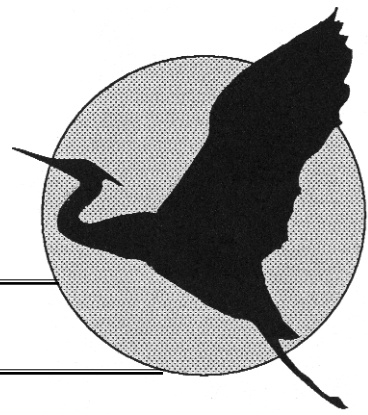


Haw River Assembly

Newsletter December 2005



P.O. Box 187 • Bynum, NC 27228 • 919-542-5790

email: info@hawriver.org • *www:* hawriver.org

NEW GRANT TARGETS

TWO THREATENED CREEKS

Dry Creek and Pokeberry Creek flow into the Haw River in northern Chatham County. From headwaters in the west, near Silk Hope, Dry Creek has historically been one of the cleaner creeks feeding the Haw. A huge new golf course development and additional construction are rapidly changing that (see p. 8). Pokeberry Creek enters the Haw on the eastern side, into the new Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Its headwaters rise in the area that will soon become the big “compact community” development that will include almost 2500 new houses: Briar Chapel. Building these developments will require massive earthmoving and impacts on streams and wetlands. They will use on-site spray application of treated wastewater, first stored in large holding ponds. What will be the impact on these two creeks from such massive new development and run-off pollution? What will be the impact on the Haw River and Jordan Lake if these creeks become more impaired by sediment, nutrients and other pollution as their watersheds undergo rapid conversion of land to housing development and commercial uses?

The Haw River Assembly “Stream Steward” campaign has been awarded a Section 319 grant from NC DENR (\$121,370 over three years) that will give us the resources to find out the answer to that question. 319 grants are part of the EPA’s work mandated by the Clean Water Act to find solutions to non-point source (land runoff) pollution. The “Two Threatened Creeks” project will be carried out by a team effort at HRA, led by project manager Catherine Deininger. This work will not only give us valuable information about these two creeks, but also a better picture of how current water quality protection regulations in Chatham County and North Carolina are working (or not). Both of these creeks have excellent baseline water quality data collected for many years by our River Watch volunteers as well as the state’s own biologists.

This project will put us in critical areas undergoing new threats to water quality. We plan to work with partners to monitor and prevent further degradation of these creeks from new sources of pollution. In addition to conducting our monitoring of sites on these two creeks, we will be conducting visual stream assessments with landowners along both creeks, and documenting macroinvertebrate counts throughout their stream length. This will provide us with the opportunity to educate landowners on stream stewardship practices as well as identify potential sites for restoration, installation of best

management practices, and preservation. We will monitor storm events for Pokeberry Creek and Dry Creek to evaluate the potential runoff from on-site community spray irrigation fields to local creeks. Monitoring will also provide a measure for the effectiveness of the adoption of stream stewardship practices.

Working with citizens and landowners to protect the headwater tributaries of the Haw River is an increasingly important part of our work here at HRA. We are excited that the state of North Carolina is supporting this work with this funding. We hope to get started on the project sometime in 2006, and will keep our members updated on the progress of this Tale of Two Creeks.



Photo by Jerry Markatos

Mud pours into the Haw River from Dry Creek, downstream of Chapel Ridge development in Chatham County.

Seeking Volunteers for New Watchdog Initiatives

The Haw River Assembly is beginning two new watchdog initiatives, to put more concerned eyes on the river and on Jordan Lake. **Bridge Watch** is recruiting folks who frequently cross a bridge over the Haw or Jordan Lake, to “adopt-a-Haw-River-bridge”. We’ll ask you to notice, as you cross the bridge, if the river has excessive sediment, algae growth, and/or bad odors; and to call or email HRA to report the problem. We will contact other bridge-watchers to ask how the river looks where they are, to better track sources of problems and get State environmental agencies involved when necessary. See www.hawriver.org for a list of river and lake bridge crossings.

Do you enjoy boating, fishing, paddling, hiking at Jordan Lake? If you are a frequent user of the lake, please consider joining our **Lake Watch** network that can notify HRA of pollution sightings. With high algae growth in the lake due to nutrient “enrichment”, there is potential for algae blooms and fish kills that we want to know about quickly. We are also interested in observations of where trash is piling up, as well as nature sightings.

To sign up, please email us at info@hawriver.org, with “Bridge Watch” or “Lake Watch” in the subject line, or call us at (919) 542-5790. Thanks!

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Elaine Chiosso, Executive Director
Cynthia Crossen, River Watch Project Coordinator
Catherine Deininger, Stream Steward Project Coord.
JJ Richardson, Learning Celebration Coordinator
Susan Yarnell, Stream Steward Business Project
Kathy Buck, Office Assistant --Just Hired!!

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, JJ Richardson, Bob Brueckner, Joe Jacob, Debbie Tunnell * **Photos:** Ken Crossen, Cynthia Crossen, Elaine Chiosso, David Deininger, Jerry Markatos, Dave Otto, Debbie Tunnell, Doug Wakeman, Sue White * **Logos:** 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: \$15 Family: \$25

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

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

(919) 542-5790 www.hawriver.org

Notes from the Haw



Photo by Doug Wakeman

You know it's a drought when "it's a beautiful day" is a rainy day! The dry autumn and shrinking reservoirs have brought home the sobering prospect of what global climate change may mean to our region. Experts are now saying the Southeast is expected to become warmer and drier. We must make it a high priority at all levels of government to ensure enough water in the future through year-round conservation efforts, water re-use, and better protections to prevent water pollution. We cannot continue any longer along the path of: increasing population growth + reduced rain-fall + inaction.

On a more cheerful note, we welcome to our Board of Directors Anne Cassebaum, professor at Elon University and active supporter and volunteer with HRA. We say a fond farewell, with much thanks, to retiring Board members Lynn Bossong, educator and paddling enthusiast who has moved to Pensacola; Gail Galbraith, biology teacher at Alamance Community College, who has helped us for many years with her expertise in water quality; and Kevin Meehan, former coordinator of our River Watch project, and amazing inventor and farmer!

And finally, with great appreciation for all her efforts, our farewell to Rachel Winters, Board President for the past 4 years. She has kept us focused on new and better fundraising, and has given much energy to our Learning Celebration project. Thank you and best wishes Rachel, from all of us! Happy Holidays to everyone, Elaine Chiosso

The Haw River Assembly's 2005 Annual Membership Meeting met

on a glorious November day at Cedarock Park Center in Alamance County. We planted the second generation of native plants for the wetland restoration "demonstration project" just down the hill from the Center. Jennifer and David Cure of Cure Nursery provided the plants and, along with many others who volunteered their digging and water toting muscles, gave them their new home at Cedarock. A slide show of schoolchildren and volunteers at the 2005 Learning Celebration, taken by Ken Crossen, ran before the meeting. We dined together with a table overflowing with delicious potluck dishes--a great opportunity to reconnect with one another. Our meeting began with Elaine thanking the state legislators from our watershed who have worked in partnership with HRA to protect our streams and waters, and their support of the "Clean Lakes" bill this summer. North Carolina Senator Bob Atwater and Representative Joe Hackney shared some words of encouragement and anticipation of future collaboration with the mission of HRA. Then Catherine Deininger shared HRA's community outreach presentation of good stream stewardship practices. This PowerPoint presentation is available to be given to any groups interested in Stream Stewardship and HRA programs. If we missed you at this year's meeting, we hope to see you next year! --Debbie Tunnell, HRA Vice-President

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Outgoing HRA Board President Rachel Winters (center) helps at the Weaver Street Market Grill Out benefit for HRA, with fellow Board members Lynn Featherstone (left) and Kira Dirlik.



STREAM STEWARD PROJECT

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

Pittsboro Businesses Recognized as Stream Stewards

Stream Stewardship Coordinator Catherine Deininger (far right) and Stream Steward Business Outreach Coordinator Susan Yarnell (second from left) present Stream Stewardship Awards to Eric Shook of J. Henry Paint and Hardware and Brittney Coleman of Second Bloom, at the Pittsboro Street Fair.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

At the Pittsboro Street Fair on October 29th, HRA's Stream Stewardship Coordinator Catherine Deininger presented twenty-six Pittsboro businesses with Stream Stewardship Awards. These businesses are being recognized for their excellent use of stream stewardship practices to protect the water quality of the Robeson Creek watershed.

The stream stewardship awards program is part of HRA's outreach endeavor, funded through North Carolina's 319 program to address non-point source pollution, to commercial and industrial sites in the Robeson Creek watershed. HRA has engaged Pittsboro businesses in discussions about water quality, providing them with educational material on best management practices they can implement, and awarding them for best management practices they are already using.

Robeson Creek, which flows through Pittsboro, has been designated as impaired by the State. As a result, the State has developed a total maximum daily load standard (TMDL) for chlorophyll-*a* for the Robeson Creek watershed. To help Pittsboro meet this new standard, HRA has provided information to the community about ways to address pollution runoff from its homes and businesses.

Congratulations to the following Pittsboro businesses, who have received Stream Stewardship Awards from the Haw River Assembly in 2005: Ameri Print and Copy, Annie B & the Black & White Guy, Carr Amplifiers, Chatham Arts, Chatham Record, Circle City Screen Printing & Embroidery, Edward Jones, Flamingo Restaurant, French Connections, Goodnight Gracie Antiques, Hill Creek Veterinary Hospital, Holt's Interiors, J. Henry Paint & Hardware, Jordan Lake Animal Hospital, New Horizons Trading Company, North American Video, Old Pittsboro Antiques, Orchids By Hanks Chapel Greenhouse, Pitt Stop Café, Pittsboro Christian Village, Radio Shack, RAFL, Second Bloom, Side Street Gallery, Southern Treasures, Sparkle Devine Gallery, Uptown Beauty Shop, Webster Chevrolet Oldsmobile, and William Garlick Family Medicine.

HRA Partners with WERA for "Clean Streams in Mebane"

As a partner in an EPA Environmental Justice grant awarded to West End Revitalization Association (WERA), HRA collaborated with WERA in hosting a "Clean Streams in Mebane" program on September 13, which focused on the pollution of Back Creek and its impact on Mebane residents' health. Cynthia Crossen opened the evening with the song "Wade in the Water". Catherine Deininger gave a presentation on the health of Back Creek, which flows through the Mebane community and is a tributary of the Haw River; and discussed good stream stewardship practices that people can practice in their own homes and backyards to protect local streams. WERA director Omega Wilson discussed the high fecal levels they have found in tributaries of Back Creek. He pointed out that the contamination of Back Creek and MoAdams Creek from wastewater flowing into these streams, due to leaking sewer lines and failed on-site septic systems, affects all residents of Mebane, not just residents of the West End, Buckhorn/Perry Hill, and White Level communities. Upstream stream contamination flows downstream.

Around 30 members of the Mebane community attended. Some of the participants were Mebane officials who engaged Mr. Wilson at length in discussions about the contamination he had found on Back Creek and MoAdams Creek. Mr. Wilson told HRA staff, "This is the first time in nearly ten years that these government officials, as a group, seemed to listen to what WERA has been trying to share with them about how the environmental hazards facing West End, White Level, and Buckhorn/Perry Hill also threaten Mebane at large and beyond."

Thank you's to... David Cure, Jennifer Cure, Matthew & Rachel Deininger, Nancy Hillmer, Tom Patterson, and Rak Kreager, for helping with the Cedarrock Wetlands planting.



Photo by David Deininger

HRA volunteers add more native plants and trees to the Cedarrock Park Wetlands area we began in November 2004, while David Cure helps put up the area's new sign.



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

It's been a whirlwind of creekside fun this fall--and what a joy it is to share the river with young and old river-lovers. Three weeks of the Haw River Learning Celebration jump-started my fall, which also included teaching a Stream Monitoring class at Central Carolina Community College, participating in the Bolin Creek Festival, helping Catherine with the Clean Streams in Mebane presentation with the West End Revitalization Association, and critter hunting with homeschoolers down at the Haw.

A highlight of the fall--going back to school! Haw River Watch Steering Committee Chair Deborah Amaral, Stream Stewardship Coordinator Catherine Deininger, and I got to take Dave Penrose's class on identification of ephemeroptera (mayflies), plecoptera (stoneflies), and trichoptera (caddisflies) to the family level (River Watcher's ID these to the order level only). We collected bugs in the Mitchell River and in Stewart Creek in Surry County; then we brought them back to the Surry County Community College lab, where we viewed them up close and personal with dissecting microscopes--an amazing experience! We learned how, within the order of caddisflies, some are more pollution tolerant than others, such as the net-spinning caddisflies (hydropsychidae) we see most commonly in the Haw. Dave Penrose, formerly in the field with the Division of Water Quality and an expert on aquatic entomology, has agreed to do a workshop in our area this spring that is specifically tailored for Haw River Watchers. I'm excited that others will get a chance to experience this learning opportunity.

In September we began using our revised Haw River Watch survey, which will give us more information about stream health. River Watchers will do more visual stream assessment, and track algal growth in more detail.

We have a big watershed to take care of, and we need to be more vigilant than ever as our area is rapidly being developed. To that end, we are recruiting volunteers for our Bridge Watch and Lake Watch initiatives (see p. 1); and of course we always welcome new River Watch teams. I will continue to work with Catherine on our Stream Steward Outreach project, making presentations in communities with impaired streams. I will also be very involved with the Two Threatened Streams project (see p. 1) starting next year. See you on the river!



Photo by Sue White

Dave Penrose (right) teaches HRA'ers Deborah Amaral, Catherine Deininger, and me the fine points of differentiating the families of mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies we are collecting for his "bug class".



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Homeschoolers hunt for macroinvertebrates in the Haw at Bynum mill.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Father-daughter team John and Jamie Wagner hone their critter ID'ing skills (on the Haw at Bynum Beach) in the September Stream Monitoring Class at CCCC. They are monitoring sites at Dry Creek and Terrells Creek.



Photo by Ken Crossen

We listen with "deer ears" to the sounds of the river, at the Learning Celebration.



Photo by Dave Otto

Kids discover tiny life forms in Bolin Creek at the Bolin Creek Festival.

Get Out Into Nature With The Haw River Assembly

Our 2006 Field Trip Program by Joe Jacob

You don't have to be a fourth-grader in our annual Learning Celebration to get out into nature and enjoy the Haw River and Jordan Lake and all they have to offer. Our 2006 field trip program offers wonderful opportunities to join organized learning activities for adults, children and whole families.

We begin the year in January with a hike along the Haw Slopes State Natural Area, followed by a wildflower identification hike in April and a hike along the uplands along the lower portion of Jordan Lake in October. Interested in learning about wetland plants and helping to restore an area needing reclamation? We have the activity for you in February.

Our first paddle is in March in the upper reaches of the Haw River. Two more paddles round out our year, one in July in a lower stretch of the river in Alamance County, followed by a harvest moon paddle in the same section in November.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

If you've read about our stream monitoring program and are interested in what it is all about, join us for Stream Monitoring 101 in June in Saxapahaw and/or in September in Bynum. You will see creatures you had no idea existed.

Most people don't realize that the greatest concentration of bald eagles in the eastern United States can be found in our backyard--Jordan Lake--in April, May and June. Last year, we spent a wonderful afternoon hiking out to witness not only bald eagles, but other birds and wildlife as well. This year, our eagle watch will happen in May.

Something new this year will be an opportunity to learn something about art from some very special people. Painting and photographing natural scenes will be the theme of an all day trip to visit local artists.

Like this year, we wrap up our 2006 program with a mill tour in December, featuring the history and culture that was prevalent in the mid-1800s.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Give a Gift to Help the Haw River

Haw River Assembly Membership Renewal/Donation

Renew my Membership Dues: (Please check the date on your mailing label to see if your dues are up to date. Memberships are good for one full year from the date received.) \$15 Individual _____ \$25 Family _____
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Enclosed is a special donation of \$ _____ for HRA's year-round work for the river.

Please mail to: Haw River Assembly, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Fall 2005 Haw River

learning celebration musings

by jj richardson, learning celebration coordinator

My favorite Learning Celebration moments tend to be the most relaxed and informal ones. Moments that pass slowly and sweetly, like singing with Alicia and Cynthia late at night on week one; or lounging in the shade of the trees after lunch on a hot week two afternoon with Martha, Wanda, and Elia; or wishing on a leaf and setting it into the gurgle of the river during week three's impromptu and tender closing ceremony.

Photo by Ken Crossen



Or maybe my favorite moments are those (rare!) quiet and solitary ones. Walking through the woods in the breaking light of early morning, softly singing "The River is Flowing" to tent after tent; a precious late afternoon nap; moments spent gazing at the river in silence; stargazing for a few moments before bed.

Or, come to think of it, maybe my favorite moments are pure fun and silliness! Swimming and playing on the rope swing near Bynum; games in the road at Saxapahaw; the talent show in Guilrock....not to mention the puppet show (even after 25 times "The Crawdad's Conundrum" amuses me to no end); dancing, and "All Haw's Critters"!

Then there are all those crazy moments that just make me incredulous that this is actually my job.

Doing the gameshow with Cynthia during a fantastic, torrential downpour under a leaky kitchen tent tarp; not one, not two, but three copperhead appearances (thank goodness Dave O. and Marcus are excellent trackers); burying privy buckets with Jeff (just don't breathe and you'll be fine); endless hocus pocus to remedy countless glitches.



Photo by Ken Crossen

Jo Sanders collects critters for the stream habitat on a misty river morning.

I guess I love every moment. Even in the moments of stress and frustration, behind it all is great love and appreciation for these people and this project. My involvement with the Learning Celebration has changed my life – I had a strong intuition that it would when I applied for the job of Coordinator. And I know many other people whose lives it has changed.

Photo by Ken Crossen



A quiet moment by the upper Haw River at Camp Guilrock, before the crew heads home.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

The Spirit of the Forest "high-fives" fourth-graders as they leave the Learning Celebration in Bynum.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

In Saxapahaw, Kevin Webb helps kids identify macroinvertebrates that indicate stream health.

Photo by Ken Crossen



Students learn about animal adaptations at the Nature Station.

Learning Celebration

Comments from the 4th-graders :

"We went over to a mini-river and looked at some critters. There were all sorts of critters. There were types of snails and small critters that swim. There was one big one that was going to turn into a bug that has the wings and the look of the dragonfly but it shuts its wings when it lands." -- Nate

"I enjoyed clay so much because it was a great chance to express yourself and make whatever you please. I also enjoyed the tree game we played in the plants station." -- Vanessa

"My favorite part on the whole entire trip was the puppet show because the lesson was a very good lesson and the man was so funny and at the end {my teacher} got up and was dancing like she was crazy." -- Ashley

"I learned that people like Haw River a lot and they want to save it for children in the future." -- Tyler

And from their teachers :

"The program was well-organized and engaging for the students, with a wonderful balance of information, exploration, classification, observation, reflection, artistry and ethics."

"Wonderful!"

"Believe it or not we have students that never spend time in the woods. These children really come alive on our trip."

"{My favorite part was} the spirit of volunteerism, cooperation, concern, and welcoming community. The educational presentations have become more relevant over the years as volunteers have become more expert. The fact that it and the Festival exist is heartening."



Photo by Ken Crossen

Stacey Emerick helps kids create nature art with "paint rocks" gathered from the river.

It takes a village...thanks to all the people who made the Learning Celebration possible!

thank you to:

- ❖ each and every weekly crew member
- ❖ each and every day volunteer ❖ all meal providers
- ❖ everyone who helped with moves
- ❖ the learning celebration steering committee: chris shepard and martha pentecost, co-chairs; lauren rosenthal, elia bizarri
- ❖ marcus wind ❖ rachel winters ❖ alicia best
- ❖ cynthia crossen ❖ elaine chiosso ❖ jeff dotson
- ❖ bob brueckner ❖ mac jordan ❖ ben jordan
- ❖ donovan zimmerman ❖ jan burger ❖ sarah howe
- ❖ mary moss ❖ nancy fleckenstein
- ❖ chris carter and the solar village institute
- ❖ fred watkins and the jordan lake state park office

this project was partially funded by:

- ❖ Project Aware ❖ Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
- ❖ Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

please support these generous businesses and companies:

- * Counter Culture Coffee Co., Durham * Whole Foods Market, Chapel Hill * Townsend Bertram & Company Adventure Outfitters, Carrboro * The Durham Food Co-op, Durham * General Store Cafe, Pittsboro * Wellspring Bakehouse, Morrisville * REI, Cary, Durham, and National * Chi Phi brotherhood, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill * The Skylight Exchange, Chapel Hill

Photo by Ken Crossen



Jumping for joy at the Haw River Learning Celebration concert!



LAND CONSERVATION

Carolina Mill Will Be Preserved

The Haw River Assembly helped secure a \$44,000 grant to preserve about 20 acres of land along the river in Alamance County. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) approved a grant in November that will allow our partner Burlington to purchase the Carolina Mill property and use it as a riparian buffer. Carolina Mill was identified as a candidate for preservation in a study completed by the Land Committee in 2004.

Lower Haw River Riparian Corridor Study Funded

Earlier this year, CWMTF approved a \$97,000 grant to HRA for the Lower Haw River Riparian Corridor Study. Land Committee member Dr. Janet McFall, Elon University, will oversee the project that is expected to begin in early 2006. Janet will hire a project coordinator to begin identifying land along the Haw River from Interstate 85 to Bynum that should receive protection. In addition, the coordinator can begin implementing our protection plan on any suitable tracts where we have willing landowners.

Glencoe Mill Village To Have Park and Walking Trails

Alamance County Parks and Recreation received a \$158,000 grant from CWMTF for land acquisition at the Glencoe Mill Village. Plans call for a park and walking trails that may one day reach the nearby Carolina Mill site.



Members of HRA's Land Conservation Committee and Triangle Land Conservancy celebrate their working partnership to preserve riparian lands along the Haw River. Pictured from left to right are: Deborah Amaral, Bob Brueckner, Jeff Masten (TLC), Elaine Chiosso, Mike Holland, Mac Jordan and Tandy Jones (TLC). Joining by cell phone (Deborah's) was Janet McFall. Photo taken by HRA committee member Debbie Tunnell.

Development Watch...Eyes on Chatham

Chapel Ridge Mud The muddy Dry Creek conditions we reported in our August newsletter escalated to a full scale major erosion incident later in the summer. Developers of the Chapel Ridge golf course were hit with a Sediment Erosion Control Notice of Violation by the state, and Division of Water Quality deemed the situation serious enough to require a plan for on site removal of mud. Places in the stream had up to 12 inches of mud on the bottom, and our latest River Watch sampling showed very little macroinvertebrate life surviving downstream from the source of the sedimentation.

Paving Paradise HRA spoke out at a public hearing held on November 21st in Chatham County on a proposal to allow increased "built-upon" areas in the Haw River/Jordan Lake watersheds through adoption of the "10/70" rule. This is a special provision that the state allows, where up to 10% of land in a specified area can be developed with up to 70% impervious surface (roads, roofs, parking lots etc.) . We believe this is a very bad idea in a watershed that feeds a public drinking water supply, Jordan Lake, that is already listed as impaired. Polluted runoff is a major cause of this impairment, and we should be looking at ways to increase, not decrease protection of this important resource.

Booth Mountain Runoff? We also spoke at the public hearing held by the Division of Water Quality on the proposed spray irrigation waste water system to be used for the Booth Mountain development--the same old story of too

steep slopes and inadequate land area and buffers to give us confidence that surface waters will be protected.

Briar Chapel Public Hearing Given the enormous size of this proposed "compact community" in north Chatham (nearly 2500 houses, plus commercial), local groups felt it was very important that the impacts on streams and wetlands on the development site be given greater public review. At the request of HRA, Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities, and Fearington Homeowner's Association, the Division of Water Quality will hold a public hearing Tuesday December 13, 7 pm, Chatham District Courtroom, Pittsboro, on the state 401 "water quality" application by Newland for their Briar Chapel development.

BREAKING NEWS: STORMWATER RULES GO FORWARD For those of you who have kept up with the convolutions over passage of the Phase II Stormwater Rules, the brief summary is that the Rules Review Commission (after being sued by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC)) has allowed the original EMC approved version of the stormwater rules to proceed. (At this time we are not sure if the rules will need to go back to the legislature in 2006 for final approval.) This original version of the rules gives stronger and more comprehensive coverage across the state for controlling polluted runoff than the temporary rules adopted by the legislature, and will again include *all* "urbanizing counties", including Chatham.

Haw River Learning Celebration Goes to South Korea!

by JJ Richardson, Haw River Learning Celebration Coordinator

This August I had the amazing opportunity to travel to South Korea to give a presentation on the Learning Celebration at the Fifth Annual Korea River Day. This conference, sponsored by the South Korean government (imagine that!) and a non-profit organization called the Citizens' Movement for Environmental Justice, had "River Festivals" as its theme. There were representatives from Japan and Australia, and I represented the United States, and the Haw River Assembly. I asked the conference coordinator how in the world she came to invite the Haw River Assembly, of all groups, and she told me that she liked what she saw on our website. Kudos to Cynthia Crossen for maintaining a world-class website! At the conference, which took place at Gongju National University, I gave a PowerPoint presentation and lecture entitled "Nature is the Classroom: The Haw River Learning Celebration". While I was talking, translators were simultaneously relaying my words into both Japanese and Korean. Everyone (myself included) had earbuds that they could set to the language of their preference. I included lots of photographs in the presentation because they tell the story of the Learning Celebration much better than any words can. (Kudos to Ken Crossen for creating such a valuable photographic record of the Learning Celebration!)



JJ Richardson participates in a forum on river festivals with other Korea River Day conference presenters.

After my presentation, and in the two days that followed (I stayed for the remainder of the conference), many people approached me to tell me how impressed they were with HRA, and the Learning Celebration. Through my wonderful translator Bora, they expressed how inspired they were to learn of our small organization and everything we are doing to connect children and volunteers with the Haw. They told me that they admired the work we are doing because, instead of sitting around talking about change, we are out in the world creating change! This is rare, they told me.

As I accepted these compliments, bowing my head to indicate respect, I was filled with an enormous sense of pride to be part of the Haw River Assembly and the Learning Celebration. Viewing this organization, and this incredible project, through their eyes made me realize even more how precious and incredible what we are doing is! Hopefully some of the folks who saw my presentation will be able to initiate similar projects in their own communities. And who knows? Maybe one day I will have the opportunity to return to Korea to see some of their river projects inspired by the Learning Celebration. It would be a beautiful thing.

Jordan Lake Needs Protection Now

The Haw River Assembly continues to urge the State of North Carolina to move forward with new rules to reduce nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake. Since our last newsletter, the rules have been sent to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) for approval for public hearings next spring. However, new revisions of these rules by the Division of Water Quality have delayed action by the EMC until at least January. New regulations must always be written carefully, but we are concerned that water quality in Jordan Lake is continuing to deteriorate.

The rule making process as now planned will include a public hearing process in the spring of 2006 and final rules approval by the General Assembly in 2007. With no additional delays in the process we are still looking at almost 18 more months of pollution in Jordan Lake without new reductions in nutrient loading. By the time the rules are in place there will be many new houses and commercial developments built in this watershed that will have increased the nutrient load far beyond the monitoring used in the lake model.

Some of the municipalities and counties within the Jordan Lake watershed are demanding that the state to do more studies to collect new data before rules are adopted or implemented. The original 1997 plan to reduce nitrogen in Jordan Lake was delayed so that further studies could be done. The entire Lake is now considered

"impaired" by excessive algae growth from nutrient pollution. Jordan Lake is in serious trouble. Failure to control nutrient pollution in the watershed could result in fish kills, closed swimming beaches, and public health concerns about the drinking water. With development pressure so high, the time to act is now.

Delays will only make the task of restoration of water quality standards harder and more expensive. As we enter an increasingly severe drought in the Piedmont, we are all more aware of how important clean water is for all of us. The new regulations in their current form include protection of riparian buffers and better management of polluted runoff to all the streams in our Haw River/Jordan Lake watershed. Rules to improve water quality in Jordan Lake will also improve water quality in every stream where all of us live--from Guilford and Rockingham counties down the Haw to Alamance and Chatham, and the creeks that flow through Orange, Wake, Chatham and Durham counties into Jordan Lake. We will alert all our members and supporters to come out to the public hearings this spring to support stronger protections for Jordan Lake.

Upcoming HRA Events

Sat. March 11 Clean-up-a-thon, throughout the Haw River Watershed, our annual river cleanup project (see below for details)

March 18-19 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend

Fri., March 24 - Sat., March 25 N.C. Conservation Network's 5th Annual Retreat, *Brown Summit* Join members of NC's environmental community in becoming more effective advocates through networking, workshops, skills building, updates on issues, and fun. Go to www.ncconservationnetwork.org for details.

Sat. May 13 Haw River Festival in Bynum

Wed. May 24, 9 am-3 pm Clean Water Lobby Day, Legislative Bldg in Raleigh

Join the Haw River Clean-Up March 11, 2006

On Saturday, March 11, join with enthusiastic volunteers for the Haw River Assembly's 16th Annual Clean-Up-A-Thon. We will be out cleaning up trash from the river banks, creeks, and Jordan Lake on foot, and even canoe! Small businesses and individuals are asked to sponsor the work of the volunteers by making a donation to HRA--so we are also raising funds for our projects to keep the river clean all year long. * Want to join a team or start your own team? We provide the bags, gloves, and tally sheets--you provide the people power! Call (919) 542-5790, or email info@hawriver.org to sign up. Let us know if you have a specific location you want to clean-up.

New 2006 Haw River Festival T-shirt! Clyde Jones deer on bright purple or deep brown shirt



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

\$ 16 (youth small & medium)

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

**Clean-up-a-thon
Sat. March 11!**

Address Service Requested

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