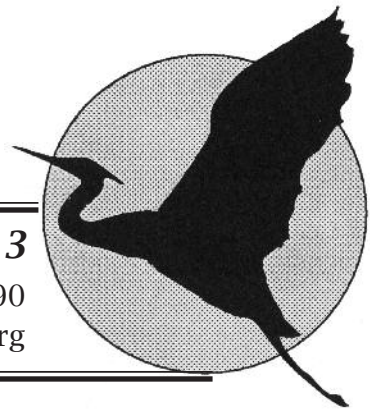


Voice of the Haw

The Haw River Assembly August 2013



P.O. Box 187 · Bynum, NC 27228 · (919) 542-5790
email: info@hawriver.org · www.hawriver.org



The 2013 General Assembly: Assessing the Damage – and Moving Forward Together

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



HRA members speak out against fracking, and for keeping regulations to protect Jordan Lake and the streams flowing into it.

The NC General Assembly adjourned in late July leaving our state stripped of many important and hard fought protections for our waters, our environment, and our health, education, and voting rights. The Haw River watershed – and especially Jordan Lake – was hit hard by new legislation. SB 515 (“Keep Jordan Lake Dirty”) delays the Jordan Lake Rules for three more years. This will stall current efforts to reduce pollution going into the Lake from upstream sources, and allow new development upstream to be built without the better stormwater practices required under the rules passed in 2009. The new state budget includes funding for an experimental demonstration to see if the dirty lake water can be cleaned up by mechanical devices instead of stopping pollution at the source. Experts say this technology only works in small bodies of water and could never work in a reservoir the size of Jordan Lake. This experiment will cost the taxpayers almost \$1 million.

Another bill will force the City of Durham to provide water for the long-contested development 751 South, that never should have been situated this close to Jordan Lake. Other legislation and budget provisions sharply cut into DENR – again – with loss of staffing and new re-organization that will leave our state with much fewer resources and enforcement to fight pollution and preserve our natural resources.

Many of us from the Haw River Assembly took part in the Moral Mondays at the legislature each week, reminding our

state elected officials to “Protect People, Not Polluters”. All the people of NC are “customers” of public services, not just businesses that have lobbied for less-protective environmental regulations. Now that the legislature is adjourned, Moral Monday events will be held in every Congressional district in NC. Look for announcements and join in! We need to make sure that the people of North Carolina understand what they lost under this legislature, and are prepared to vote in 2014, despite the attack on our voting rights.

One of the rare successes this session is that the many attempts to rush fracking in NC – to allow many dangerous practices to go forward and to lift the current moratorium – did not make it through the session. The enormous effort of grassroots and statewide organizations and their members – including you – let legislators know that this is an issue we care strongly about. Attempts to allow underground injection of the toxic frack water, a very weak frack chemical disclosure law, and prohibition of local taxes and ordinances all were stripped out of bills, and did not make it into law.

continued on p. 3

It Takes A Village To Teach the Children - We need you!

Join us down at the Haw as we put on the Haw River Learning Celebration this fall, offering to 4th-graders in our watershed this dynamic riverside environmental education program. Since 1990, hundreds of volunteers have introduced students to the wonders of the river, inspiring them to think about how human actions affect the river and its watershed communities. At three watershed sites during September 21 to



Allison Schwarz Weakley leads 4th-graders on a river walk in Bynum. Photo by Cynthia Crossen

October 11, volunteers lead students through hands-on exploration of the river environment, with stream ecology, watershed stewardship, river walk, nature art, clay, and animals. The day ends with a picnic, concert, and puppet show about the Haw’s history and issues. Be a volunteer – you’ll have the time of your life! **See page 4 for how you can get involved.**

See you on the river!

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Tracy DeVoe, *Watershed Education Coordinator*
Kathy Buck, *Office Manager*

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Cynthia Crossen * **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Tracy DeVoe * **Photos:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Ken Crossen, Susanne Gomolski, Fred Tutman * **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: \$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 community that shares this vision.

(919) 542-5790 www.hawriver.org

Notes from the Haw

Dear fellow river protectors,

This has been such a very hard summer for all of us, watching our state in a race to the bottom, and the good works we have all given so much to being undone. It's hard not to feel discouraged, but I truly do believe that we will turn this around. There are too many of us to be ignored, and we've gone too far to turn back now.

I want to share some words I wrote for a new book, "Small Stories, Big Changes – Agents of Change on the Frontlines of Sustainability" that has been published by Lyle Estill, a Chatham County leader in sustainable energy, creative entrepreneurship and community vision (see page 7 for more information on his book). I was asked to contribute my story of what led me to, and sustains me in, this work I have been doing for so long for the Haw River and our community.

People sometimes ask how I keep doing this work – what keeps me going? Well, I just can't stand by and see injustice being done, whether to people or to the river. Working with others to protect our natural world brings me new strength. Watching ospreys build their nests at Jordan Lake each spring and herons fishing in the river; watching children playing in streams where clean water flows; listening to the sound of water flowing over rocks on its journey to the sea, and singing songs with others about these beautiful parts of our world – this keeps me going. My advice to others is: Raise your voices. Be witnesses. Speak truth to those with power. All our voices count. And always, always, get out there and enjoy the beauty of the world, and be renewed by it.

I hope you can spend some time being renewed by our beautiful river and the natural world, and recharge your strength so we can again move forward together!

From the Haw,
Elaine Chiosso,
HAW RIVERKEEPER®



Photo by Susanne Gomolski



Photo by Elaine Chiosso



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

continued from page 1 However, one bill that came up right before adjournment but that did not get approved was SB 127, an economic development bill that would allow fracking permits to be issued starting July 1, 2015, regardless of what regulations are in place. Commerce Secretary Decker says this bill will raise incentive money from fracking – like the slush funds in other big oil and gas states. She seems to have forgotten that NC's shale resource is miniscule compared to those states, and has greatly overestimated the money that could be raised. With the Governor showing interest in SB 127, we are concerned that the General Assembly could call a special session this fall or winter to try to pass this bill. As we go to press, Governor McCrory has 38 bills on his desk to sign. We are urging him to veto SB 515, the Jordan Lake Rules delay. This will be the third delay in the rules since they were passed in 2009. Filling the lake with aeration devices will not stop pollution. This is not based in science and appears to be in violation of the Clean Water Act. The EPA has responded to this very bad idea by making it clear that the federal mandates to reduce all upstream sources of pollution would still remain in place regardless of any new legislation to go back on the state's commitment to clean water.

We are also urging the Governor to veto HB 74 that has dozens of bad provisions that would greatly weaken NC's environment and public health. The bill would weaken safeguards for landfills, environmental justice protections, and state wetlands protections, and would allow more groundwater contamination from coal power plants and other industry. This is a shameful piece of legislation that would hurt NC residents from the mountains to the coast.

Chatham Park – A City of 55,000 People. Is This the Future Pittsboro Wants?

Preston Development is asking Pittsboro to rezone 7,120 acres in its planning area (ETJ) to a "Planned Development District" called Chatham Park, that would include commercial, residential, and research facilities. It would be a city bigger than Chapel Hill or Burlington, and would transform this rural land (to the east of Pittsboro, stretching north to the Haw River opposite Bynum and south to Jordan Lake), including significant and fragile natural areas, into urban density with a population of 55,000. This could have tremendous impacts on water quality and loss of habitat. It would give the developers enormous control over the future of Pittsboro through a new zoning district. It's too big, and too important for Pittsboro to be pressured into fast decisions. HRA has joined with Chatham and Pittsboro citizens to ask the Pittsboro Town Board to slow this process down and require the developers to provide more information, including a full Environmental Impact Statement – and a better plan – before any re-zoning occurs. The current plan includes:

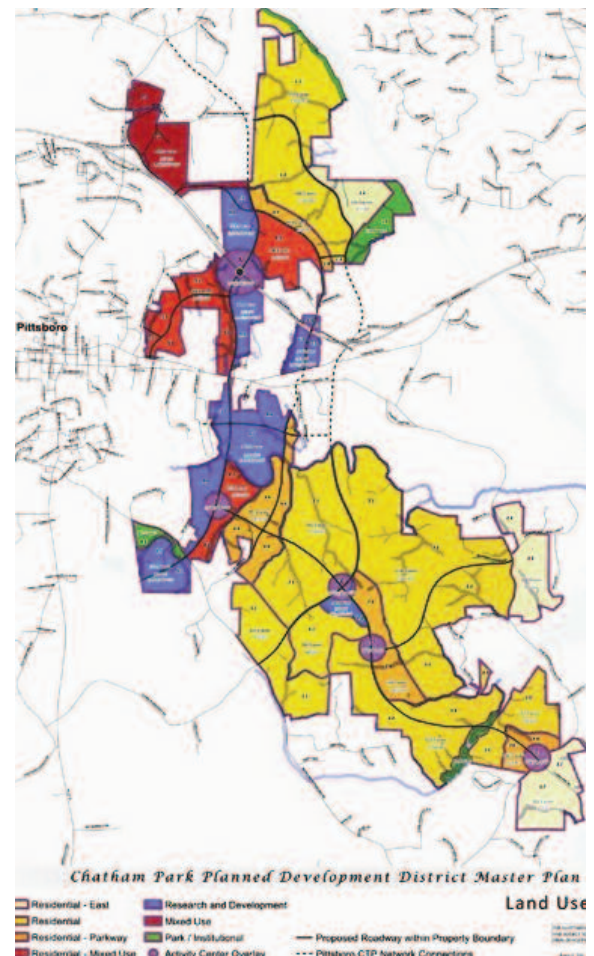
- ♦ Paving over forests and wildlife habitat that has been called the Triangle's last remaining unfragmented wilderness, despite the excellent assessment and recommendations for conservation development from Triangle Land Conservancy (available on the Pittsboro website);
- ♦ 7,120 acre project of houses and commercial area with only 234 acres of parkland identified;
- ♦ A new city that would dwarf Pittsboro – and nearly double the population of Chatham County – a new Cary?
- ♦ A city that would require new roads, schools, public services – and create traffic, trash, water and air pollution, and loss of Pittsboro's cultural and historic identity;
- ♦ The need for an enormous water supply and wastewater systems that could imperil the Haw River and Jordan Lake.

Find out more on the Town of Pittsboro website: pittsboronc.gov, and send the Town Board your comments. Haw Riverkeeper public hearing comments and more info are on the HRA website: www.hawriver.org.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Pennsylvania dairy farmers Carol French and Carolyn Knapp tell the overflow crowd at the NC Frack Free Forum in Bynum this June how fracking has ruined their land, water and community.



Watershed Education News: Teaching About the River

from Tracy DeVoe,
Watershed Education
Coordinator



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

An Introduction from Our New Watershed Education Coordinator

Hello to all! My name is Tracy DeVoe and I am overjoyed to be the new Watershed Education Coordinator for the Haw River Assembly. I have spent many years dedicating myself to outdoor educational pursuits connecting children of all ages to the wonders and joys of being immersed in their natural surroundings and inspiring stewardship along the way. Leading individuals to their own personal moments of connection and awe has been a privilege and dream come true. Coming into this job position, I am inspired in knowing I can help speak for the river and protect all that inhabit its diverse and fragile ecosystems. I am a graduate of Western Carolina University with a degree in Parks and Recreation Management. I have been an ACA whitewater kayak instructor, a back country ranger for Canyonland's National Park, and a nature instructor and camp director with Umstead State Park in Raleigh. I was guided to Elaine via Joe Jacob, for whom I have great respect, as I am also a naturalist and guide for Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company, where my relationship with the Haw River began. I look forward to this new journey with HRA, and to developing lasting friendships with this dedicated community of enthusiasts and volunteers. Cheers to this new journey and to all of you!

Learning Celebration (LC) Preparations for this year's LC are in full swing! To sign up and for more information, contact Tracy DeVoe at info@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790.

This year's LC Dates: NOTE: Educational programs for 4th-graders run Tuesday through Friday for each week. *** **Bynum:** Saturday, September 21 through Friday, September 27 ***
Saxapahaw: Saturday, September 28 through Friday October 4 ***
Camp Guilrock: Sunday, October 6 through Friday Oct. 11

Teachers -- Sign up to bring your class to the LC! Call 919-542-5790 or email info@hawriver.org for the LC this fall.

Volunteers -- Visit the Learning Celebration webpage, under "Projects" at www.hawriver.org, to find out how to volunteer, and to **register online!** Those of you who have experienced the magic of the LC, please tell your friends about this project, and ask them to join our ranks of wonderful volunteers who make this annual river-side environmental education program for 4th-graders a reality. And come to our **LC Training Day on Sat. August 24, 10am - 3pm**, at Umstead Park in Chapel Hill to learn about teaching stream ecology & stewardship, animals, clay, games, nature art, & more!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Happy 4th-graders at the Learning Celebration in Saxapahaw.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

With skulls, skins, feathers, furs, and lots of questions, Volunteer Kiah Wells gets kids excited about animals.

"Keep the LC Flowing" Crowd Funding Challenge Our team of up to 150 crew members, food providers, and site movers work for love of cause and community, but none of it could happen without funding. Our budget is modest, we keep costs to the schools very small, and no child is turned away for lack of field trip money. **Can you help us raise the dollars we need to deliver this amazing hands-on river experience to 1500 students this year?** Here's how your contribution can keep our program thriving:

- \$5** - Every donation counts, and could change a child's life forever
- \$10** - Sends 3 students to the LC for one day
- \$25** - Provides station materials for one day
- \$50** - Keeps the puppet show, "A Haw Story", going
- \$100** - Feeds the entire volunteer crew for one meal
- \$250** - Sends 2 watershed schools to the LC
- \$500** - Covers transportation costs for camp moves

As environmental education programs are being slashed in schools and communities due to budget cuts, we know that the Learning Celebration is more important than ever! Visit www.hawriver.org to donate online, or mail your check (payable to HRA) to Learning Celebration, PO Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228. **Let's meet our goal of \$5,000 by October 11, 2013!**

Can You Help Feed LC Volunteers? We are pleased that Rachel Winters will again be this year's Food Coordinator. Contact her at rachelwinters@mindspring.com if you would like to donate a meal or bulk food items, or solicit food donations from local businesses.

Haw River Festival Brings Folks to the River in Saxapahaw

We had a great day for our Haw River Festival on May 4th in Saxapahaw! The crowd enjoyed wonderful music, great food, and lots of activities at the river, and thanks to the generosity of many artists and musicians, we raised some funds for the Haw River Assembly too. Though rain fell in the region around us, we were in a lucky bubble and the Festival stayed dry almost to the end! We were treated to music by the Soft Sides and Deep Chatham on the Haywagon Stage, and Nathan



Stacie Flood introduces folks to the tiny critters that live in the river.

critter hunting. Many thanks to Eliza Dubose for organizing a big and successful silent auction, and to everyone who contributed art, books, concert tickets, and more for this HRA fundraiser. Jan Burger of Paperhand Puppets led a parade of folks carrying beautiful puppets big and small through the Festival and out onto the bridge across the Haw! Mark Barroso was a terrific emcee and the happy auction winner of the Clyde Jones critter.

Ken Moore won the kayak we raffled off, a generous donation from Great Outdoors Provision Co. And finally, big thanks to all the volunteers who helped us set up, run the booths, and break down afterwards!



The band Deep Chatham gets festival-goers' toes tapping!

Tobin and Eric Bannon's Whoopazz-folkjazz played at the Amphitheater. The evening continued inside the Haw River Ballroom with Orquesta Gardel and dancing.

We want to give a special shout-out to Gerald Featherstone, Joe Jacob, and Sam Berryhill for taking kids on canoe rides on the river, and volunteers who helped on the shoreline with PFD's and waivers.

Thanks to Cynthia Crossen and her band of river watch volunteers for the



Joe Jacob delights the kids with canoe rides on the Haw River.



John Wagner and Lucille Purser teach folks about the hazards of fracking to our watershed.

A BIG thanks to Tommy and Heather LaGarde, Mac Jordan and all, for letting us once again kick off the Saturdays in Saxapahaw summer farmers market and concert series which continues through August, 5 to 9 pm (<http://www.rivermillvillage.com/saturdays-in-saxapahaw>).



Standing in the Stream

Haw River Watch Project News

from Project Coordinator Cynthia Crossen

(919) 967-2500 (office); (919) 542-3827 (home)

riverwatch@hawriver.org

My favorite part of being River Watch Coordinator is introducing folks to the wonders of the river, and thankfully I get lots of opportunities to do this good work. *** In April, I trained Perrin Heartway to monitor Long Branch.

Surprisingly, we found lots of stoneflies and the more sensitive type of caddisfly in this small tributary of Dry Creek in Chatham County. It will be good to have this site monitored for the first time, where there are nearby fields where sludge is being applied. *** For two days in Horton, volunteers Sharon Garbutt and Maja Kricker helped me teach stream macroinvertebrate monitoring to Horton 8th grade biology students. The students loved being in the creek and hunting for aquatic life there, as part of HRA's Triangle Community

Foundation funded Youth Leadership Project led by Donna Myers. Hopefully HRA will be able to continue to work annually with this school so close to Robeson Creek in Chatham County.

*** At the Haw River Festival, we had a steady stream of folks coming down to the Saxapahaw Island to

learn about life in the river. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped, including Maja Kricker, Hudson Moore, Nancy Strong, Jeannie Ambrose, and new volunteer Stacie Flood, who brought a wealth of information about stream ecology from her science background.

The River Watch Project has published the updated Haw River Watch Monitoring Report, thanks to our dedicated river watch volunteers, and data entry help from Susan Yarnell! It is impressive how much data our volunteers have collected about the health of the river and its tributaries throughout the watershed. Look for the report under Resources -> Publications -> Haw River Watch Monitoring Report 1994 – 2012.

In September and October, the Haw River Learning Celebration comes to the river! I am excited to be on crew all three weeks, and working closely with Tracy DeVoe, our new

Horton students found many big beautiful crayfish in Robeson Creek, as well as mussels, mayflies, crane-fly larvae, and more, helping them assess the health of their creek.

Watershed Education Coordinator. Tracy brings enthusiasm, heart, skills, and love for the river to the position. Welcome, Tracy! Our plan is that next January I begin training Tracy to take over the River Watch Coordinator responsibilities fully by the end of 2014, when I'll retire. After I retire, I intend to continue on as a volunteer and resource person, as well as our newsletter editor.

Like the many thousands of other participants in Moral Mondays, I am buoyed up by the support from so many for legislation to protect our beautiful natural world, our precious waterways, and our essential drinking water supplies. We need to halt fracking, to preserve our wild places, and to protect Jordan Lake and the many tributaries that feed into it.



Photo by Ken Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Horton eighth-graders hunt for macroinvertebrate indicator species in Pittsboro's Robeson Creek, as part of HRA's Triangle Community Foundation funded youth leadership project.



Last year at the Haw River Learning Celebration at Camp Guilrock (in Rockingham and Guilford Counties), I took a break from teaching Stream Watch to lead a group through our program, especially enjoying the river walk and our "Meet A Tree" game.

Horton Students Get Engaged in Improving the Creek in Their Own Backyard

We successfully completed our youth leadership project this year with 8th-grade students at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro. Funding from the Triangle Community Foundation enabled us to work with teachers and students to understand pollution in nearby Robeson Creek, and to explore solutions. We worked closely with Eliza Sanders, the 8th grade science teacher, to include concepts and practical examples from the Hydrosphere Curriculum. Led by HRA's Donna Myers, our team included Haw River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen, HRA volunteers, Robeson Creek Watershed Council co-chair Catherine Deininger, and Karen Hall of NCSU's Stream Restoration Program.

We took students down to the creek to monitor water quality and see Best Management Practices for pollution prevention in action. Students discussed how they could make a difference in their own watershed, and were rewarded by seeing how their creekside trash clean-up improved the health of Robeson Creek and the life it supports. We believe that experiential learning, leadership opportunities and getting outdoors are always valuable opportunities for middle schoolers, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Horton.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Donna Myers shows students how to measure the clarity of creek water, a good indicator of problems such as sediment pollution.

Farewell and Thank You to Donna Myers! Since 2009, Donna has helped us further HRA's mission – through watershed education by coordinating the Learning Celebration and leading the 8th-grade Stream Investigation program, and by helping to organize our annual river cleanup and the Haw River Festival, as well as being on top of social media for HRA. Thank you, Donna, for your good work and dedication. We wish you very well in your next endeavors!

Small Stories, Big Changes – Agents of Change on the Frontlines of Sustainability, by Lyle Estill, is a book written by ordinary people doing extraordinary things; whose lives have been transformed by their willingness to commit themselves unreservedly to the creation of a better world. Empowering, hopeful, and inspiring, this rich tapestry of voices from the vanguard of societal change is a must-read for anyone dreaming of a brighter future and seeking a counterbalance to a canon of work that is laced with doom and gloom. Includes "She Speaks for the River" by Elaine Chiosso. (Available from the Haw River Assembly for \$18 – email us at info@hawriver.org to order your copy.)

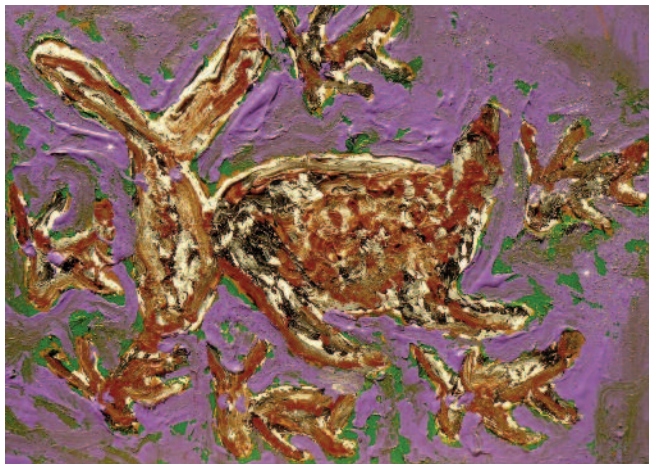


2013 HRA T-shirt Clyde Jones "Rabbit"

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).



HRA Annual Meeting Saturday November 2, 2013

We are planning our 31st membership meeting at the Haw River History Museum in the Town of Haw River in Alamance County. The museum is a real treasure and has wonderful displays of the textile industry place in our river's history. Weather permitting we'll have river activities, a potluck picnic lunch, and a tour of this historic textile mill town. Time and more details and directions will be announced.

Nominations for the November Elections of HRA Board of Directors

The HRA Board is elected by our current members at the Annual Membership Meeting each year. The Board meets 6 times a year, has oversight for HRA policies and budget, and is dedicated to keeping our work energized and creative. Our board promotes the mission of HRA, and we strive to represent the geographic and demographics of this big watershed. If you are a member of HRA and would like to place your name, or that of another member, in nomination for the HRA Board, please contact Elaine Chiosso, (919) 542-5790, info@hawriver.org, for more information.

And An Appreciative Farewell... The Board and Staff at HRA say farewell to Cecelia Vassar of Burlington who is leaving our Board after many years of service. She gave much time and energy to our events and annual river clean-up, and we will miss her thoughtful voice at our meetings. Thanks, Cecelia!

Haw River Assembly
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**Volunteer with the
Learning Celebration
Sept. 21 - Oct. 11, 2013**

Upcoming 2013 HRA Events See www.hawriver.org for details & updates.

Sat. Aug. 24, 10am - 3pm, LC Training Day, at Umstead Park in Chapel Hill. Volunteers, learn about teaching stream ecology & stewardship, animals, clay, games, nature art, & more!

Sat. Aug. 31, 1 pm, Bynum Upriver Paddle, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Benefits HRA. Details and to register: hawrivercanoe.com, 336-260-6465.

Sat. Sept. 14, Bynum Reservoir, with Frog Hollow Outdoors. Benefits HRA. Details & to register: froghollowoutdoors.com, 919-416-1200.

Fri. Sept. 20, 7 pm, Full Moon Paddle, Saxapahaw, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Benefits HRA. Details and to register: hawrivercanoe.com, 336-260-6465.

Sept. 21-22, Dec. 7-8, Haw River Watch Monitoring. For info: riverwatch@hawriver.org.

Sept. 21-Oct. 11, Haw River Learning Celebration for Schools. See pages 1 & 4.

Sat. Oct. 5, 1 pm, Bynum Upriver Paddle, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Benefits HRA. Details and to register: hawrivercanoe.com, 336-260-6465.

Mon. Oct. 7, 7 pm, NC Preview of Gasland 2, at the Carolina Theater in Durham. Documentary film about hazards of fracking, with director Josh Fox. Free, with online ticket from Clean Water for NC, www.cwfnc.org.

Sat. Oct. 12, 10 am, Chicken Bridge to 15-501 Paddle, with Frog Hollow Outdoors. This beautiful, rocky islanded section of Haw offers flat water and challenging white water. **Benefits HRA.** Details and to register: froghollowoutdoors.com, 919-416-1200.

Sun. Oct. 20, 12 pm, Picnic & Paddle, Swepsonville, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Benefits HRA. Details and to register: hawrivercanoe.com, 336-260-6465.

Sat. Nov. 2, HRA Annual Meeting & Board Elections, Historic Town of Haw River in Alamance County. We are planning river activities and a tour of this historic textile mill town on the banks of the river. Exact time and location TBA.

Sat. Nov. 2, 6 pm, Stargazing Float, with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Enjoy a beautiful sunset; then stars, by paddling at night, on a lake, during the new moon. **Benefits HRA.** Details and to register: hawrivercanoe.com, 336-260-6465.

Photo by Fred Tutman



Lynn Featherstone takes a young'un for his first canoe ride, at the Haw River Festival.