

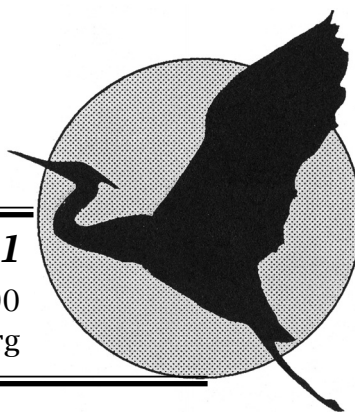
# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly April 2011

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)



## Clean-Up-A-Thon Teams Tackle River Trash

High water didn't stop our dedicated volunteers on March 12 for our 21st Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon! A total of 28 teams went out along the river, from Guilford County down to the Jordan Lake dam, to clean up trash along the water's edge. Two hundred sixty-six volunteers picked up 496 bags of trash, and pulled 137 tires, mounds of old metal pieces, wood, appliances, and just plain weird trash from the river. Some of this weird trash will be entered into our annual "weird trash contest" and displayed at our May 7th Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw. Festival-goers will vote on the winner, so make sure you stop by the HRA tent to cast your vote.

The work of our volunteers was supported by many local businesses, listed on page 7, which made contributions to HRA to help us protect the river all year long. Join us in giving them a big thank you!

Thanks to all of our 266 volunteers! The river looks a whole lot better thanks to your efforts. On pages 6 and 7 you will find some highlights from most of our teams. For details about our Durham Clean-ups on Third Fork Creek, Rocky Creek, Northeast Creek, and New Hope Creek, check out the Durham Creek Week website at <http://www.creekweekdurham.org>.

The Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon has been an annual HRA event for 21 years. Please come join us next March and be a part of the solution!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Young and old volunteers clean up Spirit Island in Swepsonville. Efforts of previous years are beginning to show in a cleaner Haw.*

**Haw  
River  
Festival!**

**Sat. May 7,  
2 to 8 pm,  
Saxapahaw**



### ***Come to the Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw Saturday May 7, 2 to 8 pm***

The Haw River Festival – celebrating its 22nd year of exceptional local music, environmental education activities, local art, and unique children's activities – is one of the Triangle region's premiere outdoor spring environmental festivals.

We'll be returning to Saxapahaw, the one-of-a-kind mill village on the edge of the mighty Haw River in Alamance County! Please join us May 7 to celebrate the presence of spring and the river we treasure so much!

Our Haw River Festival, with free admission, will be a day for the whole family to enjoy. There will be \* fun catching critters down at the Haw River \* live music \* kids' activities & guided canoe rides \* nature walks \* rain garden plant sale \* river monitoring \* kayak raffle \* farmer's market \* craft sales \* live art auction \* & much more! Saxapahaw is located about 10 miles west of Chapel Hill.

A few of the bands that are playing are Cynthia Crossen & the Festival Jam; Different Drum; Justin Robinson & the Mary Annettes; Midtown Dickens; Pink Flag. And more!!!

For directions and info, visit [www.HawRiver.org](http://www.HawRiver.org) or [www.RiverMillVillage.com](http://www.RiverMillVillage.com).



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## Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Cynthia Crossen \* **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Germane James, Donna Myers \* **Photos:** Sharon Calle, Cecelia Carver, Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Jeffrey Hatcher, Katie Kenlan, Mary Longhill, Erin Martin, Donna Myers \* **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 & 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

*Is there a time more beautiful than when winter turns into spring? The very cold winter in the Piedmont this year made the coming of spring especially welcome. Spotting the first trout lily by the creek, seeing the first osprey back hunting the river – these are such a pleasure each year!*

*Watching ephemeral streams fill with spring rains is a great reminder of the importance they play in the greater watershed and the need to protect them when land is disturbed. These little branches carry the first rainfalls from storms, and carry whatever washes off the land – including pollution and mud. The current push to loosen or “streamline” environmental protection in the state, in order to reduce costs to developers or industries, overlooks the very real price that is paid when water, lands, and people are not protected. The Haw River Assembly is standing up to protect our waters with other groups and citizens, in the face of attacks on these laws, and demands to weaken the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the EPA. We hope you will join us to make our voices heard.*

*In the midst of these difficult times it's inspiring to see people working on creative and alternative ways of living that are the real path to the future. It's amazing to see what's going on in our watershed right now – green building projects, sustainable agriculture, solar and wind energy, community grocery start-ups, the local food movement, recycling and reclaiming of old buildings, new river parks – all in the midst of a recession. Come out to the Haw River Festival on May 7 in Saxapahaw to see some of these creative projects for yourself!*

*From the Haw,*

*Elaine Chiosso*  
**HAW RIVERKEEPER®**



Photo by Katie Kenlan



*Dry Creek dressed for the holidays in this winter's snow. How quickly we move into the beauty of spring!*

Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



# HAW RIVERKEEPER<sup>®</sup>

## *Issues in the Watershed*

### *Defend Environmental Protections in NC!*



photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Elon Professor and HRA Board member Anne Cassebaum (left) brings her small grandson to the Haw River to introduce him to its wonders. (At right is Susan Dickson of the Carrboro Citizen).*

The new Republican majority Legislature is wasting no time in their attempt to roll back environmental protections. The Joint Regulatory Reform Committee scheduled six public hearings across NC to hear from businesses and the public how removing or loosening environmental regulations could “create new jobs.” We know this is a false connection – and years of hard earned protections for our waters and environment could be destroyed. Many more jobs could be created if we really got serious about creating a more energy/water sustainable and efficient state. A Triad hearing was held at Guilford Technical Community College on March 28. HRA members and other citizens in favor of environmental protection made a great showing and outnumbered the anti-regulation crowd. Our speakers made excellent points about protecting air and water quality, the need for better enforcement, the economic value of a clean environment, and its importance for future generations. The hearing certainly did not offer a mandate for rollbacks. **The final hearing will be held on Thursday, April 21 at the Legislature in Raleigh (probably from 1 to 3 pm) – the day before EARTH DAY! We hope it will be the biggest outpouring yet to show support for environmental protections. Save the date – we will be sending more details. If you can’t attend, email your comments to <http://www.ncleg.net/Applications/RFC/?id=3>.**

Anne Cassebaum, member of the HRA Board of Directors from Elon, presented these remarks at the hearing in Guilford:

“It is hard to believe that after a summer with the BP oil spill and a winter’s end revealing TEPCO’s nuclear plants unpreparedness for a Tsunami, we need to be gathered here to defend regulation. Where to begin? Let me give you some river examples of how increased regulation has worked in our communities to bring us better health and a stronger economy. In the 1950’s, eleven industries and ten cities were pouring their waste into the Haw River. They were turning a major source of food and recreation into a sewer line. The stink, foam and fish kills led State Senators Ralph Scott and Wade Paschal to propose a bill in 1955 ending this dumping. It passed, but industry and municipalities fought and lobbied their way around it, so the devastation continued. In 1970, Prof. Don Francisco of UNC-Chapel examined the only sterile piece of earth he had ever seen; it was from the Haw River.

“It was not until the enforced regulation of the Clean Water Act of 1972 that the Haw began its slow, steady turn-around. The river is again a source of recreation and food and jobs for

people running fishing and canoeing businesses. Two river towns have had a rebirth: Glencoe and Saxapahaw are bringing in tourists and spawning businesses because we have started to protect our river.

“There’s more work to be done; we need to regulate the pollution that puts mercury advisory on our state’s rivers; this is a crisis we should not accept as the status quo. We still need better controls over excess nutrients and sediment, one of these controls being better inspection of building sites. Think a little dirt and run-off isn’t a problem? One bad sedimentation event can kill almost all aquatic life in a creek, and with unprotected banks or poorly managed development, runoff can be massive. In one high water event, 50,000 tons of sediment was measured going by Bynum in 36 hours.

“The people of North Carolina pay taxes so that NCDENR and other agencies will protect the health and the economic well being of those in this state. We need them to carry that work forward, not retreat under a barrage of money spent on lobbying.”

### *Pittsboro’s proposed new sewage outfall to the Haw*

River lovers, paddlers, HRA staff and members, and concerned citizens turned out for the Public Hearing on March 29 for Pittsboro’s NPDES permit that would allow discharge of treated sewage effluent into the Haw River at Hwy 64 bridge. NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) heard

*continued on page 4*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*HRA President Lynn Featherstone speaks to NC Division of Water Quality officials against the proposed permit which would allow Pittsboro to discharge 3.22 million gallons/day of treated wastewater into the Haw River near the Hwy 64 bridge.*



## HAW RIVERKEEPER®

### Issues in the Watershed

(continued from page 3) impassioned public comments on why a new discharge pipe should not be allowed at the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, also one of the most popular paddler and river access sites. Speakers talked about the beauty, recreational use (and user's health), aquatic life, endangered species, and ecotourism benefits that could all be negatively impacted – as well as Jordan Lake's water quality, just one mile downstream. Pittsboro will need more waste water capacity to grow, but this effluent will be of re-use quality in order to meet the Jordan Lake water protection rules. Many speakers asked why this highly treated wastewater will not be re-used instead of being discharged to an already stressed and impaired river and lake. We believe DWQ has a responsibility to protect these waters of the state – and their own State Natural Area – and not allow further degradation.

#### Other Issues in the Watershed:

**Operation Medicine Drop:** We support the growing initiative in NC by law enforcement and other agencies to safely collect and dispose of unwanted leftover medicines to keep them out of kids' hands and not have them flushed down the toilet where they end up in our rivers – and drinking water.

Successful drop-off days were held throughout the state in March, including many locations in our watershed. We will send dates before the next drop-off, and remember – don't flush your unused meds down the toilet!

**“Fracking”, the dirty side of “clean” Natural Gas, continues to be debated in NC.** Hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) extracts natural gas from shale or coal rock deposits by drilling deep into the earth and injecting a cocktail of water, sand, and chemicals to break the rock formation. The chemical-laden water is stored above ground in pits to be used again and then disposed of (WHERE?). Serious problems include the huge amounts of water needed for fracking, and the potential impact on groundwater and neighboring wells.

Deposits of shale gas have been discovered in parts of NC, including the Deep River basin, and in the Triassic basin near Jordan Lake. Current NC law does not allow this type of injection drilling – but that could be overturned by our current anti-regulatory legislature. House Bill 242 calls for only an insignificant increase in bonding for gas operations, and fails to call for a ban, or tighter oversight of exploratory drilling. Concerned NC residents need to speak out to prevent this weak bill from becoming an invitation to overturning NC protections!

Go to Clean Water for NC's website for a petition to stop this bill:

<http://www.cwfnc.org/get-involved/petition-to-ban-fracking-in-nc/>

**Durham “751 Battle” Continues:** In a rare victory for citizen rights in this frustrating affair, a ruling in March 2011 from Superior Court upheld the zoning petition signers' suit. The Durham County attorney advised the Durham County Board of Commissioners on August 9 that DOT could not rescind their acceptance of the 751 South road easement, and that the protest petition by adjacent landowners was thus invalid. The Durham County Commissioners had voted 3-2 to re-zone for a dense mega-development close to Jordan Lake, discounting a zoning protest petition from neighbors of 751 South. The petition signers sued Durham in Superior Court. Durham said the deadline for filing such a suit was not met, but the Judge disagreed, so the suit will go forward. Meanwhile, the Durham Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) is discussing standards for surveys of normal pool elevation so that this controversy is not repeated in Durham. The Haw Riverkeeper addressed the EAB concerning this issue.

**Some Good News:** Congratulations to the West End Revitalization Association (WERA), that was awarded a grant of \$70,000 from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to move forward, along with the City of Mebane, in providing water and sewer for low-income homes in the historic West End neighborhood.

HRA has partnered with WERA in its efforts to improve community health, drinking water supplies, and the water quality of the creeks running through its communities of West End, White Level, and Buckhorn/Perry Hill.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*John Alderman (center right), formerly with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and now a consultant on endangered species, proposes a better discharge plan for Pittsboro's wastewater; to Joe Glasson (left), Chair of Chatham County's Economic Development Corp.; Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso; and Gary Simpson (right), Director of Chatham Citizens for Effective Government.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Libby Webb, Emily Ander, and Katelyn Ander come out annually to clean up Spirit Island in Swepsonville.*





# *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

**River Watch Trainings & Events:** We held a fun, productive, and educational River Watch Social in February, at the home of River Watch Chair Deborah Amaral and former River Watch Coordinator Chris Carter. Even with lots of socializing, snacking, looking at macroinvertebrate photos, and sharing our river watch experiences, we had time to make 31 transparency tubes for river watchers, and walk down to Chavis Branch for some water quality monitoring. The creek got a "Good" score, and so did our Social! \* Welcome to Ray Bode and his family, who are monitoring Dry Creek at the Old Graham Bridge. HRA monitored this site extensively for the Two Streams project, and it is great that river watchers will continue to keep an eye on water quality there. \* I'm excited to be partnering with Brandy McCandless of Burlington Recreation & Parks; on **Sunday, April 10, from 2 to 4 pm**, I'll be teaching stream monitoring on Little Alamance Creek at Burlington City Park. \* I'll also be demonstrating water quality monitoring at our **Haw River Festival on May 7** in Saxapahaw. (See details of these events on pages 1 & 10). \* If you want to join me for our 8th-grade Stream Investigation Project or the Learning Celebration, see pages 8 and 9.



*At our February River Watch Social, we make 31 new transparency tubes for river watchers.*



*Then we visit Chavis Branch and find lots of feathery-gilled mayflies.*

**River Watch Monitoring Report Published!** Thanks to the monitoring efforts of our many dedicated river watchers, we have published the latest Haw River Watch Monitoring Report 1994-2010 on the River Watch page of our website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org). This stream quality data is used in many ways: by Elaine Chiosso, Haw Riverkeeper, as a source of information about our watershed and as baseline data for creeks being threatened by new pollution; by the North Carolina Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources (NCDENR) for use in deciding which creeks need extra monitoring; and by the public, for creek advocacy as well as education.



*Randy Dodd, Carrboro Environmental Planner, points out an eroding bank shored with rip rap on Bolin Creek.*

### **Stream Ecology Study**

**Group** In January our group of enthusiastic and motivated volunteers and HRA staff invited Randy Dodd, Environmental Planner for Carrboro, to walk Bolin Creek with us, so that we could learn more about the creek and become involved in its protection and restoration. Erin Martin and Betsy Kempter will monitor several sites on Bolin Creek, and will serve as members of the citizen committee studying Bolin Creek. In March we visited Baldwin Park to look at the stream restoration being done there by a town partnership of Chapel Hill and Carrboro and funded by a 319 nonpoint source pollution grant from NCDENR. At the site, we were greeted by Zan Price, Extension Associate with the NCSU Dept. of Biological & Agricultural Engineering, who explained the restoration of two tributaries to Bolin Creek, and the construction of a large rain garden to capture, slow, and filter the stormwater runoff from streets and other impervious surfaces.



*Zan Price of NCSU explains the rain garden and stream restoration project at Baldwin Park in Chapel Hill.*

All photos on this page by Cynthia Crossen



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

**Brooks Bridge Road** – **Max Lloyd**, proprietor of Grove Winery & Vineyards, led his team to two different sites upriver, collecting over 18 bags of trash, 12 tires, and several large pieces of metal sheeting.

**Glencoe Village, Burlington** – Glencoe residents **Howard Tash** and **Todd Blair** coordinated cleanup efforts along the river and trails in Glencoe, Great Bend Park, and the Indian Valley paddle access point. Members of the Elon University chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha and several paddlers collected trash in and along the banks of the Haw.

**Sweepsonville, Spirit Island** – **Joe Jacob**, **Lawrence Petersen** (HRA board members and Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. guides) and **Cynthia Crossen** (HRA's River Watch Coordinator) led their team around Spirit Island, picking up some of the most unusual trash: a real estate sign, a refrigerator door, a small stuffed shark and a half bald baby doll head! They were also visited by the cheerful chirps of a soaring osprey! Photo by Cynthia Crossen, at right.

**Saxapahaw, Boy Scout Camp** – The Home school Community Service Group tackled the Boy Scout camp again this year under the leadership of the **Mary Longhill**. They piled up 20 bags of trash and 3 tires. Photo by Mary Longhill, below.



**Saxapahaw Island** – A team of 12 great volunteers from Alamance Community College, led by **Sherry Holt**, collected over 20 bags of trash and 4 tires, making a huge dent in the trash that collects on the Saxapahaw Island.

**Saxapahaw, new greenway** – The **Saxapahaw Lion's Club** harvested over 70 dead and down cedars from up behind the Boy Scout camp. They also collected 5 bags of trash, lots of metal sheeting and some automobile tires – a great start for the new park and paddle access in Saxapahaw, expected to open in May.

**Morgan Creek** – The **Morgan Creek Valley Alliance** will conduct their clean up along Morgan Creek in April. We will be sure to get updates on their efforts.

**Old Greensboro Hwy** – **Andrew Kennedy** led his family along the river this year, collecting 12 bags of trash and 2 tires, and even managing to pull a grocery cart out of the river!

**Chicken Bridge** – **Jeff Pettus** noted less trash then in the past, but still managed to grab about 2 bags of debris.

**Bynum, all sites** – **Elaine Chiosso** and **Germane James** guided over 35 volunteers to various locations throughout Bynum and along the river, including the flood plain along the mill, the 15-501 causeway, the Lower Haw River State Natural Area Trail, and Bynum Beach. Fourteen Northwood High School students, and members of the Enloe High School key club participated. Photo by Elaine Chiosso, right.



**Bynum, Middle Haw** – **Bob Brueckner** and **Jeffrey Hatcher**, paddlers from Carolina Canoe Club (CCC), skimmed about 12 bags of trash out of the river while floating down the middle and lower sections, and helped shuttle bags from folks along the trail down to the dumpster site. Bob returned the next couple of days and collected an additional 12 bags on his own...now that's dedication! Photo by Jeffrey Hatcher, left.



**Bynum, Redbud** – **Sarah and Bryan Goddin** ventured from Temple Creek to the Buddy Thomas spur trail (about 1/2 mile below Pokeberry Creek). They saw less trash than in years past, but were still able to get about 3 bags worth.

**15-501 bridge (north)** – **Debbie & Ken Tunnell** led a strong team along Haw River dam, collecting 12 bags of trash while enjoying the beautiful day and stopping to speak with the NBC-17 news team that came to Bynum to experience our 21st Clean-Up-A-Thon.

**Dry Creek – Cathy Markatos** traveled along Dry Creek and found enough trash and debris to fill 2 bags. Cathy has been cleaning up this creek for several years and her dedication to keeping this area clean is greatly appreciated!

**CCC Paddler team, Upper Haw – Larry Ausley** along with other CCC paddlers gathered 7 bags of trash at the site of a rope swing on the island just upstream of the Bynum Dam. They found a fireplace grate, bathtub mat, cooking pot, can opener, and the frame for a patio chair. A paddler aptly described this area as the “city dump.”

**Hwy 64 Bridge – Donna Myers** (HRA’s Watershed Education Coordinator), led a team of 4 down the beautiful trail collecting 5 bags of trash. On their way back to their cars, they continued picking up rubbish in the parking lot and along the road – their commitment is admirable! Photo by Donna Myers below.



**Robeson Creek, Pittsboro –** Students from the Woods School Envirothon team, led by **Catherine Deininger**, had a very successful clean up, collecting 16 bags of trash, pulling a truck exhaust system out of Little Creek, and taking out some tires and a couple of old metal buckets from Robeson Creek.

**Town Lake Park –** Members of the same Envirothon group decided to venture out to Town Lake Park as well, gathering another 16 bags worth of trash, 16 hubcaps, and a jewelry box full of children’s jewelry!

**Jordan Lake (Jordan Lake, dam) –** As usual this site requires a lot of volunteer participation as the dam collects so much trash and debris as the river flows downstream. Over 70 volunteers worked for several hours collecting over 200 bags of trash and 80 tires. This team was led by **Brett Harris** (of Clean Jordan Lake) and **Francis Ferrell** (of the Army Corps of Engineers). **Fran DiGiano**, also of [www.CleanJordanLake.org](http://www.CleanJordanLake.org), coordinated this effort with HRA and is working on the next big Jordan Lake Cleanup. Stay tuned for more info available soon.

**Jordan Lake Hwy 751 – Susanne Gomalski**, HRA board member and owner of Kayak Adventures, led a small team along the lake, collecting 7 bags of trash and 1 tire; they even found a pellet gun, a pair of pink panties, and an old work boot!

## Join Us in Thanking Our 2010 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors

**Additions Plus** (Stan Stutts), 2267 Manns Chapel Road, Pittsboro, 27312, (919) 968-3737

**Auto Pro** (Barry & Jennifer Howard), 5520 US 15-501N, Pittsboro, 27312, (919) 542-0964

**Benjamin Vineyards & Winery** (Nancy & Andy Zeman) 6516 Whitney Road, Graham 27253, [www.benjaminvineyards.com](http://www.benjaminvineyards.com)

**Bish Enterprises, Inc.** (John McSween) P.O. Box 451 Siler City, 27344 (919) 663-3336

**Carolina Country Builders** (Paul Konove), 1459 Redbud Road, Pittsboro, 27312, (919) 542-5361, [www.greenhomedesignbuild.com](http://www.greenhomedesignbuild.com)

**Carolina Vision Associates**, 11312 US Hwy 15-501 N Chapel Hill, 27517, (919) 933-6767, [www.carolinavisionassociates.com](http://www.carolinavisionassociates.com)

**Chimneys Plus**, 1250 Sanford Rd. Pittsboro, 27312, (919) 542-1631, [www.chimneysplusgutters.com](http://www.chimneysplusgutters.com)

**Cure Nursery** (Bill and Jennifer Cure) 880 Buteo Ridge Rd., Pittsboro, 27312, (919) 542-6186, [www.curenursery.com](http://www.curenursery.com)

**Eli Whitney Ruritan Club** (Debbie Steele) 8022 Mac Lane Snow Camp, 27349, (336) 376-0111

**Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.**, Saxapahaw, (336) 260-6465, [www.hawrivercanoe.com](http://www.hawrivercanoe.com)

**Honey Electric & Solar Inc.**, 4501 Alamance Church, Road, Liberty, (336) 438-9786, [honeyelectricsolar.com](http://honeyelectricsolar.com)

**Jones Architecture, PLLC** (Wayne Jones), 5011 J Falls Neuse Road, Raleigh, 27609, (919) 510-8186

**Jordan Properties / Saxapahaw River Mill**, Saxapahaw, (336) 376-3122 [www.rivermillvillage.com](http://www.rivermillvillage.com)

**Kayak Adventures** (Susanne Gomalski) 141 Windsor Circle, Chapel Hill, (919) 929-3805 [www.kayakadventuresnc.com](http://www.kayakadventuresnc.com)

**Lynn Hayes Real Estate** (Lynn Hayes), 103 W. Weaver St. #4, Carrboro, 27510 (919) 968-9989, [www.lynnhayes.com](http://www.lynnhayes.com)

**Mellow Marsh Farm**, (919) 663-1945, [www.mellowmarshfarm.com](http://www.mellowmarshfarm.com)

**PHE, Inc.** 302 Meadowlands Drive, Hillsborough, 27278 (919) 644-8100

**PSNC Energy** (Linda Suitt Harris) 1312 Annapolis Drive Suite 200 Raleigh, 27608, (919) 836-2338

**Rouse Wilson Dentistry**, P.O. Box 940, Pittsboro, 27312 (919) 542-3502

**Swanson & Associates** (David Swanson), 100 East Carr St., Carrboro, (919) 967-3355

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**Twig 99**, South Elliot Rd, Chapel Hill, 27514 (919) 929-8944; [www.twigliving.com](http://www.twigliving.com)

**Weaver Street Realty** (Louise Barnum, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker) 116 East Main, Carrboro, (919) 929-5658, [weaverstreetrealty.com](http://weaverstreetrealty.com)

**Whole Foods Market**, locations in Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh, [www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com)



# Watershed Education Opportunities

## Stream Investigation

Throughout the winter months, I met regularly with a few dedicated volunteers to reconfigure the existing Stream Investigation Program. This is a nonpoint source pollution control grant education program funded through NC DENR Division of Water Quality. HRA staff and volunteers visit middle schools and conduct three days of programming--one day in the classroom and two days at a nearby creek--with 8th grade students throughout the watershed. While in the classroom we guide students through a lesson that highlights eight different sites around the watershed. The following two days at the creek we lead students through a visual stream assessment activity as well as macroinvertebrate collecting and identifying.

We've incorporated significant changes to structure of the classroom lesson, as well as some minor tweaks to the stream assessment activity. These improvements are based on student, teacher, and volunteer evalua-



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

from Donna Myers,  
Watershed Education  
Coordinator

tions from last year. Changes to classroom curriculum include an interactive map created using Google Earth software, updates to the site cards that provide detailed information and photographs, and a different activity. Also, volunteer Maja Kricker has dedicated many hours to crunching existing water quality data to create colorful, informative graphs that illustrate the data's significance. River Watchers Maja Kricker, Betsy Kempter, Sharon Garbutt, and Jeannie Ambrose have not only met regularly to discuss and implement new approaches to the curriculum, but they have also updated classroom materials and generated ideas for the improved lesson plans. I want to give a tremendous thank you to these volunteers, as well as volunteers Erin Martin, Catherine Deininger, and HRA staff Cynthia Crossen and Elaine Chiosso for their input on the curriculum.

There are plenty of Stream Investigation volunteer opportunities this spring--see below. Check out the HRA website for updated lesson plans and materials on the Stream Investigation page, and look for a description of the 2011 program in our summer newsletter.

## Spring 2011 Watershed Education Volunteer Opportunities

Spring always brings a flurry of activities and opportunities to volunteer. Please review the upcoming opportunities and contact me if you want to volunteer (Donna Myers at [donna@hawriver.org](mailto:donna@hawriver.org) or (919) 542-5790).

**Wednesday, April 13** Aquatic Field Day at R.N. Harris Elementary School in Durham. Join Donna as she leads students through a visual stream assessment at their school creek.

**April 26 - 28** Classroom Stream Investigation Program at Northern Guilford Middle in Greensboro.

**Saturday May 7** Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw. Come volunteer at the environmental education booth and share your excitement for water resources and help recruit volunteers for other programs!

**Monday, May 9 through Wednesday, May 11** Stream Investigation Program at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro.

**May 26** Stream Investigation Field Day for Northern Guilford Middle in Greensboro, at Haw River State Park.

*This fall, volunteer for the Haw River Learning Celebration -- see next page for details.*



### 2011 Haw River Festival T-shirt Clyde Jones "Owl"

*Shirts are available in: Adult green pea (light green), Ladies' green pea, and youth green pea. These are soft organic cotton shirts from TS Designs in Burlington, which uses the environmentally friendly Rehance dye process to eliminate plastisol inks.*

*Modeled by Cynthia Crossen, Haw River Watch; Photo by Erin Martin*

**\$ 22 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL**

**\$ 22 (ladies) S, M, L, XL**

**\$ 16 (youth) S, M, L**

Available at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Great Outdoors Provision Co. in the Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Greensboro locations, Saxapahaw General Store in Saxapahaw, 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 number, sizes & 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. Previous years' shirts are also available.



# Haw River Learning Celebration 2011!

A great way to say goodbye to summer and kickoff your fall is to volunteer at the Learning Celebration (LC), the Haw River Assembly's flagship environmental education program entering its 22nd year! Check out this year's program dates and locations below. You can learn more at HRA's website, [www.HawRiver.org](http://www.HawRiver.org). Hope to see you on the river!

## Join us September 17th - October 7th

**Week 1 in Bynum:** September 17 - 23, with programs for students offered September 20 - 23

**Week 2 in Saxapahaw:** September 24 - 30, with programs for students offered September 27 - 30

**Week 3 at Camp Guilrock:** October 2 - 7, with programs for students offered October 4 - 7

**Sign up to Be Part of HRLC 2011.** Volunteers make the Learning Celebration happen, 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, or help with a site move. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Donna Myers at [donna@hawriver.org](mailto:donna@hawriver.org), or by phone at (919) 542-5790.

## A few things to keep in mind about this year's LC:

Almost all of the volunteer resources including registration and confirmation forms and information packets will be online this year. There are tons of ways to help out, so please keep a

look out in your email inbox, and on HRA's Facebook and website pages to stay abreast of the latest developments and opportunities for this year's program. If none of these mediums appeal to you, please call Donna and she'll make sure you get all the information you need!

We always want previous volunteers to return and we love welcoming new volunteers at the Learning Celebration. In efforts to do just that, there will be a couple of volunteer events this spring and summer where folks can come reunite with or meet other volunteers. Keep a look out for information on these events. Also, for those of you familiar with the program, please spread the word! If you are interested and want to know more about the LC, check out the volunteer resources online this summer, come to a volunteer event, call Donna, or just come volunteer for a day and see what it's all about.

**Job Opportunity!** We will be hiring an Assistant Learning Celebration Coordinator this summer. This position is a temporary, full time position requiring a lot of hard work and some serious organizational skills. The payoff is getting to work outside with some of the best volunteers in the business at a sustainable, unique environmental education program. Think about it, and keep a look out for the job announcement.



Photo by Cecelia Carter

*The Green Man greets 4th-graders after the puppet show in Bynum.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Fascinated by a fox pelt, these students learn about the animals in their own backyards.*



Photo by Sharon Calle

*Happy students love being outside, by the river, and learning!*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Hope Wilder teaches plant lore at the Learning Celebration in Saxapahaw.*

## Upcoming 2011 HRA Events

**Sunday, April 10, 2 - 4 pm, Streamside Haw River Watch Monitoring Training, Burlington City Park** Bring the family to Little Alamance Creek to look for benthic macroinvertebrates that tell us about water quality. For information contact Haw River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen at [riverwatch@hawriver.org](mailto:riverwatch@hawriver.org), or 919-967-2500. To register for this event, contact Brandy McCandless of Burlington Recreation & Parks, [bmccandless@ci.burlington.nc.us](mailto:bmccandless@ci.burlington.nc.us), (336) 229-3150; or visit the Burlington Recreation & Parks Main Office. Space is limited; all participants must pre-register.

**Saturday April 16, 4:30 - 7:45 pm, Sunset-Moonrise Paddle in the Eagle Management Area of Jordan Lake.** Look for eagle, osprey, cormorants and enjoy a rest stop on an island. Paddle back into the beautiful sunset; the near full moon will rise at 6:30 pm. Limited to 12, cost per kayak is \$45 .

**Saturday, April 23, Photography Paddle** The eye of the camera can capture feelings, emotions and expressions; lighting, colors and perspective can be transformed into art. The purpose of this guided trip is to offer amateur and professional photographers an opportunity to get closer to water, birds, wildlife and reflections not ordinarily possible from land. Participants must provide their photographic equipment. Fee is \$45 per person with the canoe or kayak provided, or \$40 per person for those bringing their own boat. The fee includes a river guide with professional photographic experience.

**Friday, May 6 Stargazing Float on Saxapahaw Lake** There is no better way to see the night sky in the Piedmont of North Carolina than by paddling, at night, on a lake, and at the time of a new moon. If astronomy is your hobby — or even if you just want to learn about what you've been looking at all these years — this float trip will be both fun and educational. Participants arrive early enough in the evening to practice paddling, enjoy a beautiful sunset and adjust their eyes to the night sky. As the stars become brighter, everyone will "raft-up," lay back, and identify stars and constellations. Fee: \$25 per person with the canoe or kayak provided, or \$20 per person for those bringing their own boat.

**Saturday, May 7, 2 - 8 pm, Haw River Festival, Saxapahaw.** See front page for details.

**June 18 - 19, and September 17 - 18, 2009. Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekends.** For info on this project contact (919) 967-2500, [riverwatch@hawriver.org](mailto:riverwatch@hawriver.org).

**September 17 - October 7. Haw River Learning Celebration for Fourth-graders.** For info on project, see p.9 and [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org). To sign up, contact Donna Myers at (919) 542-5790 or [donna@hawriver.org](mailto:donna@hawriver.org).

**Haw River Festival  
Saturday May 7, 2 - 8 pm,  
in Saxapahaw!**

Address Service Requested

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