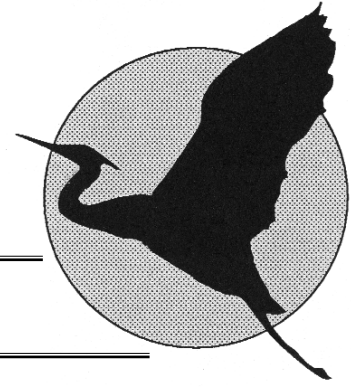


Haw River Assembly Newsletter December 2007



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

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

Celebrating and Protecting the Haw River State Park at our Annual Meeting

We had a great turnout and lovely fall day for our 2007 Haw River Assembly Annual Membership Meeting on November 4, at the Haw River State Park. We celebrated our 25th anniversary by celebrating the creation of the still growing, but beautiful, Haw River State Park in the headwaters of our river near Brown Summit. Many nearby residents of the park and from Greensboro joined us for the meeting--and also joined as new members of HRA. Welcome! It was a great opportunity for us to meet each other, take a tour of the park led by Park Superintendent Sue McBean, canoe the lake, hear from Secretary Bill Ross of N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and learn about efforts to protect the park from a golf course development proposed for adjacent lands.



Haw River Park Superintendent Sue McBean points out features of the park.

The Summit Camp and Conference Center has become the state's Environmental Education Center, and features a beautiful lodge with conference rooms, dining hall and auditorium, situated on about 300 acres of upper Piedmont forest. After lunch many of us went on a nature walk led by Park Superintendent Sue McBean. The trail includes a boardwalk over the wetlands of the Haw River, through mature bottomland forest with many interesting plants. Other folks enjoyed a canoe ride on the lake surrounded by the colors of the autumn trees. *continued on p. 11*



Secretary Bill Ross of N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources praises HRA's efforts, and leadership by Executive Director Elaine Chiosso.

HRA Receives Independent Weekly's Citizen Award!

The Independent Weekly has awarded one of its 2007 Citizen Awards to the Haw River Assembly. In their letter to us, they write: "The Haw River Assembly has been chosen as one of the Independent Weekly's recipients of the 2007 Citizen Awards. This is a great honor that goes to individuals and groups in the area that have been positive influences on the Triangle. You've made the area a better place to live, and this is our way of thanking you for that."

You can read the article at:

<http://www.indyweek.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A164375>.

What a nice 25th anniversary present this is!

Congratulations to all of us, who have made HRA what it is. Thanks to the Indy for the recognition, to Carrie Wellman for interviewing us and writing the article, and to Jeremy Lange for the photo.



Haw River Assembly assembles in the Haw: (left to right, bottom) Rachel Deininger, Matthew Deininger, Brenda Featherstone, Maja Kricker, Debbie Tunnell, Catherine Deininger, Lynn Featherstone; (left to right, top) Doug Wakeman, Elaine Chiosso, Katie Kenlan, Kathy Buck, Aakara Wiegand, Ken Tunnell, Cynthia Crossen, Betsy Kraus

HRA Board of Directors

Debbie Tunnell, President, *Pittsboro*
Ruth Lucier, Vice-President, *Bynum, Bennett College, Greensboro*
Tom Patterson, Secretary, *Chapel Hill*
Deborah Amaral, River Watch/Stream Steward Chair, *Mebane*
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Efrain Ramirez, *Pittsboro*
Margaret Tiano, *Chapel Hill*
Ken Tunnell, *Pittsboro*
Cecilia Vassar, *Burlington*

HRA Staff

Elaine Chiosso, *Executive Director*
Cynthia Crossen, *River Watch Project Coordinator*
Catherine Deininger, *Stream Steward Project Coord.*
Kathy Buck, *Office Manager*

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Aakara Wiegand *
Photos: Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Ken Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Jeremy Lange, Martha Pentecost, Doug Wakeman, Karen Wilson * **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: \$20 Family: \$30

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



Photo by Doug Wakeman

This has been a year of celebration for the Haw River Assembly, as we look back on our accomplishments and envision what we can become. So many people have brought us to the place we are today, but I want to especially note the special contributions of one of our most valuable people - Cynthia Crossen. She has been part of HRA for so long, and has helped shape many of our programs such as the Learning Celebration, Stream Steward, and River Watch, which she so enthusiastically coordinates. She has been a terrific teammate in the work we do for HRA and her beautiful songs have lifted our hearts in celebration of the river.

She is also our newsletter and website editor, and her value on quality and accuracy shine through. We have been very lucky to have her talents, as well as the talents of the rest of our wonderful staff - Catherine Deininger, Kathy Buck, and this year's Learning Celebration Coordinator, Aakara Wiegand. It is a great pleasure to work with them all.

Thanks and Welcome - The HRA Board of Directors

We give great thanks to Jeff Dotson, who has given so many years of leadership and vision on our Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Jeff has been a key volunteer on many projects as well, and we are happy to know he plans to stay involved, even though he is stepping off the Board. Thanks, Jeff!

Thanks to all our Board members who are continuing on with the very important work of providing leadership and responsibility for HRA. We welcome two new Board members: Efrain Ramirez from Pittsboro, a community leader and volunteer who has served on our Advisory Board; and Cecelia Vassar, a terrific HRA volunteer from Burlington.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

From the river, Elaine



Photo by Elaine Chiosso (Katie's Mom)

Good friends Angela McIntyre and Katie Kenlan relax in the Haw River in Bynum after a day on the Learning Celebration.



STREAM STEWARD PROJECT NEWS

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

Town of Pittsboro and Others Receive Stream Stewardship Awards

The Robeson Creek Watershed Council (RCWC) recognized the Town of Pittsboro, Pittsboro Public Works, and St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church for their work toward protecting creeks in the Robeson Creek watershed. At the Pittsboro Street Fair, Karen Hall and I presented each recipient with a Stream Stewardship Award. Since 2005, the RCWC has been acknowledging businesses and landowners for their efforts to restore Robeson Creek.

The Town of Pittsboro has been an active partner with the RCWC in numerous grants to improve water quality in Robeson Creek. This year, the Town of Pittsboro worked with the NCSU Water Quality Group (WQG) to install a rain garden below the renovated basketball and tennis courts.

Pittsboro Public Works has assisted the RCWC in installing a number of stormwater best management practices in the Little Creek watershed (part of the Robeson Creek watershed). They were very helpful in the stream restoration on Tannery Branch, and in the installation of rain gardens in the Saint Bartholomew’s cemetery and below the basketball and tennis courts. Saint Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church worked with NCSU WQG this October to install a rain garden in their cemetery to capture the stormwater runoff from Hanks Street.



Photo by Catherine Deininger

William Terry, Pittsboro Town Manager; John Poteat, Pittsboro Utility Director; and Rev. Carl Edwards, Saint Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church Rector; show their Stream Stewardship Awards.

Environmental Protection Agency Visits the Robeson Creek Watershed



Photo by Karen Wilson

EPA’s Suganthi Simon and Tony Able canoe the Haw River downstream of Robeson Creek.

The Robeson Creek Watershed Council (RCWC) met on a warm September morning with Region IV Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff to review the Robeson Creek Restoration project, and to discuss how EPA can continue to support RCWC efforts. EPA staff were Tony Able, N.C.’s Watershed Coordinator; Suganthi Simon, TMDL Coordinator; and Karen Wilson, 319 Coordinator. Robeson Creek watershed is one of seven EPA and NC Department of Water Quality (DWQ) priority watersheds in the state, selected as targets for improving water quality. EPA and DWQ are working closely with the RCWC to facilitate implementation of water protection measures.

That afternoon, the EPA staff and I went canoeing in the Robeson Creek cove where Robeson Creek joins the Haw River just before spilling into Jordan Lake. The water level was low in Robeson Creek due to the drought, but we were still able to canoe down to the Haw and look downstream to where the Haw opens up into Jordan Lake. The EPA staff also took a look at Town Lake in Pittsboro and a number of construction sites throughout the watershed.

Two Streams Project Continues Despite Drought Our Quality Assurance Project Plans for monitoring stormwater and macroinvertebrates for the Two Streams project were approved by the DWQ Nonpoint Source Management program! This was our first time HRA has gone through the process of getting any of our monitoring protocols approved by the state, and it was a good learning experience for us. ~ Kathy Buck and I continue to conduct stream assessments and document not only the impacts to Dry Creek and Pokeberry Creek from past and current land use, but also where water is still flowing in our project area. We’ve been amazed at how much water is still flowing in lower reaches of Pokeberry; Dry Creek on the other hand has been reduced to at most a series of pools. Betsy Kraus, Jeannie Ambrose, and I sampled a couple of sites on Pokeberry Creek and Dry Creek during September for macroinvertebrates, happy to find that there was still life in the creeks despite the low water conditions. During November, with Cynthia Crossen and John Wagner we sampled all nine sites, in pools if creeks were dry. We will hold a **Pokeberry Creek Watershed Meeting** to discuss water quality issues and walk to Pokeberry Creek, at the **Jaycee Rooster Hut** on Dollar Road, Saturday **January 26th, 2 to 4:30 pm**. For more information, contact Catherine Deininger at deininger@hawriver.org.



Photo by Catherine Deininger

Kathy Buck examines an impressive algae bloom on Pokeberry Creek, caused by lots of sun and concentrated nutrients.



The River Watcher Haw River Watch Project News

By 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

River Watch News--Drought! Many riverwatchers contacted me about their dry--nonexistent--creeks during this time of severe drought, wondering if, and how, they could monitor. Folks on the River Watch committee strongly felt that river watchers should record the state of their creeks, even in these most extreme conditions. We advised river watchers to go out to their creek and record how it looks; if it's dry, describe the length of the dry stretch; and see if they can find anything under rocks where they normally monitor (even if dry) and in any nearby pools. We hope for lots of rain soon, to rejuvenate our waterways. If there is any advantage to this drought, it is how it makes us appreciate our usually plentiful fresh water, remember how much we need it, and strive to better conserve this precious resource.

Learning Celebration: This fall I was again able to be on the Learning Celebration for the entire three weeks, and as ever, I am amazed at this incredible project we have done 18 times now--a truly phenomenal outpouring of love and effort from staff and volunteers coming together to make it happen for 1500 kids each year. Because of the river's low levels, we were able to let kids catch critters at the Stream Watch station in Bynum and Guilrock. This quickly becomes one of their favorite activities--"Look what I caught!"--mayflies, caddisflies, dragonflies, damselflies, snails, clams, crayfish, leeches, minnows, and more. Each year I am refreshed and rejuvenated by the enthusiasm of the kids and the passion of the wonderful volunteers who share our love for the river.

Press! Susan Dickson wrote a very nice article on the Learning Celebration for the Carrboro Citizen, October 11, 2007. You can read it online at: <http://www.carrborocitizen.com/main/2007/10/11/learning-the-ways-of-the-haw/>.



Photo by Martha Pentecost

Jane Allen Wilson (right) brings her Learning Celebration group to Stream Watch, taught by Cynthia Crossen (left), to discover what critters they can find in the Haw River at Bynum.



Photo by Martha Pentecost

Learning Celebration fourth-graders find lots of snails, lots of clams, and lots of algae in the Haw River in Saxapahaw.

Working with Haw River State Park: At the Summit Environmental Education Center, Haw River State Park Ranger Torry Nergart and eight UNC-G students learned the citizen monitoring methods we use for the Haw River Watch Project. Torry wants to begin getting baseline water quality information on the pristine upper Haw in the State Park. The students belonged to the UNC-G Biology Club and UNC Green (the campus environmental organization). Welcome, Torry, to our River Watch network!

We walked the boardwalk through the wetlands forest to the upriver Haw, where we found lovely little mayflies with flowing, feathery gills. Other pollution sensitive organisms we found were gilled snails and riffle beetles. Dragonfly and damselfly nymphs, an alderfly, several crayfish, and a leech gave us enough diversity to rank the creek as having good (nearly excellent) water quality.

River Watch Events: At our September river watch "field trip" in Bynum, I trained a volunteer who will work with teen Girl Scouts monitoring Bolin Creek. In the works is an event for river watchers and the public, this February or March, at which we will collect critters and identify them with a microscope to family level.

Two Threatened Streams Project: Catherine, Betsy, and I met with Dave Penrose to work on our verified photo macroinvertebrate reference collection for the Two Streams project. We have also been working with Seth Reice, who has a student who will be monitoring Pokeberry Creek for her honors thesis, and sharing data with our team. This November we have been sampling on Pokeberry and Dry Creeks. There's water in Pokeberry, but only pools in Dry Creek.

Advocacy: It is heartening to meet so many folks do care about protecting our watershed. In my comments to the Environmental Management Commission in support of the proposed Jordan Lake rules, I shared my first-hand experience of citizens who want to do what they can to promote good water quality in our river and creeks. At the Chatham County public hearing in August, I got a chance to speak in support of the proposed Environmental Review Boards riparian buffer requirements in the Watershed Protection Ordinance. It is empowering to let our legislators know we care about clean water. I urge everyone to try it! ~Cynthia

Help us Build 🌸 Help Us Grow 🌸 Help us Protect These Waters You Love!

Haw River Assembly Launches \$100,000 Capital Campaign

The Haw River Assembly has launched a Capital Campaign to grow our organization to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. Since our founding in 1982 the population in our watershed has tripled – we are now about 1 million people! The Haw River Assembly has grown as well: new projects, new staff, volunteers and members. But we are being outstripped by the pressures of new developments that bring loss of forests, creeks full of mud, and more and more pollution. Our five year battle to get rules passed to protect Jordan Lake is only one of the many, many issues we have pushed for. In these past few years we have been constantly on the front lines of efforts to stop sediment pollution and bad developments, and working to find better ways to protect the environment as this region grows.



Photo by Martha Pentecost

Through it all we have successfully sustained our educational programs, including the incredible Haw River Learning Celebration for fourth-graders. Now in its 18th year, it has served over 32,000 happy children. The annual river clean-up just keeps getting bigger, and our “Two Threatened Streams” project stretches our frontiers as we use scientists and volunteers to investigate and find new solutions to pollution problems. Partnerships for land conservation and trails have brought local governments, land trusts, and recreational users together—creating success stories beyond our dreams.

With your support we accomplish this work with an annual budget (in 2007) of about \$125,000, with an (almost) full-time executive director, four part-time staff, hundreds of volunteers, and never enough time! Our hard-working Board of Directors, assisted by Rachel Winters, our Fundraising co-chair (and former board President), has developed a vision and plan to ‘ratchet’ ourselves up to a more effective level that will keep these wonderful programs going into the future, with a strong and sustainable organization.

Elements of the HRA \$100,000 Capital Campaign

Help Build a Better HRA Office

As you know we bought our old mill house office in Bynum last year, and are moving ahead with a rebuilding plan that will result in an energy-efficient, cleaner, and “greener” office, including better insulation, tighter windows and doors, and radiant floor heat. We have been offered donations of volunteer labor and materials that will help us do the work on an affordable budget.

Grow the Learning Celebration – Year-Round!

It’s time to expand our Learning Celebration program into a year-round effort to educate the public and the schools – and to make the Coordinator’s position a permanent one. Our members have wanted this for a long time – let’s make it happen!

Support our Staff with a “Living Wage”

HRA has been so fortunate to have amazing, talented and effective people carrying out the mission and programs of HRA. This campaign will provide two years of funding to increase compensation closer to the non-profit average. We need to take care of these valuable people – and to put the financial resources in place to hire equally gifted people in the future.

Help Us Keep Growing:

New Focus on Fundraising, Membership, and Media

Funds from the Capital Campaign will also be used to contract with a development consultant for two years. This will help us focus our efforts more effectively on increasing our membership and fundraising efforts, and publicizing the great work HRA does – steps that are so necessary for our future effectiveness and sustainability.

The Haw River Assembly has some generous major donors who have already pledged contributions to start this campaign. We look to you for help between now and the end of 2008 to reach our goal. Your contribution today enables us to put this plan into action right away. Your gift is tax-deductible, and if given before December 31, will apply to the 2007 tax period.

HRA does so much with so little – just imagine what we could do with more!



This baby heron at Jordan Lake is counting on us too!

Photo by Elaine Chiosso.

2007 Haw River Learning Celebration



We have officially completed an outstanding 18th annual Haw River Learning Celebration (LC). We saw 476 students in Bynum, 614 students in Saxapahaw, and 443 students in Reidsville. Twenty-five schools participated and had very positive comments on the school programming we lead. We were so fortunate to have many seasoned volunteers return and crew with us, as well as an increase in new volunteers who brought extraordinary skills and tremendous support.

When I took this job, the program had 17 years of experience. I was committed to bringing out the excellence within the LC program and community. With tremendous support

Happy fourth-graders get "in the river" (puppet) with volunteer Ken Moore, in Saxapahaw.

from the Steering Committee, we were able to tighten up the ropes already so well established, and make a successful dynamic program that is loved and cherished by so many. Without the honest level of commitment from Jason Gabriel, Ass't Coordinator, the program would not have been such a success. See the next page for our many many Thank You's!

Our three week period along the river was absolutely amazing and I am forever grateful to all who participated this year. Without you all and your level of commitment to HRA & the LC, we could not continue to succeed in providing excellent education to fourth grade children all along the Haw River.

~Aakara Wiegand

❖ The LC was supported this year by grants from the Lang Family Foundation and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. We are also very honored to have been chosen by Weaver Street Market for a \$300 award from the Cooperative Community Fund. ❖

At the Animal Station, volunteer Gumby Montgomery teaches students how to find signs of animals in the woods.
Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



The LC crew eats well! Thank you, meal providers!

Comments from 4th-graders :

"I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the baby turtle hatching...that was the most fun I've ever had on a field trip. I learned a lot about the Haw." -- student, E.M Holt Elem. in Burlington

"I learned that when you litter it will go into lakes." -- Ford

"I learned that an owl sounds like 'Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you?'" -- Georgia

"Thank you for the awesome festival. I know that you guys put hard work into the costumes for the show and I appreciate that." --Marisa

"The stations were fun, like when I made a snow man out of clay. Now he sits on my desk at home. I also liked looking at the animal skulls and the bugs in the river." --Liam

"Thank you for the excellent day at the Haw River. I learned: (1) Some macroinvertebrates can survive any level of pollution. (2) Everywhere you go you're in a watershed. (3) Every river empties into the ocean." --Dominick

"I thought the little snails we found in the river were cool. I really liked walking on the rocks in the river." --Abby

"My class was overjoyed with coming to see the actual Haw River itself! My group loved the woods. I can't believe how beautiful it is." --Mei

"I learned that clay has iron, and iron is what makes clay and our blood red. I really enjoyed everything." --Thea

Photo by Martha Pentecost

Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Inspires Kids to Love & Protect Our River



One weekful of our great big beautiful bunch of volunteers, in Saxapahaw.

Many Thanks to: ❖ each and every weekly crew member ❖ each and every day volunteer ❖ all meal providers ❖ everyone who helped with moves ❖ all the terrific canoe guides ❖ the Learning Celebration Steering Committee--*the wonderful group of volunteers who devote their time & energy to organizing & planning this event:* Martha Pentecost & JJ Richardson, co-chairs; Maja Kricker; Catherine Miller; Jo Sanders; & Libby Searles-Bohs ❖ Aakara Wiegand, coordinator ❖ Jason Gabriel, ass't coordinator ❖ Dave Ostrovsky, volunteer coordinator ❖ Rachel Winters, food coordinator ❖ Wanda Sundermann, Thank You party coordinator and host ❖ Donovan Zimmerman & Lea Clayton for hosting in Saxapahaw ❖ the McFall family for land use ❖ Paperhand Puppet Intervention for lending puppets ❖ Martha Pentecost, puppet show director and volunteer extraordinaire ❖ Chris Carter and the Solar Village Institute ❖ NC State Parks and especially the very helpful park rangers from Jordan Lake for use of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area ❖ Camp Guilrock for hosting the Learning Celebration at their lovely land along the upper Haw River ❖ Kevin Meehan for Use-Yer-Foots ❖ Deborah Amaral for barn storage

Special Thanks to HRA folks: ❖ Cynthia Crossen ❖ Elaine Chiosso ❖ Catherine Deininger ❖ Jeff Dotson ❖ HRA Board of Directors ❖ Mac Jordan

Comments from teachers :

"Exhilarating! Great dynamic instructors, wonderful learning experience, I'm signing up to be a member!"

"I enjoy the positive and passionate attitude shared by all of the Haw River volunteers."

"My personal favorite part is the whole vibe, which is caring, whimsical, volunteer, cooperative, educational, and active, all without being preachy."

"This event was wonderful! Very educational, well-organized, totally awesome!."



Photo by Ken Crossen

Critter catching is good at Guilrock!



And critter riding is good at Clyde's yard in Bynum!
Photo by Elaine Chiosso



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Coordinator Aakara Wiegand and Assistant Jason Gabriel smile at the end of a very successful three week Learning Celebration..

please support these generous businesses: Chatham Marketplace, Pittsboro * Counter Culture Coffee Co., Durham * Weaver Street Market, Carrboro * Whole Foods Market, Chapel Hill * Townsend Bertram & Company Adventure Outfitters, Carrboro * The Durham Food Co-op, Durham * General Store Cafe, Pittsboro * Wellspring Bakehouse, Morrisville * Lowe's Food, Cole Park Plaza * Harris-Teeter, 15-501 Hwy, Chatham County * The Poster Guys, Chapel Hill

HRA Key Volunteers

This is amazing to think about--how it is *volunteers* that make the work we do as HRA possible. Without volunteers, there would be no Haw River Watch, there would be no Learning Celebration, there would be no Clean-up-a-thon, or Stream Steward Project, or Festival, or Clean Water Lobby Day, or Lake Watch or Land Committee. We would have no Board of Directors supporting and guiding our work. Projects would have no Steering Committees. We would not be celebrating our 25th anniversary.

Instead, the Haw River Assembly is rich with hundreds of incredible volunteers who give us tremendous volunteer support for all these efforts and more. Together we make up a strong, effective, enthusiastic community dedicated to protecting this Haw River watershed we love so much. *We thank and honor all of our amazing volunteers.* On these pages, we highlight some of the volunteers who are key to the work we do.



Doug Wakeman has been the main Jordan Lake Watcher for HRA for many years now, as well as a former member of our Board of Directors. An avid boater and fisherman, he has often been the first to alert us, and the state, about pollution incidents, including fish kills and sediment plumes. From his canoe or powerboat he has captured data and photos of these incidents, as well as beautiful pictures of the eagles, herons and ospreys at the lake. He has been invaluable in the effort to get strong rules passed to protect Jordan Lake. Thank you, Doug!

Doug keeps an eye on Jordan Lake from his powerboat. Photo by Elaine Chiosso.

Rachel Winters served as President for three years during her many-year tenure on HRA's Board of Directors. Her leadership focused on clarifying HRA's vision and goal setting, maintaining good Board process, and promoting good communication. Because of her commitment to and belief in the organization, she continues to be a leader in our fundraising efforts, co-chairing the Fundraising Committee and spearheading our new Capital Campaign. She has been a long-time volunteer with the Learning Celebration, and has coordinated meal donations and served on its Steering Committee for many years. Thank you, Rachel!



Rachel (center) serves up some good eatin' at the Weaver St. Grill Out HRA Fundraiser, with Lynn Featherstone and Kira Dirlik. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



Deborah Amaral has been an HRA Board member since 1993, and a past President and Treasurer. Since 2002, she has chaired the River Watch/Stream Steward Steering Committee. She has also been active on the Land Committee, has helped with many successful grant applications, serves as a liaison with stream restoration efforts, and volunteers with the Learning Celebration. HRA could not have achieved what it has without her vision and leadership. Thank you, Deborah!

Deborah, with Chris Carter. Photo by Martha Pentecost.



Betsy Kraus serves on the Haw River Watch Committee, is a River Watch team leader for two sites, and is a field leader for the Two Streams project on Dry Creek and Pokeberry Creek, dedicating many hours to collecting specimens and identifying them in the lab. She is an excellent teacher of Stream Watch at the Learning Celebration. Her enthusiasm for our work is boundless. Thank you, Betsy!

Betsy (right) with Kathy Buck, monitoring Dry Creek. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.

We Couldn't Do it Without You!



HRA Board member Margaret Tiano heads up our volunteer outreach efforts, energetically and steadfastly promoting HRA's mission. She staffs the HRA booth at street fairs from Pittsboro to Glencoe, often demonstrating stream stewardship principles with the Enviroscope. She shares her love for the river and the out-of-doors with fourth-graders at the Learning Celebration. At the legislature and elsewhere, she speaks out for protection of our waterways. Thank you, Margaret!

Margaret (far right) talks about the importance of legislation for clean water, with N.C. Representative Earl Jones from Greensboro. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



Joe Jacob serves on the HRA Board, bringing to HRA's endeavors his invaluable knowledge and experience as a biologist with conservation organizations and his own outdoor adventure company. Joe organizes HRA's field trip program of river activities from eagle watching, to wildflower hikes, to the canoe trips that he leads. At HRA events, you will likely see Joe getting folks out onto the river in canoes. He has been an active and effective member of the Land and Fundraising Committees. Thank you, Joe!

Joe gives a canoe ride to a young Haw River Festival goer. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



Martha Pentecost has volunteered with the Learning Celebration (LC) for over ten years, served as chair of its Steering Committee, and spends three weeks on-site as an invaluable key volunteer. Everyone who's ever crewed with Martha knows that she is ever cheerful, helpful, hard-working, enthusiastic, conscientious, deeply knowledgeable about the LC, and lots of fun. Thank you, Martha!

Martha goes "mucking" in the beaver swamp at Camp Guilrock. Photo by Elaine Chiosso.



If there is an HRA event, there's a good chance that HRA Board President Debbie Tunnell is there, helping out in every way that she can. Behind the scenes doing what it takes to support our work--from cleaning out the HRA office to organizing Clyde-critter painting at the May Festival, or in front as HRA president eloquently reminding us of HRA's strengths, Debbie is willing and able to help make HRA great. She and her husband Ken are river watchers for Miles Branch. Thank you, Debbie!

Debbie and her husband Ken get their feet wet in Miles Branch. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.

HRA Board member Bob Brueckner has served as chair of the Land Committee for several years, helping facilitate land acquisition and conservation easements that help protect the Haw River corridor. He also leads canoe activities for HRA, and organizes a terrific Clean-up-a-thon team of paddlers from the Carolina Canoe Club. His leadership in conservation has been invaluable. Thank you, Bob!



Bob takes Catherine Deiningner and her children Rachel and Matthew for a ride on Jordan Lake. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.

Muddy Water Watch Begins In NC

For many years, concerned activists and educators in North Carolina have been working to halt the damage that is being done to our water sources from sediment-laden stormwater runoff. Unfortunately, it is an issue that has made little headway. However, in the wake of an unprecedented population boom, Riverkeepers in seven North Carolina watersheds are proactively taking a stance against sediment pollution by implementing Muddy Water Watch Citizen Patrols (MWW). This statewide initiative led by Neuse River Foundation and Upper Neuse Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks will train citizen volunteers to recognize and report poorly maintained erosion and sediment control measures at construction sites.

By proactively approaching this problem, there is hope that the health of our rivers, streams, creeks, and estuaries can be restored and maintained. Perhaps the culture of development will start changing into one that is more concerned about the long-term effects that sediment is having on our natural resources and our citizens. "We want to change the culture that says, 'It's just dirt, it's not a big deal'," Naujoks said. "[Sediment] has completely destroyed a lot of aquatic habitat and degraded streams," he said.



Photo by Jerry Markatos

Already there are tributaries and lakes in North Carolina that can no longer be used recreationally because of pollution. Sediment carries with it other pollutants, like phosphorus from fertilizers. It clogs the gills of fish and smothers small aquatic life. Fishing in certain waters is becoming a thing of the past.

Muddy Water Watch was created in response to citizen complaints and is modeled on a similar successful Riverkeeper program in Georgia called "Get the Dirt Out". Sediment pollution is no longer an issue that we can wait for state agencies to tackle, but one that more and more citizens are realizing must be addressed now. MWW will be implemented first in the Triangle region, then expanded state-wide

The Muddy Water Watch project aims to help prevent situations like the one illustrated here in this dramatic photo taken by Jerry Markatos in 2005. The photo shows mud pouring into the Haw River from Dry Creek in Chatham County downstream of the Chapel Ridge development; the developers were cited with a Sediment Erosion Control Notice of Violation.

over the next two years. The Haw River Assembly has been taking part in the planning meetings for this project, and hopes to organize and train citizens in our watershed to take part in it. As you know, muddy waters have been one of the most persistent pollution problems we face in the Haw watershed.

Please visit the website, www.muddywaterwatch.org, for more information on Muddy Water Watch. See how you can help solve North Carolina's biggest water pollution problem! If you would like to be part of a Muddy Water Watch team on the Haw River, please contact Elaine Chiosso at info@hawriver.org or (919) 542-5790.

Join the Haw River Clean-Up March 15

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, join with enthusiastic volunteers for the Haw River Assembly's 18th Annual Clean-Up-A-Thon. We will be out cleaning up trash from the river banks, creeks, and Jordan Lake on foot, and even by 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! Canoe clubs, youth groups, scouts, neighborhood and community organizations have all been part of the effort. We welcome all teams that would like to get out and clean up trash along waterways in our watershed--which includes parts of Rockingham, Guilford, Alamance, Orange, Chatham, Durham and Wake counties. And you just might be the team that wins the Weird Trash Award! Past entries have included a rubber chicken, a century old German grammar book, a plastic cactus, and even an anti-littering sign!

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, or would like to join an existing team.



Photo by Cynthia Crossan

Canoers clean up the Haw in Bynum.

The Drought: Let's Stop Pollution AND Save Water

As extreme drought conditions continue throughout the state we have need to take a hard look at how we plan to meet water needs. The Triad and Triangle are prosperous and rapidly growing regions of North Carolina and have large water needs. Unfortunately the impact of growth on water resources has not been adequately planned for. We are beginning to look a lot like Atlanta, with its sprawling runaway growth, and where the forecasts for running out of water are even more dire. We have not done enough in NC to promote water conservation and stewardship. The entire region is in an extreme drought and residents are under mandatory conservation efforts. Many cities are counting the number of weeks left in their water supplies.

Regional forecasts of changing climactic conditions in this part of the nation, and in Piedmont NC, point to drier conditions as being more common due to effects of global warming. The predictions of a drier and hotter climate for this area will make clean water an even more precious resource in the future.

We need a clean Haw River and a clean Jordan Lake for current and future recreation, greenways, wildlife habitat and drinking water sources. The Jordan Lake nutrient rules will be voted on at the Environmental Management Commission meeting in January. The rules have faced strong opposition from those who say they are too costly and that we can wait until pollution is worse to enact them. This is the kind of thinking that has led to the environmental problems we are faced with today. Instead, let's look at how the requirements in these rules for better stormwater controls in both new and existing development will actually encourage water conservation, water re-use and groundwater recharge.

In order to reduce the nutrient pollution in stormwater, innovative "low impact development" technologies to retain stormwater on site for future use (such as rain barrels or larger cisterns) will be a practical choice. New stormwater control systems will also recharge groundwater, slowing it down with rain gardens and other bio-retention systems. The Jordan Lake rules could have the secondary benefit of encouraging upgrades of wastewater treatment plants to re-use level. The cleaner effluent can be used for landscaping, and other uses, thus reducing the nutrient load into Jordan Lake.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

A bald eagle takes a drink from Jordan Lake.

It's time to think bigger and better about how we can be smart stewards of our precious water resources. We can be a model for other watersheds with nutrient impaired waters across the state. Passage of these rules to reduce nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake will be a great opportunity for restoration of waters upstream, and new ways to conserve water.

We urge our members to join with others across North Carolina to ask that better policies be put in place to deal with all water supplies and resources:

- (1) Set statewide water use efficiency standards;
- (2) Require local governments to consider water availability before approving new developments; and
- (3) Replace our patchwork of outdated water rules with a comprehensive law that meets North Carolina's current needs.

For more information on drought issues and to sign a petition to the state, visit the NC Conservation Network website: <http://ncconservationnetwork1.org/campaign/waterconservation>.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

From the boardwalk, we enjoy the beautiful wetlands at Haw River State Park.

Celebrating Haw River State Park at HRA's Annual Meeting *continued from p. 1*

Our keynote speaker was Secretary Bill Ross of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He praised the Haw River Assembly's work for the past 25 years to protect and restore the river, as well as our involvement in statewide environmental issues. He gave some encouraging words to the efforts to protect the park from a golf course development proposed for adjacent lands. He voiced strong support for the park to grow to meet the region's need for conservation and outdoor recreation in the natural world. We heard more about the development issue from David Craft, a leader of the Guilford and Rockingham citizen's group working to protect the park. The density of housing, extensive land grading, use of a spray wastewater effluent system, and proposed use of water from the Haw to irrigate are some of the issues drawing major opposition. The builder, Bluegreen, is the same developer from Florida who was fined for sediment erosion violations, as well as other problems, while building the big Chapel Ridge and The Preserve golf course developments in Chatham County.

Both the Guilford County and Rockingham County Boards of Commissioners have jurisdiction over this decision, and the Guilford County Commissioners are expected to vote on the proposal December 13. HRA's comments, which summarize the problems caused by the developer in Chatham County, are posted on our website: www.hawriver.org. For the latest news on this effort, go to the excellent website of the Citizens for Haw River State Park: www.citizensforhawriversp.org/. As David Craft pointed out, we need to "put the **park** in the State Park" by adding more land to it, not by surrounding it with a golf course and houses.

Upcoming 2008 HRA Events

Saturday January 26, 2 - 4:30 pm, Jaycee Rooster Hut at the end of Dollar Road in Chatham; A Threatened Stream: Pokeberry Creek Watershed Meeting Check our website for more information on this upcoming afternoon presentation on Pokeberry Creek and a walk to the creek. Contact Catherine Deininger at deininger@hawriver.org for more information.

Saturday, March 15, Clean-up-a-thon, throughout the Haw River Watershed, our annual river cleanup (see page 10 for details).

March 22-23 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend

Friday, March 28 - Saturday, March 29 N.C. Conservation Network's 7th 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. See www.ncconservationnetwork.org for details.

May--date to be announced, 1-6 pm, Haw River Festival, Old Bynum Bridge

Plus Hikes along the Haw, river monitoring this July and September, paddle trips, Jordan Lake Heritage Day, *and more!* Check www.hawriver.org for details.

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



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

2008 Haw River Festival T-shirt!

Clyde Jones models sunflowers on blue shirt

\$ 20 (adult) 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., Pringles in Farrington, and the Haw River Assembly office in Bynum.

**Haw River Assembly
March 15i
Cleanup**

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