

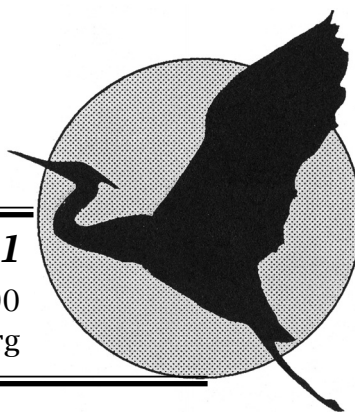
Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly August 2011

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

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



Haw Riverkeeper and HRA Members Speak Out for Environmental Protections – *And Against Fracking*

HRA members watched from the gallery on July 25 as the NC House of Representatives voted into law some very bad bills for our waters, land, and people. We are very disappointed that environmental protections—past and future—are being weakened in this state, but outraged that our concerns were basically ignored. The NC Legislature held hearings across the state this spring inviting the public to tell them how state regulations, and especially environmental regulations, were hurting the state's economic growth—despite the fact that Forbes and others rank NC as a top state for business. Across the state, five times as many people spoke in favor of keeping strong regulations to protect our environment as those speaking against them. Many HRA members spoke out at the hearings in Greensboro and Raleigh. Unfortunately, the Republican-led legislature ignored these public comments, and passed bill S781 that would drastically reduce regulations, staff and funding for environmental regulation in our state. Another bad bill, S709, was passed that would fast track the state to be able to “Drill Baby Drill” for “fracking” (using hydrofracturing to drill for natural gas) and for offshore oil drilling.

Governor Perdue stood up for the environment and vetoed both these bills, but the Senate voted to override them. HRA organized about 50 concerned citizens on July 25 to “Rally in Raleigh” to urge the House of Representatives to support the Governor's vetoes. HRA, Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities, and Deep River Clean Water Society rallied in front of the legislature before the vote, joined by many others from Raleigh, as well as the Lower Neuse Riverkeeper, Larry Baldwin, from New Bern! Representative Pricey Harrison (D-Greensboro) joined us to say why supporting the Governor's vetoes was so important for the health of our state. As we said at the rally – we are watching, and we will “remember in November” who is voting against our rights to clean water.



Protestors young and old speak out against fracking.

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



The Learning Celebration Is coming

Sept. 17 - Oct. 7 Sign Up Today!

A great way to say goodbye to summer and kickoff your fall is to volunteer at the Learning Celebration (LC), the Haw River Assembly's flagship environmental education program entering its 22nd year! Help us offer HRA's exciting fall riverside education program to 4th-graders throughout our watershed.

**** Week One: Bynum Sept. 17 - 23**

**** Week Two: Saxapahaw Sept. 24 - 30**

**** Week Three: Camp Guilrock Oct. 2 - 7.**

Please join us! Learn more on page 9, and at www.HawRiver.org.

At left, LC enthusiasts parade down the Main Street of Bynum, carrying LC materials they have just painted at the June Volunteer potluck to the HRA office to dry. Photo by Cynthia Crossen

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Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Germane James, Donna Myers, Jo Sanders * **Photos:** Jeannie Ambrose, Wallace Ambrose, Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Sharon Garbutt, Susanne Gomolski, Janice Harwood, Betsy Kempter, Erin Martin, Brandy McCandless, Donna Myers, Jo Sanders * **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

Hot enough for you? That's been heard all too often this summer as we broke previous heat records. River advocates across the world are thinking more and more about the impacts of global warming on our waters. The Union of Concerned Scientists has taken a hard look at how the ways we make and use energy threatens our freshwater supplies. Nuclear and coal plants use water for cooling, and return it hotter to streams, or lose it in evaporation. Coal from mountain top removal results in streams buried in the Appalachians, and poisonous coal plant waste threatens nearby water supplies. "Fracking" for natural gas from shale uses immense amounts of water which then is contaminated with fracking chemicals and underground toxins. Likewise, the tar sands extraction process uses and pollutes huge amounts of waters.

When we use energy we are using (and despoiling) water, and when we use water we are using energy - to treat it, to transport it, to heat it. The average daily use for one U.S. family of four is 400 gallons per day. But the water used to generate electricity that same family uses may require 600 to 1800 additional gallons per day at the power plant.

Collectively - we're asleep at the wheel. Time to wake up and pursue water and energy conservation and green power in an aggressive way! Polluting energies are profitable only because the full costs to the environment and people are not taken in to account. We need a "Manhattan Project" for green energy!

I am excited to report that our goal at HRA to become an organization that is more inclusive and involved with people of all races who live in our watershed, is moving into action. We have formed a new multicultural committee to work on plans to carry out our work, and first steps will include new work in communities in Durham and Burlington, beginning with listening to local concerns and finding new ways to engage families.

We welcome two new people who are joining our Board of Directors this fall, and who are interested in helping us succeed in becoming a more diverse organization. Miriam (Mimi) Pollard is from a family with a long history of working for change in Chatham County, and we are honored to have her join us at HRA. Justin Robinson is a community activist in Durham and is pursuing a graduate degree in Ecological Restoration at NCSU. He has been a great supporter of HRA by donating his musical talents to our Festivals - as a former member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and now with his own band.

The Learning Celebration is a magical program where 4th graders (and volunteers) fall in love with the river. Read about it inside--and sign up! We know you'll have a great time.

Yours, from the river,
Elaine Chiosso,

HAW RIVERKEEPER®



Photo by Susanne Gomolski

We wish to thank all of the friends and family of John Hartley, who made gifts in his memory to the Haw River Assembly. He was a generous supporter of our annual river clean-ups and valued the river in his own life, which ended too soon.

In memory of his spirit.



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

Stop Congress from gutting the Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act was signed into law by President Nixon in 1972, and is one of our nation's most important laws. It set the foundation for restoring our waters – and played a large role in stopping some of the worst end-of-pipe point source pollution into the Haw River. As we get ready to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the new Republican majority in the US House of Representatives has passed a bill that destroys key parts of it. HR 2018, the “Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act”, is really the DIRTY WATER ACT. It would give the states, rather than the EPA, the ultimate decision-making authority over our nation's water quality standards, letting polluter-friendly states undermine our national clean water standards. At a time when many state regulations are being weakened (see front page article), we need a strong and effective EPA to protect our waters.

The bill will now come before the US Senate. As we go to press, we are telling our Senators to vote NO on H.R. 2018 and to oppose ALL other dirty water bills and riders that come before the Senate for action. We also need to tell President Obama to veto any legislation for Dirty Water that comes across his desk. Please email or phone our Senators and the President immediately:

* Senator Kay Hagan <http://hagan.senate.gov/?p=contact>

* Senator Richard Burr <http://burr.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm>

* President Obama <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Update: Pittsboro Discharge Permit to Haw

The NC Division of Water Quality has issued a final permit for Pittsboro to be able to discharge wastewater effluent into the Haw River near the Hwy 64 bridge crossing, despite the many concerns expressed at the public hearing about the impact of the discharge on recreation users and the health of Jordan Lake. The state made some modifications to the permit in response to these concerns, with a stricter limit for fecal coliform and more monitoring, but we continue to have strong objections to a discharge at this sensitive site. Pittsboro does not plan to build this new discharge and pipeline soon, and HRA is taking part in discussions to explore better options than a pipe in the Haw for future wastewater – including all reuse water possibilities. We may yet succeed in keeping this discharge out of the Haw.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Our commitment is to keeping our waters clean for future generations to enjoy.

751 South development Update:

Three years after we first started protesting this controversial development near Jordan Lake we are still hoping for justice. The Durham City Council was persuaded this summer to delay a decision on whether to provide sewer and water to the proposed development that can only be described as sprawl – a big mixed commercial-residential project too far from the urban center. They have asked their staff for more information about burdensome costs that Durham might face if they annex this development. We have urged the city to wait for the lawsuit brought by adjoining landowners to 751 South to be decided in court. As we go to press, we are awaiting the outcome of a summary judgment by the judge in that case, that will decide if the lawsuit continues to trial, and the hope, one more time, for a right decision to be made.

The next Operation Medicine Drop is on October 29, 2011.

This program is a partnership of law enforcement, health professionals and Riverkeepers, for drop off (for unused meds) days in communities to make sure unused medications do not become a hazard to children, or get flushed down toilets into our water supplies. There were 185 take-back locations and over 4 million dosages of medications taken back at the March 2011 event. Look for information this fall about a location closest to you for the upcoming drop-off date for your unused meds.

River Pride at the Haw River Festival

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Where were you on May 7, 2011? If you were not enjoying the gorgeous weather, stellar music, awesome free activities and browsing the delicious fresh produce and creative arts and crafts by local farmers and artists, then you really missed out on an amazing event! Saxapahaw was alive with river pride as we celebrated our 22nd Haw River Festival in its new home in Saxapahaw. We started the day listening to sweet sounds of Cynthia Crossen and the Festival Jam as festival goers started showing up ready to enjoy and celebrate. With yummy food and happy families the afternoon was in full swing. As Alex Weiss and a Different Drum (www.differentdrum.us) took the stage, our environmental education activities and storytelling were beginning. Suz Robinson and Louise Omoto Kessel told beautiful stories at the

river's edge, under the shelter of a new picnic area behind the community center. This year, Elaine Chiosso with the help of board member Chris Carter, developed a new craft activity for kids--mayfly hats! Kids were able to decorate these elaborate hats and then show off their creations in the puppet parade. The guided canoe rides were a major hit again this year, thanks to our guides Joe Jacob, Jo Sanders, Spencer

Nelson, Janet MacFall, and Bob Myers. 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, and the local farmers sold their produce and specialties throughout the day. Next to take the stage was Underscore Orkestra (www.theunderscoreorkestra.com), all the way from Portland Oregon! Their unique mix of Balkan, Klezmer, Gypsy Jazz and Swing really got the lawn jumpin'! To continue with that energy, Justin Robinson and the Mary Annettes' (www.justinrobinsonandthemaryannettes.com), graced the hay bale stage, delivering vivid stories with a rotating arsenal of instruments including autoharp, tres, viola, banjo, violin, fiddle, bass, keys, and drums. The live auction added moments of suspense to the day, as our auctioneer, Gary Phillips looked for the highest bidders. The auction featured pottery created by Sarah Howe, beautiful wall hangings made by Wanda Sundermann, a Clyde Jones critter, a tire sculpture by Travis Cohn of Reptire Designs, a weekend of fun in Saxapahaw, a plant inventory on your property with Tony Mayer, and a dinner overlooking the Haw offered by Jamie Saunders and the LC Steering Committee (see write-up on page 6). Midtown Dickens (www.midtowndickens.com) were



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



next to take the stage with their cool blend of punk-folk, drawing from bluegrass and anti folk minimalism. The energy they brought to the event was a real treat! The native plant sale, just behind the stage was thriving with visitors all day! Thanks to Mellow Marsh, Niche Gardens, and Cure Nursery for donating the native plants for sale, and to Ken Moore and Kathy Buck and Nancy Hillmer and Tony Mayer (their helpers) for offering a beautiful display of native rain garden plants and information. The last band of the day, Pink Flag (www.reverbNation.com/pinkflag), an all female punk band from Durham, NC, brought a new energy to Saxapahaw, closing out our 22nd festival with lots of excitement! We hope to see everyone again next year as we celebrate 23 years of love for the Haw River!

A BIG THANKS to ALL the Volunteers, the Saxapahaw Community, Heather and Tom Lagarde for all of their guidance, generosity and sound engineering, and HRA Board and staff for wonderful day! It would not have been possible without their help!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Rainmaker Report

The time has come to say goodbye to Project Rainmakers! After three years in the experimental program, the brainchild of six different Riverkeeper organizations, July 31st officially closes the door on the project. I have learned so much during my two and a half years as HRA's Rainmaker, through countless trainings from leading fundraising consultants, unlimited access to fundraising materials and resources, free admission to the country's most comprehensive environmental training conference, and peer support from the other five rainmakers. Project Rainmakers has enabled HRA to become more efficient, be more confident in our fundraising asks, and bring in many more memberships! We closed out year two with 652 new memberships, the most of all associated River groups! We believe this is because of our supremely dedicated watershed community and our ability to reach them. The growth of the Haw River Festival, Clean-Up-A-Thon, the Learning Celebration, and the River Watch Project over the past few years has aided in our fundraising goals and has served as an introduction into diverse communities. We will continue



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Burrito Bash Sept. 13!

Join us Tuesday, September 13, from 6 to 9 pm at the General Store Café (39 West St., Pittsboro) as we team up with Clean Jordan Lake (www.cleanjordanlake.org) for an evening of music, dancing, a silent auction, and of course, famous General Store burritos! The silent auction includes 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 and to clear trash and debris in and around the Haw River and Jordan Lake.

reaching out to new communities as a way to become more relevant in the watershed and in turn, building a larger base of supporters. Though this may be the official end to grant funding, I will continue setting goals, growing our constituency and securing donations that enrich the health of the organization. Please join me in thanking the folks at North Carolina Conservation Network, namely Heather Yandow (now with Third Space Studios) for her leadership help, Z. Smith Reynolds for funding this amazing position, Meredith Emmitt of Third Space Studios for her facilitation, and last but not least, Elaine Chiosso for her great management, patience and support as I got my bearings in the organization. I'm excited about being able to continue on in the organization applying the tools I learned through Rainmaker, and perhaps stepping out of the box with more creative and innovative strategies!

from Germane James, HRA Development and Outreach Coordinator

REI and Cemala Award Grants to Haw River Assembly

The Haw River Assembly received grants this summer from REI (Recreation Equipment Inc.) and the Cemala Foundation in Greensboro. The \$8,000 Cemala grant will support work we are doing in Guilford County this coming year, including our programs with schools, stream monitoring teams, and outreach. We look forward to expanding our presence in the Haw's headwaters. The REI grant for \$10,000 supports our volunteer conservation projects including the Clean-Up-A-Thon, Learning Celebration and Haw River Watch monitoring. HRA board and staff members met with Paul Harwood of REI's Durham Southpoint store (whose employees nominated us for this grant) at the Eagle Observation Deck at Jordan Lake to accept our check. We chatted about our upcoming projects and watched in awe as an eagle caught a fish! REI offers many classes at their stores that our members may be interested in – to find out more, go to www.rei.com/stores/85. Please join us in thanking Cemala and REI for their generous support of HRA.



Photo by Janice Harwood

Standing on the shore of Jordan Lake, Paul Harwood, Outreach & Events Director for the REI store in Durham, presents a big check for \$10,000 to HRA (left-right: River Watch Coord. Cynthia Crossen; Executive Director Elaine Chiosso; HRA President Lynn Featherstone; Paul Harwood; Development & Outreach Coord. Germane James; Watershed Education Coord. Donna Myers).



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

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

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

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

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

\$ 16 (youth) S, M, L

Available at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Great Outdoors Provision Co. in the Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Greensboro locations, Saxapahaw General Store in Saxapahaw, and the HRA office in Bynum.

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

HRA Puts the FUN in Fundraising!

Whether it's having an amazing Festival right on the Haw (see page 4), creating the best T-shirt in town, thanks to Clyde Jones' generous donation of colorful art (how to get your own, below), holding a very special dinner on the Bynum pedestrian bridge across the Haw, or providing music, burritos, and auction items for sale (see page 5) -- HRA knows that the best fundraising builds community and connection, as well as being lots of fun!



Photo by Jo Sanders

Fine dining on our fine Haw River!

Dinner on the River

Anyone who strolled out on the Bynum Bridge Saturday evening of Memorial Day weekend witnessed an unusual site. Yes, Great Heron and Damselfly were there and Cicadas, too, of course,

although they were mostly at rest, thankfully. But also present were a gathering of human diners (Mark, Ellen and Natalie Barroso, Efrain Ramirez, Debbie and Cory Bousquet, joined by Gilda McDaniel for dessert) enjoying a beautiful gourmet dinner of locally-sourced seasonal fare prepared by Jamie Saunders and served by Eric Chetwynd, Maja Kricker, Jo Sanders, Emma Gilmore-Cronin and Anastasia Zitka. Nearby, Hope Wilder and Jill Soha played sweet music on their cellos, as the guests partook of a gorgeous salad of beets and greens, roasted lamb, new potatoes and green beans. The meal was preceded by wine and appetizers of goat cheeses with peach chutney and zucchini fritters at the HRA office.

This event, the brainchild of Jamie Saunders and sponsored by the Steering Committee for the Haw River Learning Celebration, was auctioned off to raise money for the riverside environmental education program held each fall for fourth graders in the Haw River watershed.

To everyone's extreme gratitude the weather, a la gentle refreshing breeze, could not have been more perfect. After enjoying a beautiful sunset, the diners concluded their evening with a dessert of freshly made lemon ice cream garnished with strawberries and blueberries and adorned with delicate butter cookies by Emily Sanders, served by lamplight. Many thanks to the winning bidders.

Watch for an opportunity to get in on the second annual dinner on the bridge next year! --by Jo Sanders, LC Steering Committee



The River Watcher Haw River Watch Project News

Project Coordinator: Cynthia Crossen **Email:** riverwatch@hawriver.org

P.O. Box 25, Saxapahaw, NC 27340 (919) 967-2500 (office); (919) 542-3827 (home)

Standing in the Stream by Cynthia Crossen

River Watch Trainings & Events: This April, HRA partnered with Brandy McCandless of Burlington Recreation & Parks to do streamside water quality monitoring. To the accompaniment of carousel music at Burlington City Park, I taught about stream issues, and helped fascinated attendees hunt for and identify macroinvertebrates in Little Alamance Creek. Thanks to



Photo by Brandy McCandless

The public learns about citizen monitoring at Little Alamance Creek in Burlington City Park, in a streamside training by HRA co-sponsored by City of Burlington Recreation & Parks.



Photo by Wallace Ambrose

River Watch volunteers Sharon Garbutt (in HRA T-shirt), Jeannie Ambrose (looking into net) and Betsy Kempter (with net on rock) help Festival-goers find macroinvertebrates in the Haw River at Saxapahaw.

Deborah Amaral and Maja Kricker for their able assistance! * The public also got a chance to learn about macros and water quality monitoring at our May 7 Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw, and on July 23 as part of Saturdays in Saxapahaw.

River Watchers Even More Vital Than Ever! With the deep cuts to state water quality personnel in the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), our creeks and rivers will have much less water quality oversight. More than ever, we need our citizen river stewards, who play a crucial and significant role in protecting stream health. Thank you, dedicated river watchers, for keeping your eyes on our waterways, and faithfully monitoring your creek or river. This spring, we presented the updated report of the data you have collected to Elaine Chiosso, Haw Riverkeeper, to use in her work of river protection and advocacy.

Raising Our Children to Be Stream Stewards I am deeply grateful to our River Watch Steering Committee volunteers, who do so much to boost our project's reach. They emphatically believe, as do myself and all the HRA staff, that introducing young people to the wonders of the river and the importance of protecting it is one of our most important missions. Doing the 8th grade Stream Investigation Program gives us a chance to do just this, at Horton Middle School and Northern Guilford (see Donna's article on page 8). * Jeannie Ambrose, Maja Kricker and I took CCCC Environmental Science students down to monitor their creek. * Maja and I worked with the Chatham 4-H camp at Northwest Park. * At the Haw River in Saxapahaw, Maja, Sharon Garbutt, Jane Underhill, Donna and I taught kids from the Morehead Planetarium summer camp. * Betsy Kempter, Maja, Donna and I worked with Carrboro Elementary students down at Bolin Creek. * *The river*



Photo by Betsy Kempter

Carrboro Elementary students check the pH of Bolin Creek.

is our best teacher, providing endlessly interesting creatures to teach us: river tigers (a.k.a. hellgrammites), minnows, mayflies, tadpoles, crawdads, caddisflies, mussels, dragonflies, and so many more. These fascinating beings teach us how important it is to keep their habitat healthy and flowing clean. The kids definitely get the message.



Photo by Sharon Garbutt

River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen (in HRA T-shirt) presents Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso (far left) with updated monitoring data collected by river watchers, with Haw River Watch committee (l-r) chair Deborah Amaral, Betsy Kempter, and Maja Kricker.

is our best teacher, providing endlessly interesting creatures to teach us: river tigers (a.k.a. hellgrammites), minnows, mayflies, tadpoles, crawdads, caddisflies, mussels, dragonflies, and so many more. These fascinating beings teach us how important it is to keep their habitat healthy and flowing clean. The kids definitely get the message.

Stream Education in our Watershed

Volunteers shine to make the Stream Investigation Program the Star of the Watershed Education Program

Visits by staff and volunteers to two watershed schools marked spring's arrival after the winter planning phase of the 2011 8th grade Stream Investigation Program. Jeannie Ambrose, Maja Kricker, Sharon Garbutt and I visited Northern Guilford Middle School in Greensboro for three consecutive days to conduct the classroom activity with all of the school's 8th grade science classes. We guided about 300 students through activities featuring water quality data, photographs, physical information and photographs of 8 sites throughout the watershed. (To see our materials, go to the Stream Investigation page at www.hawriver.org.)



Photo by Jeannie Ambrose

Above, Donna teaches Northern Middle students; at right, Horton Middle Schoolers collect critters in Robeson Creek.

Our program at Northern Guilford culminated on May 26 at the Haw River State Park. Wanda Sundermann, Betsy and Clara Kempter, Maja Kricker, Jeannie Ambrose, and Molly and Rob Dubose assisted River Watch Coordinator Cynthia

Crossen and me with streamside activities. This year, HRA partnered with the park's environmental education staff, who led students through an orienteering exercise while we led our streamside program. We helped students collect and identify macroinvertebrates from the park's wetland boardwalk, as well as conducted stream assessments and chemical tests at a manmade creek near the Haw River.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

from Donna Myers,
Watershed Education
Coordinator

Awesome Teacher Award:

The 8th grade program strives to create environmental stewards who will continue to monitor water quality and be active participants in protecting waterways. I want to applaud Ms. Cyndi Lawrence of Northern Guilford for greatly assisting in this goal; she not only has her 8th-grade biology students participate in our program, but has them regularly collect water quality data, and this year plans to have them volunteer with our Learning Celebration for 4th-graders.

In May, Maja, Sharon, Jeannie, Cynthia and I taught about 90 Horton Middle School students for three days. At nearby Robeson Creek in Pittsboro, students collected and identified macroinvertebrates, conducted visual stream assessments, and chemically tested the creek water. The program at Horton was a complete success, with engaged students and their very appreciative teacher, Jamie Callicutt.

Teacher feedback: "Thank you so much for working with the students to conduct the Stream Investigation. The presentations and activities were wonderful! The project is tied directly to the curriculum. They had a great time and learned a lot. It's all they've been talking about all week! I hope we can continue to partner for many years to come." *Jamie Callicutt, 8th Grade Science Teacher at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Taking it on the road: the Haw River Festival and Education Outreach

I've had many opportunities to educate this spring and summer. For this year's Haw River Festival, I oversaw the Learning Celebration booth and the environmental education activities we offered to Festival-goers. Thanks for the tremendous support and effort from board members, HRA members, volunteers, and HRA staff.

For their Aquatic Field Day, Maja Kricker and I led R.N. Harris Elementary School students through a visual stream assessment at their school's creek in Durham. * At Marvin B. Smith Elementary School in Burlington and at Carrboro Elementary School, as well as at Clydefest, I presented our watershed model that offers students insights about human impacts on the environment, as well as their role in protecting water quality.

HRA partnered with Durham area non-profits and government agencies to plan and implement Durham Creek Week, with stream cleanups, water quality monitoring, historical talks, nature hikes, and recreational paddles. I enjoyed sitting on a panel sponsored by Durham County Library to discuss the history of Durham's watershed with representatives from other local water advocacy groups.

By 7 am on the first day of summer you could find volunteers Jamie Saunders, Maja Kricker, and me in the Haw River at Bynum collecting macroinvertebrates, which we carried to the White Oak Recreation Area on Jordan Lake to share with about 75 4-H day campers. We showed them the critter's habitat that we transported from the river, as well as gave hands-on lessons on how to identify the macroinvertebrates and what that means for the water quality in the area where we collected.

If you are interested in having me come present an activity to your group or school, please contact me at 919-542-5790 or donna@hawriver.org.

Learning Celebration: Ready or Not, Here it comes!!!

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



4th-graders love face painting at the LC's Clay station.

It is the time of year where almost all of my attention goes to the Learning Celebration (LC). The Steering Committee continues to meet monthly and has really thrived as a result of some fresh ideas and ventures, such as our fundraising dinner on the bridge (see page), and our Volunteer Recruitment/Retention potluck--complete with art project!--at the Bynum General Store.

LC preparations include hiring an Assistant Coordinator, securing sites, managing equipment logistics, scheduling schools and volunteers, and preparing teaching materials.

Please consider volunteering this year! We need meal providers, food solicitors, canoe guides, school program leaders and site movers, just to name a few opportunities!

As a reminder, all volunteer resources are online: the volunteer registration form, confirmation packets, schedules, information guides, directions and volunteer forms. Please look for emails, Facebook updates, and the HRA website for these materials.

We Showcase the Learning Celebration At River Rally in Charleston SC

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Donna Myers (left), helps Morehead Science Campers identify the bugs they've found in the Haw River in Saxapahaw.

At this year's River Rally, a conference hosted by River Network for river advocates, the Haw River Assembly staff got a chance to share our exciting and successful Learning Celebration program. Germane, Elaine, Cynthia and I presented a workshop entitled "Let the River Teach our Children." Opening our presentation with an LC slide show, and then the dynamic video about the LC created for us by Mark Barroso, we then discussed our program, logistics, challenges, and benefits to HRA. After days of talk-oriented workshops, our workshop attendees experienced some hands-on fun with us--at the Stream Steward, Nature Art, Stream Watch, and Animals learning stations. Many were inspired to consider this kind of program in their own river advocacy work.

Volunteer Spotlight: A special shout out to these 2011 Stream Investigation volunteers: Jeannie Ambrose, Maja Kricker, Sharon Garbutt and Betsy Kempter. These volunteers showcased their dedication and talents as they attended schools to teach with me and assisted with redesigning the curriculum, updating classroom materials, sharing ideas and editing instruction materials.

Also, an epic thanks goes to Maja Kricker, who crunched a massive amount of River Watch and DENR water quality data to create colorful graphs that illustrate the curriculum's concepts. Maja did all that while actively participating on the LC Steering Committee, fulfilling River Watch duties, and visiting elementary schools to teach water quality concepts.

The whole process of working with these volunteers throughout the early planning stages to seeing the volunteers in action in the classroom and during the field days has made the early months of 2011 highly enjoyable for me. It really makes me even more excited about an awesome fall with many LC volunteers.

Upcoming 2011 HRA Events Check www.hawriver.org for details & updates.

Sunday, August 6, 2 - 4 pm, Big Alamance Creek Access to Saxapahaw Lake, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. Greater Alamance Creek, a major tributary of the Haw in Alamance, has a great deal of historical significance, once serving as a trading path for both indigenous people and early settlers, and an important crossing for the Underground Railroad. Today, a trip down the creek offers a remote setting with lots of birds and wildlife, with an even greater variety and abundance of birds and wildlife continuing downriver to Saxapahaw Lake. Fee: \$45 per single kayak, \$60 per tandem canoe or tandem kayak, or \$20 per person for those bringing their own boat. Call (336) 260-6465 or visit www.hawrivercanoe.com to register.

Tuesday Sept. 13, 6 - 9 pm, Burrito Bash Benefit for HRA & Clean Jordan Lake, General Store Cafe in downtown Pittsboro. See details on page 5, and at www.hawriver.org.

Sept. 17-Oct. 7, Haw River Learning Celebration for Schools. See details on page 9, and at www.hawriver.org. To sign up, contact Donna Myers at (919) 542-5790 or donna@hawriver.org.

Sept. 17-18, Dec. 10-11, Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekends. For info: (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org.

Sat. Oct. 1, 9 am - 2 pm, Jordan Lake Clean Up. See www.cleanjordanlake.org for details.

Sat. Oct. 1, 10 am - 3 pm, Jordan Lake Heritage Day, White Oak Recreation Area at Jordan Lake.

Sat. Oct. 8, 5 pm, Owl Prowl, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. Big Alamance Creek upriver of its confluence with the Haw, and the river itself upriver of the Saxapahaw dam, are great places to see birds and wildlife, especially in the early evening. Heavily forested along the shoreline, these waterways provide ideal habitat for barred owls. At night, woods next to waterways become alive with those creatures most active in the dark, when barred owls are easiest to locate. Not always easy to see at night, it is very easy to hear them as they call to each other. Fee: \$25 per person with the canoe or kayak provided, or \$20 per person for those bringing their own boat. Call (336) 260-6465 or visit www.hawrivercanoe.com to register.

Sat. Nov. 5, noon - 4 pm, Haw River Assembly Annual Meeting. Check www.hawriver.org for location & program.

Friday, Nov. 11, 4:30 pm, Full Moon Paddle with Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. Nothing can be more beautiful than a full moon rising above a Piedmont lake. You'll arrive early in the evening to practice paddling, enjoy a beautiful sunset and adjust your eyes to the night sky. As the moonlight gets brighter, we will paddle around the lake to enjoy the night sounds. Eventually, we will "raft-up" and lay back to fully take in our surroundings. Fee: \$25 per person with canoe or kayak provided, or \$20 per person for those bringing their own boat. Call (336) 260-6465 or visit www.hawrivercanoe.com to register.

**Haw River Assembly
Annual Meeting
Saturday Nov. 5, 12 - 4 pm**

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