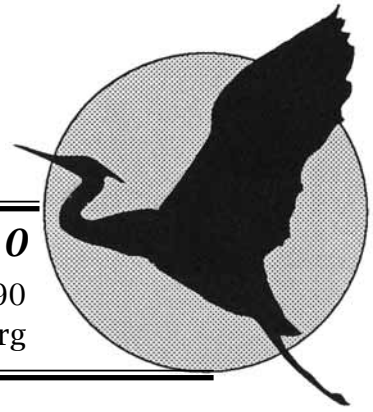


Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly August 2010



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

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

Citizens Speak Out Against Pollution in Our Watershed

- Citizens speak at state hearing, and urge local governments to seek greater protection from Stericycle Medical Waste Incinerators.
- In Durham, the battle continues on 751 South development near Jordan Lake.
- Proposed Hwy 64 widening in Chatham across Haw River and Jordan Lake is sure to impact the lake and river.
- Water quality violations by UNC facility are a concern for Collins Creek in Orange County.
- Greensboro WTPP spill and fish kill downstream raise serious questions.



Photo by Sue Dayton

Medical Waste Incinerator in Graham – A License to Pollute?

The public hearing on the emissions permit for Stericycle’s medical waste incinerators drew an impassioned crowd concerned about impacts on their health, their children, and the environment from the toxins released into the air (and fallout into waters) from the smokestacks located close to the Haw River in Graham.

Many local governments in the path of these harmful emissions are asking the state to require early implementation of the new, much stricter EPA emission standards (including a 97% reduction in mercury, and other toxic metals and chemicals) at Stericycle and other such incinerators. Resolutions have been passed by Mebane, Town of Haw River, Green Level, Carrboro, Hillsborough, Chapel Hill and Chatham and Orange counties. Copies of resolutions are on the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) website: <http://www.bredl.org/>. The state closed the public comment period on the Stericycle permit on June 30, but activists are moving forward. A new local chapter of BREDL has been formed to carry on this fight, and to coordinate with a group in Mecklenberg County who are fighting the same battle against an incinerator there. HRA and BREDL held a press conference before the public hearing, with maps and charts of the extent of toxins in the emissions, and the impact on surrounding areas. *continued on p.3*

Concerned citizens Kendra, Kieran, and Heather Bjork present a Notice of Infringement to scowling Stericycle President and CEO Mark Miller (played by Chris Carter), asking Stericycle for millions in restitution to the “current and future citizens of NC” for the continued costs of its pollution on public health and the environment.



The Haw River Learning Celebration -- Wants You!

Volunteer for HRA’s exciting fall riverside educational program for 4th-graders. See details on page 8. *At left, LC volunteer Mardi Magoo teaches kids about clay at Camp Guilrock.* Photo by Cynthia Crossen.

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Notes from the Haw

What a summer! Record breaking heat reminds us that climate change has begun already. So much of what we need to do to protect the watershed and our environment are also exactly the kind of things that will reduce greenhouse gases, or mitigate their effects. Many articles in this newsletter speak to that point: citizens lobbying the legislature for water use models to prepare for the next drought; public opposition to bulldozing more forests (our best carbon sink) to build sprawling megahouses and big box stores; citizens demanding tighter air emission standards and alternatives to incineration; and communities telling DOT to stop building more roads for more cars, and to get serious about mass transit.



The pollution problems we are facing in our watershed have roots in some of the same causes that led to the horrendous BP oil explosion in the Gulf. Weak regulations, poor government oversight and enforcement, and failing anti-pollution technologies are fueled by a culture that has let corporate profits take precedent over all else. I am greatly heartened by the tremendous civic engagement I see on the problems that confront us here at home. I also have hopes that the immensity of the ecological disaster in the Gulf will bring a new determination in this country to realize we cannot depend on corporations to care about clean water, clean air, and our health. We, as citizens, must be relentless in making sure our government works for us - not for the benefit of those who profit from weak environmental regulation.

I have seen the results of what happens when we speak out together - as citizens and as organizations. Our work with the Durham People's Alliance, Preserve Rural Orange, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, and Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities has brought successful outcomes. We have demanded and gotten public hearings, we have insisted that pollution problems be investigated, and we have fought for transparency and openness. We will continue to work together, and I thank you for being there to support us.

From the Haw, Elaine Chiosso HAW RIVERKEEPER®

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.

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Elaine Chiosso (center) discusses with River Watcher Daniel Tolfree (left) and reporter Rebekah Cowell (right) the problems with sludge application, one of Daniel's concerns about his creek, Cane Creek in Alamance Co. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

continued from page 1

“Mr. Big” (our own Chris Carter in disguise) represented the CEO of Stericycle. Children presented him with an invoice for the cost of these emissions to our health, properties, and the environment. The state must pass rules this fall to comply with the new EPA regulations on medical waste incinerators (Stericycle is suing the EPA to try and stop implementation of these rules). We are urging the state to require early implementation of the stricter emission standards – at least by 2012 instead of 2014 – and to require better, safer alternatives to incineration for these hazardous materials. Other states have stricter regulations for disposal – if it works there it can work here.

“751 South” – Battle to Stop Mega-Development Near Jordan Lake Continues

Once again, people packed a Durham County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing on July 26 to speak out on the latest action by Southern Durham Development, who wants to build a dense mega-development close to Jordan Lake. This site off Hwy 751 near Stagecoach Rd (known then as the “751 Assemblage”) was the focus of the major battle last year when the developers sought to change the boundary line of Jordan Lake based on their own survey. HRA commissioned its own boundary survey with support from citizens. Southern Environmental Law Center joined with us to help landowners create a successful protest petition and to intervene on Durham’s side in a lawsuit brought by the developers. Despite this, we lost the fight to stop the boundary change on the lake. Now the developers are requesting to get their land re-zoned, changing it from rural low-density to mixed use high-density. Proposed is a \$500 million residential and commercial project proposed for 165 acres in the environmentally sensitive land adjacent to Jordan Lake. The plans include 600,000 square feet of retail and office space and 1,300 residential units. In addition to the impact on water quality in Jordan Lake, other important issues have been raised by the Durham People’s Alliance. Lack of public transportation, lack of affordable housing, increased air pollution from vehicles commuting to work and shopping – and the drain on Durham tax dollars to support the project – all spell SPRAWL. This is not smart growth – it is the wrong development in the wrong place.

The battle continues. County planning staff and the county attorney announced that a new protest petition filed by residents adjacent to the controversial development is valid. The

petition requires four of the five county commissioners to approve the rezoning – and Commissioners Heron and Reckhow have been long time opponents of this project. However, on the eve of the public hearing, it was discovered that Southern Durham Development had given NC DOT an easement for a 40-foot long piece of property along NC 751. This action could invalidate the adjacent landowners’ successful protest petition against the rezoning, since the easement could be interpreted to put them further than the required 100’ maximum distance from the development. Outrage from the public over this obvious obstruction of democracy was heard all the way to the governor’s office, and just hours before the hearing began, DOT revoked their acceptance of the ease-

ment. The county attorney Lowell Siler asked to be given time to “study” the document from DOT questioning their authority to revoke an easement agreement – despite the letter being signed by the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General’s office. Over the protests of Commissioners Reckhow and Heron, the BOCC voted to grant Siler this extra time and to postpone a vote on the rezoning until August 9. DOT’s press release accompanying the revocation clearly stated that they did not know their original acceptance of the easement from the developers

would “interfere in an active public participation process”. In all my years at HRA, I have never seen such obstructions to democracy and justice that this developer has created.

Proposed Hwy 64 Widening in Chatham Across Haw River and Jordan Lake

NC DOT extended the comment period on their US 64 Corridor Study after the Chatham County Board of Commissioners demanded more time to make their (and Chatham residents’) objections known, and to get input from their own advisory boards.

The DOT study looks at both short term and long term “improvements” to Hwy 64 from west of Cary to the Hwy 64 Pittsboro Bypass that would speed the flow of traffic. The short term plan would create “super streets” and other changes. The long term plan is essentially for a super highway with limited access and cloverleaf approaches. The Haw River Assembly went on record to say that there is no way that could be built without significant *continued on page 4*



Chatham County Commissioner Sally Kost speaks to the Durham County Commissioners at the July 26 public hearing, outlining the reasons to oppose the rezoning of the 751 South development. Photo by Germane James.



HAW RIVERKEEPER® *Issues in the Watershed*

continued from page 3

damage, during and post-construction, to Jordan Lake and tributaries that feed it, as well to as the Haw River and the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. These “improvements” could also decrease access to the Jordan Lake recreation areas. DOT’s vision seems to be to turn Hwy 64 into a parallel interstate south of I-40. With no funds in the state budget to support this, the question has come up by some whether this might become a toll road.

The group Chatham County Citizens for Effective Communities has put together great maps, links, and information on making comments to DOT on their website: www.chathamcitizens.org.

DOT has not prepared a full Environmental Impact Statement on this plan yet, so it is difficult to measure the full extent of impacts. But it is clear that this DOT “vision” would be bad news for Jordan Lake and the Haw, as well as for quality of life in Chatham County.



We protect the Haw River for our children. Photo by Amy Durso.

Water Quality Violations by UNC Facility on Collins Creek in Orange County

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) revoked the “deemed permitted” status of UNC-Chapel Hill’s wastewater system at their animal research facility in rural Orange County in early February, after letters from Preserve Rural Orange, the Haw River Assembly, and other environmental groups raised concerns about leaks, spills and other problems. DENR also complied with our requests for investigations on site and in Collins Creek after wastewater leaked into Collins Creek, a tributary of the Haw River.

On May 14, 2010, DENR issued a civil penalty for \$16,612.48 to UNC-CH for the violations that began in 2009. UNC shut down the existing wastewater system and began hauling waste to OWASA for treatment. Preserve Rural Orange and the surrounding community continue to have concerns about the University’s massive expansion plans for this animal research facility for medical research in rural Bingham Township. The Haw River Assembly will continue to stay involved in this issue to watchdog water quality problems. We hope to get a new team of River Watch volunteers trained soon to monitor Collins Creek in this vicinity. To contact organizers of Preserve Rural Orange, go to www.preserveruralorange.org or email them at info@preserveruralorange.org.

Greensboro WTP Spill and Fish Kill Downstream in Alamance

Paddlers on the Haw River downstream from Altamahaw, where Reedy Fork meets the Haw in Alamance County, began seeing a large fish kill on Sunday July 18. Reports were of up to 400 dead and dying fish, which is very unusual in a fast flowing river like the Haw. With no other causes in sight, we presume this was the result of the 1.45 million gallon release of untreated wastewater on July 14, during a big storm in Greensboro. The raw sewage spilled for 6 and 1/2 hours into South Buffalo Creek, which flows to



Reedy Fork. We reported the fish kill to Division of Water Quality (DWQ), who investigated and found dead fish in Reedy Fork and the Haw River downstream of Buffalo Creek, but are reluctant to pin the blame on the sewage spill since several days had already passed. We may never know exactly what happened, but it seems hard to believe it was not the result of the raw sewage. By Friday, July 23, we heard from paddlers who were noticing dead fish on the river near Burlington and really bad smells as the fish decomposed in the water. We sent out alerts to the public and press about the fish kill and sewage spill, as the Haw River is a popular spot for cooling off in the summer and there could be public health threats when swimming, fishing and wading in waters where a fish kill is going on.

The Haw River Assembly asks: Why doesn't the State issue public health alerts when there is a raw sewage spill or large fish kill?

There are some serious questions still left from this incident:

- Why didn't DWQ investigate the health of the river downstream from the spill sooner, instead of waiting for HRA or the public to tell them about it?
- What good is a backup power system at a sewage treatment plant if it doesn't work?
- Why doesn't the State issue public health alerts when there is a raw sewage spill or large fish kill?

HRA Walks the Legislative Halls for Clean Water Lobby Day

At Clean Water Lobby Day on June 23, HRA joined activists from across the state to advocate for clean water with our elected officials in Raleigh. HRA staff and volunteers spoke with legislators from the Haw River watershed to promote legislation targeting water quality problems. We spoke with over 12 Senators and Representatives, including Representatives Pricey Harrison, Maggie Jeffus, John Blust, Laura Wiley (Guilford), Dan Ingle (Alamance), and Speaker of the House Joe Hackney (Orange); and Senators Katie Dorsett (Guilford) and Tony Foriest (Alamance). It was a great opportunity to meet face to face with those making important decisions about our waters.

Here are this year's Clean Water Lobby Day issues:

❖ The "Oil Spill Liability, Response, & Preparedness" bill passed just 36 hours before the 2010 legislative session! This legislation is a big win for North Carolina. It will ensure that oil companies are fully liable for damage to our state from offshore oil spills, and will strengthen state law to prevent an offshore drilling catastrophe off our coast.

❖ The "Improved River Basin Modeling" bill, also approved this session, will require hydrologic models on all 17 of NC's river basins, that show how water withdrawal will affect river health and existing users. These models can provide early warning when a river basin is headed for a permanent water shortage.

❖ "Steep Slopes Construction", a bill that includes disclosure when a house is located in a landslide hazard area, is a first step in what has been a hard fight to address dangers to mountain homeowners and the increased sediment in streams when building occurs on steep slopes and fill material. This bill did not make it to the floor for a vote, but will likely be back for consideration next year.

Thanks to the North Carolina Conservation Network for coordinating Clean Water Lobby Day, and to all our dedicated volunteers and staff for helping us make a strong impact in the halls of the NC General Assembly!



Photo by Donna Myers

(left to right) Margaret Tiano, Nancy Strong, Germane James (HRA Outreach & Development), Tom Patterson (unseen, behind Germane), Sharon Garbutt, Martha Giralomi, Anne Cassebaum, Elaine Chiosso (Haw Riverkeeper & HRA Exec. Dir.), and a watershed citizen strategize about how to lobby as many of our watershed's legislators as they can.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Jeannie Ambrose and Catherine Deininger monitor Little Creek, a tributary of Robeson Creek.

Update on Robeson Creek Watershed

Funding received by NCSU Water Quality Group from the Environmental Protection Agency and the United State Department of Agricultural on behalf of the Robeson Creek Watershed Council (RCWC) has allowed Catherine Deininger to continue HRA's stream stewardship work in the Robeson Creek watershed. As a representative of HRA, Catherine worked with the Pittsboro Ordinance Review Team over the last two years to complete a review of the Town's Subdivision Ordinances and Buffer Ordinance. Early this year, the team compiled a report, *The Town of Pittsboro Better Site Design Ordinance Review*, that summarizes their work and recommendations. (This report can be downloaded at www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/wqg/srp/robeson.html.) Currently in the process of hiring a new Town Planner, the Town of Pittsboro has promised to begin work on implementing the recommendations once the new planner is on board.

This spring Potterstone Village, located along the banks of Turkey Creek (a tributary of Robeson Creek), began to take an active role in the clean up of their watershed. The Potterstone Home Owner Association (HOA) agreed to locate an ambient stormwater monitor on their property to help the RCWC to document changes in water quality due to stormwater runoff. Also, they invited Catherine Deininger and NCSU's Karen Hall to their board meeting to present ideas for improved water quality through low impact development measures. Plans are underway to hold a workshop at Potterstone Village this fall for residents to learn about streamside care.

This is the 10th year of HRA's focused effort in the Robeson Creek Watershed. Catherine is assisting the RCWC in documenting all the work completed in the last decade by the numerous local and state partners, for use in the creation of a Watershed Restoration Plan for a continued effort to restore and protect Robeson Creek.

Jordan Lake Clean-Up Tackles Trash

On May 8, an army (and navy) of over 150 volunteers gathered at the southern end of Jordan Lake near the dam, to launch an assault on the trash along its shorelines. By the end of the afternoon, a 30 foot dumpster was filled with the trash they collected, another trailer was loaded with plastic soda and water bottles, and over 300 tires were stacked up along the ramp leading from the boat dock. Volunteers returning to shore saw the amazing results of their hard work as they walked up from the dock to enjoy lunch provided by the organizers.

The event was organized by **Clean Jordan Lake**, whose mission is to clean up the seemingly endless trash that has washed up into the lake's coves and along the shores ever since the lake was first built. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns Jordan Lake and was out in full force that day to lend a hand, and NC Big Sweep supplied bags, gloves and other resources. Haw River Assembly helped promote the event, and many HRA members were among the volunteers.

Boats piloted by private citizens and the Army Corps ferried volunteers and trash back and forth across the southern end of the lake, while other volunteers on the dock tirelessly emptied bags into dumpsters and stacked tires. Volunteers also collected trash in the form of orange construction barrels, signs, baby dolls, all kinds of bottles and cans, tennis balls, basketballs, soccer balls, truck tires, car tires, a teeter totter, a stereo speaker, propane tanks, and 55-gallon drums.

Clean Jordan Lake is the brainstorm of Tom Colson, who organized the big cleanup on the Haw River arm of the lake back in 2008. As a boater and fisherman, he was determined to find others to help begin the massive

task of cleaning up the trash that despoils the water at Jordan Lake. Tom joined with Fran DiGiano, a retired UNC professor and avid kayaker, to form the new non-profit Clean Jordan Lake. Although some of the trash is obviously left by thoughtless recreational users, the bulk of it comes down the Haw River or New Hope Creek from the 1700 square mile watershed above the lake during storms. Trash is the visible part of stormwater pollution!

The next big cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday, October 9, from 9 am to 2 pm, with the goal of cleaning up at multiple locations all over Jordan Lake that day. Mark your calendars now, and check for details at the group's website: www.cleanjordanlake.org.



At top: Fred Royal heaves a tire onto the growing pile dragged out of Jordan Lake at the May 8 cleanup. Upper left: Up to her thighs in trash, this dedicated volunteer perseveres. Upper right: Boaters pole through the massive floating island of trash. Lower left: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a large role in this endeavor, ferrying boatload after boatload of garbage back to the boat dock for removal. All photos on this page by Elaine Chiosso.

Haw River Festival Rocks Saxapahaw!

Such a great success! Thanks to everyone who was there, volunteered, and supported us for this ambitious move to Saxapahaw! It was a weekend of great music, inspiring environmental films, educational stories, yummy food, happy families, not to mention new venues for long standing traditions! ✨ We started the weekend with HRA's first annual film festival, featuring nine short films that carried an environmental or water theme, most of which were made or directed by North Carolina filmmakers. The Saxapahaw General Store and Airblown Entertainment were kind enough to make this event possible by providing a 25 foot inflatable screen and a delicious dinner featuring lasagnes with all locally grown ingredients.



Photo by Heather LaGarde

✨ Saturday May 1st was the start of our 21st Haw River Festival! We had lovely weather, no rain in sight! The afternoon began with Clyde Jones critter painting, and lots of folks catching critters with River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen on the island between the Haw River bridges. The guided canoe rides were a major hit this year, thanks to our dedicated guides Lynn & Brenda Featherstone, Joe Jacob, and Bob Brueckner. They barely had a moment to catch their breath before it was time to take another curious child out on the river! The environmental booths had wonderful displays and were busy all day with a steady flow of festival-goers. We had local farmers selling their produce and specialties throughout the day. The Parade of Puppets was a big hit as usual—thanks to Paperhand Puppet



Photo by Donna Myers

Intervention and to the great volunteers that helped close the major intersection of Sweatsonville-Saxapahaw and Church Roads to allow the parade to “hit the streets.” The Puppet studio was open all day for tours as well as storytelling by Louise Omoto Kessel and Suzanne Robinson. Jan Burger and Donovan Zimmerman, co-founders of the Paperhand Puppet Intervention, facilitated a puppet making workshop, which was another amazingly popular event! No matter where you ventured throughout the festival grounds, you could see children parading their handmade puppets through the crowds. The live auction added moments of suspense to the day, looking for high bidders to take home fine art created by Jonathan Davis, Sarah Howe and Clyde Jones. Thanks to Mellow Marsh, Niche Gardens, and Cure Nursery for donating the native plants for sale, and to Ken Moore and Kathy Buck for offering a beautiful display of native rain garden plants and information. Thanks to Tom LaGarde who provided fabulous sound, and to all the Performers: ✨ Jimmy Magoo & the Paperhand Band ✨ D-Town Brass (www.reverbnation.com/dtownbrass) ✨ Django Haskins (www.djangohaskins.com, www.theoldceremony.com) ✨ Saludos Compay (Eric Leith, lieth@bellsouth.net) ✨ Lizabeth (www.myspace.com/lizhmusic) ✨ the Eight Balls (riley711@gmail.com) ✨ Cynthia Crossen & the Festival Jam.



Photo by Heather LaGarde

Photos clockwise from top: D-Town Brass rocks the hillside; the Festival parades through Saxapahaw!; families enjoy the river; Cynthia Crossen helps folks find river critters at stream monitoring; and HRA Volunteer Erin Martin demonstrates beaver teeth at the Animal table.



Photo by Maja Krickler

To close out the weekend events, we welcomed Mark Chilton, mayor of Carrboro and author of *An Historical Atlas of the Haw River Valley*, and enjoyed a great brunch provided by the friendly Inn Keeper, Matt Diehl at the River Landing Inn.

A BIG THANKS to ALL the Volunteers, the Saxapahaw Community and HRA Board and staff for wonderful day!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Haw River Learning Celebration 2010!

Back to School Pop Quiz! I hope you did not think you could get away with an easy, breezy summer down by the river without keeping your wits keen about the latest environmental education happenings at your favorite river organization. Just to keep those minds sharp out there, here's a multiple choice question for all our beloved readers to answer!

How do you know it's almost time for the 21st Annual Learning Celebration, our traveling riverside environmental education program for 4th graders?

- We have 11 schools signed up and Volunteer Crew members and station trainers have already begun registering with Donna, the Learning Celebration Coordinator.
- HRA partnered with Chatham Mills Development Corp. and Chatham Marketplace and a number of great volunteers and donors to hold an awesome Hootenanny.
- Various opportunities (besides being on the Volunteer Crew) abound, to contribute to, donate to, and help make the Learning Celebration successful.
- The search for this year's Safety and Logistics Coordinator is nearing the end.
- All of the above!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

from Donna Myers, 2010 Learning Celebration Coordinator



LC Stream Watch Station volunteer Maja Krickler (left) demonstrates using "deer ears" to listen to the Haw River, in Saxapahaw. Photo by Mary Longhill.

Devoted readers, if you answered **e**, you are correct! To ensure that you are all fully schooled on what is happening with the 2010 Learning Celebration, please read explanations of each multiple choice option below. Please call or email Donna with any questions you may have!

a. Donna and the Learning Celebration (LC) Steering Committee have been hard at work all year to ensure an awesome program this fall, creating and distributing school and volunteer recruitment publicity. As a result 11 schools signed up this spring! We also have some volunteers and station trainers signed up with plenty of time remaining to register to volunteer for this year's LC Crew. To become a LC Volunteer Crew Member: Check out the LC page at www.hawriver.org and read up on the various crew opportunities. There is a volunteer registration form online, that you can download, print, complete, then email, mail or fax to Donna. **Please send in by August 20, 2010.** You can also call Donna at (919) 542-5790 to request forms, information or to discuss the various volunteer opportunities available throughout the LC.

b. A big shout out to Chatham Mills Development Corp. and Chatham Marketplace for donating space and being awesome hosts, leading up to and during the Hootenanny, held on the Lawn at Chatham Mills in

Pittsboro on June 5. The start of the event was absolutely sweltering, with temperatures kissing 100 degrees. That did not dissuade the volunteers or the first musical act, Jimmy Magoo and the Good Life, from setting up and getting things rocking, or at least swaying due to the oppressive heat. Fortunately for all participants and performers, the temperatures decreased steadily throughout the evening and all were able to enjoy the show and an amazing pink-hued sunset that graced the skies. Anticipation for the live auction built while the String Peddlers and Good Rocking Sam performed and folks enjoyed treats from Chatham Marketplace while relaxing on the Lawn. Gary Phillips brought his fun and unique talent as he served as the evening's auctioneer. A cute Clyde Critter by Clyde Jones, a beautiful piece of Mark Hewitt pottery and a spectacular Haw River Festival T-shirt quilt crafted (continued on page 9)

Haw River Learning Celebration September 18th - October 8th!

Week 1 in Bynum: Sept. 18 - 24; with programs for students offered Sept. 21 - 24

Week 2 in Saxapahaw: Sept. 25-Oct. 1; with programs for students offered Sept. 28-Oct. 1

Week 3 at Camp Guilrock: Oct. 2 - 8; with programs for students offered Oct. 5 - 8

Sign up to Be Part of HRLC 2010. Volunteers make the Learning Celebration happen, and we want YOU to be there! Learn more about the HRLC at HRA's website, www.HawRiver.org. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Donna Myers at donna@hawriver.org, or by phone at (919) 542-5790.





Join us for one of HRA's many field trips, such as this Haw River paddle led by HRA Board member Susanne Gomolski of Kayak Adventures.

Rainmaker Report

Thanks to those of you that rejoined and renewed your membership with HRA! We have had the most successful renewal campaign to date with over 75 memberships updated in only a matter of months! It is proof that our work is valued among a community that shares our vision. As a tool to continue providing our watershed with up to date information and opportunities, we have implemented a brand new website! I encourage you visit, explore and familiarize yourself with the new "face" of HRA. I'm always open to suggestions, so don't hesitate to contact me with your website opinions. As we enter year three of the Project Rainmakers fellowship, HRA and I have reached and exceeded our benchmark goals, bringing in over 500 new members to the organization over the past two years! We continue to work diligently developing creative and cost effective ways of raising funds and engaging new communities. With the completion of the Festival weekend, Clean Water Lobby Day and various conferences I've attended over the past few months, I feel more energized then ever to reach out to new members and volunteers. My goal is to help them connect to the river as we strive for clean and safe water to drink and enjoy.



from Germane James, HRA Development and Outreach Coordinator

Learning Celebration Pop Quiz (continued from page 8)

by Wanda Sundermann were auctioned to some very enthusiastic and persistent bidders. After the live auction, Down River closed out the evening with some sweet, soulful send-you-home-happy tunes. ☺ *Special thanks* go out to: ☺ our auction item donors/creators (please check out these artists' creations in the Hootenanny Auction Item photo album on HRA's Facebook page); ☺ our donated music acts (please support these wonderful music groups at their various shows around the Triangle region); ☺ Donovan Zimmerman of Paperhand Puppet Intervention who donated the sound system for the evening; ☺ our auctioneer Gary Philips; ☺ amazing volunteers Wanda Sunderman, Ben Noblit, Maja Kricker, Cecelia Vassar (HRA Board Member), Margaret Tiano (HRA Board Member), Jo Sanders, Sharon Garbutt (HRA Board Member), JC Garbutt and HRA staff Germane James; ☺ the Learning Celebration Steering Committee for all their hard work. Thanks to all who attended, donated, sang along and took home auction items. We collected \$1,500 dollars, all of which goes for the LC!

c. Even if you are not into volunteering onsite at the LC, you can help with: ⇒ meals (bring a meal, solicit food donations); ⇒ moves each Friday during the LC (trucks & vans much appreciated!); ⇒ office help at the HRA office in Bynum, in the weeks leading up to the program and after; ⇒ thank you gifts for volunteers; ⇒ monetary donations to support the LC; ⇒ your enthusiasm--please share your passion for the Learning Celebration with folks you know, and keep this program alive and kicking!

d. By the time you read this, we will have hired our full time, temporary Safety and Logistics Coordinator to assist the LC Coordinator over the nine weeks before, during and after the LC. We look forward to introducing you to our new assistant!

e. All of the above--and so much more--is happening with this Learning Celebration! Please get involved; you will be amazed at the many ways this special program will unfold and enrich your life.

Special thanks to Milagro Saints, Rootzie, General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, and LC volunteer Elizabeth Cox. These forces combined when band members from Rootzie and Milagro Saints offered to donate their tips from their July 9 performance at the General Store to the Haw River Learning Celebration. LC Volunteer Elizabeth Cox linked up HRA with these awesome local bands. You can check out their music and upcoming shows at <http://www.milagrosaints.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/therootzieband>. Thanks to all who came out and gave generously!





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: I love going out with folks to teach them how to monitor their creek! * The Pittsboro Presbyterian Youth Group is now monitoring a beautiful site on Little Creek in Pittsboro. Their enthusiasm is contagious! * A new team led by John Hollingsworth, with Jaymin Patel and Katie Goodman, has begun monitoring New Hope Creek at Johnston Mill Preserve off Mt. Sinai Road north of Chapel Hill. * Elaine and I, along with reporter Rebekah Cowell, met with Daniel Tolfree at his site on Cane Creek in Alamance County, not far from Snow Camp. Daniel is monitoring his stream because he is concerned with sludge applications on fields draining into his creek, and wants to begin gathering data to track changes over time.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Frank Porter Graham students monitor Morgan Creek at their fifth-grade field day.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



4-H Campers love hunting for life in Jordan Lake.

River Watch Education: I love sharing the excitement of finding and identifying river critters with all kinds of folks! With help from Erin Martin, we did stream monitoring with fifth-graders at Frank Porter Graham, on Morgan Creek just behind their school—a huge success. * The May 1 Haw River Festival offered a great monitoring site on the Haw in Saxapahaw, and we had a steady stream of interested folks—lots of kids included—who came down to learn about stream monitoring. Thanks to Sharon Garbutt, Erin Martin, and Maja Krickler for lots of help at this station. * Donna and I enjoyed several events together—helping 4-H campers hunt for aquatic life in Jordan Lake; providing a field trip to the Haw in Bynum for the Community Independent School camp; and “teaching the teachers” by demonstrating macroinvertebrate collection and identification to Mark Enfield’s Elon University graduate class in science education.

River Watch on the Web: Visit the River Watch page at www.hawriver.org to look at the “How To Be A River Watcher” presentations, which cover my river watch training. You can also see what our River Watchers have been up to. The Haw River Watch Monitoring Report presents data from December 1994 through December of 2009. Compiled over a long period of time by many dedicated river watchers, this report enabled me to comment (see web page) on the following streams

for the DWQ’s Draft 303-d list of Impaired Streams: Bolin, Brooks, Brush, Bush, Dry, Horsepen, Little Alamance, Morgan, Pokeberry, Terrells, and Third Fork Creeks.

Music For The River: Some of you may have seen The Goddess Suite, a choral work I composed in 1986, and co-produced this June with my daughter-in-law and LC volunteer Hope Wilder. We have selected one charity to represent each goddess of whom we sing, to benefit with our performances.

For Artemis, goddess of nature, protector of wild places, who helps girls grow to women, we selected HRA, for promoting environmental education, conservation and pollution prevention; speaking as a voice for the river in the public arena; and teaching people to be effective guardians of the river. We have honored the strong women leaders of HRA with a \$1,200 contribution raised by these concerts.

Photo by Maja Krickler



Photo by Donna Myers

Cynthia teaches Community Independent School campers about macroinvertebrate life in the Haw River, in Bynum.

HRA and Clean Water for NC team up for a Burrito Bash to Benefit Clean Water!

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Haw River Festival magic in Saxapahaw...

Join us Tuesday, September 7, 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 Peter Lamb and the Wolves will groove with swinging jazz and jumpin' tunes! The Wolves consist of vocalist and keyboardist Mark Wells, George Knott of Atomic Rhythm Allstars on bass sax, Al Strong on trumpet, drummer Steve Coffman and saxophonist Peter Lamb. Their strength and appeal lie in the heart and soul of the music, not merely technical ability, and Lamb says that his songs are for every music lover, not only "jazz snobs." HRA's own Cynthia Crossen and musical friends will take the stage for a short set as well. The silent auction includes beach and country vacation packages, fine art, gift certificates to local boutiques, and much more. Visit www.hawriver.org in late August to see a complete list of items included in the Burrito Bash silent auction. Advance tickets will be available online or by calling (919) 542-5790.

Tickets, including a famous burrito, are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Proceeds will support the work of both organizations working to protect water quality in Chatham and statewide.

Haw River Assembly Annual Meeting

What: HRA's 28th Annual Membership Meeting

When: Saturday, November 6, 1 to 4 pm

Where: Bynum Ruritan Club in Bynum, NC

This year's annual meeting will be in HRA's home base, the unique and charming mill community of Bynum. We'll gather at the Bynum Ruritan Club which is just steps away from the picturesque pedestrian bridge across the Haw River. Bynum is located off of highway 15-501, approximately 4 miles north of Pittsboro and 10 miles south of Chapel Hill. The meeting will include elections for our Board of Directors, a special presentation from Elaine Chiosso (Executive Director and Haw Riverkeeper) and HRA staff, and a keynote speaker. We will offer some outdoor activities before the start of the meeting. Look for our announcement this fall, and check www.hawriver.org for details and directions.

Nominations for 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 in keeping our work energized and creative. We have a few openings for new board members. If you would like to place your name, or that of another member, in nomination for the HRA Board of Directors, please contact Elaine Chiosso at the HRA office (919) 542-5790, info@hawriver.org for information about board responsibilities and meeting schedule.



Photo by Efrain Ramirez

2010 Haw River Festival T-shirt Clyde Jones "Coyote"

Shirts are available in: Adult clay (modeled by Cynthia Crossen, River Watch Coordinator and Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director), Ladies' deep red (hanging on far right), and youth vivid pink (hanging on right)

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

Available at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Great Outdoors Provision Co. 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.

Upcoming 2010 HRA Events

Saturday August 21, Sunset Moonglow Paddle, with Susanne Gomolski of Kayak Adventures. Explore the eagle management area of Jordan Lake, watch the sunset then our island campfire. Take a cooling dip in the lake then watch the moon rise. To register, contact Susanne at (919) 929-3805, (919) 259-2241, or sgomo4@hotmail.com.

Saturday, September 7, 6 - 9 pm, Burrito Bash Benefit for Haw River Assembly & Clean Water for NC, General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, See page 11.

Saturday, September 11, 10 am - noon, Citizen Monitoring on the Haw River in Bynum, with Cynthia Crossen, HRA Haw River Watch Coordinator. To sign up, contact Cynthia at crossen@hawriver.org or (919) 967-2500.

Saturday, September 11, 7 - 10 pm, Owl Prowl, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Contact info@hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465 to sign up.

September 18 - October 8, 2009. Haw River Learning Celebration for Fourth-graders. For info on project, see page 8 and www.hawriver.org. To sign up, contact Donna Myers at (919) 542-5790 or donna@hawriver.org.

September 18 - 19, Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend. Info on project at www.hawriver.org.

Saturday, October 2, 10 am - 3 pm, Jordan Lake Heritage Day, White Oak Recreation Area at Jordan Lake.

Saturday, October 9, 9 am - 2 pm, Jordan Lake Cleanup. See p. 6 and www.cleanjordanlake.org for details.

Saturday, November 6, 1 - 4 pm, HRA Annual Meeting, Bynum Ruritan Club on the Haw River. See page 11.



*Kayak Adventurers enjoy a sunset paddle on Jordan Lake.
Photo by Susanne Gomolski.*

**Haw River Assembly
Annual Meeting in
Bynum Sat. Nov. 6!**

Address Service Requested

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