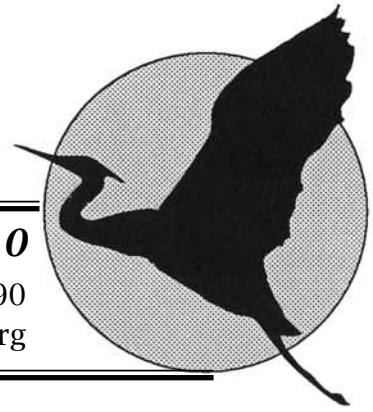


# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly December 2010



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

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

## Post-Election Dispatch From the River

by Elaine Chiosso, Haw Riverkeeper

This fall's election shifted political power in Congress, the NC General Assembly and some local governments towards politicians who promised smaller government and less regulation. They see a world not hindered by "inconvenient truths" such as climate change, water shortages and the environmental destruction caused by our insatiable thirst for petroleum products. This collective amnesia cannot last, since reality will continue on its course regardless of whether we believe in it or not. Those of us on the front lines of the environmental battles will soldier on, and the amazing work taking place, to lay the foundation for a future built on a more sustainable model, will continue.

In Chatham County we saw three members of the Board of Commissioners, who had made environmental protection and sustainability a focus of their four years in office, swept out on the tea party tide. George Lucier, Tom Vanderbeck, and Carl Thompson (along with their co-Commissioners still holding office, Sally Kost and Mike Cross) put in place new laws to protect our waters and land, and were strong supporters for programs in the county that encouraged sustainable agriculture, innovative economic strategies, and green and LEED certified buildings. It is a very hard thing to see such visionary work stopped in its tracks.

But the work will continue. Just a week after the elections, people gathered at the beautiful new Chatham Community Library to watch the documentary film "Gasland", that shows the enormous cost of hydrofracking for natural gas to surrounding communities and their water. They came to discuss how we can prevent that from happening in Chatham and surrounding counties, with representatives of HRA, Clean Water for NC, and RAFI. *(continued from page 1)*

## Understanding Stewardship at the Learning Celebration

by Donna Myers, Watershed Education Coordinator

One day while walking along the trail adjacent to the Haw River during the Learning Celebration (LC), I visited the animal station. There, each 4th grade student held an animal skull, pelt or bone in their hands while sitting silently with their eyes closed. As I took a seat, the volunteer who led the animal station asked the students to open their eyes and share what came to their mind as they sat silently with their animal remains. One student shared that she heard the message to "take care of what is in my hands." The volunteer station leader's face lit up with recognition that there was a hardly a simpler instruction for environmental stewardship.



LC Volunteer Jo Sanders leads 4th-graders to the river in Bynum.

Photo by Donna Myers

In addition to exposure to the natural environment, a guiding principle for LC volunteers and staff is to encourage the 4th graders to pursue a lifetime of environmental stewardship. In addition to the Animal station, there is the Clay station that focuses on the cultural and natural history of the Haw River watershed; the Stream Steward station featuring a watershed model to educate students about the various factors that affect water quality; the Stream Watch station, where volunteers introduce students to the river ecosystem with a special focus on aquatic life and their habitats; and the Nature Art

station, where students learn how to see and express nature through drawing and painting. A 4th-grader favorite is the River Walk, where volunteers guide students through a riverside exploration of the natural habitat, flora, and wildlife. After students visit these stations, they enjoy a lunchtime concert and puppet show, which also highlight the natural and cultural history of the Haw River watershed. All of these LC experiences instill a sense of wonder and environmental stewardship in not just the students, but the teachers, parent chaperones, and volunteers as well. *continued on page 6*

## HRA Board of Directors

**Debbie Tunnell**, President, *Bynum*  
**Ruth Lucier**, Vice-President, *Bynum*,  
*Bennett College, Greensboro*  
**Tom Patterson**, Secretary, *Chapel Hill*  
**Chris Carter**, Treasurer, *Saxapahaw*  
**Brian Baker**, *Burlington*  
**Sam Berryhill**, *Graham*  
**Bob Brueckner**, Land Comm. Chair, *Durham*  
**Anne Cassebaum**, *Gibsonville, Elon Univ.*  
**Lynn Featherstone**, *Chatham County*  
**Sharon Garbutt**, *Chatham County*  
**Rich Goldberg**, *Carrboro*  
**Susanne Gomolski**, *Chapel Hill*  
**Nancy Hillmer**, *Silk Hope* (Retiring)  
**Joe Jacob**, Field Trip Coord. *Chatham County*  
**Margaret Jemison**, *Chatham County*, Emeritus  
**Mac Jordan**, *Saxapahaw*, Emeritus  
**Janet MacFall**, *Saxapahaw, Elon University*  
**Lawrence Peterson**, *Saxapahaw* (Elected 11/2010)  
**Efrain Ramirez**, *Pittsboro* (Elected 11/2010)  
**Matt Steible**, *Chapel Hill, Saxapahaw*  
**Margaret Tiano**, *Chatham County* (Retiring)  
**Cecelia Vassar**, *Burlington*  
**Nancy Zeman**, *Saxapahaw*

## HRA Staff

**Elaine Chiosso**, HAW RIVERKEEPER®,  
*Executive Director*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *Haw River Watch*  
**Donna Myers**, *Watershed Education*  
**Germane James**, *Development & Outreach*  
**Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*

## Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Cynthia Crossen \* **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Germane James, Donna Myers \* **Photos:** Sharon Calle, Cecelia Carver, Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Ken Crossen, Sue Dayton, Susanne Gomolski, Don Henze, Mary Longhill, Kathy Lucente, Erin Martin, Donna Myers \* **Logos & Poster Art:** Jan Burger

### To join The Haw River Assembly

or renew your membership, send a check to:

**HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228.**

*Individual: \$20    Family: \$30*

*Sustaining: \$50    Heron Circle: \$100 & above*

*Low Income: \$10*

*The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grassroots organization founded in 1982. Our mission is to protect and restore the Haw River, its tributaries, and Jordan Lake; and to build a community that shares this vision.*

**(919) 542-5790    www.hawriver.org**

## Dispatch from the River *(continued from page 1)*

Coming together to protect "the Commons" is going to be the key strategy for the next few years. People everywhere are fighting against the kind of corporate greed that led to the BP oil disaster in the Gulf, and the "Halliburton Loophole" that made fracking exempt from environmental laws. Likewise, the environmental justice movement is fighting the siting of polluting industries, mining, wastewater, factory farms and other unpleasant "necessities" of modern life, in poor, rural and minority communities. We cannot look the other way when pollution creates damaging environments for people who have the least power to fight it. The shift in the political landscape is our challenge to join forces to defend the Commons together. Clean water, air and land are our human rights, and now, more than ever we need to work with all people who are fighting for them. As said so well by Maude Barlow, founder of the Blue Planet Project, we will need to "dream into being - together - the world we know is possible and not settle for small improvements to the one we have." We must work towards a whole different model for a just and sustainable world even while we are fighting the abuses existing in the current one.

Haw River Assembly is envisioning what this can mean for our work ahead. We have programs in place that have been very successful in empowering people to understand the importance of protecting our waters and ways to get involved in citizen science and advocacy. We are teaching our children to become the next (and better?) stewards for our water and planet. Now we want to take our knowledge, tools and creativity and expand our work to include more kinds of communities working to protect our common resources, and on environmental justice issues. We want to grow our membership to include more people of color and diverse backgrounds. We want everyone in our watershed to know that HRA is working for our common rights for clean water and a healthy environment. These are rights that transcend all divisions, and give us hope for the future in troubled times.

*From the river,  
Elaine Chiosso*

**HAW RIVERKEEPER®**

A BIG THANKS to our outgoing Board President, Debbie Tunnell! HRA has thrived under her leadership, and we are happy to say she will be continuing on the Board next year.



*Iantha Gantt-Wright (second from right, with HRA Board members l-r Margaret Tiano, Chris Carter, and Ruth Lucier) leads Haw River Assembly Board and staff in a workshop to help us increase HRA's diversity. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.*





# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## Issues in the Watershed

### ***“Fracking”:* The dirty side of “clean” Natural Gas**

We hear a lot these days about natural gas being a cleaner fuel choice – but how is it produced? Hydraulic fracturing is a relatively new technology (developed by Halliburton) that has changed the game of natural gas mining. Used out west first, this method of extracting natural gas from shale or coal rock deposits is now happening in the northeast US as well, and we may be next.

Shale gas mining is done by drilling deep into the earth and injecting a cocktail of water, sand, and chemicals to break the rock formation, called hydraulic fracking. Horizontal drilling is used to access pockets of the gas further away from the original drill site. The chemical-laden water is mostly recovered and then stored above ground in pits to be used again. There are serious problems for water – the huge amounts needed for fracking, and the potential impact on groundwater. Reports from NY and Pennsylvania cite pollution of groundwater and surface waters. Neighbors of fracking sites have reported their wells polluted by hydrocarbons that may have entered through fractured rock underground – there are many instances of homes with drinking water you can light with a match.

Shale deposits run up through a geologic formation in NC from Anson to Granville counties, including parts of the Haw River watershed in Chatham, Orange, Wake, and Durham counties. The most active exploration is in the Deep River basin in Lee and Chatham, where mineral leases are already being bought up. NC does not currently allow hydraulic fracking or horizontal drilling, so we need to work fast to counter the aggressive efforts of the oil and gas industry to overturn these protections. The EPA is launching a national study of environmental effects of fracking in 2011, and is demanding that the mining companies release the names of all chemicals used in the fracking liquid – up to now considered trade secrets. In 2005 fracking was exempted from most federal environmental regulation (called the Halliburton loophole), including the Clean Water Act. There have been 1000 reports of ground-

water contamination in 6 states, with penalties and litigation linked to fracking.

I am working with several statewide environmental groups on this issue. Clean Water for NC ([www.cwfnc.org](http://www.cwfnc.org)) has a copy of the acclaimed “Gasland” documentary film they are showing around the state. HRA co-sponsored a showing with them in Pittsboro in November. The film is showing on HBO through 2012 and the DVD will be available for sale in December. Go to the “Gasland” website to find out more and to sign petitions:

<http://gaslandthemovie.com>.

### ***Concerns about Pittsboro’s proposed discharge to Haw River***

The Town of Pittsboro has submitted a permit application to NC to dump 2.47 MGD (million gallons/day) of treated wastewater effluent into the Haw River near the Hwy 64 bridge, in addition to its current discharge into Robeson Creek. A new wastewater treatment plant would use tertiary treatment to produce re-use quality water – necessary to meet the nutrient load standards for Jordan Lake.

The Haw River at the Hwy 64 Bridge, where the discharge is proposed, is a poor choice for any new activity that would negatively impact water quality and the aquatic ecosystem, such as an outfall for treated wastewater. This stretch of river has important Significant Natural Areas, and rare and endangered species and habitat. It is a public access point for the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, popular for paddling, fishing, tubing and other recreation, and only a mile upstream of Jordan Lake.

The Town of Pittsboro has a tremendous opportunity to use proven innovative approaches for reuse and/or land applied tertiary treated water that would otherwise be discharged into the Haw River. This tertiary treated water could be used throughout their ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction), including the huge proposed Preston development, where it would be relatively easy to install reuse piping and other infrastructure upfront. Irrigation reuse and more traditional land application would help restore the local hydrologic cycle which continues to be disrupted by development, increased water withdrawals, and direct discharges of treated wastewater effluent into already impaired surface waters. The CCCC campus and the new park in Powell Place in Pittsboro offer excellent opportunities for reclaimed water.

The Haw River Assembly sent comments to the state in late October raising many questions about this new discharge and data supporting it. We question the population projections (factoring in the housing slump); the secondary and cumulative impacts on water quality, the impacts on aquatic life and recreation use, and the proposed monitoring. Perhaps most important, we *continued on page 4*



*Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso talks about the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), at the showing of “Gasland” co-sponsored by Clean Water for North Carolina and HRA. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.*



# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## Issues in the Watershed

(continued from page 3) do not believe there was sufficient exploration of re-use alternatives. We have asked the state to hold a public hearing on this permit.



Photo by Sue Dayton

*Plume from Stericycle stacks emits pollution into the air, that then ends up in our waterways.*

### Other Issues in the watershed:

• **Stericycle Medical Waste Incinerator**  
The state is weighing public comment on both the specific air quality permit for Stericycle, and the NC adoption of the new stricter EPA standards for all medical waste incinerators. Over 16 local governments passed resolutions to the state urging a 2012 implementation rule instead of 2014: Mecklenburg County; Orange County; Chatham County; Union County; Durham County; Carrboro Town Council; Town of Haw River; City of Mebane; Town of Hillsborough; Town of Chapel Hill; Town of Green Level; Town of Stallings; Town of Gibsonville; Town of Swepsonville; City of Durham. These new standards will greatly reduce the amount of permitted air emissions, including heavy metals like mercury and lead.

To keep update on this issue go to the Stericycle Awareness Campaign at BREDL: <http://bredl-medwaste.org/>.

• **Durham “751 South” Development** Opponents of the very controversial rezoning for this mixed use development on Hwy 751 near Jordan Lake filed an appeal Sept. 7 asking the Durham Co. Board of Adjustment to overturn the Planning Director’s decision that their protest petition was invalid. A Board of Adjustment hearing on the 751 South rezoning appeal has been scheduled for Dec. 6, according to City-County Planning Director Steve Medlin. The “invalid” ruling was based on the developers’ ploy of deeding an easement to DOT on the front of their property, putting some of the petition signatories outside the required minimum distance. When DOT discovered that their acceptance of the easement would impact the development approval process, they said they would not accept the easement (backed by the NC Attorney General). Durham chose to disregard the state, and the protest petition was ruled invalid. Medlin’s ruling allowed the rezoning to pass with a 3-2 majority rather than the 4-1 minimum a valid petition would have required. If the rezoning approval stands, Southern Durham Development Inc. could submit annexation and water-sewer requests to the City of Durham for this mixed-use subdivision of up to 1,300 residences and 300,000 square feet of commercial space on a 167-acre site.

• **UNC-Chapel Hill** The draft 404 permit application to the US Army Corps of Engineers for Carolina North (the new campus north of the university) can be reviewed on the UNC-CH website: <http://cn.unc.edu>. The 404 permit is necessary under the federal Clean Water Act whenever developments impact streams and wetlands through crossings and fill materials. The draft application includes findings about potential impacts to environmental, historical and other aspects of the land to be developed, as well as streams and wetlands, and gives much information about the overall project and timeline. HRA will work with concerned Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents on comments on the permit application once it is out for public review. We have found from experience that citizen input on these permits can result in stronger requirements for environmental protections.



Photo by Donna Myers

*2010 Clean-up-a-thon volunteers show off the trash they removed from the Haw River at Hwy 64 bridge.*

.....

• **The 21st Annual Haw River Clean-Up - March 12, 2011**

• On the 12th of March, we’ll be holding our 21st Annual Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon. Join with enthusiastic volunteers as we go out to clean up trash from the river banks, creeks, and Jordan Lake on foot, and even by canoe! We ask small local businesses and individuals 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? 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, Caswell, Guilford, Alamance, Orange, Chatham, Durham and Wake counties. Call (919) 542-5790, or email [info@hawriver.org](mailto: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.

.....

## COMING SOON...

### THE HAW RIVER FESTIVAL RETURNS TO SAXAPAHAW!

Since we had such a great time in Saxapahaw last year, the 2011 Haw River Festival will be returning to its new digs in Saxapahaw. Plans are underway for the annual event, which will be held on the first weekend of May as a bash honoring the mighty Haw River! We will continue to offer stream monitoring, kids’ activities, raffles, a live auction, canoe rides, live music and much, much more! Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. Don’t miss out this fantastic day of family fun!





# The River Watcher Haw River Watch Project News

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

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

## Standing in the Stream by Cynthia Crossen

**River Watch Trainings & Events:** In September, I held a monitoring event for the public at the Lower Haw River State Natural Area in Bynum, teaching river watch techniques. Our 36 attendees included teachers, Woods Charter Envirothon adult volunteers and student team members, and Emerson Waldorf students. The event raised a lot of interest in our project. Woods Charter teacher Kathryn Tate and her students have begun monitoring the Bynum site, with Catherine Deininger's help. \* I demonstrated river watch monitoring in Saxapahaw, as part of Oktoberfest, with the help of stream watch enthusiast Maja Kricker. I am happy to welcome Bruce Ellis and his son Matt to the River Watch project--they will be taking over the Saxapahaw island site.\* River watchers and I went out on the very wet



Photo by Donna Myers

LC Volunteer Erin Martin teaches helps 4th-graders find macroinvertebrates in the Haw River, in Bynum.



Photo by Kathy Lucente

Kathy Lucente's Seawell Elementary fourth-graders measure the health of Bolin Creek by finding indicator species of aquatic larvae.

chilly morning of the HRA annual meeting in November, to catch critters. We brought our live critters, microscopes, and a critter slide show to the annual meeting, to share the Haw River Watch Project with our membership. Thanks to Jeannie Ambrose for microscope help, and River Watch Steering Committee members Maja Kricker and Betsy Kempter for help with collecting. \* Fourth grade teacher Kathy Lucente and I took her Seawell Elementary school class out to Bolin Creek to learn stream monitoring. \* I went out with the Margaret Pollard Middle School Envirothon team, to monitor the small creek behind their school.

### River Watch at the Learning Celebration:

Again, I had the joy and privilege of being on crew at the Haw River Learning Celebration (LC) for the entire three weeks, teaching

volunteers and fourth-graders about stream watch. Each week during this very successful LC was different for the Stream Watch station. In Bynum, the 4th-graders were able to hunt for critters from the river (a favorite activity for students and LC teachers!), due to the low water level. In Saxapahaw, LC volunteers and I were able to catch critters from the Haw on the first day, and then the rains came! When the river rose, we went to Mary's Creek for our critters for the rain day stream watch stations. In Guilrock, the water level was too high for 4th-graders to find critters directly out of the river this year, so I donned chest waders and demonstrated how to collect critters. Kudos to Donna and to all of our many dedicated volunteers who make it happen!

**New Stream Ecology Study Group Begins!** A group of enthusiastic and motivated volunteers and HRA staff are getting together for a stream ecology study group, meeting in Carrboro at lunchtime on the third Wednesday of each month. We will be honing our macro identification skills, increasing our stream knowledge, and enhancing our environmental educator skills. At the end of the process, we hope to have a group of expert stream watchers sharing their skills with others.



Photo by Jeannie Ambrose

We line up our bins to see what we have collected from the Haw River in Bynum, with River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen (in hat).



# 21<sup>st</sup> Haw River Learning Celebration Teaches River Stewardship

*(continued from page 1)* In the weeks leading up to, during and since the Learning Celebration, I serve as the point person for every volunteer,

contributor, donor, and teacher who brings their 4th grade class to this unique 3-week riverside environmental education program along the banks of the Haw River in Bynum, Saxapahaw, and the counties of Guilford and Rockingham. This community of people blends new and returning members that reconvene every year in the late summer to learn and teach the simple lessons given by nature. I want to say thank you to every member for the respect and openness that you share with each other and me. It is the simple things that individuals do that make the expansive nature of the program take its magnificent shape. Whether it is donating the use of land or equipment, a meal to feed the volunteers, leading a learning station or teachers who bring their students to the river environment, each member of this community follows this simple guiding principle to 'take care of what is in our hands.'



*Students discover the amazing properties of a hawk's wing at the Animal Station in Saxapahaw.*

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Photo by Ken Crossen

*from Donna Myers (second from right), our 2010 LC Coordinator, shown here sharing a quiet moment with volunteers by the upriver woodland spring at week 3's opening ceremony.*

Fourth-graders write of their Learning Celebration experiences:

*"Wow, I thought. I was hiking on the trail parallel to the Haw River. I could see the Haw River and the sight was astonishing. The river sparkled under the rays of sunlight."*

*"It was so much fun to jump on the rocks and search for little river creatures."*

*"My favorite station was Nature Art. Isn't it amazing that you can draw with rocks?"*

*"This was my first field trip that allowed me to wade in a river because the Haw River is clean. We should preserve the Haw River to make it clean forever."*



*Fourth-graders take pride in their creations at the Clay station.*

Photo by Sharon Calle



Photo by Ken Crossen

*Students observe the gills and three tails of a mayfly, an indicator of good water quality.*

*"I will tell my parents about it and try to get them to take me and my brother."*

*"We saw cool stuff like a deer's skull, and two wings from the same owl, and my favorite was the snake skin."*

*"I made a little pot that I formed around my pinky."*

*"My favorite thing was when...um...I can't decide, it was all so fun."*

I want to acknowledge the various contributors and volunteers who made this year's Learning Celebration a great success. Thank you to the many crew volunteers who led groups of 4th-graders from all over the watershed through learning stations, games, concerts, and puppet performances over the three week span of the LC. You all truly provided the participants with a unique experience of natural exploration that is the enduring legacy of the Learning Celebration (LC).

Special thanks to ❖ Steering Committee Members Maja Kricker, Jo Sanders, Eric Chetwynd, Erin Martin, Wanda Sundermann, Ben Noblit, and Martha Pentecost who met monthly to plan, promote and implement various tasks associated with the Learning Celebration. ❖

HRA Board of Directors ❖ Chris Carter and Paul Fleckenstein who volunteered for the entire 3 week span of the LC ❖ Canoe Guide Lynn Featherstone ❖ Jamie Saunders, who secured funding from RTI, as well as loaned kitchen equipment and assisted with the LC move ❖ Paperhand Puppet Intervention for lending puppets ❖ Puppet show directors Mardi Magoo and Martha Pentecost ❖ Libby Searles-Bohs and family for Thank You frames ❖ Clyde Jones ❖ Maddy Williams and Erin Martin for creating Turtle Tracks, the take-home environmental education publication for 4th graders who attended the LC

Thanks for helping to feed us: ❖ all of our wonderful meal providers, who fed us so generously and deliciously ❖ Rachel Winters, LC Food Coordinator ❖ Erin Martin and Libby Searles-Boh for supply shopping ❖ Cecelia Vassar for soliciting food gift certificates ❖ Henry Outz and Kevin Meehan of Turtle Run, for donating produce ❖ Saxapahaw General Store

Hosting Thank You's to: ❖ Tim McKee, Anna Blackshaw, and Rio for hosting the puppet show and concert in Bynum ❖ N.C. State Parks, with special thanks to Superintendent Shedrick Mole, for use of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area ❖ Saxapahaw land owners who donated use of their land during week 2: Donovan Zimmerman, Lea Clayton, Yolanda Lujan, Elizabeth England, Jim and Diana Burke, James and Janet MacFall ❖ Tom Roberts and Johnnie Farrar of Chatham Mills Development Corp., and Sue Eldon of Saxapahaw United Methodist Church, for donating indoor space for rain sites ❖ Mark Christy and Camp Guilrock ❖ Jordan Properties for use of facilities and for office support ❖ Wanda Sundermann and family for hosting and organizing the thank you party

Logistics Support Thanks to ❖ everyone who pitched in to help with site moves ❖ Chris Carter for the use of



Youth volunteers on crew sing their own composition: "On the first day of crew camp, this is what I got, A hole in the top of my tent."

his solar cart, cargo van, and trailer ❖ Austin Lybrand for the use of an equipment trailer ❖ Townsend Bertram & Company for tents ❖ Kevin Meehan for Use-Yer-Foots ❖ UNC CESA members for Bynum set up ❖ Paul Fleckenstein, Chris Carter, Jesse and Hope Wilder, and Ken Crossen for spearheading volunteer crew site set up/breakdown ❖ Deborah Amaral for providing storage

HRA Staff Thank You's An acknowledgement to

the HRA staff for going beyond the call of duty in the weeks leading up to, during, and after the LC: ❖ Christy Smith and Sharon Calle, Assistant Coordinators; both were integral to the successful organization and implementation of the 2010 Learning Celebration. ❖ Germane James, HRA Development & Outreach Coordinator, for leading stations, providing meals and off site administrative support ❖ Kathy Buck, Office Manager, for her administrative support throughout the program ❖ Cynthia Crossen for 3 weeks of expertise, songs, leadership and enthusiasm. ❖ Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director, who always promotes, supports and preserves the enchanting legacy of the Learning Celebration.



The Fox delights students at the puppet show.

Photo by Cecelia Carver

Photo by Mary Longhill



# Clean Jordan Lake - Heroic Trash Removal Continues!

On Saturday, October 9, an army of about 200 volunteers of all ages swarmed the woods along remote coves of Jordan Lake to pick up trash and haul it to the shoreline. Meanwhile, a navy of 50 volunteers launched from Robeson Creek Boat Ramp in boats, kayaks and canoes to cross the lake, load up trash and ferry it back to the boat ramp.

A steady stream of vessels passed back and forth between the ramp and the coves. By afternoon, 700 bags of trash had arrived at the ramp, enough to overflow two dumpsters. Even more startling was the stack of 600 tires, many still on rims, brought back on boats and piled six high in four rows along the side of the ramp.

Recreational users launching their boats at the ramp were shocked by this ugly sight.

Clean Jordan Lake (CJL) coordinated the assault on trash. Tom Colson, co-founder and president, said that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. Dept. of Transportation, North Carolina Forest Service, N.C. Big Sweep Program, Chatham County Waste Management, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary were invaluable to the tremendous success of the effort, by supplying dumpsters, logistical support, disposal costs, trash bags and gloves, and road access.

Junior high and high school volunteers, some studying environmental science, were astounded by the amount of trash that people carelessly throw away. Colson noted among the items were 55-gallon drums, a hot water heater, many propane tanks, thousands of glass bottles, aerosol cans of all types, and one 400-pound tractor tire. Much of this trash is carried into the lake by stormwaters originating upstream in the 1700 square mile watershed that includes Greensboro, Burlington and Chapel Hill; add to that the trash left by recreational users at the lake.

Colson said, "This was CJL's fifth cleanup event since its founding in August 2009. At the first event, 70 volunteers filled a dumpster and two NC Department of Transportation dump trucks with several hundred bags from just an acre of shoreline. The outpouring of volunteers and service donors since then shows a strong desire to restore Jordan Lake's shoreline." Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso is a member of the CJL Board of Directors, and the Haw River Assembly has been a strong supporter of these lake cleanup efforts.

The next lake-wide clean-up will be held during Big Sweep in October 2011. For more information visit [www.CleanJordanLake.org](http://www.CleanJordanLake.org).



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

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

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

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

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

**\$ 16 (youth) S, M, L**

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

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



*Army Corps of Engineers and Coast Guard auxiliary members volunteer their time and resources to help in the Jordan Lake cleanup.*

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



# Rainmaker Report

Things are busy as ever over here at the HRA office! Outreach events such as Jordan Lake Heritage Day, Pittsboro Street Fair, and Saxapahaw OktoberFest keep us in the public eye. Clean up events like the massive Jordan Lake Clean up help us maintain our mission as we connect with fellow river and lake lovers. Special events like the Burrito Bash aid in our fundraising efforts and keep our partnerships strong as we work together with other deserving organizations; this year we were pleased to share the event with Clean Water for NC.

The appreciation of the work we do does not go unnoticed as we were approached by two ongoing and uniquely generous fundraising opportunities. Our neighborhood sustainable specialty shop, Twig ([www.twigliving.com](http://www.twigliving.com)) will be donating 10% of your total purchase to us November 17th – December 7th, 2010, if you mention our name at checkout. This could be a great reward for us, so be sure to say “HRA” when you’re purchasing all of your fabulous holiday gifts this season! Also, a community of artists from the Triangle area called the Paintbrush Forest have come together to create a collaborative, all-ages, fine arts book called TREE. All proceeds from TREE will be donated to the Haw River Assembly. Currently, the artists are hosting an online auction from November 1 – December 15, 2010, featuring fine art pieces. The money collected from this auction will fund the printing of the book. Check out our back page for more information, or go to [www.paintbrushforest.com](http://www.paintbrushforest.com).

To add to the excitement of the past few months, we have just unveiled our latest Haw River Festival “Owl” T-shirt designed by the incomparable Clyde Jones! The shirt makes a great gift for those young and old, and is a great collector’s item. Mark your calendars, as our office, located at 199 Bynum Hill Road in Bynum, will transform into a T-shirt superstore from December 1st – 22nd. During this time, the 2011 Owl T-shirt and all of our HRF T-shirts are displayed and available for purchase. Previous years’ T-shirts (what we still have in stock) will be sold at a discounted rate! You won’t want to miss the chance to get your hands on some of the vintage tees! Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

And finally, I hope that you all will consider becoming one of our devoted fans on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/home.php/pages/Haw-River-Assembly](http://www.facebook.com/home.php/pages/Haw-River-Assembly). It is a great way to get last minute reminders, see pictures from events...sometimes right as they are happening. Please send this link to friends or family that may be interested in supporting our cause. We will end our year as we do every year, with an end of the year appeal to our members. As we prepare to send out our letter to you, we ask that you consider HRA as you make your close of the year gifts. Your support will help us continue to grow our



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

from Germane James, HRA Development and Outreach Coordinator

---

## HRA Annual Meeting



Photo by Don Henze

Jordan Lake Park Superintendent Shedrick Mole explains Bynum Mill improvements to HRA members.

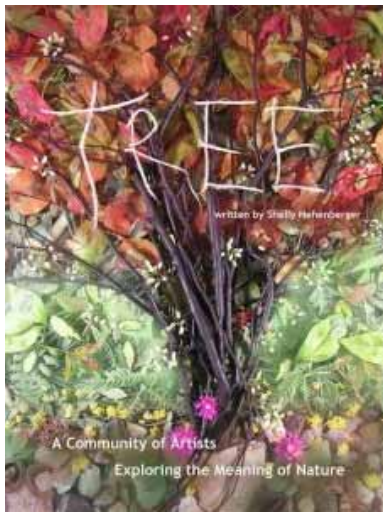
excellent and creative outreach and fundraising ideas from his experiences in community leadership. We said thanks and farewell to two outstanding Board of Director members, Nancy Hillmer and Margaret Tiano, who dedicated many years of great work for HRA. Debbie Tunnell was also thanked for her great work as Board President after serving four years in this position. Although stepping down as chair she will continue on as an HRA Board member.

Our keynote speaker this year was Jordan Lake Park Superintendent Shedrick Mole (pictured above left, pointing). Shedrick shared the State Park’s plan for the Bynum Mill Site. First stage was clearing the area, planting grass, and removing old mill remnants that were considered a hazard. Second stage was taking down the damaged building but keeping the

We had another great annual membership meeting, this time in the vibrant mill village of Bynum in Chatham County. Our planned kayaking, hike, and nature art activities unfortunately had to be canceled, as Mother Nature decided to bring us some much needed rain. Cynthia Crossen, Haw River Watch Coordinator, led macroinvertebrate collecting as planned, bringing in samples from the river so that HRA members could take a closer look under the microscope. She spoke to us about her work with the Haw River Watch Project since 1994. Elaine Chiosso, our Haw Riverkeeper, gave us updates on issues in the watershed, including the Durham 751 South development, Stericycle, and the new threat of hydraulic fracturing possibly coming soon to Chatham, Lee, Durham, Wake and Orange Counties (see page 3).

We held elections for the 2011 Board of Directors and are happy to welcome Lawrence Petersen and Efrain Ramirez as new members of the Board. Lawrence is a photographer, naturalist and canoe guide, who will bring his passion for conservation to our work. Efrain Ramirez is returning to our Board, and will again provide

(continued on back page)



**Tree**, by Shelly Hehenberger, is in production: pre-order your copy today! This beautiful book displays the artwork of 30 artists from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro, NC area, exploring the meaning of a tree.

**Proceeds from the book benefit the Haw River Assembly.** Hard cover, \$25.00 + \$2.00 shipping.

This program is supported by the Orange County Arts Commission with funds from the Grassroots Program of the NC Arts Council, a state agency.

You may support this project in three ways. Visit [www.paintbrushforest.com](http://www.paintbrushforest.com) to:

1. Bid on the original pieces of art featured in the book, Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2010 (see Auction page).
2. Purchase the beautiful coffee table edition of this book of art (see Book page).
3. Show your colors with cool Paintbrush Forest gear – T-shirts, coffee mugs, and more (see PBF Gear page).

Visit [www.paintbrushforest.com](http://www.paintbrushforest.com) for more information, and to bid, order the book, and purchase PBF gear.

### **Annual Meeting** ( continued from page 9)

hydroplant in place. The third phase, still awaiting funding, will include trails, picnic tables, canoe put-in spots, trash cans, and an historic display using original bricks from the mill. As Shedrick wrapped up his speech, the clouds parted, the sun came out, and he offered to take us down to the mill site to show us exactly what he was speaking about. This project sounds great and we look forward to its completion. In the meantime, Shedrick assured us that folks can still park in the mill parking lot and visit the river until it is complete.

Shedrick mentioned that budget cuts have caused several layoffs in the Parks department, leaving them understaffed during peak seasons. Volunteers are always welcomed at the park for a variety of duties. Contact Ranger Rob Preston, Volunteer Coordinator at (919) 362-0586 ext. 217 or [rob.preston@ncdenr.gov](mailto:rob.preston@ncdenr.gov) for more information on the possible opportunities.

Thanks to everyone that came out to the meeting! It was a pleasure to meet some new members and reconnect with some of our longtime supporters. Also, thanks to the Bynum Ruritan Club for generously allowing us to use their space for the meeting.

**Join us for the 21st  
Annual Clean-up-a-thon  
on March 12!**

Address Service Requested

**Haw River Assembly  
P. O. Box 187  
Bynum, NC 27228**

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chapel Hill 27514  
Permit No. 490