

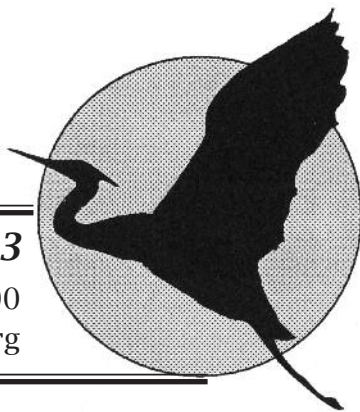
Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly April 2013

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

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



Fracking, Sludge, & Attacks on Jordan Lake Rules -- Are Hazardous To Our Health!

The Latest News on Fracking

As we go to press, the latest bad bill about fracking in NC – SB76 – is stalled in the House of Representatives. Let's urge our lawmakers to keep their promise not to fast-track approval for fracking while removing many critical protections that were in place to protect landowners' rights and to keep groundwater safe from toxic industrial waste.

Last year, fracking became legal (by one vote) in North Carolina, but there is a two-year moratorium in place while legislators learn more about fracking before deciding whether to actually grant drilling permits. SB76 would overturn that by automatically lifting the moratorium in 2015 without another vote, regardless of what regulations the state has put in place to protect us. SB76 would also take away from NC counties and towns the ability to collect taxes and fees from oil and gas companies for damage to infrastructure. For the first time it would allow disposal of toxic oil and gas wastes underground. Deep underground injection of frack waste in other states has resulted in earthquakes, and the fear that the frack fluid wastewater will move upwards into the groundwater and aquifers. Contact your legislators with your concerns and urge them to vote **NO** on SB76. Go to the FrackFreeNC.org website for the latest on fracking. You can also view a slide show about the dangers of fracking in NC on the HRA website, www.hawriver.org.

Sludge – The Hidden Polluter?

We have long questioned the safety of land application of sludge from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). When sludge is applied to agricultural lands, it can run off into streams or become airborne when sprayed or with subsequent land disturbance. Sludge is promoted as “biosolids” that farm-



Photo by Matthew Leavitt

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's Haw River Clean-up-a-thon! An amazing amount of trash and many tires were pulled out of the river, and from alongside its banks. Thanks, everyone! Here, Carolina Canoe Club paddlers clear out trash that can't be reached on foot.

ers can use as free fertilizer for its high nutrient content. Unfortunately, sludge also contains many known and unknown toxic chemicals, carcinogens, and endocrine disrupters that can end up in our environment – and back into drinking water and the food chain. These chemicals get into sludge from both residential wastewater (including the pharmaceuticals we ingest and the cleaning products we use) and from the industrial waste sent to the same WWTPs. As you can see from the map on page 3 by Amy Lowman of UNC-CH, the Haw River watershed has a high number of sludge fields. Sludge from WWTPs that process industrial wastewater, such as Burlington's, is particularly toxic. The textile industry in our region, both new and old, has resulted in high levels of chemicals such as flame retardants in the Haw River. Is there a direct connection between the impairment to rural streams we have been seeing in recent years, and the application of sludge to fields nearby? More research and answers are needed. Better public access to state records and better enforcement of current laws are needed. *continued on page 3*

HAW RIVER FESTIVAL SAT. MAY 4TH IN SAXAPAHAW, 4-8 PM

Fun for the whole family! See details on page 8.

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Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine
Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Donna Myers * **Photos:**
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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: \$25 Family: \$40

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 com-
munity that shares this vision.*

(919) 542-5790 www.hawriver.org

Notes from the Haw

Spring has arrived at last in the Haw River basin, with redbuds blooming, frogs chirping, birds singing, and ospreys fishing the river again. With plentiful rain this winter and spring the river is great for paddling – come join us on one of our trips this spring and summer down the Haw, or visit the recreation page on our website to find paddle guides and outfitters in our area.

Let's hear a big shout-out to all our volunteers, partners and sponsors of the Haw River clean-up in March! What a great effort! After 23 years of hauling trash off the riverbanks, islands, lake coves and streamsides, we can say with great satisfaction that we are seeing a big change for the better. Of course, trash that gets in our streams from illegal dumping or littering, or swept off streets by stormwater, is just the visible pollution. We are increasingly concerned about the growing cocktail of chemicals that enter our streams through wastewater effluent, sludge run-off, and stormwater. This invisible pollution has multiple sources – from the pharmaceuticals that pass through our bodies to unregulated chemicals used by industries. This invisible pollution raises serious public health concerns. It's time we get started on serious solutions.

We want to give a big thanks to Brian Baker, who is leaving our Board of Directors after many years of service to the Haw River Assembly. As Alamance County's Trail Coordinator, Brian has been a major part of the efforts to increase land conservation and public access to the river, and new and improved hiking and paddle trails too. We will continue to work with Brian on these efforts – thanks from all of us!

Hope to see everyone at the Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw on Saturday May 4th.

Happy Spring!

From the Haw, Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®



*This osprey is getting ready for nesting,
carrying a twig in its talons.*

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

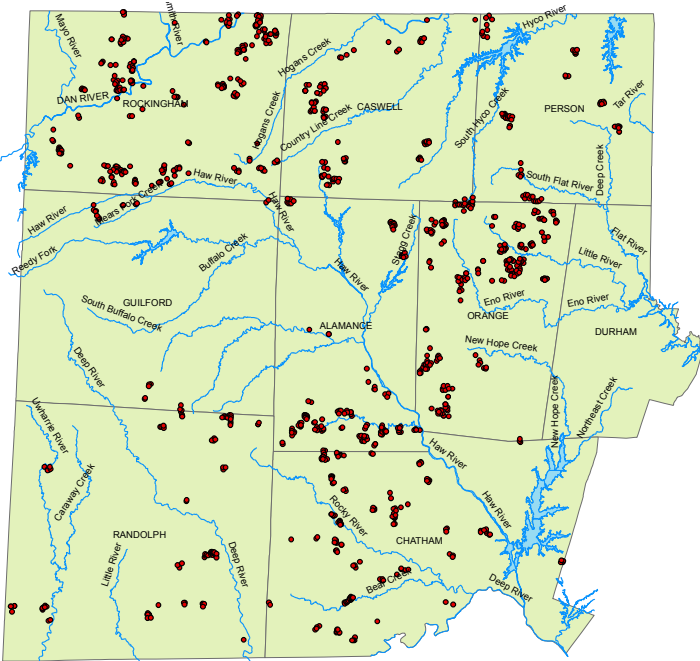
from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

continued from page 1 Better rules, such as more distance between sludge applications and homes and schools, would also help. But there are deeper underlying problems that must be addressed. We are working with scientists to better understand these issues and will advocate for better practices, not just in our watershed, but by teaming up with others concerned about sludge in the state and nationwide.



Photo by Susanne Gomolski

Haw River and Permitted Sewage Sludge Fields



Source of map: Amy Lowman, Epidemiologist, UNC-CH



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Maribel Sierra from Clean Water for NC (left) helps hold the banner high at the March 19 anti-fracking rally in Raleigh against SB76 allowing fracking in NC.

Continued Attack on Jordan Lake Rules

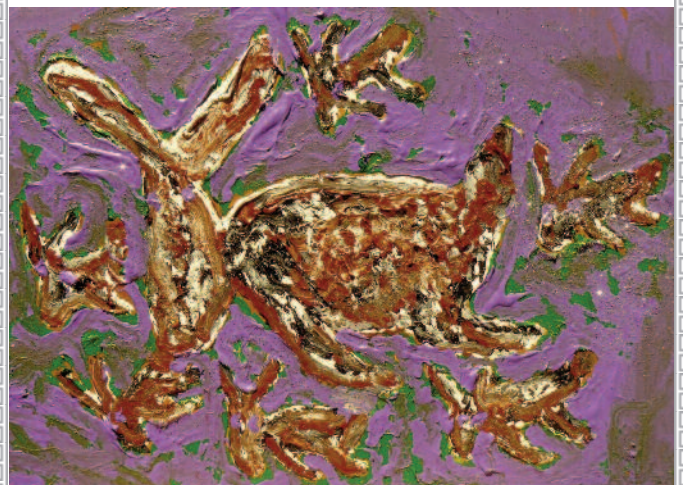
As expected, a new bill has been introduced, SB515 (Nutrient Management Standards Reform Act), that continues efforts to weaken the Jordan Lake rules. SB515 would put enforcement of riparian buffer protections under DENR, rather than local governments – a big problem since DENR is chronically understaffed. This bill would also let public utilities run water and sewer lines down along streams – which would damage the buffers and result in both increased nutrients and sediment in streams. We do not need more sewage overflows right next to streams! The Jordan Lake rules have been weakened by the current General Assembly for the past two years at the urging of upriver cities and development lobbyists. Upgrades to reduce nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants have been delayed, along with stricter stormwater pollution controls for new developments. Jordan Lake is not going to get cleaner by weakening and delaying the rules meant to decrease pollution. SB515 will only make things worse.

2013 HRA T-shirt Clyde Jones "Rabbit"

Sage green, soft 100% organic cotton shirts from TS Designs in Burlington; environmentally friendly Rehance dye process eliminates plastisol.

\$ 23 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL
\$ 23 (ladies) S, M, L, XL
\$ 17 (youth) S, M, L

Available at Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Saxapahaw General Store, Chatham Marketplace in Pittsboro, & the HRA office in Bynum (919-542-5790).



Watershed Education News:

Teaching About the River

from Donna Myers, Watershed
Education Coordinator



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

The Learning Celebration (LC) is a riverside environmental education program held for three weeks each fall, at three different watershed sites. Volunteers lead fourth-graders through hands-on exploration of the river environment. Learning Stations include nature art, stream ecology, watershed cultural history, and animals, and all meet at least one NCSCOS Competency Goal for 4th grade. There's also a puppet show and concert! All activities inspire students to think about how human actions affect the river and its watershed communities.

This year's LC Dates:

Bynum: Saturday, September 21 through Friday, September 27, with Education Programs offered Tuesday Sept. 24 through Friday Sept. 27

Saxapahaw: Saturday, September 28 through Friday October 4, with Education Programs offered Tuesday October 1 through Friday October 4

Camp Guilrock: Sunday, October 6 through Friday October 11, with Education Programs offered Tuesday October 8 through Friday October 11

Teachers, contact Donna Myers at donna@hawriver.org to register your classes.

Volunteer: Learning Celebration volunteers have the unique opportunity to work with children in the day, then camp overnight at the field trip sites. You can also come as a day volunteer. Either way, training and meals are provided. Come and camp by the river and enjoy delicious meals! Contact donna@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790 to volunteer.

Look for the volunteer registration form online this summer.



Volunteer Paul Fleckenstein leads
4th-graders on a river walk in Bynum.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Standing in the Stream

Haw River Watch News from Cynthia Crossen, Project Coordinator;
(919) 967-2500 (ofc), (919) 542-3827 (hm); riverwatch@hawriver.org

Teams Continue on under New Leadership We love to collect stream data over years at a site, to get an overview of the health of a stream and to use that data to protect the stream. I'm grateful when a long-term site gets new leadership to continue. Martha Garrett's team monitored Little Buffalo Creek at Lake Daniels Park for many years, and now the Sierra Club Youth Coalition, led by Happy Mackenzie, has taken over the monitoring of this site. This group of high schoolers is motivated to help protect the environment, as well as to learn more about stream ecology and stream stewardship. Tom Hauck and John Custer, who have monitored Bush Creek at Fearington since 2004, are

passing leadership to Mike Galu, part of an active group of Fearington residents wanting to improve the health of Bush Creek. Tom will stay involved with the team.

Working with Students: Late last fall, Maja Kricker and I again worked with the Margaret Pollard Middle School Envirothon team, who are excellent at finding and identifying macroinvertebrates. Along with Donna and other volunteers, we'll be working with Horton students again this spring, helping them learn about and improve Robeson Creek, right in their school's backyard.



Photo by Ken Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Sierra Club Youth Coalition, led by Happy Mackenzie, takes over monitoring Little Buffalo Creek, an urban stream that runs through Lake Daniels Park in Greensboro.



The Pollard Middle School Envirothon team
braves a chilly late November day to look for
macroinvertebrates on the Haw in Bynum.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Fun on the Haw -- For All Ages!

Frog Hollow Outdoors 2013 Paddle Trips

Frog Hollow Outdoors provides a resource for canoe & kayak education; the exploration of nature, relaxation, adventure, self-discovery; and a greater overall connection with the outdoors.

Visit www.froghollowoutdoors.com for more information.

Contact info@froghollowoutdoors.com to register for any of the trips below.

NOTE: HRA members receive a discount for these trips; non-members receive a free HRA membership.

Saturday, May 11 - Intro to River Kayak Fundamentals

Saturday June 22 & Sunday 23 - Intro to White Water

Saturday, Sept 14, Bynum Reservoir

Saturday, Oct 12, Chicken Bridge to 15-501



Join the Fun! For information on field trips, paddle trips, and other events, see Upcoming Events at www.hawriver.org; or contact HRA at (919) 542-5790 or info@hawriver.org.



Haw River Adventure Camps With Haw River Canoe & Kayak

Haw River Adventure Camps are for 10 to 15 year olds, and run June 10-14 and July 8-12. Week-long adventure Camps are from 9 am to 4 pm, for five weekdays. The cost is \$250 per participant, with a portion of each camper's registration fee going to support HRA. Visit www.hawrivercanoe.com to register.

Adventure camps are designed to engage campers with the outdoors through different activities on land and on water. In addition to time spent paddling, campers hike different sections of trails along the Haw River throughout the week. Campers learn outdoor living skills such as orienteering, shelter-building, and tree and plant identification. Camp staff work on developing teamwork and confidence as campers participate through games and exercises on our challenge course.

HRA staff and volunteers offer two sessions where campers learn about the river ecosystem and watershed stewardship. Campers conduct scientific exploration of the river through hands on water quality sampling as well as macroinvertebrate collection. Visit www.hawrivercanoe.com to register, and to learn about the many paddling opportunities they offer.



All photos on this page by Cynthia Crossen

Thanks to 309 Hard-Working Volunteers -- 719 BAGS OF TRASH & 167 TIRES ARE GONE FROM THE HAW!

The 2013 Clean-Up-A-Thon was a resounding success! **Eighteen teams**, totalling **309 volunteers**, removed **719 bags of trash** and **167 tires** from the Haw River watershed. Congratulations to these intrepid volunteers for helping clean up our beautiful waterways. Here are some details about this amazing effort to clear trash out of our Haw River watershed.

Torry Nergart, with Scout troop volunteers, cleaned up 10 bags of trash at the **Haw River State Park** in Browns Summit.

Cecelia Vassar and **Nate Gruver** collected 3 bags of trash on **Brooks Bridge Road**. Their efforts were supported by Grove Winery, who supplied the bags and gloves. They found deer carcasses tossed over the river bank in plastic bags and left since last winter.

A team of about 15 paddlers, led by **Jake Matheny** and organized by **Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.**, cleaned 15 bags out of the river at **Saxapahaw Lake**. They hauled out 3 tires, a bag of sun bleached deer bones, and a camping chair.

Mary Longhill and the Homeschool Community Service Group made a big difference in **Saxapahaw** at the **Boy Scout Camp**. This team of 14 collected 30 bags of trash, 6 tires, and an orange and white highway barrel. Their weirdest trash was a panel that said "JEEP".

Along the river in Saxapahaw is a lot clearer of trash, thanks to **Sherry Holt's** team of 3, who collected 13 bags of trash, including 26 pieces of lumber.

Johnny Randall led 33 volunteers from the **Morgan Creek Valley Alliance**, with support from the **Town of Chapel Hill**, in cleaning up 30 bags of trash and 2 tires out of **Morgan Creek** in **Chapel Hill**. Their best find: the stove top of an Easy Bake oven!

Old Greensboro Hwy is a lot cleaner now, thanks to **Bill Vande** and his team of 8 neighbors, who removed 24 bags of trash, including a 4' long gas tank, and a white painted metal head and foot board for a twin bed.

Jeff Pettus collected 2 bags of trash--and a TV set!--from along **Chicken Bridge** in **Chatham County**.



Ferrying trash: Stephen Harrison (left), and Roman Falkowski (center) of the US Army Corps of Engineers help a volunteer move an old refrigerator to their boat to bring to dock for later pickup. Photo by Ellen Tinsley

The **Haw River** at the end of **Rock Rest Road** in **Chatham County** was cleaned up by a team of 8 neighbors led by **Cynthia Crossen**, who collected 7 bags of trash, a tray from an animal cage, auto parts, and one ball. Two Northwood students participated as part of their school service requirement. Their most unusual find was a hollowed out piece of a deer antler, which had been chewed at both ends.

Cathy Markatos collected a bag of trash from along **Dry Creek** at **Old Graham Road** in **Chatham County**.

All sites on the Haw River and creek in Bynum had 19 bags of trash and 3 tires removed from them, thanks to the 18 volunteers led by Elaine Chiosso. Volunteers included students from both UNC-CH and local high schools. Thanks to Chatham County for providing a dumpster for the day. Their weird trash haul included a sheathed picnic knife, rusted turnbuckle from Bynum dam, Garmon GPS, and leopard print bikini underwear.

Maarten Simon Thomas and the **Fearrington Green Scene** mustered a team of 15 volunteers, who cleaned up along **15-501 bridge (north)**, taking out 20 bags of trash, 1 tire, and most unusually, one bra.

The **Carolina Canoe Club** Paddler team, led by **Bob Brueckner** and **Larry Ausley**, got the prize for the quantity of trash collected per volunteer. The heroic efforts of 15 paddling volunteers netted a haul of 68 bags of trash and 4 tires, cleaned up from islands, floating logjams, and other places not accessible from land--from **above the Bynum dam at the 15-501 bridge all the way to Hwy 64**. Unusual items they found included a folding chair, a purple bowling ball, a cooler, and part of a dog house.

What a way to celebrate a birthday -- by making the world a cleaner place -- as did this group of 23! Led by **Donna Myers** with **Michelle Pratico**, they cleaned up 17 bags of trash and 4 tires from along the



Volunteers from Fearrington capture trash from the river above the Bynum dam..

Photo by Fred Tutman

Hwy 64 Bridge, river left in Chatham County. Their haul included particle board, a dresser, an oil drum, fencing, and the front end of a truck.

The other side of the river, at **Hwy 64 Bridge, river right**, was tackled by 9 **Woods Charter School** students, who removed 14 bags of trash. Going above and beyond the call of duty were two students and a parent, who spent 12 hours over several days cleaning up the area. Their weird trash included an old barn mailbox front door, part of an old toy pistol-cap gun type, and, most disgustingly, tampons and diapers.

The **Redbud** team of 7, led by **Sarah Goddin**, collected 4 bags from **the Haw between Bynum and Hwy 64**. One of the most scenic areas of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, this stretch has long been cleaned up by volunteers from neighboring Redbud.

Gary Simpson led his team of 2 in collecting 10 bags of trash and 1 tire from along **Robeson Creek, in Pittsboro, from 15-501 to the west**, finding in the process a DOT orange cone and a glass jar terrarium.

The largest team by far was organized by **Fran DiGiano** and **Brett Hartis** of **Clean Jordan Lake**. This crew of 115 volunteers removed an impressive haul of 432 bags of trash and 143 tires from **Jordan Lake near the dam**. The **Army Corps of Engineers** provided boats to ferry trash to the dumpsters, with assistance from several boating volunteers. In addition to removing 143 tires, they removed large propane tanks, a container full of lubricating oil, and a large refrigerator. The cleanup covered a two-mile stretch of shoreline from Poe's Ridge Boat Ramp to the face of the dam. It also included a popular fishing spot on the bank of fast-moving water behind the dam. To help with future lake clean-ups, contact Clean Jordan Lake at cleanjordanlake.org.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Rock Rest team sets out to get some trash.

Join Us in Thanking Our 2013 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors



The trash removed from Jordan Lake's shores included a pail of lubricant oil, carried here by **Fran DiGiano** (center), president of Clean Jordan Lake. Also shown is volunteer **Helen Chisholm**. Photo by Ellen Tinsley, DVM

Additions Plus (Stan & Patti Stutts), Pittsboro, (919) 968-3737, sestutts@mindspring.com

Auto Pro (Barry & Jennifer Howard), 5520 US 15-501N, Pittsboro, (919) 542-0964

Benjamin Vineyards & Winery, 6516 Whitney Rd., Graham www.benjaminvineyards.com

Bish Enterprises, Inc. (John McSween), Siler City, 27344, (919) 663-3336

Blackwood Station Outfitters, 5670 15-501 N Pittsboro, (919) 533-6022

Bynum United Methodist Church, Bynum, (919) 542-4715

Carolina Country Builders (Paul Konove), Pittsboro, (919) 542-5361, greenhomedesignbuild.com

Crosswinds Boating Center, 565 Farrington Rd., Apex, www.crosswindsboating.com

Cure Nursery (Bill & Jennifer Cure), 880 Buteo Ridge, Pittsboro, (919) 542-6186

Edward Jones (Chad Virgil), 630 East St., Suite 2, Pittsboro, (919) 545-5669

Furniture Lab, 106 S. Greensboro St., Carrboro, (919) 913-0270, www.furniturelab.com

Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co., Saxapahaw, (336) 260-6465, www.hawrivercanoe.com

Hobbs Architects, P.A., 480 Hillsboro St., Ste 400, Pittsboro, www.hobbsarchitects.com

Joyful Jewel (Mariah Wheeler), 44-A Hillsborough St., Pittsboro, www.joyfuljewel.com

Marcoplos Construction, Chapel Hill, (919) 966-0056, marcoplosconstruction.com

Mellow Marsh Farm, 312 Woody Store Rd., Siler City, www.mellowmarshfarm.com

Saxapahaw Rivermill, Saxapahaw, www.rivermillvillage.com

Space Builders, 112 East Main St., Carrboro, spacebuilders.biz

Strata Solar, 1119 US 15-501 Hwy South, Chapel Hill, www.stratasolar.com

Susan DeLaney, ND, 301 Weaver St Carrboro, www.thewellnessalliance.com/SusanDeLaney.html

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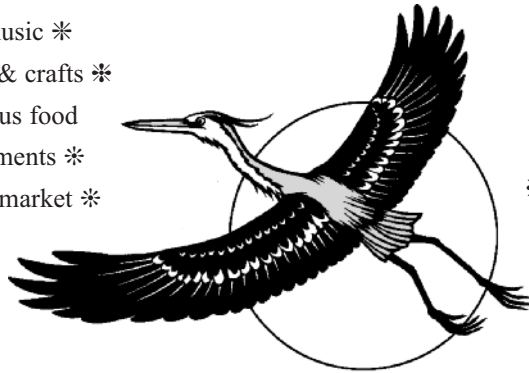
Individual sponsors: Cecelia Vassar, HRA Board *** Galen Kirkpatrick *** Jared Kirkpatrick *** Asher Kirkpatrick

SPECIAL THANKS to the following partners and supporters for helping us with trash collection, supplies, and organizing: NC DOT * Chatham County Solid Waste Dept. * Saxapahaw Rivermill * Clean Jordan Lake * Carolina Canoe Club * Farrington Green Scene * Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company * Haw River State Park * Durham Stormwater Services * Homeschool Community Service Group * Grove Winery * Morgan Creek Valley Alliance * Town of Chapel Hill

HAW RIVER FESTIVAL

*SATURDAY MAY 4TH IN SAXAPAHAW,
4 - 8 PM*

- * live music *
- * local arts & crafts *
- * delicious food
& refreshments *
- * farmers' market *



- * stream monitoring *
- * canoe rides for kids *
- * info on watershed issues,
including fracking *
- * T-shirts new & vintage *

Join us in celebrating the 31th year of the Haw River Assembly, at our annual Haw River Festival! *** We'll be kicking off the summer outdoor music season in Saxapahaw with this special day on the Haw River. *** For directions and more info, visit www.HawRiver.org, or www.RiverMillVillage.com. Hope to see you there!

*Haw River Festival
May 4, 4 to 8 pm,
in Saxapahaw!*

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