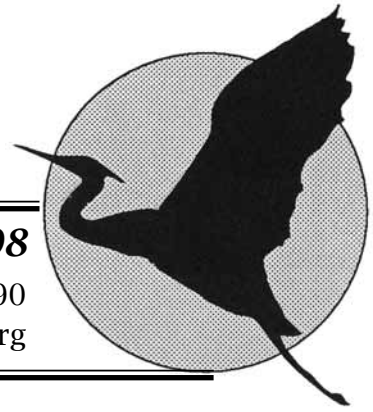


Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly December 2008



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

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

To President Obama: A Blueprint for Clean Water A Special Report from the Waterkeeper Alliance 11/15/08

As we await President-elect Obama's new administration, the most environmentally damaging presidency in American history nears its end. President Bush leaves in his wake thousands of miles of polluted and degraded waterways across America. The Bush administration repeatedly affirmed its loyalty to industrial polluters by issuing rules that undercut environmental law and underfunded federal environmental programs. As we go to press, an unprecedented number of rules are coming out of the White House to destroy even further our capacity to protect the environment, public health, and endangered species before President Obama takes office.

Waterkeeper Alliance's U.S. Blueprint for Clean Water offers a new agenda for strengthening U.S. environmental protection to restore America's ailing rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, and coastal waters. Unique in both its scope and depth, the Blueprint is the work of more than a hundred clean water activists, many of whom not only advocate for water, but work on the water in communities across America and around the world. It will take years to undo the damage caused by the Bush Administration. But even



that will not be enough. We must do more to change the paradigm of how we treat our waterways. Individual citizens must be ready to do their part, along with local governments and the business community. President-elect Obama is keenly positioned to lead America in this critical area by strengthening federal environmental regulations, enacting new legislation to confront environmental challenges, investing in environmental protection programs, and re-invigorating environmental stewardship as a characteristic of the American way of life.

U.S. Blueprint for Clean Water is a comprehensive look at every issue that impacts our water quality and resources--and our lives -- from oceans to coal mining, factory farming to pharmaceuticals in our water supplies, global warming and environmental justice. It

includes many of the hot button issues that the **HAW RIVERKEEPER®** and the Haw River Assembly face, such as stormwater, nutrient overload, mercury, pesticides, and water conservation. Each section reviews the current status, roll-backs in the past eight years and a new way forward.

The "Enforcement" section details how the Bush Administration and its political allies have undermined EPA enforcement efforts in a number of ways, by decreasing enforcement resources, "politicizing" the enforcement program, and decreasing levels of enforcement activity. During these years, civil penalties in

EPA enforcement cases have declined about 24%, criminal fines have declined 38 %, and the number of criminal investigations started every year has dropped 23%. Repairing the damage to a broken EPA and other agencies that protect our water and lands will be a challenge we must all rise to meet and make sure it is a priority of the Obama administration. The U.S. Blueprint for Clean Water lays out the steps and vision that are needed. We urge you to read this remarkable document, and be a part of the change that is coming to protect our waters. To read the U.S. Blueprint for Clean Water and the "Call for Action", go to the Waterkeeper Alliance website: www.waterkeeper.org.

Photo of children at the Haw River Learning Celebration in Saxapahaw, by Martha Pentecost.

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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

It's been quite a year! The Haw River Assembly is truly grateful for the support of our members for our accomplishments, and to our donors and funders for the new opportunities ahead. We really appreciate the support from local businesses such as the Pittsboro General Store Cafe for the very successful Burrito Bash, along with all the donors to our silent auction. Also, great thanks to Townsend Bertram & Company Outfitters for raffle donations from their 20th Anniversary celebration--and congratulations! We hope to reach our \$100,000 goal for the Capital Campaign by year's end. We have been blessed by the outpouring of individual donations that have come in, and we thank you again for believing in the mission of the Haw River Assembly. We have a wonderful team of board members, staff and volunteers at HRA that carry out this mission with enthusiasm.

We are proud to be one of North Carolina's new Waterkeeper programs, and I am enjoying working with the other dedicated Riverkeepers in NC on issues that are common to all of us--especially Muddy Water Watch. As the year closes, I know we all look forward to the promise of a new administration in Washington that will take seriously the need to protect our environment, water, and public health. I believe that innovative new public work initiatives for green power, clean water, and restoration and conservation of public lands, can be the key to both economic and environmental recovery.

Wishing you hope, health and happy holidays,

Elaine Chiosso

HAW RIVERKEEPER®



Youth are our future--and they care about the river! These Morehead Planetarium campers study the health of the Haw River in Saxapahaw, with River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



STREAM STEWARD PROJECT NEWS

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

Two Streams Project: Field Notes for Pokeberry 2 for November 18, 2008

by Betsy Kraus, with Cynthia Crossen and James McClure

The site is located off of Morris Road in a wetland on Jesse Fearington's property. The marshy areas on either side of the creek were very wet and overgrown with 7 foot tall reeds and roses. As we trudged to the site, we spotted a new beaver dam in the creek downstream from the sampling site. The sampling site was filled to the top of the banks--I couldn't find the snags and logs we've used to define the upstream and downstream limits for sampling. I knew the banks were steep and the streambed would be over my waders. So we hiked back to the road and decided to sample upstream of the utility bridge.

The area we sampled was defined by the utility bridge downstream and a couple of river birch just upstream of a small beaver dam. There were several areas of fast flowing water in addition to the dam. There were essentially no stream banks--the water came up over the edge of the stream channel. Some places in the channel were waist deep. There was a lot of submerged green grass suggesting that the water had been lower for most of the growing season. The bottom was silty sand. James scooped a sample of the bottom in the net and there was a rather bright red layer on the surface with grey muck underneath. The muck clogged the sieve bucket making rinsing samples difficult. Cynthia came up with a good method of backwashing the sieve by shoving the bucket down into the water. Leaf packs were hard to get and were mostly decayed grasses rather than tree leaves. The traveling kick was collected by stirring up the bottom at the fast flowing areas.

We found scuds, caddisflies (including some big Phryganeidae with 6-sided cases and microcaddis Hydroptilidae), chironomids, damselflies, mayflies, and aquatic worms, along with a few sowbugs, dragonflies, crane flies, beetles, beetle larvae, snails and crayfish (10!) We scored 28 with the Izaak Walton League method that we now have on our Two Streams Data Sheet.

News from the Robeson Creek watershed On September 13th, the Abundance Foundation hosted the Responsible Streamside Stewardship Workshop at Piedmont Biofuels. Karen Hall, NCSU Water Quality Group; Bill Cure, Cure Nursery; and I gave presentations on the importance of riparian areas to water quality, and how to plant native vegetation to protect streams. Our ten enthusiastic participants had some excellent discussions about streamside plantings during lunch and a hike to Robeson Creek. Thanks to the Abundance Foundation for hosting the workshop and making a donation from the proceeds to HRA.

The Robeson Creek Watershed Council awarded five 2008 Stream Stewardship Awards. The brothers Greg, Doug, and Randy Cooper were recognized for cleaning up Robeson Creek by removing 100 tons of scrap metal and a tractor trailer load of tires from the creek. Our Neighborhood School students were recognized for planting and tending the rain garden at the Pittsboro Community House. T.L. "Snuffy" Smith was recognized for planting trees in the riparian buffer on a tributary of Robeson Creek. And the Children's Fellowship of Saint



Photo by Vicki Oldham

Catherine Deininger (right) hands out Stream Stewardship awards at Pittsboro Street Fair.



Photo by Betsy Kraus

Cynthia Crossen samples Pokeberry Creek with a traveling kick; note new beaver dam at top of photo.

Bartholomew Episcopal

Church were recognized for cleaning out trash in Little Creek from its confluence with Robeson Creek to church property on Salisbury Street. During the Pittsboro Street Fair, I presented the recipients with lovely stream stewardship certificates embellished with a heron drawn by local artist Emma Skurnick.

Over half a dozen local businesses and developers came out to attend the Business Clean Water Partners Luncheon November 13th at the Pittsboro Community House, to discuss how they could support efforts to clean up Robeson Creek.

Representatives from the Town of Pittsboro and from NC Division of Water Quality also attended. Karen Hall and I talked about the work we've done in this watershed over the last 7 years. We asked the business community to take up the challenge of promoting stream stewardship by controlling stormwater runoff at their own sites, and by publicizing their efforts. Lyle Estill from Piedmont Biofuels told me as he left the meeting that "we'd sparked his interest and given him something work on."



Photo by Tami Schwerin

Responsible Streamside Stewardship Workshop participants smile down by Robeson Creek.



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

Haw River Learning Celebration: Again this year I was able to participate for three weeks on the wonderful Haw River Learning Celebration. It's amazing how much the fourth-graders love seeing the macroinvertebrates that live in the river. We found a beautiful new riverside site for the stream watch station in Bynum, where we could travel a few steps to the river to collect critters. In Saxapahaw, rain brought the river too high to collect from, so the intrepid Maja Krickler and I went off to pristine Mary's Creek just down the road, and found an abundance of stoneflies, mayflies, water pennies – just about everything in the most sensitive group of organisms. At Guilrock, excellent Stream Watch teachers Libby Searles, Larry Bohs, Kathy Lee, and Maria Hitt allowed me to take a break from the stream watch station and “float” with children for several days. I was thrilled when one teacher told me that her fourth-graders love the macro identification tutorials I created for our website.

Macro-Micro Workshop this past August: Folks gathered at Bynum Beach in August to hunt for macroinvertebrates in the Haw. The water had been very high just a hours before, so we collected in a side channel of the river, and found more than we thought we would. At the Ruritan Club, we used microscopes to take a closer look at what we found. It's always fascinating to see details such as the gills on a mayfly, the mouthparts of a caddisfly, the tiny hidden legs of a water penny, and the jaws of a dragonfly. Expert river watchers Betsy Kraus, Jeannie Ambrose, and Catherine Deininger helped make this event successful.



Photo by Martha Pentecost

Fourth-graders identify macroinvertebrates at the Stream Watch station in Guilrock.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Jim Willis of Chatham County (center) and Elaine Chiosso (left) examine outlet protection with Muddy Water Watchers on a field visit to Briar Chapel.

Muddy Water Watchers Get Training in Chatham:

This fall, HAW

RIVERKEEPER® Elaine Chiosso and I, with technical support from Jim Willis and Rachel Thorn of Chatham's local sedimentation erosion control program, held HRA's first series of trainings for the Muddy Water Watch Project (MWW). In two classroom sessions and two sessions in the field, over a dozen MWW participants have been trained

in how to monitor construction sites for proper sediment and erosion controls, and report problems to the authorities so that they can be corrected. On our recent site visit to Briar Chapel, we practiced filling out “site report cards”, which the MWW project uses to report on how well a construction site is preventing erosion and containing sediment onsite. We looked at sediment basins, silt fences, outlet protection, vegetative cover, and more. Many thanks to Jim and Rachel for help with training and with leading a field visit. The data we collect on muddy water, in addition to helping us improve construction sites, will enable us to get better laws and enforcement to keep the dirt out of our waterways. We plan on holding future MWW trainings throughout the watershed.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Jeannie Ambrose shows Jabu and Makayla some very fascinating Haw River critters in the microscope.

Jordan Lake Clean-up a Big Success – But Not the Last!

About 70 volunteers picked up 3,500 bags of trash--about 14 tons!--from a remote cove on the eastern side of the Haw River arm of Jordan Lake on Saturday, October 18. The lead organizer for the effort was Tom Colson--an amazing volunteer who put all the parts together for a successful event! A team of volunteers with power boats ferried passengers from the Robeson Creek boat docks across to the cove, and carried back the enormous amount of trash. At the end of the afternoon, the cove and hillsides were much cleaner looking, and the trash filled a dumpster and 2 dump trucks at the boat docks. Thanks to Chatham County and NC State Parks for helping with staff, equipment, and trash removal; and Big Sweep for partnering with bags and gloves. Many members from HRA and local paddling clubs also took part.

The trash has been coming down the Haw River with stormwater since the lake was built, about 26 years ago--from as far away as Greensboro and Burlington. Prevailing winds push the trash into these coves and deposit it up the hillsides during high waters. "This is not just unsightly," said Colson, "it impairs the functioning of the wetlands in these coves that are important for wildlife and habitat." A high percentage of the trash was various kinds of soda bottles and cans--a good case for pushing for a "bottle bill" in NC.

Unfortunately there are still many more of these trash-filled coves--we will let you know of future clean-up dates as they are planned. Chatham County is already exploring special funds that could be used to remove the thousands of tires. The Haw River Assembly has been doing clean-ups along the Haw River and Jordan Lake for almost 20 years. We plan to continue this current partnership with Tom Colson, Chatham County, and state and federal agencies, to complete the job of removing this terrible amount of trash that is fouling Jordan Lake.



Cleanup organizer Tom Colson (at far left) and cleanup volunteers stand proudly in front the huge amount of trash they hauled out of Jordan Lake with boats this October.



Join the Haw River Clean-Up March 14

On Saturday, March 14, 2008, join with enthusiastic volunteers for the Haw River Assembly's 19th 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.

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.

Photos on this page by Elaine Chiosso



2008 Haw River Learning Celebration

Thank you to everyone who made the 19th annual Haw River Learning Celebration (LC) a great success! Over the three weeks, 111 volunteers dedicated their time to teach 1,200 fourth-graders from Chatham, Orange, Wake, Randolph, Alamance, Rockingham and Guilford counties about the importance of the Haw River. At this year's Learning Celebration a brand new puppet show was unveiled thanks to the hard work and dedication of Martha Pentecost. Students from 20 schools, teachers, puppeteers, staff



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

from Jenna Schreiber, our 2009 Learning Celebration Coordinator, shown here with Clyde Jones

and volunteers all agree that the new puppet show was a great success!

We faced adverse weather conditions this year which forced two rain days in Bynum. The program was moved to Chatham Mills where students received a modified, but fun and educational version of the program, including the puppet show. Teacher evaluations from the rain days were positive and teachers felt that students still got a great deal out of the program even though they were not able to be on site at the river.

The LC owes a special thanks to Paul Fleckenstein, Martha Pentecost, Tony and Jasper Mayer, Allen Best, and Willow Cox for their dedication to the program and their willingness to stay and volunteer for three weeks! Thanks to Justin Taylor, for helping organize this year's program. Also a special thank you to Rachel Winters for soliciting and organizing meal donations and purchasing the food needed for breakfast and snacks throughout the program. Cynthia Crossen provided 3 weeks of program support and leadership, and Elaine Chiosso contributed many hours on-site helping coordinate the program so that things ran smoothly. We also appreciate the canoe guides and everyone who pitched in to help with the site moves. Please see below for the rest of our long list of thank you's!



Photo by Martha Pentecost

Ben Noblitt leads fourth-graders to the Haw River at Guilrock.

The three weeks spent along the Haw River allowed me meet many great new people, connect to the Haw River and feel a part of a wonderful community. I am thankful to have been a part of the Learning Celebration this year and cannot wait to being work on the 20th annual Haw River Learning Celebration. Thank you to everyone who participated this year--without your dedication, commitment and hard work the Learning Celebration would not be able to succeed. Thank you again and I look forward to seeing you all again next year! ~Jenna

Many Thanks to ❖ Each and every weekly crew member, each and every day volunteer ❖ all meal providers ❖ everyone who helped with moves ❖ all of the charismatic canoe leaders ❖ the Learning Celebration Steering Committee: Martha Pentecost, Aakara Wiegand, Eric Chetwynd, Lia Cronin, Catherine Miller, Libby Searles-Bohs, Judith Romanowski and Maja Kricker ❖ Wanda Sundermann, Thank You Party coordinator and host ❖ Donovan Zimmerman and Lea Clayton for hosting in Saxapahaw ❖ the MacFall family for land use ❖ Paperhand Puppet Intervention for lending puppets ❖ Martha Pentecost, puppet show director and volunteer extraordinaire ❖ Chris Carter and the Solar



Photo by Martha Pentecost

We look at the colors of autumn leaves at the Nature Art station..

Inspires and Delights Fourth-Graders!

Village Institute ❖ NC State Parks, with special thanks to Ranger Brock Martin for the use of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area ❖ Camp Guilrock for hosting the Learning Celebration ❖ Kevin Meehan for the use of the Use-Your-Foots ❖ Townsend Bertram & Company Adventure Outfitters in Carrboro, for donating 2 tents ❖ Deborah Amaral for barn storage ❖ Special Thanks to HRA folks: Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Jeff Dotson, Catherine Deininger, Mac Jordan, HRA Board of Directors

Comments from 4th Graders

"I had a great time. My favorite part was the river walk. I thought the bathroom was really cool. I learned so much. My favorite game was the treasure hunt. My second favorite station was the animal station because I really like learning about animals." --Dequan

"Thank you for teaching us about mushrooms, trees, animals, and why we should keep our rivers clean. I learned so much my mom is so proud of me. And when y'all had the puppet show I was not ready to leave. I love clay and I am interested in bugs." --Becca

"I really liked the leeches and how they moved. I never knew how much fun it was drawing nature. I drew a mushroom. By the way I loved the parade." --Faith

"I learned what bugs live in the water and how to know if the water is clean or not." --Simone



Photo by Martha Pentecost

We share the wonder of the Haw River in Saxapahaw.



Photo by Mary Longhill

The puppet show behind the scenes--puppeteers are working hard to make it happen...



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Sue-Anne Solem leads everyone in song, in Bynum.

"I learned that deer ears worked to help you hear better. I also learned there can be a bunch of animals around us." --David

"I wanted to learn about clay and I learned that clay is made up of minerals." --Noah



Photo by Mary Longhill

The puppet show out in front--Possum gets friendly...



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

Jordan Lake Rules Go To 2009 N.C. General Assembly

Finally. The Jordan Lake Rules were approved by the NC Rules Review Commission on November 20, 2008. This brings to a close a very long process that started with the Division of Water Quality convening a stakeholder group to craft the rules in 2003, a long public comment period, and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) approving them earlier in 2008. We commend the EMC hearing officers, led by Stephen Smith, for their diligent work, as well as elected officials such as the Chatham County Commissioners that have supported strong rules throughout these five years. The rules that have emerged from this process are strong, fair, and sensitive to economic conditions. The work is not over, however; the rules will now have to be passed as law by the NC General Assembly, due to continued objections led by Burlington, Greensboro, Durham, and homebuilder and realty lobbies. The battle will continue as we enter the new year.

What are the proposed rules? To develop the rules, state regulators estimated the total nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that Jordan Lake can absorb and still be healthy. The state then calculated how much pollution is currently flowing into the lake – and it's much more than the lake can take. Jordan Lake really operates as three distinct sections, so the reductions needed are based on which part of the lake the pollution flows to (as measured for the 2002 model). Nitrogen will need to be reduced by 8% in the Haw River arm and 35% in the Upper New Hope arm. Phosphorus will need to be reduced by 5% in each arm. The rules spread the needed reductions in nutrients among all the sources of pollution:

* **Wastewater treatment plants.** The proposed rules require wastewater treatment plants to reduce phosphorus one year after the rules take effect, and to reduce nitrogen by 2014. Wastewater treatment plants contribute approximately 32% of total nitrogen delivered to the lake. Reductions from this source will result in immediate improvements to both the lake and the impaired streams that are the first “receivers” of the effluent, such as South and North Buffalo Creeks in Greensboro, and Morgan Creek in Chapel Hill. *continued p.9*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

NO AIRPORT - Preserve Rural Orange

Hundreds of residents and concerned citizens have attended meetings to hear about the impacts to their community and environment in southwest Orange County if a new airport is built there by UNC-Chapel Hill. The NC legislature authorized the formation of an airport authority, with powers of eminent domain, to find and operate a new airport to be used by the university as UNC is preparing to close Horace Williams Airport in Chapel Hill. A community group, Preserve Rural Orange, has organized to “preserve, strengthen and defend the viability of the rural community of watershed land, farms and woodlands in Orange County, North Carolina.” They oppose the UNC-CH plans to build an ‘unconstrained’ general aviation airport in Orange County, and support the recommendation to relocate flights to RDU or other existing nearby airports.

The Haw River Assembly has many concerns about water quality impacts on Collins Creek, and the Haw River, if an airport were built on this site. Collins Creek is listed as impaired for “biological integrity” on the NC 303(d) list (a federal list of all impaired waters in the state). Construction sediment, and increased stormwater volume and pollution, would seriously damage a creek that is already suffering. We cannot afford to continue degrading water quality in the tributaries of the Haw River at a time when we are trying to reduce pollution in Jordan Lake.

For information about Preserve Rural Orange visit their website at www.preserveruralorange.org.

New Environmental Protections Passed in Chatham County

On December 1, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved new ordinances that will better protect the public and the environment from impacts of development. The Subdivision Ordinance was revised to (1) change the process of approval to include much more public input and county scrutiny, (2) provide for “Conservation Subdivisions”, and (3) require Environmental Impact Assessments for major subdivisions. A new Stormwater Ordinance was adopted; and the Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance was strengthened, including prohibitions for building on steep slopes. These ordinances are in addition to new regulations passed earlier this year, including a riparian buffer ordinance that requires buffering of ephemeral streams and wetlands, and greater protection along blue line streams. These ordinances were passed in time for the lifting of the moratorium on major developments in Chatham, and were made possible by countless hours by members of the Planning Board, Environmental Review Board (currently chaired by Elaine Chiosso), the Board of Commissioners, staff, and dedicated citizens.

Jordan Lake Rules go to General Assembly, from p.8

*** Existing development.** This is one of the most controversial and misunderstood parts of the rules. Jordan Lake cannot become healthy again unless local governments take steps to control polluted runoff from existing development. The proposed rules have lenient timelines that begin with local governments writing plans for projects to ‘retrofit’ existing development.

The rules support alternative stormwater practices that also increase water conservation and groundwater re-charge, such as rain barrels, cisterns, and raingardens, as well as stream restoration and new fertilizer and pet waste ordinances. These are all practices that will make streams cleaner in developed and urban areas, before their waters ever reach Jordan Lake.

*** New development, Stream buffers.** The rules require new development to limit pollution released upstream from the lake by better controlling stormwater runoff and by leaving buffers along creeks and streams. Many local governments in the Haw River basin already have riparian buffers stronger than the minimum 50’ required in these rules, but these rules will ensure buffers throughout the watershed.

*** Agriculture.** The rules require farmers in the Jordan Lake watershed to work together to adopt best management practices to keep nitrogen and phosphorus out of rivers and creeks upstream from the lake. Similar rules have worked successfully in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico river basins without placing a noticeable burden on farmers. The rules also require training and plans for fertilizer applications on crops, golf courses, landscaping nurseries, etc.

*** NC Department of Transportation.** The proposed rules will require the state Department of Transportation and other state and federal entities to take modest steps to control polluted runoff from existing and new projects.

*** Nutrient Trading.** To improve flexibility and lower costs, the rules also allow the various contributors to ‘trade’ pollution reductions – so, if a farmer can cheaply reduce nitrogen, even beyond their required reduction, they can sell that reduction to a wastewater treatment plant or local government.

The Haw River Assembly has been a leader in the effort to get these rules in place. We thank Grady McCallie of NC Conservation Network and Amy Pickle with Southern Environmental Law Center for their work on this. We have seen both Jordan Lake and the streams that feed it become more impaired by the increased development and population growth in this region. We do not disregard the fact that the clean-up will have a price tag borne by all of us who live here, but the benefits for our quality of life and a more attractive environment will be even greater: cleaner water throughout the watershed, more land protected along streams, less stormwater scouring of streams – and a cleaner Jordan Lake enjoyed by millions of North Carolina people.

Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso is being joined in the effort to rally support for the rules by Kristina Millhisser from Greensboro, who is working with HRA under special grant funding. Email Kristina at klmillhi@uncg.edu if you have a group she can talk to about the rules – or you would like materials such as fact sheets, bumper stickers or yard signs. Online, go to cleanjordanlake.org for the latest on our campaign to get the rules passed.

Haw River Trail Partnership News from “Mouth of the Haw”

In 2006, 10 local governments along the Haw River signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together for the development of a Haw River Trail and the conservation of land and waters. Since then, many great initiatives have taken place in Alamance County to make the trail a reality. Alamance County, Burlington, Graham, and Elon University partnered with the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to support a coordinator, Brian Baker, for the Haw River Trail and have accomplished a lot. Here are some highlights of current efforts:

- The City of Burlington and Carolina Mills LLC have finalized an agreement to extend the Haw River Trail about a mile, and to protect 2 acres of sensitive riparian buffer. The new trail will connect the recently completed Indian Valley Paddle Access and the Glencoe Paddle Access.
- REI awarded \$5,000 to the Elon University Center for Environmental Studies, to form two volunteer groups to build and patrol sections of the Haw River Trail.
- Alamance County Parks and Recreation has received a grant from the NC State Trails recreational trails program to build a new paddle access on the Haw River at the Greensboro-Chapel Hill Highway (Old Greensboro Highway) bridge crossing. It will include parking and picnic areas.
- The newest section of the Haw River Trail opened this fall at Great Bend Park at Glencoe. The new stretch of trail is almost two miles in length, stretching from Indian Valley Paddle Access to Highway 62. The trail winds through the City of Burlington’s Indian Valley Golf Course and Alamance County’s new Great Bend Park. In addition, Great Bend Park at Glencoe now protects approximately 30 acres of riverfront property surrounding historic Glencoe Village. The park includes fishing, picnic areas and additional trails, and was recently named as a site on the North Carolina Birding Trail.

To read more about these projects and to stay up-to date on Haw River Trail news, go to their website at www.thehaw.org.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

HRA Board members enjoy a walk along the Haw River Trail at the Sweatsonville River Park.

A GREAT HRA Annual Meeting

The Haw River Assembly 26th Annual membership meeting was a great success! We had a breathtakingly beautiful fall day at Jordan Lake – and everyone really enjoyed the new Jordan Lake Visitors Center. We had refreshments on the back terrace overlooking the lake, and enjoyed the sun and water down at the boat dock. Folks were quite impressed with the environmental and historical exhibits inside the new Center. Susanne Gomolski led some brave kayakers (it was pretty windy) out on the lake, with help from Lynn Featherstone and Jenna Schreiber. Thanks to Jordan Lake Park Superintendent Shederick Mole and all the staff for use of this beautiful facility.

We got to preview the wonderful new short film made by Pittsboro filmmaker Mark Barroso about our Learning Celebration. The footage of children out at the river having such a great time – with such enthusiastic volunteers – speaks more than a thousand words! Thanks, Mark! Our keynote speaker, Rich Gannon from Division of Water Quality, gave an excellent presentation about the new rules to reduce pollution in Jordan Lake. His power point, complete with maps, charts and photos, brought much clarity to a complex set of rules, and our members asked a lot of very good questions.

And of course, most important of all – we elected our new 2009 HRA Board of Directors! The new board members are Sharon Garbutt of Pittsboro, a long time member, volunteer and advocate with HRA; Susanne Gomolski of Chapel Hill, who runs Kayak Adventures at Jordan Lake; Janet MacFall of Saxapahaw, a professor of Environmental Sciences at Elon University who has worked with HRA for many years on water quality and land conservation; and Matt Steible, a senior at Elon University (whom you may remember from his amazing canoe journey down the entire Haw River, featured in our April 2007 newsletter).

They will be joining our current Board, bringing the total to 21 members. We appreciate all they do for the organization, and for the Haw River and Jordan Lake. We also gave appreciation to Roland McReynolds who is stepping off the board this term. Thanks to him for being part of this great work – and thanks to all our board, staff, volunteers and members. We are quite a team!

Capital Campaign Donations Reach \$90,000 -- We're Almost There!

Thanks to all of our wonderful supporters, we have raised over \$90,000 towards our Capital Campaign goal of \$100,000! We are wrapping things up for the campaign this December, and need your help with the final push.

With the funds we have raised so far, we have already been able to reach some of our important goals for the campaign this year, including: a better office space on Bynum Hill Road; hiring a full-time Learning Celebration Coordinator; supporting staff with a “living wage”; and supporting the funding match for the second and third years of Project Rainmakers.

Please help us continue carrying out our work by helping us toward our last goal of \$10,000 before the first of the year. Your contribution enables us to be a stronger organization that can do more to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake.

Thank you so much for your past, present and future support of HRA!



New Board member Susanne Gomolski (right), with help from Watershed Education Coordinator Jenna Schreiber, gets HRA members out on the lake at our annual meeting.

Project Rainmaker Update

HRA Rainmaker Logan Yonavjak has been working with our fundraising committee to expand our membership and donor base, and we have successfully been growing our organization through outreach events, mailings, and publicity. We have also been encouraging volunteers from the Learning Celebration, River Watch, and Stream Steward projects to join HRA if they are not members already. Logan has been working with the other Rainmakers to explore a better database for our river groups, that better manages our member, volunteer and donor information. We look forward to putting a new improved system in place this winter.

Our Fundraising Committee Chair, Rachel Winters, is stepping down after years of leadership in this position. We are grateful to Rachel for all her hard work and support of HRA, and we look forward to her continued involvement in the organization. Several new board members are joining the committee – and we welcome HRA members to join the fundraising committee, too, if you have time and talent to share for this work so vital to our success.

New Learning Celebration Video! We especially want to thank Chatham County filmmaker Mark Barroso (Fork in the Road Films) for creating a short promotional film about our Learning Celebration program! Mark donated many hours shooting and editing this terrific video, which will be a wonderful resource to use in recruiting schools, volunteers and donors for the Learning Celebration. The film will be available for viewing from a link on our website before the end of the year. Thanks, Mark!

West End Revitalization Association Wins Environmental Justice Achievement Award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in Mebane NC is among 12 winners of its first annual Environmental Justice Achievement Awards. The awards recognize organizations for their distinguished accomplishments in addressing environmental justice issues. "These organizations are making a positive impact in their communities by promoting a clean and healthy environment for all people," said Granta Nakayama, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

WERA was recognized for its longtime work to maintain sustainable historic African American communities through preservation, stabilization, removing environmental hazards and creating new and sustainable housing and businesses.

Most recently, WERA's Community Owned and managed Research (COMR) model, created to document E. coli and fecal coliform in Mebane's municipal water and surface water streams, has received national attention. The Haw River Assembly has partnered with WERA in its work to protect the creeks in the Mebane area.



(From left to right) Charles Lee, Director, EPA Office of Environmental Justice; Richard Moore, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Chair; Robert Varney, EPA New England Regional Administrator; Omega Wilson, award recipient and President of the West End Revitalization Association; Granta Nakayama, EPA Ass't Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA); Catherine McCabe, EPA Principal Deputy Ass't Administrator, OECA; and Russell Wright, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4.

HRA Begins Stream Investigation Program for Eighth-Graders

The Haw River Assembly is launching a new eighth-grade program called "Stream Investigation," funded by a 319 Non Point Source Pollution Grant from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Our new Watershed Education Coordinator, Jenna Schreiber, along with River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen and HRA volunteers, will visit schools near impaired streams in seven counties throughout the Haw watershed. With the eighth-grade students, they will explore why the stream is impaired and what can be done to improve the health of the stream. School visits will include a variety of hands-on activities that will help instill a sense of stewardship for the river. The goals of the Stream Investigation program are to teach basic stream monitoring techniques, raise the question of where pollution comes from, and teach strategies to clean up and protect impaired streams.

We will begin visiting schools with a pilot program in early spring of 2009, and continue to bring the Stream Investigation program to schools with impaired streams through November of 2011.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

2009 Haw River Festival T-shirt Clyde Jones Bald Eagle makes a great gift!

Shirts are available in: Adult gray (left, modeled by Debbie Tunnell, HRA President), Ladies' butter yellow (center, modeled by Catherine Deininger, Stream Steward Coordinator), and youth bright turquoise (right, modeled by Cynthia Crossen, River Watch Coordinator)

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

\$ 16 (youth small, medium, & large)

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

To order, send checks made out to Haw River Assembly, to: HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228. Include total #, sizes and 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. Shirt designs from previous years are also available.

Upcoming 2008-2009 HRA Events

December 13-14, 2008 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend For info on project contact (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org

March 21-22, 2009 Haw River Watch Weekend For info on project contact (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org

Saturday, March 14, 2009, Cleanup-a-thon, throughout the Haw River watershed, our annual river cleanup (see page 5 for details)

Thursday May 7 - Friday May 8, NC Conservation Network Annual Retreat, Raleigh Join members of NC's environmental community in becoming more effective advocates through networking, workshops, skills building, updates on issues, and fun. See www.nconconservationnetwork.org for details.

Saturday in May 2009--date to be announced, 1 - 6 pm, Haw River Festival, Old Bynum Bridge

Plus Hikes along the Haw, river monitoring, 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 Jenna Schreiber

Beautiful puppets wave goodbye to happy children who have had an amazing day at the Haw River Learning Celebration.

**Haw River Cleanup
March 14!**

Address Service Requested

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