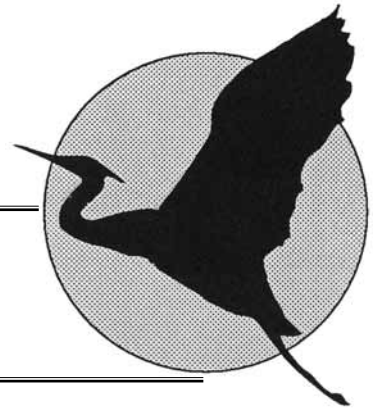


Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly August 2008

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

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



HRA Joins WATERKEEPER® Alliance: Elaine Chiosso New HAW RIVERKEEPER®!

The Haw River Assembly has been licensed by the WATERKEEPER® Alliance as the HAW RIVERKEEPER® program. We are proud to be part of this strong organization that champions and empowers the 177 Waterkeeper programs that protect and preserve waters in the U.S. and throughout the world (www.waterkeeper.org). The Haw Riverkeeper joins 13 other NC river and coastal Waterkeepers, the most of any state, who work to protect the Neuse, Catawba, Tar-Pamlico, Cape Fear, French Broad, Watauga, New, Yadkin, Waccamaw, and three NC Coastal Federation Coastkeepers. HRA has worked for 26 years to protect and preserve the Haw River, and we believe our efforts will be greatly strengthened by joining the Waterkeeper Alliance. Elaine Chiosso, longtime lead advocacy voice and Executive Director for HRA, will be the new Haw Riverkeeper. (cont. on p.8)

New Grant Funding – New Opportunities

The Haw River Assembly has been awarded three new grants that will make us stronger and more effective!

Project Rainmakers, funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, is a collaborative effort by six Riverkeeper organizations in NC, and the NC Conservation Network. The grant supports HRA and five other organizations to each hire a full-time fundraising and outreach coordinator, their “Rainmaker”, for three years. We are very grateful to Z. Smith Reynolds for their vision in creating a new generation of NC grassroots fundraisers, and our great fortune to be part of this project. We are also fortunate to have Logan Yonavjak as our Rainmaker. Logan has been both an HRA volunteer and student environmental leader at UNC-CH. Hooray and welcome! (See Logan’s article on page 9.)



HRA staff down by the Haw: Executive Director and Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso, Learning Celebration Coordinator Justin Taylor, Haw River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen, Development and Outreach “Rainmaker” Logan Yonavjak, Stream Steward Coordinator Catherine Deininger, and Office Manager Kathy Buck. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.

Watershed Education Grant: We will be creating a new stream education program for eighth-graders next year, thanks to a grant that has been awarded by the NC Division of Water Quality with EPA 319 funds. The grant provides funds for three years to help support a full-time Watershed Education Coordinator, who

will implement the new middle-school project in addition to the current Learning Celebration for 4th-graders. We will recruit middle schools within walking distance of one of the (unfortunately) many streams on the EPA Impaired Waters list. The students will look at the health of the stream, investigate where pollution comes from, and learn strategies for cleaning it up. These and other fun activities will instill the sense of wonder and commitment to stream stewardship that students in our 4th grade program experience. We are very grateful to the state for enabling us to reach our long-time goal of engaging the 8th grade age group.

Muddy Water Watch: We have received funding from the Triangle Community Foundation

to launch Muddy Water Watch (MWW), the N.C. Riverkeeper project (spearheaded by the Neuse Riverkeeper, Dean Naujoks). The program trains and empowers “citizen mud patrols” with information needed to understand sediment erosion control law and practices—and on how to blow the whistle on polluters. (Read more on page 4.)

HRA Board of Directors

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Cynthia Crossen, *River Watch Project Coordinator*
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Newsletter Staff

Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Justin Taylor, Logan Yonavjak * **Photos:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger * **Logos & Festival Poster Artwork:** Jan Burger

To join The Haw River Assembly

or renew your membership, send a check to:

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

Individual: \$20 Family: \$30

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

Low Income: \$10

The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grass-roots organization founded in 1982. Our mission is to protect and restore the Haw River, its tributaries, and Jordan Lake; and to build a community that shares this vision.

(919) 542-5790 www.hawriver.org

Notes from the Haw

It's a pretty amazing time at the Haw River Assembly right now with new grants, projects and staff enabling us to do things we have only dreamed of. I want to thank all of you for helping us reach this level of success. We are reaping the benefits of a lot of years of hard work, and your part in that is greatly appreciated.

I was out in an Army Corps boat this summer with a group of county, state and federal staff investigating some enormous "rafts" of trash on the Haw River arm of Jordan Lake. This trash has washed down from the upper reaches of the river for over 25 years, and been pushed into coves and onto the shoreline by wind and storms. We saw hundreds of tires, uncountable amounts of plastic soda bottles, drink cans and other trash of all kinds, including balls from every sport you can think of. A plan is being developed on how to clean up the trash from these hard to reach sites, but we also need a better plan to get people to stop treating the earth as a trash can.

It's really the same story when we think of the pollution that has put Jordan Lake on the EPA "Impaired Waters" list. As I looked at this terrible amount of trash in the water, I thought about how the river carries the more invisible pollution of nitrogen and phosphorus down to Jordan Lake from as far away as Reidsville, Greensboro and Burlington. This nutrient pollution has resulted in excessive algae growth that is more harmful to the lake than trash. The state has developed new rules to reduce this pollution, but they have met strong opposition in the upper Haw basin. It's time to get the rules passed, and to clean up Jordan Lake at last!

As we traveled back across the lake to the docks, a bald eagle flew over, its white tail and head gleaming in the afternoon sun. It reminded us of the beauty and wildlife that are also part of Jordan Lake, and why it is worth the fight to protect it.

From the river, Elaine



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

In Memory

We are greatly saddened by the death of Mary Hayes Holmes on August 11. A native of Pittsboro, she was a strong supporter of HRA and other environmental causes, and a warm, astute, political woman. During her term as a Chatham County Commissioner, she initiated the effort to create the current excellent recycling centers. She was a personal friend to many of us, and we extend our condolences to her family.

We also wish to express our deep sympathy to the family of Ruffin Hobbs, metal sculptor and master bagpiper, who died July 27 after an accident at his restored grist mill on Cane Creek in Alamance County. His mother Lois Ann Hobbs was a past president of HRA and is a long time supporter.

And we extend our condolences to the family of Duncan MacRae, who passed away on July 18 at Carolina Meadows. He was the husband of Jane Sharp, who still lives at Carolina Meadows. Jane played a very major role in making HRA what it is today, and we have appreciated all their support.



STREAM STEWARD PROJECT NEWS

from Project Coordinator Catherine Deininger Email: deininger@hawriver.org

Special Report: Troubled History of Pittsboro's Water Supply by Catherine Deininger

Pittsboro is the only municipality in the Haw River watershed that uses the Haw River as its primary source for drinking water. The town built the current drinking water treatment plant in 1962, with an intake below the old Bynum mill; it was upgraded in 1974 to meet new EPA regulations and to increase its capacity. Out of concern about the quality of drinking water obtained from the river, the newly formed Haw River Assembly (HRA) obtained funding from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in 1984 to conduct a scientific study of organic chemicals in both the raw and treated water. Thomas Glendinning, HRA board member and president, was the Project Director for the drinking water survey. The UNC School of Public Health was contracted to conduct chemical analyses of Pittsboro's water treatment plant and raw Haw River water. The study found indications of "twelve synthetic organic chemicals in the raw Haw River water and thirteen in Pittsboro's drinking water." The organic chemicals identified in the drinking water were all by-products of chlorination disinfection, and four of the thirteen identified were trihalomethanes (TTHMs).

In the mid-1990s, the Pittsboro treatment plant was again upgraded and the intake was moved upstream to its current location above the Bynum dam near the 15-501 bridge. High organics in the Haw River continued to be a problem even after this move. In 1998, the EPA tightened standards for TTHMs in public water supplies and gave large water suppliers four years to become compliant. A 2008 EPA *Envirofacts on Drinking Water Contaminants* states that some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Pittsboro residents have been made aware of the problem with their drinking water for several years, by the state mandated warnings they receive with their water bills of elevated levels of TTHMs.

Pittsboro has found that concentrations of TTHMs are increased by water sitting stagnant in the waterlines. This problem was exacerbated when the Townsend chicken slaughtering plant downsized in 2004 and greatly reduced the amount of water being pumped through Pittsboro's water pipes. In 2007, the National Center for Appropriate Technology found that the "Town flushes its water hydrants frequently to comply with EPA limits on trihalomethanes...created in the Town's water pipes by a reaction between chlorine and acids that occur naturally in organic material and sediments found in Haw River water. Facility managers estimate that as much water is flushed from the system as is used by the customers." This flushing costs the Town approximately \$49,000 annually, and is a real concern in times of drought.

Pittsboro is now facing a potential fine of \$30,000 from the state if it doesn't meet the Disinfection By-products Rule by addressing its TTHMs levels. According to Town Manager Bill Terry, Pittsboro plans to reduce TTHMs levels by switching from a chlorinated process to a chloramination process. The use of chloramination, a combination of ammonia and chlorine, worries many citizens, who point out that lead is a potential by-product of the process if it is not carefully monitored. The process is also thought to have many potential disinfection by-products that have not yet been identified and therefore not yet regulated. Chloramination is the process that is currently used by Chatham County and many other drinking water treatment plants.

Will the use of chloramination solve the TTHM problem in the drinking water without creating new problems? Should Pittsboro continue using the Haw River as its source water? Would it be better to partner with Chatham County to use Jordan Lake for its source? These and many other questions need to be answered in order to ensure a safe drinking water supply for Pittsboro and customers outside the town limits to whom it sells water (including Powell Place and Chapel Ridge).

Riparian Planting Helps Robeson Creek

This past winter, NCSU Water Quality Group restored and improved the wetland behind the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) that had been damaged when Hurricane Fran breached its dam in 1996. This enhanced wetland will protect Little Creek, a tributary of Robeson Creek, by filtering out pollutants from stormwater runoff from RAFI and adjacent properties in downtown Pittsboro. It also will be a wonderful urban wildlife oasis. On a lovely May day, volunteers helped complete the creation of this healthy wetland habit by planting shrubs and grasses. Thank you to Elizabeth Anderson, Jane Pyle, Maggie Franz, Fred Royal, Tom Duckwall and his grandson James, who helped us plant.



Tom Duckwall and grandson James take a breather after working hard on the riparian planting in Pittsboro.

Photo by Catherine Deininger



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 Outreach: I was lucky to get a chance to river watch with one of our most long-standing teams. The Brooks Creek team in Chatham County, led by Judy Peele, has been monitoring their site since December 1994! Despite impacts of sediment due to nearby development, the team is still finding water pennies, mayflies, crayfish, and enough diversity to rate a Good score for Brooks Creek this June. Congratulations to this team for their faithful commitment to their creek.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

The Brooks Creek team has been river watching since 1994: (left to right) Susan Strozier, Judy Peele, visiting friend Max, Dave Smith, and Lily Smith. (Not pictured is Shannon Bueker.)

Haw River Festival: This year there were more folks than ever coming down to Bynum Beach to hunt for critters and learn about river monitoring. Many thanks to Maja Kricker, Neville Handel, Jeannie Ambrose, Jean Copeland, and Betsy Kraus for helping make it a great afternoon down by the river.

The Haw River Watch Monitoring Report, 1994 - 2007, has been posted on the River Watch page at www.hawriver.org.

Join us for another Macro-Micro Workshop on August 30:

After our very popular Macro-Micro Workshop on March 29, we decided to hold another one on Saturday, August 30 from 10 to 2 pm. We will meet at the Haw River at Bynum Beach to collect macroinvertebrates and then take our specimens to the Ruritan Club, to look at what we find under microscopes. Check the River Watch page at www.hawriver.org for details. And please email us at riverwatch@hawriver.org to be on our email list for future River Watch events.

Muddy Water Watch Trainings Begin in Chatham:

HRA is beginning an exciting new project called Muddy Water Watch (MWW), designed to teach citizens how to monitor construction sites for proper sediment and erosion controls, and report problems to the authorities so that they can be corrected. At the heart of this project are "site report cards" to recognize whether Best Management Practices for erosion and sediment control and containing sediment on site are being used at construction sites. * Elaine Chiosso and I will start the training series in Chatham County this fall, with technical support from Chatham's local sedimentation erosion control program. Volunteers for Muddy Water Watch are getting into action all across the state with other Riverkeeper programs. * Our larger goal includes using all this data we collect on muddy waters to get better laws and enforcement in N.C. to keep the dirt out! Thanks also to the TCF donor funds, the Charles E. and Alberta B. Dolan Fund, and the Anna Louise Reynolds Fund for supporting this new work to keep our waters clean.

Muddy Water Watch Upcoming Training Series: This series of trainings will be open to the public and offered free of charge, on: Thursday evening October 23; Tuesday evening November 4; Saturday November 22 (daytime site visit in the field); Saturday December 6 (daytime site visit in the field). There will likely be an evening makeup session as well. Please contact info@hawriver.org or call (919) 542-5790 for more information and to register for the series.

Young River Watchers: This summer, kids at the NC Botanical Gardens Nature Explorers camp explored Meeting of the Waters Creek; and Morehead Planetarium campers tested water and hunted for macroinvertebrate life in the Haw River in Saxapahaw. In July, folks came out to Saxapahaw on a Rivermill Day to hunt for river life. One of my favorite parts of my job is sharing the beauty and wonder of the river with young (and older!) river lovers.

Haw River Watch Project on YouTube! For her UNC-CH journalism documentary project, Ru Sha focused on the Haw River Watch project). You can watch her wonderful three minute video at: youtube.com/watch?v=utgebl2Dp7c.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Nature Explorers campers look for river critters in Meetings of the Waters Creek at the N.C. Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

Jordan Lake Rules Not Yet Law—Final Campaign Ahead

The NC Environmental Management Commission (EMC) unanimously passed strong Jordan Lake rules on May 8. There were excellent supporting statements from all 5 hearing officers, who had spent 8 months since the 2007 public hearings preparing recommendations to the full EMC. The rules as passed by the EMC include some changes from the Division of Water Quality draft. Most important is that the deadline for implementing the nitrogen reduction from Waste Water Treatment Plants will be 2014 instead of 2016. The rules were taken up by the Rules Review Commission this summer, with some objections (primarily questions of legal language and authority). The rules now go back to the EMC, and because of the objections from local governments, particularly in the upper Haw, the rules will have to be passed by the legislature – hopefully no later than the 2009 session of the General Assembly.

We plan to launch a strong campaign this fall and winter to counter the opposition, and the often intentional misinformation concerning the rules. The federal Clean Water Act and the state Clean Water Responsibility Act of 1997 compel the state to adopt these rules. We have spent six years trying to get them passed, and will not stop now.

Legislature Passes Act to Strengthen Water Conservation and Drought Response

Thanks to citizen action, the NC General Assembly enacted H2499, Drought/ Water Management Recommendations, on the final day of session, and Governor Easley has signed it into law. The act strengthens North Carolina's ability to weather droughts, and takes several steps towards better management of our water resources. If you were one of the many North Carolinians who took part in Clean Water Lobby day, you played a big role in focusing the state leaders' attention on this issue.

The new law includes:

- ***Better reporting of water use***, including more accurate information from agricultural use.
- ***Better drought emergency response*** The act includes provisions that give the Governor more authority to act in an emergency, and to protect water customers as well as downstream communities and the environment. Weekly reporting of water use by systems during a bad drought will be required
- ***Better water re-use rules*** The act orders the Environmental Management Commission to move forward with rules to allow water reclamation and reuse; and it orders the Health Services Commission to write rules allowing use of gray water on gardens and lawns during drought.
- ***New studies that may feed into future legislation*** (water efficiency standards, fiscal guidelines for local water systems, options for new water supplies).
- ***Protecting virtuous homeowners*** The drought act forbids homeowner associations from fining residents who refuse to water their

lawns and landscaping, during droughts and when local governments urge conservation.

More to do: While the passage of H2499 was, overall, a success story, we have more work to do. Opposition from local governments gutted provisions for state oversight to ensure that water systems would move to mandatory conservation early in a severe drought. Also, the issue of wells and groundwater depletion is still missing from an overall strategy. Most groundwater is connected to surface water, and even when it is not, groundwater is often shared by multiple wells and there are issues of contamination, overpumping, and poorly-planned development that stops rainfall from soaking in and recharging groundwater supplies.

What's next? The big decisions still lie ahead, including how to keep enough water in our rivers so they stay healthy, whether to implement a permitting system for withdrawals, and how to allocate water among different human uses as river basins begin to reach their limit of available water. Winning the best answers to these questions will depend, even more than the success of H2499, on the involvement of river advocates across the state.

Cliffside Coal-fired Power Plant – the Issue of Mercury in our Waters

In addition to excess nutrients, Jordan Lake is also on the EPA 2008 Draft Impaired Waters list due to mercury—as are most of the waters in the eastern half of NC. Most of this mercury is the result of airborne depositions to the water, originating from coal-fired power plants. The Haw Riverkeeper has joined other NC Riverkeepers with a formal request to the state for public hearings on any and all permit related decisions for the Cliffside coal fired power plants. On June 2, 2008, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced that it was requiring Duke Energy to do a MACT analysis for mercury and other hazardous air pollutants from Cliffside Unit 6. The letter from the NC Riverkeepers states: “NC has a moral, ethical and legal obligation to protect its unborn children and waterways from mercury poison. We believe it is a fundamental violation of the Clean Water Act for NC to permit any new source of mercury when so many of NC's waters are already impaired for mercury and/or have fish consumption advisories. We believe it is in the collective interest of all citizens of NC to hold several hearings across the state, particularly in those watersheds that are already terribly overburdened by mercury contamination.”

Learning Celebration News

Volunteer recruitment is in full swing for the 2008 Haw River Learning Celebration (LC), HRA's wonderful environmental education program for fourth-graders. Many thanks to Logan Yonavjak, our new Fundraising and Outreach Coordinator, for her recruitment help, as well as everyone else that is spreading the word.

Thanks to the dedicated work of last year's coordinator, Aakara Wiegand, we have many great recruitment materials that we have updated and sent out to the Haw River Watershed. I recently presented to the Fearington Village Green Scene group and found great interest there in the LC and in participating with HRA. This brings us one step closer to having an entire community of citizens protecting and enjoying the Haw!



Larry Bohs sings with fourth-graders at the LC at Guilrock in 2007.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

from Justin Taylor,
our 2008 Learning
Celebration
Coordinator

Schools update: We are in the final stages of school recruitment. We have several new schools this year and many returning schools that have committed to the program. The rising cost of gasoline has limited the number of field trips that many schools can take. However, this has not stopped many schools from signing up--and we will do our best to help any school that wants to participate.

Volunteer update: Volunteers are still signing up and we are in the midst of the most intensive phase of recruitment right now. The outlook looks great at this point, but we still need new volunteers, and encourage those that have already come to sign up again this year! Please consider volunteering for a day or more on crew.

New Safety and Logistics Coordinator! We have just hired Jenna Schreiber as the Safety and Logistics Coordinator. Jenna is a recent graduate of Warren Wilson

College, and comes to us with great experience and recommendations. I look forward to working with her.

Special Thanks to our wonderful Steering Committee for their input, guidance, and support: Catherine Miller, Eric Chetwynd, Maja Kricker, Libby Searles-Bohs, Aakara Wiegand, Judith Romanowski, Tony Mayer, Lia Cronin, Martha Pentecost, and Jason Gabriel.

Be a part of the Learning Celebration....Volunteer!

~Tell family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about the enjoyment you've experienced as part of the Learning Celebration.

~Prepare a lunch or dinner for about 30 people. Or, donate money or food for one of our meals. Contact Rachel Winters or Justin Taylor to donate in this way.

~Volunteer to be a part of the wonderful ever-expanding LC community. We need you whether you have never helped out before or whether you are a returning volunteer. Our program is built upon our volunteer support in educating our communities. You are the Haw River Learning Celebration. I am so pleased by the immense efforts of you all to give yet again, so that the 19th Annual HRLC can happen.

To be a volunteer in the 2008 Learning Celebration, contact Justin at arkanseno@gmail.com, call him at (919) 542-5790, or fill out and mail in the **handy sign-up form** enclosed in this newsletter. You may also visit our website, www.hawriver.org, Learning Celebration for Schools page, for more information and to volunteer.

Learning Celebration 2008 Dates:

Week One: September 20 - 26 in Bynum

Week Two: September 27 - October 3 in Saxapahaw

Week Three: October 4 - 10 at Camp Guilrock

HRA and Triangle Land Conservancy Team Up For A Burrito Bash to Benefit Conservation of Land and Water!

Join us Tuesday, **September 9, 2008**, from **6 to 9 pm** at the General Store Café (39 West St, Pittsboro) for music, dancing, a silent auction, and of course, famous General Store burritos! Special musical guest **Trilogy** will groove with trio and solo work, jazz and folk, originals and standards. Trilogy combines the talents of three award-winning singer-songwriters: Sheila Warner, Brooksie Edwards and Richard Edwards. HRA's own Cynthia Crossen and musical friends will take the stage for a short set as well.

The silent auction includes tickets for cultural and sporting events, fine art, gift certificates to local restaurants and B&B's, and much more. Check the website, www.tlc-nc.org/burritobash.htm, in late August to see a complete list of items included in the Burrito Bash silent auction.

Tickets, including a famous burrito, are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, with kids under 12 free. Proceeds will support the work of both organizations to conserve land and protect water quality in Chatham County. Tickets may be ordered at www.tlc-nc.org/burritobash.htm, or by calling (919) 833-3662, ext. 116.

Down by the Riverside at the 2008 Haw River Festival



HRA President Debbie Tunnell and Board member Ken Tunnell “work the door” to welcome Festival-goers.

is donating it back to us. Thanks so much, Randy—we’ll put it to great use with our new Riverkeeper program! (We’ll be sure to get a photo op the next newsletter). As always, thanks to Clyde Jones for his beautiful paintings we auctioned off, along with contributions from other area artists. Thanks to Mellow Marsh Nursery of Silk Hope for donating the native plants for sale, and to Ken Moore for leading a nature hike.

Thanks to all the **Performers** and to Will Hackney (Trekky Records, www.trekkyrecords.com) who provided fabulous sound:

- * **New River Rock Skippers** (Mary Dickerson, marydpossum@yahoo.com)
- * **Louise Kessel and Jef** (Louise Omoto Kessel, louiseok@mindspring.com, and Jef woole@mindspring.com)
- * **Rootzie** (Gregory Blaine, gregoryblaine@yahoo.com)
- * **Risuenos** (Eric Leith, lieth@bellsouth.net)
- * **Jimmy Magoo** (stellarpony@hotmail.com)
- * **Lost in the Trees** (Ari Picker, ari@lostinthetrees.com)
- * **Cynthia Crossen and Festival Jam** (with Claudia Lopez and Johnny Waken) (crossen@mindspring.com)



Volunteers Mardi & Zella Magoo and J.C. Garbutt teach folks good stream stewardship practices.



Painting Clyde critters is always fun.



Festival goers love hunting for macroinvertebrate critters at Bynum Beach.

A BIG THANKS
to **ALL** the
Volunteers and
HRA Board
and staff for a
wonderful day!



Ari Picker (with guitar) and Lost in the Trees fill the field with fascinating music.

Haw River Assembly's 26th Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, November 8, 1 - 4 pm
Jordan Lake Visitors Center

This year's annual meeting will be at the beautiful new Visitors Center at the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area on the Hwy 64 causeway across the lake. The center includes a terrific new Exhibit Hall with interactive displays and information about the natural and cultural history of the Lake and the Haw River watershed. The meeting will be held in the auditorium and will include HRA updates, elections for our Board of Directors, and a special presentation on the efforts to get the new rules passed to reduce pollution in Jordan Lake. Picnic tables and a walkway overlooking the lake should make this a beautiful place to be on a fall afternoon. We'll be sending out an announcement and post details and directions on our website this fall.



\$100,000 Capital Campaign – Help Us Reach Our Goal!

Thanks to you we have raised and been pledged over \$75,000 – 3/4 of the way to the finish line! With this great support we have already started meeting some of our goals for the campaign this year:

- **A Better Office** We are renting a wonderful mill house (at 199 Bynum Hill Road) that is a safe and healthy place to work from. We will continue to investigate the best future use and reconstruction at our property on Bynum Road, but in the meantime we have room for our growing staff, and for committee and board meetings.
- **Growing the Learning Celebration and MORE** With your help, we have met our goal of creating a year-round staff position to coordinate our Learning Celebration program for fourth-graders. And, we have just received funding for three years from the NC Division of Water to help us create a new program for eighth-graders to become "Stream Investigators."
- **Support our Staff with a "Living Wage"** We have begun the process of increasing staff wages in 2008 and will continue to make HRA staff wages closer to the non-profit average in NC.
- **A New Focus on Fundraising and Growing our Membership** Project Rainmakers is a new initiative funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, providing funding to HRA for a full-time fundraising and outreach coordinator for three years. We will receive full funding this first year, 75% in the second year, and 50% in the third year. Our capital campaign fund will provide the funding match for years two and three.

Please help us reach the finish line for our capital campaign. Your contribution enables us to be a stronger organization that can do more to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake. The Haw River Assembly is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and your gift is tax-deductible.

Thanks for all your support!

Seeking Nominations for HRA Board of Directors

The HRA Board of Directors is elected by our membership at the Annual Meeting each year, and has oversight for the policies and budget of the organization. Board members are also active on committees and keeping our work energized and creative. We have several openings for new board members. If you would like to place your name, or that of another member, in nomination, please contact Elaine Chiosso, (919) 542-5790, info@hawriver.org, for information about board responsibilities and meeting schedule.

HRA Joins WATERKEEPER® Alliance (continued from p.1)

The Waterkeeper Alliance has its roots in the battle by New York fishermen and environmentalists in the 1960's to stop a giant utility project on the Hudson River. With the passage of the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act this first Riverkeeper group was determined to use the law's powerful citizen enforcement tools to work for clean water. This remarkable story is told in the **The Riverkeepers: Two Activists Fight to Reclaim our Environment as a Basic Human Right**, by John Cronin and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (New York: Scribner 1997).



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

2008 Haw River Festival T-shirt!

Clyde Jones models sunflowers on blue shirt

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

\$ 15 (youth small & medium)

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

HRA Gets A “Rainmaker”

I was recently hired as the Development and Outreach Coordinator through a grant called Project Rainmakers. This collaborative project of NC Conservation Network and North Carolina’s grassroots water community began two years ago with the idea of helping NC’s water community build a larger and more expansive network of river advocates that can be mobilized to protect our state’s invaluable water resources.

In May 2008, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation approved grant funding for Project Rainmakers which created six new positions within grassroots watershed advocacy organizations around the state to help increase their membership and funding base. At its foundation, Project Rainmakers is designed to provide the time, talent, and other resources so that six river groups can recruit new members and inspire their contributors.

The initiative is grounded in three significant goals:

1. Expand the constituency of grassroots watershed groups.

At the end of three years, the six river groups that participate in Project Rainmakers will double their collective membership with the addition of around 10,000 new river advocates.

2. Generate a more stable and sustainable funding base for grassroots watershed groups.

The goal is for the six groups to become less dependent on foundation grants and more reliant on a loyal base of members and individual donors.

3. Develop new leaders for the environmental field.

Project Rainmakers will provide six new leaders with skills and experience in fundraising, marketing and communications, and constituency building.

NC Conservation Network serves as the coordinator for the Rainmaker project. My job is to help establish clear benchmarks for membership, and increase the fundraising budget of HRA over the course of the two to three year placement.

Over the past two months I have been getting settled into the office, and have had the opportunity to meet the many wonderful members of the board, staff and volunteers. With regards to fundraising, I have been helping with the Capital Campaign and the upcoming Burrito Bash on September 9, 2008 (save the date!). In mid-July I attended a two-week training with the other 5 Rainmakers to learn important grassroots fundraising techniques. We learned about creating strategic plans, marketing, major donor campaigns, and other great tools.

On a personal note, I’ve been involved with HRA in some capacity since childhood. I grew up in Pittsboro, and my mother was a streamwatch volunteer for some time. I remember trekking out to the tributary behind our house on Hamlet Chapel Road and looking for critters and testing pH. I also participated in the Learning Celebration in fourth grade, and later on served as an LC volunteer “floater” in college.

I look forward to continuing my work with HRA and helping to build the support we need to build a membership and citizen base that cares about protecting the Haw River and Jordan Lake!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

by Logan Yonavjak, HRA Development and Outreach Coordinator



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

At the Eno River Festival, volunteers Nancy Strong and Susan Yarnell collect signatures to support better drought regulations and sign up new HRA members.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Clean Water Lobby Day advocates Nancy Strong, Efrain Ramirez, and Anne Cassebaum (left to right, out in front) march to the legislative offices in Raleigh to ask our legislators to protect and conserve water resources by passing sensible drought regulations (see page 5).

Upcoming 2008 HRA Events

Sat. Aug. 23, 2008, Haw River Paddle, Swepsonville to Saxapahaw, Haw River Canoe & Kayak guide, (336) 260-6465

Saturday, Aug. 30, 10 am - 2 pm, Bynum, Macro-Micro Workshop: Citizen Water Quality Monitoring, free & open to public, led by Cynthia Crossen; for info & to register: (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org (see p. 4 for details)

Tuesday Sept. 9, 6 - 9 pm, General Store Cafe HRA-TLC Burrito Bash (see page 6 for details)

Sat., Sept. 13, 10 am - 2 pm, Pittsboro, Responsible Stream Stewardship Workshop. \$25 (\$35 w/lunch) Led by Catherine Deininger (deininger@hawriver.org) & Karen Hall. Register at info@theabundancefoundation.org, (919) 533-5181

September 20-21 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend For info on project (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org

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

Sat., Oct. 4, 10 - 3 pm White Oak Recreation Area off Hwy 64 Heritage Day at Jordan Lake Music, hands-on fun for kids, historical & natural history displays. Free. <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/do.html>

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

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 4 & 5, 10 - 6 pm, Jordan Lake Farm on Marthas Chapel Road Jordan Lake Music Festival Benefit for "Save Jordan Lake" project. 18 bands, dance, art, food & kids activities. <http://jordanlakeartsandmusic.org/>

Friday, October 31, Pumpkin Paddle in Bynum, led by Joe Jacob. To register: (336) 260-6465, info@hawrivercanoe.com

Sat. Nov. 8, 2008, 1 - 4 pm, Jordan Lake Visitors Center, HRA Annual Membership Meeting See p. 8 for details.

Sat., Nov. 15, Harvest Full Moon Paddle, led by Joe Jacob. To register: (336) 260-6465, info@hawrivercanoe.com

December 13-14 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend For info on project (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org

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

**HRA Annual Meeting
Saturday Nov. 8, 1-4 pm
Jordan Lake Visitor Ctr!**

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