the bridge

Catherine, Stream Steward Coordinator and Two Streams Project leader, points out the stormwater monitoring station which NCSU manages as part of the project. A key volunteer experienced in the project's stream monitoring, assessments, and macroinvertebrate identification, Jeannie is assisting Catherine today. I am the daydreamer coming along as journalist and Dry Creek lover--it's the creek in my own backyard, which I river-watched for many years with Elaine Chiosso.

As we set out the chorus frogs are singing, and a pileated woodpecker calls out our approach. The stream banks are a'bloom with spring beauties, coral berry, trout lilies, yellow harlequin, and violets. May apples are emerging like little green folded umbrellas. We cross trails where deer navigate the steep banks to get down to the water to drink. Raccoon tracks are scattered in the mud. I am pleased to find a walking stick carved by both a twining honeysuckle vine and beaver chews.



We see raccoon tracks on Dry Creek's shore.

Every time there is a change in the creek, Catherine and Jeannie score that "reach": how eroded are the stream banks? is the creek being deepened and/or widened by stormwater flow? how much algae? what is the composition of the stream bed? how clear is the water? When we come to a riffle area we stop to look under a few rocks for the macroinvertebrates that live in the stream and indicate its health--is there abundance and diversity?

We look for good macroinvertebrate and fish habitat. Catherine tells me that in their last Dry Creek assessment less than a mile upstream, they discovered an old stone creek crossing. It created enough of a fall (over one foot) that it was a barrier to fish movement, and would effect part of the section of the creek we were walking that day.

Near a muscly ironwood tree arching over the water, we discover a mysterious blob. We surmise that these eggs were laid when the creek had risen over its banks to its floodplain. Now that the water has receded, the eggs are stranded. Just in case they are still viable, we move them to a nearby wetlands area. We also note that the stream is able to rise over its banks--a sign of health for a creek.

One sign of eroding banks and a widening creek is the large number of trees which have fallen across the stream. To avoid wet feet, I make a foolhardy but successful crossing on a couple of those trees-thankfully without dunking camera and cell phone.

Whenever we see problems such as steep and eroding banks, we speculate on causes, such as cleared pasture right next to the creek.



Jeannie points out the beaver dam on Dry Creek, while Catherine scores this reach of the stream.

And whenever we see causes of problems, such as clearing in the riparian zone in the Chapel Ridge development, we speculate as to the effect this would have on the creek. All this becomes part of the stream assessment for that reach.

The banks grow shallower, water slows, we see beaver chewed trees, we are frequently stepping over steep trails with slide markswe're pretty sure we're nearing a dam. Sure enough, we come to an impressive piece of beaver engineering. Perhaps the beavers had started out where a large tree or two had already fallen into the water, but they had worked hard to form a formidable structure of sticks, pine straw, leaf litter and mud.

A ways downstream of the dam, an S-shaped meander in the creek creates a lovely riffle area where macroinvertebrate life abounds-pollution sensitive stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies, and riffle beetles, as well as pouch snails and snail eggs. Jeannie sketches a little brown and green frog so camouflaged that she has to point it out to us with the shadow of her hat. All along the creek, wherever we're able to check, Dry Creek gets high scores in macroinvertebrate abundance and diversity.

Buck-eyes unfurl their leaves, robins flit from branch to branch, and we finally see some fish in the creek. We each take a sniff of the lovely lemony fragrance of the native spice bush's yellowish green flowers. Catherine tells us that the abundant invasive Elaeagnus had been planted in the 1950's by the Army Corps of Engineers in an attempt to stabilize stream banks after timbering.

Near our takeout point, we climb under and over and under barbed wire fencing in a cow pasture. It is clear that Dry Creek is being impacted by agriculture and development, yet its beauty and magic shine through. Our commitment to restoring its health is strengthened on this sunny day of walking through its wildness.



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

Two Streams Project Update: The Two Streams Dream Team (Catherine Deininger, Betsy Kraus, Neville Handel, Jeannie Ambrose, Sharon Garbutt, and I) has been meeting about once a week to identify the macroinvertebrates we collected last fall in Terrells, Dry, and Pokeberry Creeks. We are finding lots of cool and exciting stuff (common exclamations: "oh, look at this one...isn't he cute?" "we've got to get a picture of this anal claw!"). Where else could you learn about the folded-comb-like antennae of the Dryopidae beetle, see the prosternal horn on a caddisfly, or examine the whorls on a snail's operculum? Our team members have begun to try their hands at taking the identification of some of the mayflies and stoneflies to genus.

Neville has been helping Catherine improve the macroinvertebrate data entry for our collected samples. They have started the data analysis, and are striving to make the data as understandable and meaningful as possible.

This spring, Catherine has been joined by members of the Dream Team, as well as HRA staff Kathy Buck and Jenna Schreiber, in doing visual stream assessments along the entire length of Dry Creek (see my article on p.3 about the walk I joined). In a week or so, we'll be out again to

Photo by Cynthia Crossen

The Mark Hall in the second seco

Two Streams Dream Team member Neville Handel is ably assisted in macroinvertebrate ID'ing by daughter Alina, age 2.

begin our April monitorings of the nine sites we're studying. That means we'll have lots of bugs to look at throughout the summer.

Eighth Grade Stream Investigation Program is Launched! Forty-six middle-schoolers at the Greensboro Montessori school helped us pilot "What's In Your Watershed," the classroom portion of our new Stream Investigation Program for eighth-graders, headed up by HRA's Watershed Education Coordinator Jenna Shreiber. The help of volunteers Sharon Garbutt (Pittsboro) and Courtney Vass (Greensboro)--both of them experienced river watchers and Learning Celebration volunteers--was invaluable (thank you, Courtenay and Sharon!). Developed by Jenna and I, the activity gives an overview of the problems our watershed faces.

The students had a grand time trying to match their Site Description card to a corresponding Data card (or vice versa). Each site was in the Haw watershed and describes an actual waterway, the problems it faces, and data collected on its health--some of it by our own river watchers! It was such a pleasure to see students mingling, comparing their data ("I've got lots of urban stormwater runoff, poor macroinvertebrate habitat, and trash in my stream" ... "well, my data shows a creek with an ideal pH and good to excellent water quality--I guess we're not a match"), studying the Story of the Haw map to locate their site, brainstorming answers for their worksheets, presenting their findings to the class, and discussing how we can clean up their site.

They learned about the impacts of development, wastewater treatment plants, failing septic systems, nutrient enrichment, and urban stormwater runoff. They considered uses of waterways (recreation, drinking water, habitat), environmental justice issues, the posi-



Greensboro Montessori students play "What's in the Watershed", as part of HRA's new 8th grade Stream Investigation Program.

tive impact citizen action can have in the watershed, environmental protection regulations, and measures we can take to improve water quality.

We'll be back again soon with these students--this time at their stream, a tributary to the Haw River in northwest Guilford County, where we'll do stream monitoring and stream assessment with them. It will be a good chance to reinforce the learning that we began this week in the classroom.

And by the time this newsletter reaches you, we'll have also taken our Stream Investigation program to 80 Horton Middle School students in Pittsboro, where students get a chance to visit the creek in their own backyard--Robeson Creek.

In the next several years, the Stream Investigation Program will visit eighth-graders in Haw watershed schools that are on or near an impaired stream. They'll learn water quality testing, stream assessment, and stream stewardship. It is our hope that this introduction to their creek will encourage their lifelong commitment to the protection and restoration of our waterways.



Muddy Water Watch Update: Trained Muddy Water Watchers in Chatham are on the lookout for sediment pollution. As they monitor construction sites, especially during times of rainfall where it's obvious where the mud is going, they are sending in reports their local sedimentation erosion control program--and they are getting problems fixed. The data we collect on muddy water, in addition to helping us improve construction sites, will enable us to get better laws and enforcement to keep the dirt out of our waterways.

This February and March, HRA held another Muddy Water Watch training series, this time in Orange County. At our first session, HRA was joined by Terry Hackett of the Orange County Erosion Control Division, who gave a presentation

on sediment and erosion control. Our first site visit was to the Visitor Education Center being built at the N.C. Botanical Garden; Garden director Johnny Randall, who has been monitoring the site frequently, joined us on the tour. Rich McLaughlin, professor of soil science at NCSU and avid researcher

Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Enjoying Jordan Lake at our annual meeting are Board members Tom Patterson, Cecelia Vassar, and Deborah Amaral; and HRA staff Kristina Millhiser, Jordan Lake Campaign in Greensboro, and Catherine Deininger, Stream Steward Campaign.

on better sediment and erosion control, led us on a tour of the site. Happily, it was raining the day of our field visit, enabling to see where the mud was going. Our second field visit, led by Terry Hackett, took us to two sites in Orange County where a variety of erosion and sediment control practices were working well. Eighteen reports have now been filed by trained volunteers with our Muddy Water Watch project. *Above: NCSU Prof. Rich McLaughlin (center) looks at water drainage from construction at the N.C. Botanical Garden.*

2009 Haw River Festival T-shirt

Clyde Jones Bald Eagle T-shirts are available in: Adult gray (left, modeled by Debbie Tunnell, HRA President), Ladies' butter yellow (center, modeled by Catherine Deininger, Stream Steward Coord.), and youth bright turquoise (right, modeled by Cynthia Crossen, River Watch Coordinator)



\$ 20 (adult & ladies) S, M, L, XL, XXL \$ 16 (youth small, medium, & large)

Available at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Great Outdoors Provision Co., Pringles in Fearrington, and the HRA office in Bynum.

To order, send checks made out to Haw River Assembly, to: HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228. Include total #, sizes and colors of shirts ordered and to whom to ship them. Add \$3 per shirt for shipping. Or call us at (919) 542-5790 to arrange a time to come by our office in Bynum to shop. Shirt designs from previous years are also available.

On Top of the Trash Heap

(Cleaning Up Spirit Island)

(by Cynthia R. Crossen, 2009. Sung to the tune of "On Top Old Smoky". Commas indicate musical phrases.)

On top of the trash heap, in the middle of the Haw, I'm pickin' up more gar - bage, than I ever saw, Whiskey bottles and lost toys, and aerosol cans, Broken lawn chairs & pop bottles, & Budweiser cans.

And as I sit here, on top of this heap,
I make a vo-ow, I hope I can keep,
I'll ne'er take another, Styrofoam cup,
Nor water from a plastic, bottle I'll sup,
And when I set out to, buy something new,
I'll stop and ask where it, goes when it's through.

The spice bush's flowers, lay sweet where they fall, And the <u>towering</u> beech tree, leaves no trash at all, The tender May apple, sprouts up in spring, Dies and recycles, ev-er-y-thing.

And as for me just, let my ashes float by, On the muddy Haw River, whenever I die, Part of its flotsam, and part of its flow, I'm biodegradable, wherever I go.

2009 Haw River Clean-Up Goes On--- Rain or Shine!!



When the "catch of the day" is a plastic pop bottle, you know it's the Haw River Clean-up-a-thon.

On March 14, several dedicated teams of volunteers braved the cold and constant rain to embark on the Haw River Assembly's 19th Annual Clean-Up-A-Thon! Teams cleaned up trash in Alamance and Chatham counties, including Saxapahaw, the 15-501 dam, Bynum Beach, and the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Many teams went out on a sunny day a week later to do their part, on sites in Guilford, Alamance, Orange, and Chatham Counties. So far, 19 teams have cleaned up the waters from Guilford County down to Jordan Lake: 118 volunteers collected 257 bags of trash, 31 tires, and other assorted trash.

Though the rain couldn't stop many of the committed volunteers, it did slow them down a bit. One team working in Glencoe discovered that much of the trash threatening wildlife and water quality was floating in the river itself--just beyond reach from the riverbank. They hope to get back out on a warmer day with canoes to get to it.

Paddlers from the Carolina Canoe Club worked at cleaning up the islands near Bynum until they were just too cold to stay out any longer. Their efforts can be seen when looking down from the Bynum Bridge at a river free of trash. One

team cleaned up the area above the dam in Saxpahaw, and another cleaned up the dam above Bynum, areas well-used and too often littered with trash. Although trash left by folks fishing or playing by the river is one source, much more is simply swept downstream from urban areas and highways every time it rains. Eventually, if we don't clean it up first, it all ends up in Jordan Lake.

The team along the Lower Haw River State Natural Area team near the Hwy 64 bridge felt a true sense community as they welcomed a hiking "meet-up" group with members traveling from as far as Wake Forest for the effort. Strangers coming together for the greater good of the river was certainly the theme of this year's clean up.

These volunteers are part of an effort that has removed trash and made our waterways healthier and safer for people, fish and wildlife for 19 years. We salute them! Thanks to all our volunteers and all the local businesses and other sponsors who supported this effort. We appreciate all of the service and social groups that took part, as well as help from local DOT departments, Parks and Recreation, NC Wildlife Commission, and State Parks.

Join Us in Thanking Our 2009 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors

- ❖ Additions Plus (Stan & Patti Stutts), 2267 Manns Chapel Road, Pittsboro (919) 968-3737, sestutts@mindspring.com
- ❖ Benjamin Wineries, 6516 Whitney Road, Graham 27253 (336) 376-1080, benjaminvineyards.com
- ❖ Bish Enterprises, 277 Bish Road, Siler City 27344 (919) 663-3336
- Carolina County Builders (Paul Konove), 1459 Redbud Road, Pittsboro 27312 (919) 542-5361 www.greenhomedesignbuild.com
- ❖ Chandler Design-Build 3249 Henderson Field Rd Mebane 27302, (919) 304-5397 Michael@ChandlerDesignBuild.com
- Chatham Marketplace 480 Hillsboro Street Pittsboro 27312(919) 542-2643 chathammarketplace.coop
- Chimneys Plus Gutter Solutions (Charlie Quaile), 1250 Sanford Rd., Pittsboro (919) 542-1631 Charlie@chimneysplusgutters.com
- ❖ Cure Nursery (Bill and Jennifer Cure) 880 Buteo Ridge Rd., Pittsboro 27312 (919) 542-6186 curenursery.com
- ❖ Fitch Lumber Co., INC. (Mac Fitch), 309 North Greensboro Street, Carrboro 27510 (919) 942-3153 fitchlumber.com
- ❖Grove Winery & Vineyard, 7360 Brooks Bridge Rd, Gibsonville NC, 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
- ♦ Honey Electric Solar, INC. (Thomas Honey) 4501 Alamance Church Rd, Liberty (336) 438-9786 www.honeyelectricsolar.com
- ❖ Jordan Properties / Saxapahaw River Mill, P.O. Box 128, Saxapahaw 27340, (336) 376-3122 www.rivermillvillage.com
- Lynn Hayes Real Estate (Lynn Hayes), 103 W. Weaver St. #4, Carrboro 27510 (919) 968-9989 www.lynnhayes.com
- Mellow Marsh Nursery (Sharon Day), (919) 663-1945, www.mellowmarshfarm.com
- Nested, 118 E. Main St., Carrboro 27510 (919) 338-8023 www.nestedhome.com
- ❖ PSNC Energy (Linda Harris), 1312 Annapolis Dr. Suite 200, Raleigh 27608, (919) 836-2338 Iharris@scanna.com
- ❖ Space Builders, 112 E Main St., Carrboro 27510, (919) 929-7072, spacebuilders.biz
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- ❖ Townsend Bertram Outfitters, Carr Mill Mall, Carrboro 27510, (919) 933-9712, www.tbandc.com
- ❖ 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!

- Torry Nergart, Haw River State Park, Browns Summit
- Max Lloyd, Brooks Bridge Road (Grove Winery), 7 volunteers picked up 10 bags of trash (toilet, birdcage, stuffed animals)
- Mary Longhill, Saxapahaw Boy Scout Camp, with Homeschool Community Service Group, 6 volunteers, 21 bags, 1 tire (soccer ball, wheels, LP gas tank)
- Cecelia Vassar with Alamance Parks & Rec, Glencoe Village, Burlington, 6 volunteers picked up 9 bags of trash & 2 tires (rusty baby carriage wheels)
- Spencer Kennedy, Old Greensboro Hwy, 10 volunteers picked up 17 bags & 2 tires
- Johnny Randall, Morgan Creek, 8 volunteers picked up 12 bags of trash & 2 tires (construction /tree protection fencing, traffic cone, canister of "SHARPS")
- Jeff Pettus & Kathy Seaton, Chicken Bridge, 6 volunteers picked up 17 bags of trash (\$10 bill, old flotation mattress)
- Karen Moore, Rock Rest, 2 volunteers picked up 3 bags of trash (trash cans, toy sword)
- Cathy Markatos, Dry Creek at Old Graham Road, Chatham, 2 volunteers picked up 4 bags of trash (trash cans)
- Elaine Chiosso, Bynum bridge, beaches, river trails, Bynum Creek, 9 volunteers picked up 19 bags of trash and 6 tires (mattress, chair, car bumper, paint, pesticide spray, lawn chair)
- **Debbie Tunnell**, 15-501 bridge (north), 5 volunteers picked up 12 bags of trash (car fender, trash can, fabric flower, wood with handle on it)
- Joe Jacob & Cynthia Crossen, Spirit Island in Swepsonville, 13 volunteers picked up 37 bags of trash & 8 tires (fire extinguishers, broken lawn chair, stuffed toy M&M "Kiss Me" doll, Goofy/Daffy Duck/Mickey mouse ball, yellow plastic bunny)
- Matt Steible, Saxapahaw along river, Hawbridge School, Rescheduled for April 3.
- **Bob Brueckner & Jeff Hatcher**, Carolina Canoe Club Paddler Team, 6 volunteers, 8 bags of trash (plastic pipes, old junk)
- Jenna Schreiber, Hwy 64 bridge, 9 volunteers picked up 14 bags (bike helmet)

Anne Geer, 15-501 Bridge (south), 3 volunteers picked up 7 bags of trash

- Susanne Gomolski, Jordan Lake (Robeson Creek): Rescheduled.
- Catherine Deininger, Robeson Creek in Pittsboro, with St. Bartholomew's youth group: Rescheduled
- Germane James, Jordan Lake Hwy 751, 1 volunteer picked up 1 bag of trash.
- Germane James, with Cary Jaycees, Jordan Lake. Old Eagle Outlook, 4 volunteers picked up 19 bags of trash and 1 tire (1968 Ford Fairlane, in pieces, shotgun, toilet, mattress, cell phone, trash can, top of a dryer)
- Archana Aragon, Jordan Lake, Rivers Junction, 8 volunteers picked up 20 bags of trash (plastic octopus, animal skull)
- Brad Carey, Army Corps of Engineers team, Jordan Lake, Haw River below spillway, 7 volunteers picked up 27 bags of trash & 6 tires

Totals so far: 118 volunteers at 19 sites have picked up 257 bags of trash & 31 tires (plus weird trash listed in italics)!



The Homeschool Community Service Group with trash from the Boy Scout camp in Saxapahaw.



Getting the tires offt Spirit Island in Swepsonville!



Spirit Island team sends a bag of trash to the mainland via zip line.



Spirit Island contestants vie for first place in the "Weird Trash Award".

Photo by Cynthia Crosser

HRLC 2009 -- 20th Anniversary of the Haw

River Learning Celebration

Save the Date! September 19th - October 9th is the 20th Anniversary of the Haw River Learning Celebration!

The Haw River Learning Celebration (HRLC) is celebrating its 20th anniversary. We have begun recruiting schools and volunteers to share in this historic event. In honor of the anniversary the Haw River Assembly is trying to revive old traditions in addition to creating new traditions and technology to bring the Learning Celebration forward.

Turtle Tracks is revived! Steering Committee member Katie Rose has worked with HRLC Crew Youth Hally Searles-Bohs, Liam Searles-Bohs, Eli Miller, Willow Cox, Clayton Noblitt and Zella McCallister to revive the old "newspaper style" Turtle Tracks publication. Art, games, poems, short stories and craft ideas fill the 2009 Turtle Tracks, which fourth-graders can take home as a memento of their day at the river. We will cel-



from Jenna Schreiber, our 2009 Learning Celebration Coordinator, shown here with Clvde Jones

ebrate the publication and the accomplishments of our Turtle Tracks Crew with a Turtle Tracks unveiling party in late summer.

HRA Launched its First Ever Haw River Poetry & Art Contest to create a new tradition in honor of the 20th Anniversary. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all the schools that submitted work. Please see the winning poetry below.

HRLC Materials are wow available at www.HawRiver.org. To help take the Learning Celebration into the modern age, Steering Committee member Maja Kricker is working in conjunction with Cynthia Crossen to get all of our Learning Celebration materials onto the HRA website. Soon we will have all of the volunteer release forms, the Handy Dandy Guide, and all of the Station Materials on the website for volunteers to access. Thank you to both Maja and Cynthia for their help with this project.

Sign up to Be Part of HRLC 2009. Volunteers are traveling from near and far to be a part of the 20th Anniversary of the Haw River Learning Celebration and we want YOU to be there! There are many ways to get involved--so sign up today to volunteer on the Learning Celebration Crew, cook a meal, help with a site move, or provide housing for the safety and logistics coordinator. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this historic event! For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Jenna Schreiber at jenna.schreiber@gmail.com, or by phone at (919) 542-5790.

Poetry Contest Winners

First place

Winter Conner Tomlinson, age 9

White snow
In the
Night below
Tonight we have
Every
Right to have joy

Honorable Mention

Vacation Conner Tomlinson, age 9

Large lakes.
Fishing for fun.
When it's warm, swimming,
When it's cold, skating.
Always endless fun.

At right, HRLC volunteer Elizabeth Cox demonstrates how to use "deer ears" to hear better in the woods.



Second place

Watershed Kayla Gunter, age 10

Water is very important
Always put trash in garbage cans
Take a trashcan and put it near the water
Eventually water runs into oceans
Recycle

So think again before polluting the water
Help save the water by not littering
Earth needs water to survive
Don't let your dogs poop near water

Photo by Martha Pentecos

Report from Germane James, Our Rainmaker

Since being hired as the new Development and Outreach Coordinator, I have really hit the ground running! I have participated in two Project Rainmaker training retreats, attended a computer workshop on our new database system, and aided in the coordination of the largest Clean-Up-A-Thon to date! It has been a whirlwind beginning, but I'm enjoying every aspect of my new position. I look forward to meeting many more of the devoted volunteers, committed board members, and the rest of the Haw River community!

The Haw River Assembly's Capital Campaign was a great success, with \$95,350 raised! HRA sends much gratitude and appreciation to all that supported and contributed to this capital campaign.

On April 7th, I will be holding a fundraising committee meeting to continue expanding our membership base, raising funds, and discussing plans for the next six months of the Rainmaker

program. With our enthusiastic and dedicated committee, I'm sure we will be able to come up with new and exciting ways of recruiting new memberships and raising resources! With the help of the board and the fundraising committee, I will begin approaching major donors. I have already received many helpful lists and personal contacts from board members to begin this process.

We began this month, participating in 1% Monday at Chatham Marketplace. We were able to speak with several of the 400 customers that visited the Marketplace, sell some T-shirts, and add 3 new members as well as numerous email contacts. Thanks to all who supported your local co-op and HRA! Now that Clean-Up-A-Thon is over, I will begin soliciting volunteers for donations and memberships. A late spring appeal letter will be distributed to citizens in our watershed that hold fishing permits, asking for their support in continuing to restore and protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake. I am in the process of creating a meetup group for HRA, in an attempt to broaden our horizons and reach out to minorities and members of the younger generation. Meetup.com is the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting face-to-face. With this group, my hope is to revitalize the youth in our watershed communities and encourage them to get together with the goal of improving water quality.

HRA Lobbies for Clean Water In Raleigh



Above: HRA walks the "Halls of Power" at the Raleigh Legislative Building, talking with our legislators about the Jordan Lake rules and other legislation to promote clean water. Photo by Heather Yandow Right: The HRA team with Bob Atwater (in suit and tie), N.C. Senator representing Chatham and Durham counties. Photo by Anne Cassebaum

The HRA team was 19 strong in Raleigh for this year's Clean Water Lobby Day, hosted by the N.C. Watershed Alliance and well-organized by the N.C. Conservation Network. Our team's main focus was the Jordan Lake rules (see page 1); we also promoted legislation for water allocation and planning, cleaning up polluted runoff, green jobs and water quality, and a moratorium on Portland cement kilns. Legislators thanked us for our fact sheets and plain language summary of the Jordan Lake rules. Many told us how important our presence was, so that citizen voices for clean water would be heard. We felt like a river as we streamed the halls in our blue shirts speaking out for clean water. Thanks to everyone who joined us!



Upcoming 2009 HRA Events

Thursday May 7 - Friday May 8, NC Conservation Network Annual Retreat, *Raleigh* Join members of NC's environmental community in becoming more effective advocates through networking, workshops, skills building, updates on issues, and fun. See www.ncconservationnetwork.org for details.

Friday April 3 - Saturday April 4, 2009, Carrboro Bridge to an Organic Future, The 27th National Pesticide Forum. See www.beyondpesticides.org/forum for more information.

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 1 - 6 pm, Haw River Paddle from Swepsonville to Saxapahaw. Leader: Joe Jacob. Contact info@hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465 to sign up for this trip.

Saturday, May 2, 2009, Haw River Paddle from Town of Haw River to Swepsonville River Park. Leader: Joe Jacob. Contact info@hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465 to sign up for this trip.

Saturday, May 9, 2009, 1 - 6 pm, Haw River Festival, Old Bynum Bridge. See front page & insert for details.

Thursday May 7 - Friday May 8, 2009, Raleigh, N.C. Conservation Network Annual Retreat. Join members of NC's environmental community in becoming more effective advocates through networking, workshops, skills building, updates on issues, and fun. See www.ncconservationnetwork.org for more information.

Sunday, May 17, 2009, Jordan Lake Paddle to Great Blue Heron Nesting Area. Leader: Susanne Gomolski & Kayak Adventures. Contact Susanne at (919) 929-3805 or (919) 259-2241to sign up for this trip.

Sunday, June 7, 2009, Sunset Full Moon Paddle on Jordan Lake. Leader: Susanne Gomolski & Kayak Adventures. Contact Susanne at (919) 929-3805 or (919) 259-2241to sign up for this trip.

June 20 - 21, 2009, and September 19 - 20, 2009. Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekends. For info on project contact (919)967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org.

September 19 - October 9, 2009. Haw River Learning Celebration for Fourth-graders. For info on project, see p.8 and www.hawriver.org. To sign up, contact Jenna Schreiber at (919) 542-5790 or jenna.schreiber@gmail.com. For info see Upcoming Events at www.hawriver.org; for info and to volunteer contact HRA at (919) 542-5790; info@hawriver.org

Haw River Festival imuny 9 in Bynum!

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