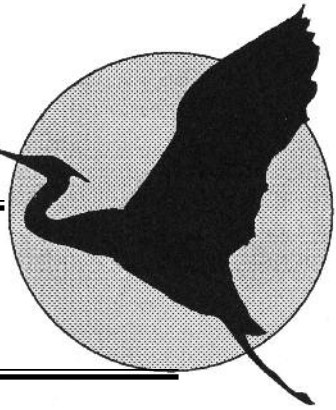


# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly April 2014



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

email: [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org) · [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org)

## Haw River Named One of...

The Haw River is #9 in this year's American Rivers "Most Endangered Rivers" report. American Rivers

([www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)) releases this report every year to shine a public spotlight on threats facing rivers, and how citizens can take action. The Haw River made the list due to pollution by millions of gallons of wastewater effluent and polluted stormwater runoff – an amount that has grown with the increase in population. Aging infrastructure in our cities has led to even worse situations, such as the 3.5 million gallon raw sewage spill from Burlington earlier this year. All of this ends up in Jordan Lake, which is the source of drinking water for hundreds of thousands of Triangle residents, and a recreation resource for a million more people each year.

The Jordan Lake rules, passed in 2009 were going to fix this – rules that would require all communities in the watershed to



upgrade their wastewater systems to today's standards, limit or eliminate new sources of polluted runoff, and reduce polluted runoff from existing development over a long and reasonable timetable.

Unfortunately, the cleanup of the Haw River has never been given a chance to succeed. Since 2010, The NC General Assembly has passed laws delaying and weakening the cleanup plan, while pollution keeps

flowing downriver into Jordan Lake. Most recently, an effort by developers and some municipalities within the upper watershed has resulted in the stalling of the cleanup plan in order to carry out an unjustified experiment that would put 36 huge SolarBee "mixers" into the Jordan Lake Reservoir in an attempt to avoid treatment of the causes of pollution. These mixers will be a potential hazard to boaters and wildlife that come in contact with them. *continued on page 3*

## HAW RIVER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY MAY 3RD IN  
SAXAPAHAW, 4 - 8 PM



\* live music \*

\* local arts & crafts \*

\* delicious food

& refreshments \*

\* farmers' market \*



Join us in celebrating HRA's 32nd year, 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](http://www.HawRiver.org), or [www.RiverMillVillage.com](http://www.RiverMillVillage.com). Hope to see you there!



\* stream monitoring \*

\* canoe rides for kids \*

\* info on watershed issues \*

\* T-shirts new & vintage \*



## HRA Board of Directors

**Dr. Ruth Lucier**, President, *Bynum*  
(Bennett College, Greensboro)  
**Anne Cassebaum**, Vice-President, *Elon*  
**Chris Carter**, Treasurer, *Saxapahaw*  
**Tom Patterson**, Secretary, *Chapel Hill*

**Dr. John Bang**, *Cary (NCCU)*  
**Sam Berryhill**, *Graham*  
**Melvin DuBose**, *Burlington*  
**Lynn Featherstone**, *Chatham*  
**Sharon Garbutt**, *Chatham*  
**Dr. Janet MacFall**, *Saxapahaw (Elon University)*  
**Justin Robinson**, *Durham*  
**Jo Sanders**, *Chatham*  
**Deepa Sanyal**, *Fearrington*  
**John Wagner**, *Chatham*

**Mac Jordan**, Emeritus Member, *Saxapahaw*  
**Omega Wilson**, *Environmental Justice Advisor*

## HRA Staff

**Elaine Chiosso**, HAW RIVERKEEPER® and  
*Executive Director*  
**Tracy DeVoe**, *Watershed Education Coordinator*  
**Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *Newsletter Editor*

### 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

Is there a time so ephemeral as when winter melts into spring? This was an especially long winter with floods, snow and ice stretching into March. Our hearts rejoice as new leaves and blossoms appear, and ospreys are back from their winter vacation, fishing the river again. Our incredible river clean-up volunteers did a great spring cleaning along the waters in March, and we know the turtles, fish, herons and otters are very appreciative!



Photo by Susanne Gromski

Photo by Tracy DeVoe



*The yellow Trout Lily, its speckled leaves so "trout-like," is one of the first riverside spring ephemerals we see. Every year in mid-March, it brightens our hearts down by the river, as we pick up trash for the Clean-up-a-thon.*

I hope you'll join us for some of the great events we have coming up, including the Wild and Scenic Film Festival on April 25 at the Carolina Theater in Greensboro (a benefit for HRA) and our 24th Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw on May 3 (where you can vote for the weirdest trash found at the March clean-up). Check out the wonderful paddling trips we have scheduled on the river with our partner Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.

The national media attention the Haw River is receiving as a result of being on American River's "Most Endangered Rivers" list should be a wakeup call for the EPA, the state of North Carolina and our local governments. "Business as usual" is not enough to protect and restore our waters. Let's make this the year we push for some real changes, and see the promise of the Clean Water Act finally fulfilled.

*From the river, Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®*



*HRA Board/Staff Holiday Dinner at the Eddy: (l-r) Tracy DeVoe, Mac Jordan, Chris Carter, Bob Brueckner, Tom Patterson, John Wagner, Cynthia Crossen, Elaine Chiosso, and Janet McFall.*



# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## Issues in the Watershed

from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

*continued from page 1* This experiment will do nothing to remove the pollutants from the water and ignores the scientific data underpinning the cleanup plan developed in 2009. Worse, it means that the polluted water would just be passed on down the river into the Cape Fear River for downstream communities to deal with.

In addition, the NC General Assembly has appointed a committee to review the cleanup rules for the Haw River watershed. The committee is predominately made up of legislators that represent the upriver cities that have led the fight to weaken – and even repeal – the rules.

**What Must Be Done** The Haw River watershed cannot be cleaned up unless polluted runoff and wastewater overflows are reduced. The existing cleanup rules are based on state law that protects drinking water supply reservoirs, and the federal Clean Water Act. We need to remove pollutants at their source – not just send it downstream. The North Carolina General Assembly must stop delaying the rules and clean up the Haw River and Jordan Lake by implementing the original 2009 Jordan Lake Reservoir Nutrient Management Strategy.

### *Haw Riverkeeper's Updates on Issues*

**Burlington Sewage Spill:** The massive 3.5 million gallon raw sewage spill into the Haw River in January from a broken 55-year-old pipe at Burlington's wastewater treatment plant was an environmental disaster. Very cold water temperatures and high flow this winter minimized what could have been a public health disaster as well, but impacts on algae growth and threats to drinking water and aquatic life should continue to be monitored. DENR wrongly advised Burlington to delay notification for over 3 days – more than 24 hours past the state mandated notification time. Elaine Chiosso, Haw Riverkeeper, spoke on Feb. 17 before a legislative committee in Raleigh about the delayed notification and history of sewage spills from Burlington. This was the third spill from aging wastewater collection infrastructure in Burlington in January, with even more spills in 2013. The disregard by the state authorities for public notification and safety, and by Burlington for ongoing raw sewage spills into the Haw River, is unacceptable.

**Fracking News:** The NC Mining and Energy Commission is drafting regulations to allow fracking in NC, as early as 2015. The rules are supposed to protect our communities, land and waters from the kinds of pollution, explosions, earthquakes, and contamination already happening in states where the shale gas boom is underway – *they won't*. The NC fracking rules drafted so far are insufficient and inadequate regarding fracking chemical disclosure, setbacks of drill rigs from homes and schools, how frack waste will be disposed of, and protection for landowners who don't want their land fracked. The state is planning public hearings as soon as August on the new fracking regulations. Stay informed on fracking issues in NC at [www.frackfreeNC.org](http://www.frackfreeNC.org).

**Pittsboro/Chatham Park:** The Chatham Park Investors have rejected several of the recommendations by the Lawrence Group consultants hired by the Town of Pittsboro. They disagree that



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*If We Care For the River,  
The River Will Sing  
If We Are Careless,  
The River Will Die*

*These are the words emblazoned on the beautiful Haw River banners created years ago by Jan Burger, and still so true today. As we carried our message for the Feb. 8 Moral March to the Legislature in Raleigh, we represented the voice of the river, its creatures, and all who care for the river. (l-r: Mary Honeycutt, Ken Crossen, Elaine Chiosso, Sue Saunders)*

they should set aside 30% of their 7,120 acres as conservation lands to protect significant natural areas, steep slopes, stream buffers, and water quality. HRA believes this total should be even higher, given the proximity to the Haw River and Jordan Lake. The developers also rejected the consultant's call for more precise drinking water and wastewater projections, and the suggestion that 28,000 residences and 22 million sq. feet of commercial property on this 7,120 acres would be "unrealistic". Read more at <http://pittsboromatters.org/>.

**Cape Fear Coal Ash Ponds in Moncure:** Just downstream from where the Haw and Deep Rivers join to form the Cape Fear sits the old Cape Fear Coal Plant, now closed, but with five "ponds" still holding the coal ash, *continued on page 9*



# 249 Intrepid Volunteers Remove 336 Bags of Trash & 35 Tires From Haw Waterways!

How do you clear trash out of the river? With lots of dedicated, intrepid volunteers who don't mind facing some hard work, mud, rapid & briars in order to beautify our beautiful waterways. This year, HRA's annual Clean-Up-A-Thon had **249 volunteers**, who removed **336 bags of trash** and **35 tires** from the Haw River watershed. Congratulations to these undaunted volunteers who took part in this amazing effort.

On the **Haw River at Brooks Bridge Road**, and **Troxler Mill** in Guilford County, 7 volunteers from the **Grove Winery** and the **UUCH group**, led by Max Lloyd and Caroline Rhode, picked up 16 bags of trash and 2 tires; including a new boxed set of vertical blinds, a recliner chair, and two tomato cages.

On **Spirit Island in Swepsonville**, **Joe Jacob** led a team of 5 in picking up 7 bags of trash.



*What's your birthday wish? To make the world a cleaner place! This team of 30 volunteers celebrates by hauling out 20 bags of trash and 3 tires from along the Haw. Led by **Kristine Urrutia**, they picked up along the **Hwy 64 Bridge over the Haw** at the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, removing 30 DVD's, chairs, baskets, paint cans, & dry wall.*



Thirty-five Boy Scouts, UNC and high school students, retirees, and Morgan Creek Valley Alliance Board members, led by **Johnny Randall**, removed 24 bags of trash from **Morgan Creek in Chapel Hill**, plus one funky elephant statue.



The **Haw River in Bynum** is a lot clearer of trash thanks to 41 volunteers (including these Girl Scouts), led by **Elaine Chiosso**, who picked up 32 bagsful and 1 tire, finding plastic vampire teeth, a large air blower, Lowe's chicken box, beaver skull, Bojangles wrapper, pliers, dress shoe, and 1920's wringer washer parts.



The **Fearrington Green Scene** team of 14 volunteers, led by Simon Maarten Thomas, tackled the trash at the **15-501 bridge** at the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, removing 14 bags of trash and 3 tires, and finding a hand made fishing pole and a hiking boot.

Thirty **Y-guides & Princes**, led by Joe Jacob, made a big difference on **Saxapahaw Lake (above the dam)**, by removing 46 bags of trash and 1 tire; including footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, base balls, and tennis balls.

The **Lions Club and the Saxapahaw community's** team of 32, led by Ross Flynn, picked up 50 bags of trash and 3 tires from **Saxapahaw Island**, finding a Barbie car.

**Jeff Pettus** picked up 2 bags of trash from the **Haw River at Chicken Bridge**, finding locks, light switch housings, keys, several small circular saw blades, and a hubcap.

The **Carolina Canoe Club** took to their boats to clean up the river. **Larry Ausley** cleaned up 15 bags of trash from **above Bynum Dam to Hwy 64**, including debris from an island campsite. **Bob Brueckner** led a team of 6, who removed 14 bags of trash from the **Haw**, including a 55-gallon plastic barrel and a large inner tube.

A team of 4 Redbud neighbors, led by **Sarah Goddin** picked up 2 bags of trash from the very scenic area of the **Haw between Bynum and Hwy 64** at the Lower Haw River State Natural Area.

Eight volunteers from **Townsend Bertram & Co.**, organized by Tracy DeVoe, removed 7 bags of trash from along **Bolin Creek in Carrboro**.





A group of 17 from the **Presbyterian Youth group**, led by Gary Simpson, picked up 62 bags of trash and 21 tires along **Robeson Creek in Pittsboro**, discovering a 1955 NC license plate.



Eleven volunteers from the **Homeschool Community Service Group**, led by Mary Longhill, cleaned up around the **Boy Scout Camp in Saxapahaw**, picking up 17 bags of trash and 1 tire; interesting finds included a baby doll arm, a plastic pig, and a binky.



Seven **Rock Rest neighbors**, organized by Cynthia Crossen, picked up 7 bags of trash from the banks of the **Haw River at Rock Rest**, including a toddler-sized toy car, reindeer head Christmas decoration, and old broken bucket. **Cathy Markatos** later went out and picked up 1 bag of trash from along **Dry Creek**.

The Clean Jordan Lake endeavor was cancelled due to high flood waters and bad weather. To help with future lake clean-ups, contact Clean Jordan Lake at [cleanjordanlake.org](http://cleanjordanlake.org).

## Join Us in Thanking Our 2014 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors

**Additions Plus** (Stan & Patti Stutts), Pittsboro, (919) 968-3737, [sestutts@mindspring.com](mailto:sestutts@mindspring.com)

**Alicia Ravetto Architect**, Carrboro, (919) 933-0999, [aliciaravettoarchitect.com](http://aliciaravettoarchitect.com)

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

**Benjamin Vineyards & Winery**, 6516 Whitney Rd, Graham (Saxapahaw), (336) 376-1080, [benjaminvineyards.com](http://benjaminvineyards.com)

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

**Carolina Brewery**, 120 Lowes Dr., Ste 100, Pittsboro, (919) 545-2330, [carolinabrewery.com](http://carolinabrewery.com)

**Chimneys Plus**, P.O Box 1268, Pittsboro, (919) 542-1631, [chimneysplusgutters.com](http://chimneysplusgutters.com)

**Crosswinds Boating Center**, 565 Farrington Rd., Apex, [www.crosswindsboating.com](http://www.crosswindsboating.com)

**Cure Nursery** (Bill & Jennifer Cure), 880 Buteo Ridge, Pittsboro, (919) 542-6186, [www.curenursery.com](http://www.curenursery.com)

**Furniture Lab**, 106 S. Greensboro St., Carrboro, (919) 913-0270, [www.furniturelab.com](http://www.furniturelab.com)

**Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.**, Saxapahaw, (336) 260-6465, [www.hawrivercanoe.com](http://www.hawrivercanoe.com)

**Lynn Hayes Properties**, 103 W. Weaver St, Carrboro, (919) 968-9989, [lynnhayes.com](http://lynnhayes.com)

**Mellow Marsh Farm**, 312 Woody Store Rd., Siler City, [www.mellowmarshfarm.com](http://www.mellowmarshfarm.com)

**Mystery Brewing Company**, 437 Dimmocks Mill Rd, Ste 41, Hillsborough, (919) 647-8379, [mysterybrewing.com](http://mysterybrewing.com)

**N. Rouse Wilson III, DDS**, 767 West St, Pittsboro, (919) 542-3502

**Pittsboro Animal Hospital**, 1065 East St, Pittsboro, (919) 542-5712, [pittsboroanimalhospital.com](http://pittsboroanimalhospital.com)

**Saxapahaw General Store**, (336) 376-5332, [www.saxgenstore.com](http://www.saxgenstore.com)

**Swanson & Associates** (David Swanson), 100 East Carr St., Carrboro, (919) 929-9000, [www.swansonlandscapearchitecture.com](http://www.swansonlandscapearchitecture.com)

**TechView Corporation**, Carrboro

**Townsend Bertram & Co.**, 200 N. Greensboro Street, Carrboro, [www.tbandc.com](http://www.tbandc.com)

**Weaver Street Realty**, 116 E. Main St., Carrboro, (919) 929-5658, [www.weaverstreetrealty.com](http://www.weaverstreetrealty.com)

**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 \* Fearington 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



*Ruth Lucier of Bynum, President of the Haw River Assembly Board, finds a chicken box while cleaning up the river during Clean-up-a-thon.*

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



# Watershed Education News:

## Teaching About the River

from Tracy DeVoe,  
Watershed Education  
Coordinator



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

**25th Anniversary of our Haw River Learning Celebration!** If you have interest in taking part in the 25th Anniversary Haw River Learning Celebration (LC)... now is your opportunity. This **September 20 through October 10**, the LC will be getting children out to the river and inspiring them to be the next generation of conservationists. Our volunteer guides use nature as the classroom – and for many children this is their first experience ever, hiking through a forest and along a river. We'll be in Bynum September 20 - 26, in Saxapahaw September 27 - Oct. 3, and upriver at Camp Guilrock October 5 - 10. Come and join us!

Over the years, many people have given their hearts, hands, and spirits to the continual creation of the LC that, to this day, has thrived for 24 beautiful years, and has connected over 40,000 4th-graders to this amazing river. You can be part of this meaningful work. Please join us for an amazing and truly fun day or week by the Haw River and help celebrate our 25th Anniversary! For more information, visit [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org); or contact me at [tracy@hawriver.org](mailto:tracy@hawriver.org) or (919) 542-5790.

### Haw River Assembly Summer Camps

Each summer, HRA partners with Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company for week long youth adventure camps for 8 to 12 year olds, full of discovery, exploration, and river fun! This year camps will be offered during the weeks of June 16-20 and July 14-18, and will run from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Camps cost \$250 per week, and a portion of the proceeds goes directly to HRA.

These adventure camps will be full of land and water based activities that will enable campers to connect with the Haw River, engage with nature, and gain a sense of stewardship. Campers should be confident swimmers by the time camp begins. I will be leading this year's camp experience, which will be incredible and we can't wait to see you there!

**Sign up now!** Enrollment in this camp is on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. for more info and to sign up: (336) 260-6465 or [info@hawrivercanoe.com](mailto:info@hawrivercanoe.com). And do let them know you heard about this opportunity from us!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

### Creek Week at Rockwood Park in Durham

I had a wonderful experience partnering with the City of Durham's Laura Webb Smith, Public Education Coordinator, Public Works Department, and Stormwater and GIS Services, for "Creek Week". Third Fork Creek runs through Rockwood Park, which is home to a sizable majority of the city's tallest trees and eventually meanders to Jordan Lake. This made it the perfect location for National Arbor Day and coincided with one of the city's many Park Events for "Creek Week" which included our Stream Investigation Program.

Jamie Saunders and Maja Kricker so graciously gave their time and helped with delivering the message of what a healthy watershed means and how our watershed communities can help. We worked with kids as young as three and were able to get them excited about macroinvertebrates by having them draw pictures of one aquatic critter from each category for water quality indication. We also discussed "using your senses" where sight, smell, and sound also play a role in determining the health of a stream. One 6-year-old boy eventually walked over to Third Fork Creek and said clear as day, "Well, this creek is not doing so well. It needs help." Indeed, Third Fork creek is listed as an impaired stream. My personal experience in working with children is that if I am able to reach even one, why then, a connection has been made, and hopefully, a young steward has blossomed.



Photo by Tracy DeVoe

Jamie Saunders teaches about macroinvertebrates at Rockwood Park in Durham, for Creek Week.



## Horton Students Discover Robeson Creek

That's right! Since January of this year, I have been planning on donating three days of watershed education to students at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro, with HRA's 8th Grade Stream Investigation Program. My enthusiasm had been building as the dates for instruction get closer and closer... until I went down to Robeson Creek to pick two "choice locations" for our outdoor learning stations. At first, I was looking around in full appreciation for this trail and all the big trees, but then my eyes made their way to the creek. I saw trash and iron oxidized water in stagnant pools that were obviously coming from drainage pipes from the town of Pittsboro and directly draining into the creek. While we are told that this is normal, I still find it hard to look at and accept as normal. I saw extensive damage to the embankment from erosion, and big pieces of metal and old piping in the actual creek. In no way did I want to bring the students down there; I did not want them to be let down in any way. I know that what I saw was not acceptable, nor did I want this to be imprinted in their "memory library" of childhood experiences... and then, after investigating my findings and speaking with Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, and C.C. King about what I had seen, I understood quite clearly that this is actually a beautiful opportunity for outreach and stewardship.

Something I am learning very quickly about living in a watershed with major cities built up along its path, agricultural industries, factories, wastewater treatment centers, trash dumps, and the ever impending threat of new development for bigger this and bigger that, well, it seems as though the silver lining is to use these places that are obviously having a difficult time filtering, or surviving rather, as classrooms for our youth, our future. They need to see this. They need to see what is happening and understand why. Now, with science teacher Mr. Edward Walgate's collaborative and enthusiastic efforts, all of Horton's 8th grade science classes will be focusing on Robeson Creek with me, and helping to restore this wonderful city park back to a clean, healthy, and thus happier state. We will document the entire experience and they will use this as a project to coincide with the Stream Investigation Program that I will teach in May, along with Cynthia Crossen, Maja Krickler, C.C. King, and Jamie Saunders. This entire project has taken on new meaning and purpose, and is what I consider to be really exciting Watershed Education News!

## Upcoming Paddle Trips!

Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. is offering many exciting paddle events to benefit the Haw River Assembly. We are grateful for their generosity! For details & to register contact: [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com), 336-260-1200.

**Saturday, April 19, 2014, Basic River Safety, location TBA.**

**Saturday, April 26, 2014, Owl Prowl, Greater Alamance Creek.**

**Sunday, May 11, 2014, Women's Evening Paddle, Saxapahaw.**

**Saturday, May 17, 2014, Sunset Paddle, Saxapahaw.**

**Sunday, May 18, 2014, Sunrise Paddle, Saxapahaw.**

**Saturday, May 24, 2014, Stargazing Float, Saxapahaw.**

**Saturday, June 7, 2014, River Clean Up.**

**Sunday, June 8, 2014, Sunset Paddle, Saxapahaw.**

**Friday, June 13, 2014, Full Moon Paddle, Saxapahaw.**

**Sunday, June 15, 2014, Sunrise Paddle.**

**Saturday, June 28, 2014, Stargazing Float, Saxapahaw.**

**Saturday, July 12, 2014, Full Moon Paddle, Saxapahaw.**

**Saturday, July 19, 2014, Sunset Paddle, Saxapahaw.**

**Sunday, July 20, 2014, Sunrise Paddle, Saxapahaw.**



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Above: Eight-graders discover Robeson Creek at last year's Stream Investigation Program.*

## 2014 HRA T-shirt, Clyde Jones "Fox"

*Nutmeg brown, soft 100% cotton T-shirt from TS Designs in Burlington, with non-toxic, environmentally friendly Rehanche dye process. Good for you, good for the river!*

*Modeled by Elaine Chiosso, Clyde Jones, and Tracy DeVoe. Photo by Jef.*

**\$ 25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL**  
**\$ 25 (ladies style) S, M, L, XL**  
**\$ 20 (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).





## Standing in the Stream Haw River Watch Project News *from Cynthia Crossen*



This will be my last newsletter column, as I am retiring as Haw River Watch Coordinator. Starting at the end of this May, Haw River Watch will be in the very capable and enthusiastic hands of Tracy DeVoe, Haw River Assembly's Watershed Education Coordinator. I am grateful to be passing this work on to Tracy, who has the "light in her eyes" about teaching about the river, and who brings great commitment, passion, and skills to the job. Her contact information is [tracy@hawriver.org](mailto:tracy@hawriver.org), 919-542-5790.



As one of the founders of Haw River Watch in 1994, chair of its steering committee for many years, and coordinator for nearly 12 years, I am deeply committed to this work, and will stay on as a Haw River Assembly volunteer. You may see me on the river with the Learning Celebration, at the Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw, at the HRA Annual Meeting, at a River Watch event, or cleaning up the river banks for Clean-up-a-thon. I'll also remain editor of HRA's newsletter.

I am leaving with a heart full of gratitude. I have so loved working with our dedicated river watch volunteers--you're the best! It has

been such a joy to teach children, youth, and adults about stream ecology, citizen monitoring, and how to be part of our efforts in stream stewardship. Thank you all, for all you have done for the river. See you around!

Cynthia



Cynthia Crossen (with guitar) leads "All Haw's Critters" at the Learning Celebration in Guilrock, with (l-r) Martha Pentecost, Kiah Wells, Chris Carter, Rufus King, and Zella Magoo. Photo by Tracy DeVoe



Photo by Donna Myers

Cynthia teaches kids about the Haw River in Bynum.

and from Tracy DeVoe, new Haw River Watch Coordinator

919-542-5790; [tracy@hawriver.org](mailto:tracy@hawriver.org)

Hello to everyone! My name is Tracy DeVoe and I will be the Haw River Watch Coordinator starting this spring. As you may know, Cynthia is retiring this year as Coordinator. I am very fortunate to be learning from such a knowledgeable teacher. There is so much information and data you have collected about our river over the years, and I look forward to getting to know all of you!

Thank you to everyone who has mailed in their spring surveys! The next river monitoring weekend is scheduled for June 21-22. This is such important work we are doing together. The terrible pollution spills we have seen this winter (chemicals into the Elk River in WVa, coal ash into the Dan River, and raw sewage into the Haw River) make our work as watchdogs on our waterways more important than ever. Let's recharge our spirits and get ready for our summer "river snap shot"... and what better way to welcome summer monitoring than to have a social event that includes a monitoring training session for new families and interested individuals this spring. On **Saturday, May 24th, from 11 am to 2 pm**, we'll gather by the river in Bynum at the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy this day with friends down by the banks of the Haw River. All those who have inquired and shown great interest in becoming stream monitors are invited, as this is not only an excellent opportunity for you to learn how to be a steward of our local waterways, but also for us to meet each other and our incredible community of dedicated volunteers. Thank you! I look forward to having a big turnout and finally having an opportunity to meet everyone and have fun together doing what we love to do!



Tracy (far left) leads a Clean-up-a-thon team from Townsend Bertram & Co. in Carrboro, who cleaned up along Bolin Creek at Wilson Park in Carrboro. Photo by XXXX



*continued from page 3* right near the river's edge. This is less than 3 miles upstream from Sanford's water intake. Investigators from Waterkeepers Alliance, and the Cape Fear Riverkeeper Kemp Burdette, discovered the illegal discharge of coal ash wastewater by taking aerial photos and collecting water samples. The state has now cited Duke Energy for illegally pumping 61 million gallons of this toxic water into the Cape Fear River over the past few months, which created a crack in one of the ponds as well. The people of NC deserve to know the whole story and what the state actually knew – and when. All coal ash in North Carolina needs to be moved out of these “ponds” and away from our rivers immediately. First the Dan River, then the Cape Fear – what's next?

**Chapel Hill – New Threat to Bolin Creek:** A proposal to re-zone for denser development in the flood-prone Ephesus-Fordham District is being debated in Chapel Hill. The Town Board held a public meeting on March 24 about this proposal. It was well attended by many residents who expressed concerns about weakening environmental safeguards and the increased threat of stormwater and flooding. Read more about this issue and get alerts at the website created by Chapel Hill citizens, <http://ourtownchapelhill.org/>.

**Greensboro – Herbicide Spraying:** Duke Energy will be presenting information to the public about use of the herbicide Cambistat in their right-of-ways in many Greensboro neighborhoods, at a meeting on April 17, 6 pm, at Lindley Recreation Center, 2907 Springwood Drive. We think widespread application of this chemical could have harmful impacts on surface and ground water, as well as on other plants and wildlife. What is really scientifically known about its use in this kind of mass application? A study by the Mass. Dept. of Agriculture raised serious concerns about exposure and persistence in the environment (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/pesticides/rightofway/docs/paclobutrazol-review-jan-2012.pdf>). You can contact Judson Clinton, City of Greensboro Forester, [judson.clinton@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:judson.clinton@greensboro-nc.gov), or Jason Combs, Duke Energy Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist, 919-312-0256, [jason.combs@duke-energy.com](mailto:jason.combs@duke-energy.com).

**SYRCL's WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**

inspiration • conservation • change • community • adventure

**em powerment**

**april 25 2014 GREENSBORO NC**

**7:30-11pm indy films local beer door prizes**

Ticket Price: \$10  
Carolina Theatre 310 S. Greene Street  
Greensboro, NC  
(336) 333 2605

an event hosted by  
**THE CAPE FEAR RIVER BASIN STUDIES PROGRAM**  
at **GUILFORD COLLEGE**  
to benefit  
**THE HAW RIVER ASSEMBLY**  
[www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org)

CKETS & INFO: [alumni.guilford.edu/wildandscenic](http://alumni.guilford.edu/wildandscenic)

## In Memoriam, Pete Seeger

Pete Seeger, leader of the successful Clearwater campaign to clean up the Hudson River in upstate New York, also helped the Haw River Assembly clean up our own river. Louise Kessel, who had been involved with the Clearwater Revival project, invited Pete to come here to support HRA's Learning Celebration (then called the “Haw River Festival”) and its outreach work. Pete



came! He and his grandson Tao Rodriguez participated in the Learning Celebration, and gave a benefit concert which raised \$10,000 for our cause. We will always be grateful for their generosity. Play on, Pete!

*Pete Seeger, grandson Tao Rodriguez, and the LC crew sing “This Land is Your Land” for 4th-graders at Brown’s Summit, in April 1995. The night before at Memorial Hall, UNC-CH, Pete and Tao did a benefit concert, leading sing-alongs from Hudson River Clearwater favorites to children’s ditties, powerful political songs, and haunting ballads--an inspiring evening for all.*



## Upcoming 2014 HRA Events

See [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org) for details & updates.

**In April, May, June, and July, Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. is offering many exciting paddle events to benefit the Haw River Assembly.** We are grateful for their generosity! See page 7 for details of these trips. For details & to register contact: [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com), 336-260-1200.

**Fri. April 25, Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 7:30-11 pm, Greensboro.** The Cape Fear River Studies Program at Guilford College presents this fundraiser event for HRA; at *Carolina Theatre, 310 S. Greene Street, Greensboro*, \$10. See page 9. For tickets & info: [alumni.guilford.edu/wildandscenic](http://alumni.guilford.edu/wildandscenic), (336) 333-2605.

**Sat. May 3, 4 to 8 pm, Haw River Festival, in Saxapahaw.** See page 1. For more info: [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), (919) 542-5790.

**Sat. May 24, 11 am-2 pm, Haw River Watch Picnic & Monitoring.** See page 8. For more info contact Tracy: (919) 542-5790, [tracy@hawriver.org](mailto:tracy@hawriver.org).

**June 21-22, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend.** For info contact Tracy: (919) 542-5790, [tracy@hawriver.org](mailto:tracy@hawriver.org).

**Week of June 16-20, Haw River Assembly Adventure Camp, Saxapahaw and Bynum,** with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Benefits HRA. See page 6. Details & to register: [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com), (336) 260-1200.

**July 14-18, Haw River Assembly Adventure Camp, Saxapahaw and Bynum,** with Haw River Canoe & Kayak. Benefits HRA. See page 6. Details & to register: [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com), 336-260-1200.

**Sept. 20-21, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend.** For info contact Tracy: (919) 542-5790, [tracy@hawriver.org](mailto:tracy@hawriver.org).

**Sept. 20 - Oct. 10, Haw River Learning Celebration for 4th-graders.** See page 6. For more info, to register, or to volunteer, contact Tracy: [tracy@hawriver.org](mailto:tracy@hawriver.org), (919) 542-5790.

See paddle trips on page 7. Check HRA's website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), for information on other field trips.



Photo by Tracy DeVoe

*Spring beauty arrives!*

**Haw River Festival  
Sat. May 3 in  
Saxapahaw, 4-8 pm**

Address Service Requested

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

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