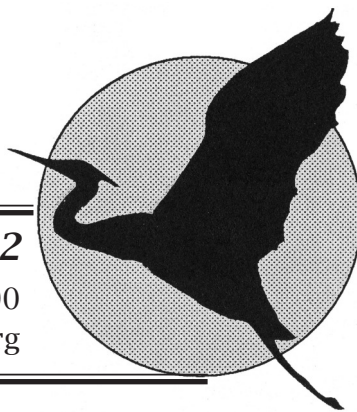


Voice of the Haw

The Haw River Assembly April 2012



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



Celebrating 30 years of protecting the Haw River and Jordan Lake

Don't Frack North Carolina!

Over 1500 concerned people turned out to the public hearings that NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) held on its draft NC Shale Gas Report in March. The hearings were held at three locations: Sanford, Chapel Hill and Pittsboro. The Pittsboro site at the Barn at Fearington was added at the last minute after elected officials, led by Rep. Joe Hackney and Chatham County Commissioner Sally Kost, urged that a hearing be held in Chatham County as well.

The great majority of attendees and speakers were opposed to allowing fracking for shale gas in North Carolina. They expressed well-researched concerns that the DENR report raised far more questions about the safety, economic value, and impacts to communities than there were answers. Many of the speakers noted that DENR's conclusion in the report—that fracking could be done safely in NC if these many problems could be addressed or solved—seemed completely inappropriate given the magnitude of these issues.



Citizens rally against fracking before the NC DENR public hearing at East Chapel Hill High School. Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso and our River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen both spoke at the hearings, as did many HRA Board members and volunteers.

In addition to the hearings, several towns in the targeted fracking zone have passed ordinances prohibiting fracking (Creedmoor) or resolutions expressing concerns and urging the state to take more time to study the complex issues involved (Pittsboro, Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Cary).

The eastern part of the Haw River watershed includes lands in Durham, Orange, Wake, and Chatham counties in the Triassic Basin where shale gas may exist. This includes lands under and surrounding Jordan Lake. We strongly disagree with the conclusion in the DENR report that fracking can be done safely in NC once adequate safeguards and regulations are in place. On a national level, no fracking is taking place anywhere that ensures protection of people's health, land, air and water. The technology for these *continued on page 3*

HAW RIVER FESTIVAL 2012

Come celebrate the 30th year of the Haw River Assembly at our annual Haw River Festival! *** Once again we'll be kicking off the summer outdoor music season in Saxapahaw with this special day on the Haw River. *** Join us for live music, local arts and crafts, delicious food and refreshments, the farmers' market, stream monitoring demonstrations for kids and adults, and guided canoe rides for kids 12 and under. HRA will have information on current issues in the watershed, including the threat of fracking, and we'll have our 2012 T-shirt for sale as well as vintage T's from past years. *** For directions and more info, visit www.HawRiver.org, or www.RiverMillVillage.com. Hope to see you there!

SATURDAY MAY 5TH IN
SAXAPAHAW, 4 - 8 PM



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Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Germane James, Donna Myers * **Photos:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Ken Crossen, Catherine Deiningner, Carl Fisher, Susanne Gomolski, Paul Horne, Germane James, Betsy Kempter, D'vorah Nadel, Lawrence Peterson * **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

Notes from the Haw

Spring chased winter away early this year, with the trees and flowers blooming all at once, sending waves of pollen into the air (ah-choo!) Ospreys came back from their winter homes to fish our waters again, and can be seen on their newly refurbished nests raising another generation. I hope you have time to take a walk or paddle along the river in these beautiful days. We are offering quite a few paddling field trips on the river and Jordan Lake this year (see our calendar in this newsletter)—do come out and join us.

"Keep NC Frack Free" is the call of the environmental movement this spring as we head into the opening of the 2012 General Assembly session this May. It feels a bit like David and Goliath as NC citizens and environmental groups stand up against the huge natural gas industry. We have so little experience with this industry in North Carolina; maybe that's why we're brave (or foolish) enough to try to stop them from laying waste to our beautiful countryside and polluting our waters. We have some "Frack Free Zone" yard signs available at our office if you want to come by and get one—just let us know (919-542-5790). It will take all our voices raised together to stop this in NC.

I continue to work with Omega Wilson as co-chair of the N.C. Environmental Inequities/Environmental Justice Workgroup, under the Research Triangle Environmental Health Collaborative (EHC). We have met with staff for the Governor and DENR as we continue this effort to make environmental justice issues a part of state government concerns. The Workgroup is documenting EJ issues in NC in preparation for a report to the EHC this spring, and we are preparing for a day-long summit on this issue later this summer.

Many of you had the opportunity to meet and work with Germane James, who joined us over three years ago with Project Rainmaker and quickly became the wonderful outreach and development leader for HRA. We wish her the very best in her new job, but will so miss her warmth, creativity, and talents here. From all of us at the Haw River Assembly we say farewell and—don't be a stranger!

From the Haw, Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

(left to right) Elaine Chiosso, Haw Riverkeeper & HRA Exec. Dir.; NC House Representative Paul Luebke; and Elizabeth Ouzts, Dir. of Environment NC; speak out at the anti-fracking rally at East Chapel Hill High School.

HAW RIVERKEEPER[®]

Issues in the Watershed

from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER[®]

continued from page 1 safeguards is either not yet invented, or is too expensive, to be commercially viable.

The millions of gallons of water used for each fracking site would be directly in competition for that water use by new businesses and industry in this rapidly growing part of the state, and North Carolina has very weak water allocation laws and drought contingency plans, despite increasing periods of droughts in recent years. There is no proven safe solution to the disposal of frack wastewater, contaminated with fracking chemicals, petroleum products, and underground toxins. There could be serious degradation of waters and land in communities outside the immediate fracking area, by shale gas infrastructure such as new pipelines, roads (and road damage), and holding tanks. We are concerned that the important issues of how fracking would impact the low income, elderly, and other vulnerable communities were not addressed in this report (outside of rental property increases). Environmental justice issues must be examined in the final report.

DENR was not given the time, funding, or resources to adequately explore all of these issues. The study limitations of available geological data; the important differences of the depth of the NC shale basins and how that might impact drinking water wells; the inability, due to time pressures, to examine the new EPA research on groundwater impacts; and new studies on air quality impacts on human health; all point to a more logical conclusion to the report. That conclusion would be that the legislature must give DENR more time, money and resources to complete this study. There is no rush. Water is and will always be our most precious resource, and protection of our people's health cannot be gambled away to an industry that has caused so many problems in other states.

The Haw Riverkeeper submitted comments to DENR in conjunction with the new Waterkeeper Carolina alliance of all 11 Riverkeepers in NC, who are working as guardians of our state's waters, and as a result, the health of her citizens. Together our groups provide a voice for NC rivers and the 20,000 plus members of our organizations. Please email info@hawriver.org to read these more detailed comments.

Chatham County Keeps Headwater Stream Buffers

In a rather dramatic ending to a public hearing by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners (BoC), a re-vote was taken to provide more protection of ephemeral streams than the first vote had given. Chatham County has strong rules in place to

provide protected buffers for small headwater streams, including ephemeral streams, springs, seeps and wetlands. These rules were developed by the former Environmental Review Board and approved by the former BoC. The public hearing was well attended by those urging strong protections, and the Haw Riverkeeper presented a slide-show of mud in creeks and the Haw River in Chatham during the boom construction years in 2004-2007, when headwater streams did not have protections. A change in the Watershed Protection Ordinance recommended by the current BoC majority would have weakened these protections,

despite strong objections by Board member Sally Kost. Thanks to a change of mind by Commissioner Walter Petty, a new vote was taken that gave more protection again to ephemeral streams.

Durham - 751 South Update: The Voters Will Decide

Durham City Council voted in October to deny city water to the controversial 751 South, a huge mixed-use development near Jordan Lake that the Haw River Assembly has long opposed. Durham County Commissioners have agreed to supply sewer service to the project from their Triangle Waste Water Treatment plant. The county does not supply water, leaving the developers to proclaim they would drill wells to get the water they need. Durham planning officials have now stated that the developers would have to meet new zoning and planning procedures if they want to rely on well water, and this would likely require lower density than the proposed 1300 homes and 600,000 sq. ft

of commercial space on 167 acres. The 751 South development has become a major campaign issue for the 14 candidates currently running for the Durham Board of Commissioners, and the outcome of this election will likely decide the future of 751 South.

Chatham County - Cary Joint Land Use Plan

Both Chatham County and Cary continue to hear from their constituents about concerns over the proposed Chatham County - Cary Joint Land Use Plan. The Plan would be used as guidance by both governments for development near Jordan Lake that could be detrimental to drinking water, the main public supply for both. Jordan Lake is already officially "impaired" according to state and federal agencies, and new rules have mandated *less* pollution to meet regulations for water quality *continued on page 9*



Photo by Susanne Gomolski



Jordan Lake provides habitat for this osprey family, nesting atop a dead tree. Photo by Elaine Chiosso



Standing in the Stream

Haw River Watch Project News

from Project Coordinator Cynthia Crossen

(919) 967-2500 (office); (919) 542-3827 (home)

riverwatch@hawriver.org

Stream Problems Noted by River Watchers When river watcher Judy Peele and her intrepid longstanding Brooks Creek team had difficulty finding their usual abundance of macroinvertebrates, our Stream Ecology Study Group (SESG), river enthusiasts always eager both to learn more about stream ecology and to share their knowledge with others, joined Judy and her team at Brooks Creek to check things out. We were able to find more diversity than the team's last sample, but still, the quantity was reduced; this bears watching. This March, Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso reported sediment problems in Brooks Creek to Rachel Thorn, Chatham's Sedimentation Control Officer. This resulted in a Notice of Violation to the company doing pipeline work that allowed drilling mud into the creek; the company may be required to



Photo by Ken Crossen

remove this mud. More pipeline work is scheduled, so we'll be keeping a close eye on this already impacted creek.

Our SESG has also visited Dry Creek, where Elaine Chiosso has noticed a dramatic decline in quantities of macros. Dry Creek is just over the ridge from Brooks Creek – and both creeks are near the Chapel Ridge development in Chatham. We wonder if this development's golf course pesticides and fertilizers are currently impacting Dry Creek, still recovering from the large sediment violation by Chapel Ridge builders in 2005. We'll continue to observe this creek to see if quantities of macros recover, or continue to be scarce.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Team leader Judy Peele (second from left) and team member Virginia Chambers (second from right) work with Maja Kricker (left) and Betsy Kempter (right) to find macroinvertebrates at Brooks Creek, where numbers have declined of late.

This January, SESG walked the nature path along Robeson Creek with Catherine Deininger, who founded the Robeson Creek Watershed Council as part of her work coordinating HRA's Stream Steward Project. We were eager to learn more about this creek that runs through Pittsboro, where we take Horton 8th Graders for stream investigation. Our walk inspired Catherine to organize a cleanup team of students from Horton, who removed large amounts of trash dumped near the creek decades ago. We applaud these efforts to care

for this stream, which though impaired offers a beautiful natural haven in the heart of Pittsboro.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

The Margaret Pollard Middle School Envirothon team finds mayflies, crane flies, and gilled snails at the Haw in Bynum.

Inspired by Working with Students: Guilford College students visited HRA and the Haw River as part of developing an interdisciplinary pilot program for Guilford students incorporating place-based education with the academic curriculum. *** Maja Kricker and I taught stream monitoring to the Margaret Pollard Middle School Envirothon team. *** In speaking out against fracking at the public hearing in Pittsboro, I lifted up the students we teach, young and old, who so want to learn to be good stewards of our water. Just as the macroinvertebrates we look for need clean creeks, so do we need clean healthy water to thrive. Fourth-graders get this *completely*--now let's convince our leaders!

Networking: In January I met with Wendy Smith and Trish Darconte of Chapel Hill Stormwater to discuss stream watch collaboration on data sharing and team trainings. We also brainstormed about an internet-based interactive map of the Haw watershed that could include a wealth of information, including water quality data, reports, reported problems, photos, and more. *** In February I attended "Can We Heal Our Local Waterways?", sponsored by Friends of Bolin Creek. It is always heartening to see folks coming together to work on improving their water quality.



Photo by D'vorah Nadel

Guilford College students check pH at the Haw.

Watershed Education News:

Teaching About the River

from Donna Myers,
Watershed Education
Coordinator



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

The Learning Celebration (LC) is a riverside environmental education program held at three different watershed sites. Volunteers lead fourth-graders through hands-on exploration of the river environment, with stations for nature art, stream ecology, watershed cultural history, and animals. There's also a puppet show and concert! All activities inspire students to think about how human actions affect the river and its watershed communities.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Volunteer Jesse Wilder shows a snakeskin to 4th-graders at the 2011 LC Animal station.

This year's LC Dates: NOTE: Programs for fourth-graders run Tuesday through Friday for each week.

Bynum: Saturday, September 22 through Friday, September 28

Saxapahaw: Saturday, September 29 through Friday October 5

Camp Guilrock: Sunday, October 7 through Friday October 12

Teachers, contact Donna Myers at 919-542-5790 to register your classes.

Volunteers, teach 4th graders about the river ecosystem, environmental stewardship and water quality! Training and meals are provided, and you may camp onsite if you choose. **AND,** we need all types of volunteers, not just educators, including meal providers, station trainers, canoe guides, administrative helpers, and those to help with site setup/breakdown and moves. We accept in-kind donations of food and equipment, and monetary donations are always appreciated. Contact donna@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790 to volunteer.

Look for the volunteer registration form online this summer.

Stream Investigation is being offered for the fourth year to eighth-graders throughout the watershed. The Cemala Foundation, based in Greensboro, rewarded HRA an \$8,000 grant to fund both the Stream Investigation Program and the Learning Celebration for Guilford County schools. HRA staff and volunteers are very grateful for this support, as it allows for us to continue this important work in the upper Haw River watershed. And I am excited to again partner with Ms. Jamie Callicutt of Horton Middle School in Pittsboro to conduct the stream investigation program with her students in April.

This March, volunteers Maja Kricker, Sharon Garbutt, and Betsy Kempter helped me teach Cyndie Lawrence's 8th-grade Northern Guilford Middle School classes. In the classroom, students reviewed water quality indicators for sites in our watershed, using pictures, site uses, history, and water quality data collected by NC DENR and the Haw River Watch project. They analyzed human impacts, as well as citizen action taken, to present recommendations for better water quality at each site.

Students then took a field trip to the Haw River at Camp Guilrock in Reidville to conduct streamside activities, including visual stream assessment, chemical testing of the water, and macroinvertebrate collecting and identifying. A special thanks to camp host Mark Christy of Camp Guilrock. Also, a tremendous thank you to Ms. Lawrence of Northern Guilford Middle School, an excellent HRA partner who continues to ensure the success of the Stream Investigation Program by planning and organizing this event.



Photo by Betsy Kempter

Northern Middle School 8th-graders collect macroinvertebrates to learn about water quality on the upper Haw River.

Spring Watershed Education Volunteer Opportunities Contact donna@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790 to volunteer:

*** Thursday, May 3, at the Aquatic Field Day at R.N. Harris Elementary School in Durham. Join Cynthia Crossen and Maja Kricker as they lead students through a visual stream assessment at the creek at their school.

*** Saturday May 5, at the Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw. We need volunteers to help with all aspects of the festival including t-shirt sales, canoe guides, raffle ticket sales, HRA outreach and membership recruitment and environmental education booths.

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

This was the first clean up at **Latham Park (Greensboro)**, in a partnership with the City of Greensboro-Water Resources department, local colleges and universities, and the Haw River Assembly (**Germane James**). Two volunteers picked up 3 bags of trash, and a paint roller. We will be continuing our clean ups at this site twice a year and hope to engage members from the local community.

Maxx Lloyd and his son, **Steele** led the Grove Winery team of 4 along Brooks Bridge Road in Gibsonville. They were able to collect 4 bags of trash, 2 tires, lots of misplaced trash; boards, insulation, a metal barrel and best of all, a crutch!

Donna Myers and her team of 11 volunteers from a local youth group cleaned up at **Valley Drive in Graham**, land recently purchased to add to the Mountains to Sea trail. They cleaned up along the river and an old farm or homestead site, clearing several large pieces of debris, 3 tires, and a 100 year old dirty blanket. Donna looks forward to continuing with this site in the future.

Joe Jacob led a team of 18 canoers who picked up trash at **Saxapahaw Lake**. They collected 33 bags of plastic bottles, styrofoam, cans, balls and paper, along with part of a sunfish sailboat, a 55 gallon drum, lawn chair and the seat of a child's ATV.

Mary Longhill and the 9 home school group volunteers cleaned up at the **Saxapahaw Boy Scout Camp** again this year with lots of energy and enthusiasm to keep the Haw clean! They found lots of unusual items, including a perfume bottle called "Pick me up I purr" that still sprayed! They gathered over 19 bags of plastic bottles, styrofoam and metal pieces, and two tires.

Sherry Holt led a team from Alamance Community College, cleaning up **Saxapahaw Island**.

A large group of 16 joined **Johnny Randall**, assistant Director for Natural Areas and Conservation Programs at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, in cleaning up along **Morgan Creek**. They collected trash at the Mason Farm Biological Reserve at the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. They gathered 24 bags of trash and also discovered a huge tire pile that they are working to get removed from the area. Their most unusual trash item was a fire extinguisher.

Dedicated volunteer and chicken bridge resident, **Jeff Pettus** gathered two bags of trash and discovered large

appliances that had been dumped in the **Chicken Bridge** area, including a refrigerator. We are hoping to gather some assistance to get them removed from the river bank.

Cathy Markatos enjoyed cleaning up along **Dry Creek** on a beautiful day. She was able to collect 4 bags of trash along with lots of plastic cups, bottles, aluminum cans and plastic bags.



The **Bynum Haw River** team, led by **Elaine Chiosso**, had 36 volunteers who collected 40 bags of trash and 2 tires from all of the various sites along the river in Bynum. A large group from Northwood High School (see photo at left, taken by Carl Fisher), along with Bynum and Pittsboro residents, found some unusual items this year including an old Budweiser bottle from 1973, an old perfume bottle, a broom handle and a basketball!

Debbie and Ken Tunnell led their team again this year along with 4 other volunteers, to clean up the **15-501 bridge at the Bynum dam**. They collected 53 bags of trash, 2 tires, and lots of miscellaneous trash including a boat seat and a plastic pipe.

The Clean Jordan Lake team, led by **Fran DiGiano**, rounded up another large and energetic group of 70 volunteers to collect 300 bags of trash and 100 tires from the **Robeson Creek boat ramp at Jordan Lake**, a location that collects so much trash that a volunteer could likely stand in one place and collect enough garbage to fill up several trash bags. We look forward to making another dent in the trash piles at the lake when Clean Jordan Lake hosts their annual fall clean up, which will likely fall within the first few weeks of October.

Led by **Catherine Deininger** and teacher **Jamie Callicutt**, 80 eighth-graders from Horton Middle School (see photos below and next page, taken by Catherine Deininger) hauled out 80 bags of trash and 14 tires



from along **Robeson Creek**. They collected 6 bags of old mason jars which they are finding creative uses for. Each class picked their weirdest trash: an old-timey iron, a Dell laptop, an old-style football helmet, and a large fruit punch cooler. They also found a toy

machine gun, 3 radios, a mattress, a dozen balls, several chairs, mower and bicycle parts, rear truck suspension, shoes, a huge unopened jar of pickles, and lots of aluminum siding. The students filled a dump truck brought by the **Town of Pittsboro Public Works**.

Banks Dixon and **Frog Hollow Outdoors** led this team of 15 Nicholas School alumni and students at the notoriously trashy **751 Jordan Lake causeway**. They had 15 volunteers with boats and even a Boston Whaler for transport of 20 bags of trash. They had a very rude awakening when they discovered a beautiful and very large dead fish that appears to have died due to the trash it was tangled in, which shows more and more how important it is for us to keep our water clean for both wildlife and water quality.

Volunteers from the **Carolina Canoe Club Paddler team**, led by **Bob Brueckner**, **Jeff Hatcher**, and **Larry Ausley**, took their canoes out to clean up various locations on the Middle Haw, collecting 4 bags of trash. Larry Ausley collected the trash between the Robeson Creek Canoe Access and the last rapid, and cleaned up the access. Bob Brueckner led the rest of the 14 volunteers down the river in Bynum, picking up about 4 bags of trash directly from the river or along the banks.

Jonathan Davis led a team of 10 to clean up the **Hwy 64 bridge** at the Haw in Pittsboro. They picked up 8 bags of trash, 3 tires, and a trailer full of construction debris and pallets.

"A beautiful day for the clean-up," said **Sarah Goddin**, team leader for the **Pokeberry Creek** team. She was joined by 8 volunteers and picked up 9 bags of trash!

Gary Simpson's team of two picked up 7 bags of trash along Robeson Creek in Pittsboro, finding a Foster's beer can with straw.

Eight volunteers from the Saxapahaw Lions Club, led by **Ross Flynn**, cleaned up the island branching off of the **Saxapahaw bridge**, collecting 13 bags of garbage, 2 tires, and a perfectly ripe acorn squash.

Laura Webb Smith led a team cleaning up **Rocky Creek** at the American Tobacco Trail in Durham. *** The **Forest Hills Neighborhood Association**

cleaned up along **Third Fork Creek** at Forest Hills Park. *** The **New Hope Creek Watershed Association** cleaned up at **Sandy Creek Park**. *** **Torrey Nergart** led a team at **Haw River State Park**. *** **Howard Tash** led a team at **Glencoe Village, Burlington**. *** **Clayton Noblit** led a team of Alamance Community College students, cleaning up in **Saxapahaw along the Haw**. *** **Shelly Hehenberger** led a team cleaning up along **Bolin Creek**.

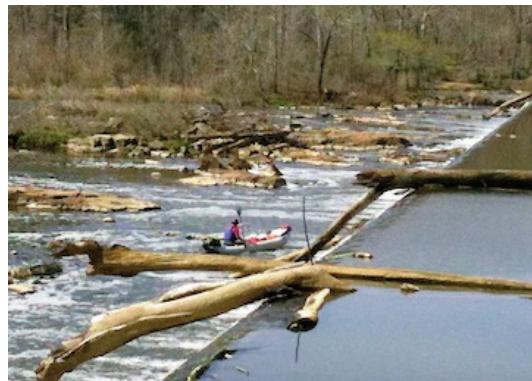


Photo by Paul Horne

Paddler takes out trash below Bynum dam.



Join Us in Thanking Our 2012 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors

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

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

Chimneys Plus, 1250 Sanford Rd. Pittsboro, 27312, (919) 542-1631, www.chimneysplusgutters.com

Furniture Lab, 106 South Greensboro St., Suite E, Carrboro, 27510, (919) 913-0270, www.furniturelab.com

Greenway Transit, Durham, (919) 957-8294, www.greenwayrides.com

Grove Winery, 7360 Brooks Bridge Road, Gibsonville, 27249, (336) 584-4060, www.grovewinery.com

Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co., Saxapahaw, (336) 260-6465, www.hawrivercanoe.com

Honey Electric & Solar Inc., 4501 Alamance Church Road, Liberty, (336) 438-9786, honeyelectricsolar.com

Krombach Dunn and Co. Accountants, PLLC, 326 West Street, Pittsboro, 27312, (919) 542-5228, www.kdandco.com

Locally Grown Art, (Glassblower Jonathan Davis), Pittsboro, (757) 784-4981, www.locallygrownart.com

Mellow Marsh Farm, (919) 663-1945, www.mellowmarshfarm.com

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

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

And **THANKS** to **Twig** (www.twigliving.com) for the metal water bottles, **Grove Winery** (www.grovewinery.com) and **Benjamin Winery** (www.benjaminvineyards.com) for coupons, **Chatham Solid Waste** for the dumpster, **NC Dept. of Transportation** for bags, and **Keep Durham Beautiful** for clean-up supplies.



Offer Your Child A Lasting River Experience At Haw River Adventure Camp!

The Haw River Assembly is partnering with the Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company to host a summer camp for youth. Our adventure camp teaches

paddling and outdoor living skills while developing confidence and instilling an appreciation of the outdoors in campers. Traversing different sections of the Haw, we stop to explore islands and hiking trails. Campers learn about the history of the river and surrounding areas, native flora and fauna, the impact of human settlement, and how we can contribute to keeping the river healthy. Outdoor living skills such as orienteering, fire-building and shelter-building; and our low ropes challenge course and team building exercises; further develop confidence in our campers.

The camp will be offered June 18 through 22, 2012, in Saxapahaw, for 10 to 15 year olds.

To learn more: See HRA's website, www.hawriver.org. **To register:** Contact HRA staff Donna Myers at donna@hawriver.org or (919) 542-5790. **For all other inquiries contact:** Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. at (336) 260-6465 or info@hawrivercanoe.com.

The Haw River Assembly extends a big *Thank You* to the two outdoor adventure businesses who are generously running trips to benefit HRA. Participant fees go to support the work we do to protect the river. *** For many years now, **Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.** (www.hawrivercanoe.com) has offered monthly paddles which benefit HRA; and this summer, they are also partnering with us for their Haw River Adventure Camp for youth (see article above). *** This year, **Frog Hollow Outdoors** (froghollowoutdoors.com) is offering monthly paddling events to benefit us. Join one of their very special trips, described below.

Upcoming 2012 HRA Events

Check www.hawriver.org for details & updates.

Saturday, April 21, 10 am, Jordan Lake Exploration, with Frog Hollow Outdoors. Where the Haw River feeds into Jordan Lake, we'll paddle 2-3 hours to explore the islands at the mouth of the Haw, search for young cypress trees, and hopefully glimpse some diverse avian life! *Benefits HRA.* **Details and to register:** froghollowoutdoors.com, 919-416-1200.

Saturday, May 5, 4 to 8 pm, Saxapahaw. Details on page 1 and on insert.

Sun., May 20, 10 am, Bynum Reservoir on the Haw River Canoe/Kayak Trip, with Frog Hollow Outdoors. During this leisurely 2-3 hour flatwater trip we will wind our way in and around islands and boulders and have ample opportunity to relax and enjoy observing the Haw's wildlife. *Benefits HRA.* **Details and to register:** froghollowoutdoors.com, 919-416-1200.

Saturday, June 23, Sunset Paddle, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Lakes formed behind the Glencoe and Saxapahaw dams are wonderful places to enjoy a calm, late afternoon paddle, home to turtles, owls, great blue herons, egrets, kingfishers, cormorants, turkey, beavers, muskrats, raccoon, squirrel and deer. This river trip gives you an opportunity to spend a tranquil, late afternoon on the water, look for wildlife, gain paddling experience, and enjoy a beautiful sunset. *Benefits HRA.* **Details and to register:** www.hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465.

June 23-24, Sept. 22-23, Dec. 8-9, Haw River Watch Monitoring. For info: (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org.

Sat., July 21, Owl Prowl, Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Big Alamance Creek, and the Haw upriver of Saxapahaw dam, are great places to see birds and wildlife in the early evening. At night, woods become alive with creatures most active in the dark, when barred owls call to each other. *Benefits HRA.* **Details and to register:** www.hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465.

Friday, August 17, Stargazing Paddle, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. See the night sky in the Piedmont by paddling, at night, on a lake, and at the time of a new moon. You arrive early enough in the evening to practice paddling, enjoy a beautiful sunset and adjust your eyes to the night sky. As the stars become brighter, everyone "rafts-up," lies back, and identifies stars and constellations. *Benefits HRA.* **Details and to register:** www.hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465.

Sat. Sept. 8 & Sun. Sept. 9, Intro To Whitewater Kayaking, 15-501-Hwy 64, with Frog Hollow Outdoors. This 2 day class covers bracing and rolling skills, river reading, eddy turns, peel outs, upstream ferrying, identifying hazards, and basic self rescue. All will be in whitewater kayaks. *Benefits HRA.* **Details and to register:** froghollowoutdoors.com, 919-416-1200.

Sept. 22 - Oct. 12, Haw River Learning Celebration for Schools. See details on page 5, and at www.hawriver.org.

Sat., Oct. 13, 10 am, Chicken Bridge to 15-501 Paddle, with Frog Hollow Outdoors. This beautiful, rocky and islanded section of Haw offers flat water and challenging class I & II+ white water. This 4.5-5.5 hour guided trip in kayaks & canoes includes instruction in river reading skills. *Benefits HRA.* **Details and to register:** froghollowoutdoors.com, 919-416-1200.



A family paddles Jordan Lake. Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Farewell From Germane James, Development & Outreach Coordinator

As they say, all good things must come to an end. That is especially true for my time here at the Haw River Assembly. I have enjoyed over three years of working with the great volunteers, staff and board of this organization, learning so many valuable lessons along the way. Joining the organization as a "Rainmaker" was an amazing opportunity that provided me with support and leadership while learning some very traditional techniques of fundraising. Elaine and the board helped me find creative ways to apply that knowledge in a way that would work for HRA. It has been very fulfilling work that I put a lot of myself into.

My favorite projects that I enjoyed growing and re-energizing were the Haw River Festival and Clean-up-a-thon. Facilitating the Festival's move to Saxapahaw, with the help and support of staff

and board, was a goal that I am proud to say has paid off after lots of time and frustration (at times). Clean-up-a-thon is stronger than ever, with over 30 teams and new sites in Greensboro and Durham, including a partnerships with the City of Durham and their Creek Week program.

Building new relationships was another one of my favorite activities. In my three years, we have worked with new partners--the City of Greensboro, Bennett College, NCCU, several creek associations throughout Durham, and many more. I enjoyed helping the board with their diversity and inclusion goals by assisting in the recruitment of several new board members of color and initiating some diversity sensitivity training with the fabulous consultant, Iantha Gantt-Wright. On top of that, I was able to bring in several new memberships and generated new donations and funds throughout Project Rainmaker.

I am sure that as I move on to my new position in Durham, working to empower women of abuse through confidence and education, I will be hearing about all of the great work being done by the staff, board and volunteers of the Haw River Assembly. I hope to stay in touch and volunteer at those events that mean so much to me. I would like to continue to be a resource to the organization, especially as HRA continues to reach out to new communities in Durham.

Another big thank you to everyone that I have worked with, learned from, managed, been managed or supervised by at HRA. My time here was special and will not be forgotten. See you on the river, soon!

HRA Speaks at NCCU

Elaine and Germane were at NC Central University in February, at the invitation of the Dept. of Environmental, Earth, and Geospatial Sciences, to give a presentation to students and faculty about HRA's work. We discussed environmental issues that could impact Durham, including fracking for shale gas in the Triassic Basin, and pollution problems in Third Fork Creek near NCCU. Q & A included how the NCCU community can get involved in volunteer projects and water issues. We visited the labs of Dr. John Bang, professor in the EEGS Department and HRA board member, and also with Dept. Chair Dr. Yolanda Anderson, to discuss partnership opportunities.



Photo by Germane James

Elaine Chiosso speaks to NCCU students about HRA's work, and watershed issues that could impact Durham, and opportunities to get involved.



NC Rep. Joe Hackney (right) listens to constituents' concerns about clean water. Hackney is retiring at the end of this year after serving over 30 years in the legislature, including as Speaker of the House. We will miss his steadfast support of clean water, and the rights of our citizens to a healthy environment.

*continued from page 3, **Issues in the Watershed***

and drinking water. New development will worsen the problem, adding tons more of sediment and nutrient pollution to the Lake, whose current problems are already expensive. Cary tax-payer funded expenses include \$1.75 million to install an aerator in Jordan Lake to improve water quality for Cary's drinking water. We urge both Cary and Chatham residents to be involved in these discussions and urge low density development in this very fragile area near Jordan Lake--and no new commercial hubs or mixed use dense development. We have plenty of shopping centers already--many with vacant storefronts--but only one drinking water reservoir.

Vote for Leaders Who Will Protect Our Waters!

As the May primary elections in NC approach, we urge all our members to study the issues and candidates positions, and get out and VOTE for elected officials at the city, county, state and federal level who will not only talk about clean water but will act to protect it.



2012 Haw River Assembly T-shirt Clyde Jones "Heron"

Shirts are available in bluebird (light blue).
These are soft organic cotton shirts from TS
Designs in Burlington, which uses the environ-
mentally friendly Rehance dye process to elim-
inate plastisol inks.

Be sure to pick up your
Haw River Assembly t-shirt,
sure to become a collector's item!

Modeled by Tom Patterson (HRA Board), Martha Pentecost
(HRLC Volunteer), & Rich Goldberg (HRA Board)
Photo by Cynthia Crossen

\$ 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,
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HRA office in Bynum--*open for holiday shopping*
Saturdays Dec. 3 & Dec. 10, 10 am - 2 pm.

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 Festival
May 5, 4 to 8 pm,
in Saxapahaw!**

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