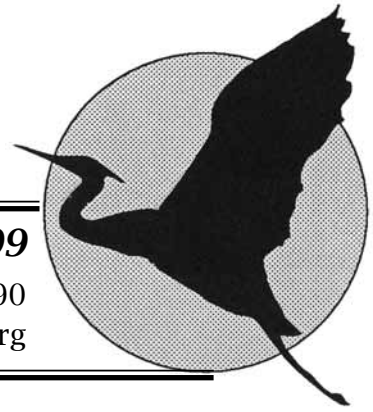


Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly *September 2009*



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

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

The Jordan Lake Rules Are Finally LAW!

The new state rules to clean up Jordan Lake passed into law with the adjournment of the state legislature in August. Although the rules lost some strength from the original version passed by the Environmental Management Commission, the protection gained for Jordan Lake is still very significant. In the final months, the Haw River Assembly, other NC environmental organizations (especially Environment NC and NC Conservation Network), and some downstream local governments, especially Chatham County, fought back hard to make sure vital parts of the rules made it through. We compromised with the opposition forces, led by Greensboro and Durham, to extend timelines for the rules to clean up Jordan Lake, but kept intact the important precedent that will require local governments in the entire Jordan Lake watershed to begin retrofits or pass new ordinances to control runoff pollution.

The lake can never be clean unless all sources of pollution are addressed, including existing pollution, and these rules will do that. It was a long, tough seven years in the making, but we have gained much for water quality, and not just for Jordan Lake. The Haw River and all the tributaries that carry dirty water to the lake will be cleaner in the coming years as these rules take effect. The first benefits will be seen next year when all municipal wastewater treatment plants are required to reduce the amount of phosphorus in wastewater effluent by 5%. In addition, people who rely on clean water in Falls Lake and High Rock Lake, which are also impaired for algae, will benefit from the precedents hard won for Jordan Lake. Congratulations to all of us for hanging in there to get these rules passed. We will need to be vigilant for many decades to come to make sure the rules are implemented--but for right now, we can breathe a sigh of collective relief. Thanks for all your many comments, letters, and emails to public officials over the years: it made a big difference in protecting our waters.



Photo by Susanne Gomolski

HAW RIVERKEEPER® and HRA Executive Director Elaine Chiosso enjoys kayaking the Jordan Lake she has worked so hard to protect.

HRA Has Protected the Headwaters of the Haw



Photo by Bob Brueckner

On August 21, the Haw River Assembly bought the remainder of the forest that protects the source headwater springs of the Haw River. This two acres is part of a larger six acre forest under permanent conservation. Thanks to our members, we have raised \$4,500 of the total \$20,655 needed for the purchase, and have borrowed the rest from our Rainy Day account. We are continuing to seek donations to support this purchase. Any help you can give will be gratefully accepted. We will offer a field trip to these headwater springs this coming winter, when walking in the woods is a pleasure. It is a fine thing to stand in this forest and know we have finally protected it.

In 1999, the Haw River Assembly had the opportunity to buy about four acres of this forest that was for sale. We secured funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and U.S Fish and Wildlife to buy it, then turned it over to the Piedmont Land Conservancy, to be kept in trust for perpetuity. *continued on page 9*

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HAW RIVERKEEPER®
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Jenna Schreiber, *Watershed Education Coord.*
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Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Germane James, Jenna Schreiber * **Photos:** Pat Bell, Kathy Buck, Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Ken Crossen, Matthew Deininger, Barbara Ford, Susanne Gomolski, Liam Kearns, Ruth Lucier, Peter Theye, Doug Wakeman * **Logos & Poster Art:** Jan Burger

To join The Haw River Assembly
or renew your membership, send a check to:
HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228.
Individual: \$20 Family: \$30
Sustaining: \$50 Heron Circle: \$100 & above
Low Income: \$10

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

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

Notes from the Haw

I've been thinking a lot about trees this summer – how they shelter and shade us, clean our air, and moderate our climate; and about their growing importance in the warmer world to come. Along the streams and rivers their roots hold the soil, and their canopy keeps waters cool for life below. They are habitat for creatures we glimpse in quiet moments. We are blessed with beautiful trees and forests here in the Piedmont of North Carolina, and to hear the sound of the wood thrush at summer twilight, and the owl's call at night, are great gifts indeed. But I mourn the loss of those voices as hard economic times mean more and more forests being cut for the money they bring as lumber and pulp. I stood under the trees at the headwaters of the Haw earlier this year, and vowed that we would find a way to buy that little piece of sacred forest that shelters the springs where our river begins. I have not been back since we bought the forest in August, but when I do, I will take a moment to say thanks to all of you who helped us save those trees.

I left the quiet forests and beautiful Haw for an exciting week in NYC this summer at the annual Waterkeeper Alliance conference. Waterkeepers from all over the US and the world, including Canada, Latin America, Russia, China, India, and Africa, converged for a week of workshops, speakers, and great networking. The conference focused on energy and climate change related to water issues, and we heard from Bobby Kennedy Jr. (President of Waterkeeper Alliance); James Hansen, NASA; and special guest speaker Bill Clinton. We enjoyed a special ferry ride along the entire East River at sunset as the great highlight of the trip, passing under the beautiful bridges spanning the city – and thinking of what a daunting task to be a keeper of those waters!

I returned to our watershed with renewed energy to protect this beautiful river. I needed every bit of it to tackle the final passage of the Jordan Lake rules, and the increasingly complicated battle to keep developers from "shrinking" the Jordan Lake boundary in Durham County. Thanks so much to ALL the Haw River Assembly members who met our appeal this summer to support these efforts, including my work as a Riverkeeper. Your support is what keeps us going!

From the river,
Elaine Chiosso
HAW RIVERKEEPER®



Photo by Pat Bell

HRA Staff at the HRA Bynum office: Top row: Cynthia, Haw River Watch; Catherine, Stream Steward. Middle row: Elaine, Haw Riverkeeper & Exec. Dir.; Jenna, Watershed Education; Kristina Milhiser, Jordan Lake Campaign. Front row: Germane, Development & Outreach; Kathy, Office Manager



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

Battle to Protect Durham Jordan Lake Boundary Continues

Thanks to almost 150 donors, we raised the funds needed to pay for a new survey and hydrology report of the Jordan Lake boundary on New Hope Creek in Durham. Our new survey of the Jordan Lake boundary found the point for the normal pool elevation of the lake on New Hope Creek to be approximately 6500' farther up New Hope creek from Durham's current boundary point. Our survey, using the creek bed elevation method, correlates very closely with the maps created by Southern Environmental Law Center using Lidar technology. This is the point where the waters of the lake would reach at normal 216' pool elevation if no water was running down the creek. The original developer's survey (known as the Hunter survey) used surface water elevation as the survey method, and brought the point almost equally as far downstream towards the lake. These competing maps from the developer and from HRA bring to light the lack of guidance in North Carolina on what method should be used to determine this critical point – where does a creek become the lake? And should an impaired creek flowing into an impaired drinking water reservoir, ever have lands re-zoned for less-protected status, regardless of what survey is used?

We presented our survey to the Durham Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and to the Durham Planning Commission in order to strengthen our argument that the county should not reduce the protected zoning around Jordan Lake in Durham County based on the developer's survey. The map and re-zoning changes being requested would result in lands being removed from current zoning that provides protection for water quality in Jordan Lake, including the land owned by Southern Durham Development. These 164 acres, "the 751 Assemblage", are located on the lake side of Hwy 751 just south of Stage Coach Road. The developers are proposing a massive mixed commercial/residential development with higher density than currently allowed under the protected zoning district where it is located.

The Durham BOCC voted to send the decision making process on the map and zoning changes back through the Planning Commission in May. Southern Durham Developers then sued the BOCC. Although the county commissioners were following state law in voting to allow a public hearing on the boundaries, the lawsuit alleges the county engaged in "an unlawful attempt to strip Southern Durham of its rights to develop the property." On August 10, the Haw River Assembly, represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center, filed a motion to intervene in that lawsuit on Durham's side. On August 11, the Durham Planning Commission voted 12 to 0 to recommend to the BOCC against the map change and re-zoning around Jordan Lake. Since then the BOCC also fired their county attorney, Chuck Kitchens.

The decision over the map and re-zoning change will next go back to the Durham BOCC in September, where the board has been split on this issue with Commissioners Page and Bowser on the developer's side, Heron and Reckhow on the lake protection side, and Bowerton as the swing vote. We are working with a very determined and knowledgeable group of Durham activists on this issue, including many HRA members. The Durham People's Alliance has also joined this effort to protect Jordan Lake from yet another development land grab.

Muddy Water Watch - Report from Year One

Since the fall of 2008, the HAW RIVERKEEPER® carried out two sets of trainings in the watershed. Twelve volunteers completed the trainings in Chatham County, and fifteen in Orange County. In Orange County we worked directly with two creek watershed protection groups – Friends of Bolin Creek and the Morgan Creek Valley Alliance – to help organize the meetings. Cynthia Crossen, HRA's River Watch Coordinator, helped prepare the training materials. In classroom sessions, we learned about the law and best management practices (BMP's), and on field visits to construction sites, we saw sediment and erosion control practices in place. We had great support and participation from the local program officers in each county – thanks to Jim Willis of Chatham and Terry Hackett in Orange. Volunteers have been using their training to submit site report cards about the problems they see at construction sites. These reports go directly to the local or state agencies in charge of sediment and erosion control, as well as to the Haw Riverkeeper.

In this first year, three areas of concern were identified about the law and practices of keeping mud out of our streams:

- (1) **Lack of inspections and enforcement from Division of Land Quality (DLQ) Raleigh Regional Office.** Insufficient state funding translates to infrequent oversight of projects that are under the jurisdiction of the Raleigh Regional Office. We saw this on both a UNC site in Orange County, and a construction site in Pittsboro, which is not part of Chatham County's local program.



A bald eagle soars over Jordan Lake.

Photo by Doug Wakeman

Gearing Up for the 20th Annual Haw River Learning Celebration

Our 20th annual Haw River Learning Celebration (LC), HRA's hands-on environmental education program for fourth-graders, is fully underway! With the LC quickly approaching, volunteer recruitment and registration are in full swing. The LC Committee and HRA staff have diligently been handing out colorful brochures and flyers at street fairs, community meetings, and to every friendly face we see. It is our hope that the 20th Anniversary of the LC will inspire old time volunteers to return, and inspire new volunteers to get involved with this time-tested event.

We have hired Jenna Anderson as the Safety and Logistics Coordinator for this year's Learning Celebration. Jenna graduated from Warren Wilson College in spring 2009 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and a double concentration in Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Education. She has spent the summer leading Boy Scout camp canoe trips in the Boundary Waters. Trained in advanced CPR, First Aide, Wilderness First Aid, and as a certified lifeguard, Jenna also brings a strong background in Environmental Education and Wilderness Skills to the job. We are excited to have her on the LC team!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

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



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

LC Volunteer Mary Longhill explores the Haw River with fourth-graders in Saxapahaw.

I am pleased to announce that even with the poor economy, high fuel prices, and limits on field trips faced by many schools, the Learning Celebration has a record number of schools (15) registered to attend, with only room for a few more small schools and home school groups. We are just about to our capacity for fourth-grade participants!

And with a record number of students expected to attend this year's Learning Celebration, we need a record number of volunteers.

Please help us make this year's Learning Celebration a success!

- ❖ Share your Learning Celebration experience with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, and encourage them to get involved.
- ❖ Help with a meal: Prepare a meal for about 30 of our hungry volunteer crew members, OR donate money or food for one of our meals. To help with a meal, please contact Rachel Winters at (919) 932-1873 or rachelwinters@mindspring.com, or contact Jenna Schreiber.
- ❖ Come out and Volunteer! Share your love of the Haw River with fourth-grade students from our watershed. Be a part of the dedicated community of volunteers on which this program depends. No prior experience is necessary; we will train you.

To Volunteer:

Contact Jenna Schreiber at (919) 542-5790 or jenna.schreiber@gmail.com.

For more information visit www.hawriver.org.

Learning Celebration 2009:

Week One: September 19 - September 25, in Bynum at the State Natural Area by Bynum Mill.

Week Two: September 26 - October 2, in Saxapahaw, on the property of Lea Clayton and Donovan Zimmerman.

Week Three: October 3 - October 9, at Camp Guilrock in Reidsville/Rockingham County.



Photo by Barbara Ford

Haw River Hootenanny Rocks! At this year's Hootenanny fundraiser at the Bynum General Store, Jesse Crossen leads the crowd in a long-time LC favorite: "Animals Need Water, People need it too, Keep it clean for me and I'll keep it clean for you!" with (l-r) John Waken, Paul Ford, (Jesse), Donovan Zimmerman, Cynthia Crossen, Hope Donny-Clark, and Lea Clayton.

Thanks also to Jimmy Magoo, and Down River for making the music happen, to Mickey LePew for his clowning, and to Jagmeet Mac for storytelling. Also, a SPECIAL thank you to Steering Committee Members Katie Rose and Eric Chetwynd for their hard work in planning this great event. AND a big thanks to the volunteers and audience who came out to support the Learning Celebration.

Join, Renew, or Donate to the Haw River Assembly!

I want to: *Join* *Renew my Membership Dues:* (Please check the date on your mailing label to see if your dues are up to date. Memberships are good for one full year from the date received.)

\$20 Individual _____ \$30 Family _____ \$50 Sustaining Supporter _____ \$10 low-income _____

\$100 (or more) Heron Circle Member _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip _____

Phone# () _____

E-mail: _____

Give a special donation in the amount of \$ _____

for Headwaters Purchase Durham Lake Boundary Protection General support

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



Photo by Elaine Chiosso



2009 Haw River Festival T-shirt

Clyde Jones Bald Eagle T-shirts are available in: Adult gray (left, modeled by Debbie Tunnell, HRA President), Ladies' butter yellow (center, modeled by Catherine Deininger, Stream Steward Coord.), and youth bright turquoise (right, modeled by Cynthia Crossen, River Watch Coordinator)



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

\$ 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 Fearington, 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 #, 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.

HRA's 27th Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, November 7, 1 to 4 pm
at the New Hope Camp & Conference Center

This year's annual meeting will be at the beautiful New Hope Camp & Conference Center located on Hwy 86 between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough and between Interstate 85 and 40. The meeting will include elections for our Board of Directors, and a special presentation from Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director and Haw Riverkeeper, covering HRA updates, the Durham Boundary issue, and the latest on Jordan Lake. Walking trails, ponds, and a large deck overlooking it all should make this a beautiful place to be on a fall afternoon. Look for our announcement, and check our website, for details and directions this fall.

Nominations for HRA Board of Directors

The HRA Board of Directors is elected by our membership at the Annual Meeting each year, and has oversight for the policies and budget of the organization. Board members are also active on committees and in keeping our work energized and creative. We have several openings for new board members. If you would like to place your name, or that of another member, in nomination for the HRA Board of Directors, please contact Elaine Chiosso at the HRA office (919-542-5790, info@hawriver.org) for information about board responsibilities and meeting schedule.

Our 20th Annual Haw River Festival Celebrates the River in Bynum

The 20th Annual Haw River Festival in Bynum on May 9th turned out to be a celebration of longevity as well as rain! Despite looming clouds all afternoon, the site stayed dry until just minutes before the festival was coming to an end! The Festival Jam led by Cynthia Crossen was in full swing on stage and had a good view of the storm moving in. They kept on singing until the first raindrops fell. We began a fast and wet clean up with lots of help from dedicated board members, staff and volunteers. But the rain isn't the whole story!

We welcomed five tremendous bands to our generously upgraded stage: **the Never**, the **Tim Smith Band**, **Akapoma Traditional Music & Dance**, **Big Fat Gap**, and the **Festival Jam**.

We were also treated to some great stories from **Louise Kessel & Jef**. We ended the day with the raffle drawing for the Approach Dagger 10.0 Kayak – won by Laura Vanderbeck of Chatham County. Congratulations!

We also welcomed several new **artists** to the event this year, as well as **local environmental groups**, **state parks**, and **land conservation folks** who were on hand to show how we can save planet earth, and this special part of it.

Clyde Jones generously donated some fierce bald eagle critter paintings for the silent auction, plus lots of critter cutouts for kids to paint that afternoon. **Paperhand Puppet Intervention** put on a parade of giant puppets, that led our happy festival goers across the Bynum Bridge for a salute to the river.



Folks took part in stream monitoring down at Bynum Beach with **Cynthia Crossen**. Paddling experts **Joe Jacob**, **Lynn Featherstone**, **Stan Stutts** and **Bob Brueckner** gave free canoe rides to children--a very popular activity!

Once again the **Bynum Kuritan Club** provided delicious food for Festival-goers. All of it was enjoyed by a crowd of enthusiastic people down at the old Bynum Bridge – and best of all, at the Haw River itself.

A Heartfelt Thanks to All the Volunteers and HRA Board and staff

for a wonderful, fun day! Special thanks to **Germane James** for her work organizing the Festival, **Elaine Chiosso** for chaos control, **Jesse Phillips** on parking, **Will Hackney** on sound, and **John Iwasiw** on the use of his beautiful mobile stage.

Thanks to **local artists**, **Performance Bicycle**, and **Great Outdoors**

Provision Co. for auction and raffle items. A big thanks to **Mary Hartman** for guarding the lives of our canoers and river critter catchers. And especially, to all the **performers** whose music joined with the sounds of the river on a beautiful Saturday in May.



Above right: Ken Moore, native plant in hand, shares his enthusiasm for all things growing and green, at the native plant booth.

Above left: Kids always love painting Clyde Critters.

Left: Stan Stutts takes kids out on the Haw. Right: Even the tiniest ones love to catch critters from the river at Bynum Beach. All photos on this page by Cynthia Crossen.





STREAM STEWARD PROJECT NEWS

Project Coordinator Catherine Deininger Email: deininger@hawriver.org

Wrapping Up the Two Threatened Streams Project by Catherine Deininger

I've had an interesting three years investigating Pokeberry Creek and Dry Creek in Chatham County with the help of some amazing volunteers and HRA staff. We decided to invest this time in studying these two watersheds because we were concerned about the impact that increased development was going to have on these creeks and others in Chatham County. Right now I'm scurrying to finish up the remaining pieces to this study. The Two Threatened Streams in Chatham County project has been funded by the state's 319 program for nonpoint pollution. The final report for this grant is due by Halloween.

Part of this study involved measuring increases in pollutants in the creeks due to stormwater runoff. Dan Line and Jamie Blackwell from NCSU Water Quality Group handled this part of the investigation for us, collecting stormwater samples for 21 storm events on Pokeberry Creek and 22 for Dry Creek. They found that for more than half of the storm events, turbidity in both creeks was greater than the state's standard (of 50 NTU) for receiving waters. Unexpectedly, they found that pollutants did not appear to be increasing as Pokeberry Creek flows downstream. This was not too surprising, however, since potential runoff from new wastewater spray irrigation did not occur during this study due to the slowdown in new development. On the other hand, increases in concentrations of ammonium downstream in Dry Creek indicated significant sources of organic waste. Possible sources could be wastewater application, sewage sludge, and/or animal operations.



Photo by Peter Theye

Catherine collects a stream bank sample on Pokeberry Creek for the Two Streams Project.



Photo by Matthew Deininger

The Two Streams Team tackles macroinvertebrate ID's: (l-r) Sharon Garbutt, Betsy Kraus, Catherine Deininger, Jeannie Ambrose, Cynthia Crossen, and Neville Handel.

Another important component of this study was the investigation of the benthic aquatic life of the creeks. With the help of some very dedicated volunteers, Cynthia Crossen and I collected 3 spring samples and 2 fall samples from 9 monitoring sites. Our ability to identify families of stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies, and numerous other aquatic insects has been greatly enhanced by the work we've done for this project. We are still sorting out our conclusions about benthic macroinvertebrates in Dry and Pokeberry Creeks. We definitely did not find a shortage in aquatic life in either creek.

I also conducted visual assessments along the main stem of Pokeberry and Dry Creeks. Pokeberry Creek is home to numerous beavers that have helped create many lovely wetlands. These wetlands have done an excellent job of removing much of the sediment that has washed into Pokeberry Creek. The turbidity in Pokeberry Creek is generally higher than it is in Dry Creek, but it also unexpectedly decreases as you go downstream, probably due to the wetland filters. Farm and timberland is quickly phasing out in

Pokeberry and being replaced by new development. A potentially big concern for headwaters of Pokeberry Creek is the number of small lots with septic systems. Dry Creek watershed is a more rural area with lots of timberland and farming. Deeply incised stream channels, divergent channels, and numerous rock walls along the stream banks indicate that Dry Creek has a long history of being impacted by rural living.

I will be giving a public presentation on the *Discoveries from Investigating Dry and Pokeberry Creeks in Chatham County*, on Thursday, **September 24th** at 7 pm, in the auditorium of the **Agricultural Building in Pittsboro**. For more information about the presentation, please contact me at deininger@hawriver.org.



Photo by Kathy Buck

Fellow stream assessor Kathy Buck snaps a photo of Catherine as they assess Dry 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

Eighth Grade Stream Investigation

Program Watershed Education Coordinator Jenna Schreiber and I, along with dedicated volunteers Sharon Garbutt and Courtenay Vass, jumpstarted HRA's new 8th grade program at the Greensboro Montessori School and at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro. Despite a little rain, Brian Purvis's 80 Horton 8th-grade biology students were able to walk from their classroom down to Robeson Creek, where they had a blast finding all kinds of aquatic life, including lots of crayfish and some very large mussels.

We are now talking with biology teacher Kelly Sears at Smith Middle School about how we can work with her students to enhance the stream monitoring they have already been doing.

We have created a new website site page dedicated to our 8th grade program at www.hawriver.org, where teachers can learn about our program and obtain curriculum materials.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Horton 8th-graders monitor Robeson Creek in Pittsboro, with the help of volunteer Sharon Garbutt (far right).

Stream Monitoring I love showing folks what life there is in the river, because they are always as amazed as I am about the wonders found in streams. This May, we hunted for critters down at Bynum Beach during the Haw River Festival. In June, as part of a special kids' program for a Saxapahaw Rivermill Saturday, we monitored near the Saxapahaw Island. Also in June, the Homeschoolers of Color and I learned about the Haw in Bynum. With Nature Explorer campers at the N.C. Botanical Garden in July, we checked the health of Meeting of the Waters Creek, a tributary of Morgan Creek (see photo on page 9).

Even the littlest ones can enjoy this activity – sometimes finding aquatic critters, sometimes just filling their small nets with stones. I am heartened and hopeful that these memories will inspire children to be good stewards of the river, and that they and their parents will take action to keep our waters healthy.

This spring Catherine Deininger and I were again invited to teach a class of Amy Kennedy's biology students at Central Carolina Community College. In this ideal setup, we walked down to Hill Creek bordering the campus to collect macroinvertebrates, then identified them using microscopes in the biology lab.



Photo by Liam Kearns

At our public river monitoring in Saxapahaw this June, we found a fair water quality rating.

River Watchers When river watchers want to brush up their collecting and identification skills, I am glad to meet with them at their site for some water quality monitoring. I had this opportunity this spring, with Bush Creek monitors in Chatham County. When I left, they were more confident in their abilities, and happy to have learned more about their stream.

River watching is a great project for neighbors to do together. I'll be meeting with Gillian Corzine and her Indian Orchard neighbors this fall to monitor at Gillian's family's site on the Haw River in Chatham County. Let me know if you want to start a team on your own neighborhood creek!
--Cynthia Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Tom Hauck (center) leads a team of his Ferrington neighbors in monitoring Bush Creek.

In Memoriam: Bruce Holt, Kristy Manning, Thomas Berry



For many years, Bruce Holt inspired us with his pipe ceremony for our Opening Ceremony for the Learning Celebration at the headwaters of the Haw.

Photo by Ken Crossen

Bruce Holt, longtime and beloved Haw River Learning Celebration volunteer, inspired volunteers and fourth-graders alike with his deep love for the earth and his connection to spirit. He brought his large collection of Native American artifacts to show children, who were fascinated by his tales of the magic, spirit, and energy in these special stones, crystals, tools, and art.

For many years, Bruce Holt brought his peace pipe to our Opening Ceremony for the Learning Celebration at the headwaters of the Haw. Offering a pinch of tobacco and then the smoke from his pipe to the four directions, Father Sky, and Mother Earth, he reminded us to be grateful for the gifts we receive from the earth, to treat the earth lovingly and respectfully, and to honor the sacredness of our home. He taught us to honor and respect each other, and our animal friends, as precious beings who can live in peaceful community with each other.

Thank you, Bruce, for all the gifts you gave us. We will remember you, and honor your legacy as we continue to instill love for the earth in every child we reach.

Kristy Manning served as President of the Haw River Assembly in 1998 and 1999, bringing her keen intelligence, excellent sense of process and progress, knowledge of the environment and policy issues, and cheerful determination to the job.

Kristy contributed much to HRA during a time when our organization was undergoing new growth and renewed efforts as advocates of clean water. She worked on raising funds to support our work to restore and protect the river. Her leadership efforts are part of the legacy of our work to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake. In the December 1999 newsletter, Kristy wrote of HRA's achievements during her tenure as President:

“As this final newsletter of the millenium goes to print, I'm thrilled to report that HRA has reached a really remarkable point in its evolution. Our 10th anniversary festival was a huge success, puppets and all. With 45 teams, the River Watch program continues to expand. We have just purchased and transferred the Headwaters of the Haw for permanent protection by the Piedmont Land Conservancy. We are pursuing a variety of land conservation and restoration initiatives too numerous to mention.”

Those of us who knew Kristy and worked with her appreciated her dedication and excellence as HRA President, her friendship, her laughter and brightness. She was caring, passionate, and compassionate, a loving and dedicated mother and wife, a treasured friend to many. We will miss you, Kristy.



In 1998, Kristy Manning (left) helped organize our annual Haw River Festival in Bynum (with Executive Director Elaine Chiosso and Candace Waken).



Photo by Ruth Lucier

Chris Carter and Elaine Chiosso present Thomas Berry (right) with a Haw River Festival T-shirt at the 2008 Bennett College Environmental Forum.

Thomas Berry, 94, passed away this June in Greensboro, where he grew up, and came home to at the end of his life. From his academic beginnings as a historian of world cultures and religions, Berry developed into a historian of the Earth and its evolutionary processes. Describing himself as a “geologist,” he was a passionate advocate for the protection of our environment, themes explored in his books *The Dream of the Earth* (Sierra Club Books, 1988 reprinted, 2006), and *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future* (Random House, 1999). For two decades, he directed the Riverdale Center of Religious Research along the Hudson River. This August two more books of his essays will be published: *The Sacred Universe* (Columbia University) and *The Christian Future and the Fate of Earth* (Orbis Books). He was a beloved member of the Haw River Assembly and an inspiration to all of us. A final memorial service is planned at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC this September. Please go to www.thomasberry.org for more information.

Report from Germane James, Our Rainmaker

Our latest fundraising mail appeal is still underway. We are receiving more and more generous donations everyday! With just over \$7,250 collected, this new approach to an appeal letter has proven to be very successful. Thanks to all that supported one or all of these issues: continued support of the Haw Riverkeeper's work on clean water issues, the Jordan Lake boundary survey, and the recent purchase of the remaining headwaters land! On another positive note, we have reached and surpassed our benchmarks for year one of the Project Rainmaker program, bringing in over 150 new members, 50 individual donors, and 10 major donors!

I have also been quite busy attending workshops and conferences across the mid-Atlantic. Project Rainmakers made it possible for us to attend the fabulous River Rally which was held in Baltimore's dazzling inner harbor! I attended workshops with fundraising, marketing, and cultural relevance. It was a great opportunity and I look forward to implementing many of the ideas and techniques I learned. In the beginning of July, the rainmakers convened once again, this time in Wilmington, to discuss the basics of non-profit management. It proved to be another great learning experience in a beautiful setting.

Our annual board retreat took place on August 15 at the Piedmont Biofuels campus. We welcomed consultant Brenda Summers in to help with our strategic planning, review of previous year's accomplishments, and assessment of our mission. We also discussed possible opportunities and challenges facing HRA in the next 2 to 3 years, as well as upcoming goals. All and all we had a very productive day, and the outlook for the next few years is very positive. We thank Brenda Summers for her helpful facilitation, and the staff and board for their hard work and participation!

We are also in the process of completely updating our website with the help of Les Stewart of Seamless Designs in Raleigh. We are still in the early design stages but should have a new website design by early fall.

Thanks again for all of your support to HRA during these difficult economic times. We will continue to inspire those in our watershed communities and encourage the improvement of our water quality.



Muddy Water Watch (MWW), continued from page 3. This meant there were inadequate numbers of inspections carried out, very slow response to complaints, and not much feedback once they went out to inspect sites. This lack of resources for regional offices is a concern of all MWW programs underway in NC by Riverkeepers. Trained MWW volunteers in Orange County will be able to play a crucial role in holding UNC-Chapel Hill to high standards when land disturbance starts for the construction of the new Carolina North campus.

(2) **The turbidity standard.** It has been very frustrating to MWW volunteers to see constantly turbid waters that are carrying suspended sediment. The construction loophole for the 50 NTU Turbidity Water Quality Standard in NC means that waters that are closer to 500 NTU are still not in violation if they are following an approved Sedimentation and Erosion Control plan. MWW has given volunteers a very clear picture of how the law is failing us in NC.

(3) **Bad site management and other problems due to downturn in economy.** A large number of incomplete projects are not getting sufficient attention from the developer's owners. The huge financial crisis in the homebuilding market has led to insufficient oversight of land disturbance in projects that are in foreclosure, or simply stalled and waiting for the economy to improve. These sites have still active BMP's in place that need maintenance, or may have never been seeded sufficiently and are now slowly getting worse. Local program inspectors have complained of the difficulty of getting the necessary work done as developers simply walk away or for projects that are in foreclosure.

Our volunteers were able to see clearly the overall effectiveness of the local programs in both Chatham and Orange. In both counties, local inspectors helped with trainings by providing information on local ordinances (stricter than the state minimum) and expertise in the field for construction site visits. Both county programs are strong and effective, and provided a strong contrast with the inspection and enforcement seen by volunteers at sites not under local programs, sites that rely on the very limited resource of the state DLQ regional offices. It was very clear that having ordinances that are stronger than the state minimum is essential – and both counties require permits for projects of ½ acre or less, have strict riparian buffer regulations (100' on perennial streams and protection of smaller

waters), and use the means they have to stop work on construction sites as needed to fix problems.

NEXT: The Haw Riverkeeper is planning to train volunteers this fall to be watchdogs on the Western Wake Expressway (TriX), the I-540 toll road that will cut across every creek flowing into Jordan Lake from Wake County – creeks that have already been damaged by sediment from new housing developments in recent years. We also hope to start trainings within the next year in Durham and Alamance counties.



Headwaters Purchase *continued from p. 1*

The remainder of this forest, about two acres, came up for sale this spring. The current economy has meant that state, federal, and land trust budgets for purchases such as these have been slashed deeply. HRA felt it was absolutely vital that we purchase it for permanent protection in order to save all of the forest around these fragile springs. We trust that many of you will help us reach the rest of our fundraising goal by donating toward the headwaters purchase.

Upcoming 2009 HRA Events

- Fri. Sept. 11, Haw River Sunset Paddle**, Led by Haw River Canoe & Kayak, info@hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465
- September 19-20 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend** For info on project (919) 967-2500, riverwatch@hawriver.org
- September 19 - October 9 Haw River Learning Celebration for Fourth-graders.** For info & to volunteer, see p.4.
- September 24, 7 pm, Auditorium of Agricultural Building in Pittsboro, Discoveries from Investigating Dry Creek and Pokeberry Creek in Chatham County.** Presentation by Catherine Deininger, Stream Steward Coordinator
- Sat., Oct. 3, 10 - 3 pm White Oak Recreation Area off Hwy 64 Heritage Day at Jordan Lake** Music, hands-on fun for kids, historical & natural history displays. Free.
http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/do.html
- Sunday, Oct. 11, River Cleanup** Led by Haw River Canoe & Kayak: info@hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465
- Sat., Oct. 31, Pumpkin Paddle in Bynum**, Led by Haw River Canoe & Kayak, info@hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465
- Sat. Nov. 7, 1 - 4 pm, New Hope Camp & Conf. Ctr, HRA Annual Membership Meeting** See insert for details.
- Sat., Nov. 14, Harvest Full Moon Paddle**, Led by Haw River Canoe & Kayak, info@hawrivercanoe.com, (336) 260-6465
- December 12- 13 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend**
For info see **Upcoming Events** at www.hawriver.org.
For info, **field trip sign up**, and to volunteer, contact HRA at (919) 542-5790; info@hawriver.org.



A group of HRA members gathered at Bynum Beach to honor our In Memoriam heroes by planting "Haw" Viburnum shrubs. These shrubs will blossom fragrantly on the Haw River banks each spring, a remembrance of our departed friends. Photo by Cynthia Crossen

**HRA Annual Meeting
Sat. Nov. 7, 1-4 pm,
New Hope Camp,**

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