

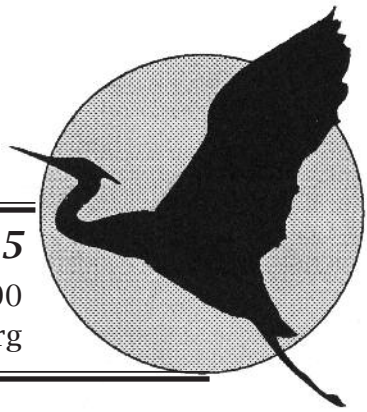
Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly April 2015

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

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



Spring Comes To the Haw!

Turtles are sunning on rocks, and ospreys are fishing the river again. What a great welcome to spring and what a great time to enjoy the beautiful Haw. Thirty years ago it would have been hard to tell you of a place with public access to the river – but not anymore. Up in the headwaters you can visit the Haw River State Park off of Hwy 150 up near Brown Summit, and follow the boardwalk through a beautiful wetland forest to the river. In Alamance County, the Haw River Trail now includes Shallowford Natural Area, Great Bend Park in the historic Glencoe mill village, and Red Slide Park in the Town of Haw River, once a bustling textile center. Further downstream is the Swepsonville River Park, and then the new Alamance County Island Park in the creative village of Saxapahaw (with plenty of places for delicious refreshments). In Chatham County you can hike along the 4 miles of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area from Bynum to the Hwy 64 Bridge. For on-water adventures, go paddling in your own canoe or kayak, or sign up for a trip from our local guides (see page 7 for more). You can take an easy, but beautiful, flatwater trip on the old mill dams in Bynum or Saxapahaw, or paddle the river's whitewater between Altamahaw and the final takeout above Jordan Lake, with mostly class I and II rapids. For more information and directions, go to our website (<http://hawriver.org/about-the-river/recreation/>) and then get out and enjoy one of the prettiest rivers in the Piedmont!



Photo by Fred Tuman



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Saturday May 2nd on the Haw in Saxapahaw, 4 - 8 pm



Lynn Featherstone takes a young'un for his first canoe ride, at the 2014 Haw River Festival.

Join us in celebrating HRA's 33rd year, at our annual **HAW RIVER FESTIVAL** on the Haw River in Saxapahaw! For directions and more info, visit www.HawRiver.org, or www.RiverMillVillage.com. Hope to see you there!



- * stream monitoring *
- * canoe rides for kids *
- * info on watershed issues *
- * T-shirts new & vintage *
- * live music *
- * local arts & crafts *
- * food trucks *
- * farmers' market *

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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

How can you be sure it's spring? When windflowers and fiddleheads unfurl by the creek.

Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



Notes from the Haw

Is there a time more ephemeral than when winter melts into spring? The cold winter already seems just a memory, but the ice and snow transformed our streams and river to some beautiful sights. One of my favorites was of Dry Creek where a small waterfall flowed through icy banks.

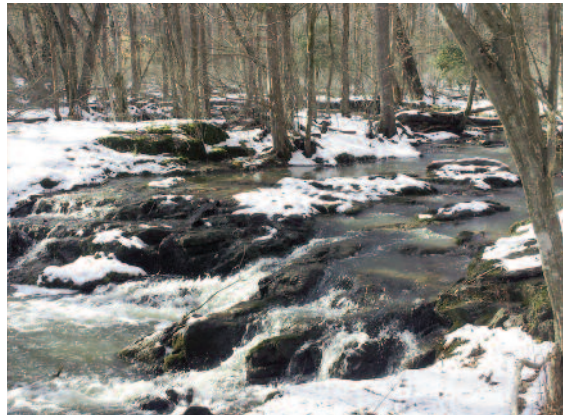
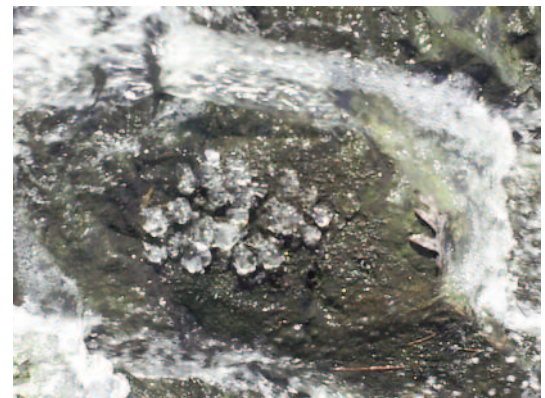


Photo by Fred Tuman

The Haw River Assembly was chosen to be one of the organizations who will participate in the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Racial Equity Initiative 2015 Labs. This consists of 3 workshops that will help us build racial diversity and equity in our organization and work. Z Smith

Reynolds covers the training costs for three participants to take part in these. Melvin DuBose, Jo Sanders, and I will be going (with Chris Carter joining for one). The team from HRA will be sharing what we learn with our Board and the membership and expect some great discussions to come out of this concerning our own organization.

Janet MacFall gave a terrific presentation on January 31 about her research on historic causes of sediment in the Haw River at Company Shops Market in Burlington. Very interesting – and if you haven't read it yet, her research paper is online:



Photos of Dry Creek by Elaine Chiosso

<http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0110170>. Thanks to Anne Cassebaum for organizing!

Hope to see you at our Haw River Festival on May 2, from 4-8 pm in Saxapahaw! Happy Spring!

From the river, Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

State Public Hearings on Coal Ash Dumps in Chatham and Lee will be held by the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in April. The public can comment on permits that Duke Energy needs in order to bury coal ash in Chatham and Lee counties. The hearings will be from **6 to 9 pm** with **sign-up for speakers beginning at 5 pm** on **April 13** at the **Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford**, and **April 16** at the **Chatham County Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro**. Written comments can be submitted until May 16 to DENR. Duke Energy and their contractor, Charah, plan to move 12 million of tons of coal ash from across the state to old clay mines in Chatham and Lee counties. This could impact streams in the Haw River watershed, very close to where 5 coal ash ponds (at the closed Moncure coal plant) are leaking into the Cape Fear River. We have serious concerns about surface and groundwater contamination. These will be coal ash landfills, and should be regulated as such, not as “mine reclamation.” For more information visit www.hawriver.org.

HRA Fracking Lawsuit: The Southern Environmental Law Center filed a lawsuit January 5 on behalf of HRA and a Lee County property owner, saying that the NC legislature overstepped its constitutional powers in setting up the Mining and Energy Commission (MEC), which is charged with developing regulations for fracking. A three judge panel ruled in March on the governor’s challenge that the legislature had overstepped its authority in setting up 3 other commissions. Final fracking rules have been passed by the MEC, and the moratorium that prevented the state from issuing fracking permits ended in March.

Chatham Park: Pittsboro Matters has asked the Town of Pittsboro to issue a “Stop Work” order to immediately halt highway construction work by Chatham Park, north of the US 64 bypass, including a proposed overpass. They assert that this violates the terms of the Chatham Park PDD Master Plan, which requires detailed site plans, extensive review, and Town Board approval before such construction can begin. Pittsboro Matters is prepared to ask the Court to intervene, and to issue an injunction to stop the work until such time as the legal issues are resolved. HRA has urged much greater conservation of this area of Chatham Park near the Haw River where the road building is occurring. The lawsuit Pittsboro Matters filed

over the re-zoning of the 7,200 plus acres into the massive Chatham Park development will go to court later this April. Read more at pittsboromatters.org.

Jordan Lake SolarBees: Eight of the 36 SolarBees deployed at Jordan Lake “went rogue” this winter, dragging off their anchor points – with one floating down the Haw River towards the dam (as HRA had warned could happen). The SolarBees, unrealistically meant to reduce algae growth, are a threat to boaters, a waste of taxpayer money, and are avoiding the only real way to clean up Jordan Lake – by reducing the pollution flowing in. In other news, HRA opposed Cary, Apex and Morrisville’s request for more of their water allocation from Jordan Lake to be flushed (via wastewater) into the Neuse River. This practice is not good for downstream Cape Fear water users, and it sets the stage for more growth that may prove to be unsustainable as our region grows and climate changes.



Coal ash protestors speak out at the Chatham County courthouse.
Photo by Martha Girolami



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

A SolarBee “goes rogue” on the Jordan Lake arm.

Good news from Burlington: Remember that agreement we negotiated with Burlington to fix their sewer pipes after the big 3.5 million sewage spill over a year ago? **Burlington is ahead of schedule on fixing the problem!** We will continue to work with the city – and to inform communities and recreational users of any large scale pollution events that threaten the river, from cities or industry.

Rain AND Shine --

Volunteers Cleaned Up Trash From Our Waters

Our 25th Annual Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon was scheduled for March 14 this year, which turned out to be a rainy day. Several groups, including paddlers, braved the rain, while other groups waited for a sunnier day. Much appreciation to the **254 volunteers** on **15 teams** along the Haw River and at Jordan Lake. Together they removed **518 bags of trash**, **158 tires**, and a **whole lot of junk** that had been despoiling and polluting our waters. Since 1991 this annual clean-up has really made a difference: **4390 volunteers** have removed **8,171 bags of trash**, **1623 tires**, and **tons of other junk** including appliances and parts of old cars, from the river and lake.



Gail Fairbanks and 6 more volunteers cleaned up at a new site along the river off of **Petty Road, above Saxapahaw**. They took out 18 bags of trash and lots of lost balls!

Jeff Pettus keeps the area around **Chicken Bridge** in Chatham Co. cleaned up year round. For the March clean-up, he picked up 2 bags of trash, a mop, and other junk.

Cathy Markatos cleaned up along the **Haw River at Rock Rest** and got about 10 bags of trash.

The **Homeschool Community Group** with 9 volunteers, came back once again to clean up at the Boy Scout Camp on **Saxapahaw Lake on the Haw**. They got 12 bags of trash, a bowling pin, and a very weird old plastic jar of sour cherries!

Maarten Simon Thomas led a group of 10 volunteers from **Fearrington**, who cleaned up 11 bags of trash at the **15-501 bridge area**. They may have found the weirdest trash – an abandoned safe that had been broken into and left by the river (the sheriff was notified)!

Paddler team led by **Bob Brueckner** and **Larry Ausley** pulled out 12 bags of trash, 3 tires, and a lot of metal and plastic junk as they hunted the islands and river banks from **Bynum down to Hwy 64 bridge**.

Sarah Goddin and **Scott Bryan** picked up 2 bags of trash along the **Lower Haw River State Natural Area near Redbud**. **CCCC Students for Sustainability Club**, were at work **further downstream** and removed 6 bags of trash.

Robeson Creek in Pittsboro was cleaned up by a team led by **Gary Simpson**, who took out 20 bags of trash plus a fence post and wire, a wheel cover, and a glass bottle “terrarium”.



Thirty volunteers came out to clean up the **Haw River at Bynum**, including local **Girl Scout Troop 1006** and **students from Woods School Outdoor Club** led by **David Jester**. These volunteers picked up 31 bags of trash and some unusual items including a dollar bill, a fire hose, a flip flop, cooler top, and a very old unopened jar of homemade pickles.



On the **Haw River at Brooks Bridge Road** in Guilford County, **Carolyn Rhode** led 9 volunteers from **Girl Scout Troop 2517** who picked up 7 bags of trash, plus a folding chair, carpeting, and TV with remote.



Mike Reid from Reidsville led a group of 5 paddlers to clean up **Reedy Fork at Altamahaw** where trash has been piling up over the years – coming downstream from Greensboro. They were able to remove 22 bags of trash!





Another new team this year was headed up by **Chris Carter** to clean up the *Saxapahaw "lost island" Island*, with help from **Deborah Amaral, Lea Clayton**, and 26 volunteers. This intrepid group waded and paddled across to take off 40 bags of trash and 6 tires, *plus* a dinosaur toy, ladder, metals, drums, trash can, lawn chair, and car parts!



Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co. led a group of 22 paddlers from **Y-guides & Princesses** out on *Saxapahaw Lake (above the dam)* and picked up 25 bags of trash, 4 tires, plus a football, 25-gallon propane tank, a plastic slide, and an alien mask!

Join Us in Thanking Our 2015 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors

AbunDance Healing Arts (Kim Calhoun), (919) 636-2545, kimcalhoun@gmail.com, abundancehealingarts.com

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

Alicia Ravetto Architect, Carrboro, (919) 933-0999, aliciaravettoarchitect.com

Benjamin Vineyards & Winery, 6516 Whitney Rd, Graham (Saxapahaw), (336) 376-1080, benjaminvineyards.com

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

Carolina Country Builders (Paul Konove), 1459 Redbud, Pittsboro, greenhomedesignbuild.com

Carrburritos (Gail Fairbanks), Carrboro, (919) 933-8226, carrburritos.com

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

Doug's Auto & Tire, 863 Sanford Rd., Pittsboro, (919) 542-5996, www.dougsautoonline.com

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

Grove Winery and Vineyards, 7360 Brooks Bridge Rd., Gibsonville, www.grovewinery.com

Handy Village Institute (Deborah Amaral and Chris Carter), Saxapahaw (on Facebook)

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

Hobbs Architects, (919) 545-2004, www.hobbsarchitects.com

Jones Architecture, 2005 Beecham Circle, Raleigh, (919) 510-8186

Lynn Hayes Properties, 103 W. Weaver St, Carrboro, (919) 968-9989, lynnhayes.com

Marcoplos Construction, Chapel Hill, (919) 968-0056, www.marcoplosconstruction.com

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

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

And last but not at all least, the mighty **Clean Jordan Lake** effort was postponed until March 28 and the sun shone on their efforts – 110 volunteers hauled 300 bags of trash and 140 items off the eastern shoreline of the *Haw River arm of Jordan Lake*, with help from boaters and the **Army Corps of Engineers!**



Pittsboro Toys, 44 Hillsboro St. Suite B, (919) 545-1546, www.pittsborotoys.com

Saxapahaw General Store, (336) 376-5332, www.saxgenstore.com

Saxapahaw Rivermill Apartments (Mac Jordan), (336) 376-3122, www.rivermillvillage.com

Space Builders, 112 E. Main Street, Carrboro, (919) 929-7072, spacebuilders.biz

Susan Delaney, ND, 301 W. Weaver St., Carrboro, (919) 932-6262, www.thewellnessalliance.com

Swanson & Associates (David Swanson), 100 East Carr St., Carrboro, (919) 929-9000, www.swansonlandscapearchitecture.com

Townsend Bertram & Co., 200 N. Greensboro Street, Carrboro, www.tbandc.com

Weaver Street Realty, 116 E. Main St., Carrboro, (919) 929-5658, www.weaverstreetrealty.com



SPECIAL THANKS for help with trash collection, supplies, and organizing, to:
NC DOT * Chatham County Solid Waste Dept.
* Saxapahaw Rivermill *
Bynum Ruritan Club *
Clean Jordan Lake *
Carolina Canoe Club *
Farrington Green Scene *
Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. *
Haw River State Park *
Army Corps of Engineers at Jordan Lake *
Alamance Parks & Recreation

Watershed Education News:

Helping to Inspire the Steward Within Us All

from Tracy DeVoe,
Watershed Education
Coordinator



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Haw River Learning Celebration This will be the 26th year that the Haw River Learning Celebration will take to the banks of the river in Bynum, Saxapahaw, and at Camp Guilrock, where musicians, teachers, artists, story tellers and dedicated river enthusiasts introduce the wonders of our precious watershed to excited fourth-graders beginning on September 20th and running for three weeks, until October 9th. This incredible event could host up to 1,500 students from six watershed counties. I am excited and pleased to see schools signing up so early in the year! The 2015 online LC Volunteer Registration Form is up and running and can be accessed via our website: Projects/4th Grade Field Trip page. I highly recommend that folks sign up early this year and utilize the volunteer information and forms provided on our website. Tell your friends about the LC and have your friends tell their friends! Feel free to contact me with any questions at WatershedEducationCoordinator@gmail.com. To make a donation, visit our website at www.hawriver.org. Thank you everyone for helping to make this a successful 26th year of bridging connections between children, nature, and the Haw River. Cheers to another season of gearing up for the Haw River Learning Celebration!



Photo by Maia Dery

Tracy teaches Guilford College students about the creek that runs through their campus.

Watershed Education Outreach There are many different opportunities coming up this spring for HRA's outreach through watershed education. The town of Chapel Hill's Stormwater Management Division's Environmental Education Coordinator, Wendy Smith, has organized and developed a citizen's stream monitoring program for the residents of Chapel Hill. I am very excited to take part and join hands in this opportunity to help educate folks within our community about non-point source pollution and how we can work together to help keep watch over our streams, to help get them thriving again, and ultimately, have less of an impact on Jordan Lake's problems of excessive algae growth. We partnered again this year with the city of Durham's Laura Smith, Public Education Coordinator, and Public Works Department at Durham Creek Week at Durham Central Park on March 21st. We increased the public's pollution awareness using our Enviroscope, and sought potential new volunteers for the 2015 Learning Celebration. In addition, I will be partnering with Joy Fields, Outreach Coordinator for Piedmont Triad Regional Council with Stormwater SMART, at Burlington Water Day at

Highland Elementary and at Burlington City Park on May 9th from 2 to 4 pm for two afternoons of stream investigation discovery and fun.

Willow Oak Montessori and Horton Middle School's 8th Grade Science classes will be taking to the river this April after two days of learning about what a watershed is, our ecological address, what pollution is, and how we can participate in protecting the Haw River watershed by adopting stream steward practices. I am looking forward to teaching this spring and helping bridge connections between kids, nature, and the Haw River.



Haw River Watch Project News I would like to send a very special thank you to Sharon Garbutt, HRA Board Member and dedicated volunteer, and Maja Kricker, Learning Celebration Steering Committee member and dedicated volunteer, for helping train new River Watch Volunteers this season. With the collective knowledge and expertise of current monitoring teams, we are better able to train new volunteers and help answer the many questions that come up along the way. Be on the lookout for email invitations this summer regarding River Watch Potlucks with guest speakers. Please send me your current emails if you would like to be included in

these invitations so we can learn together as a river lovin' community to help keep our waters clean and protected. In addition, I would like to also send a very special thank you to Jim Wood, Professor at Guilford College and HRA Board Member, who is currently teaching a course this spring semester entitled "Animal Stories of the Cape Fear River



Photo by Maia Dery

The macroinvertebrates they found in their stream help the students determine its health.

Basin.” It is a writing and history course where students examine natural history accounts of central North Carolina, from John Lawson to the present. Students not only do research and write about non-human animals in the river basin and the profound impact of human animals on the environment here, but also do something valuable for the Haw River Assembly and incorporate this into their academic curriculum. Mr. Wood is now leading his class in monitoring the stream that runs through Guilford College Campus, helping us keep a watch from a citizen scientist’s perspective. I am really excited to see the outcomes of their projects. A very special thank you to Maia Dery, Professor at Guilford College, for being a constant supporter and visionary in helping find new and fun ways to support our cause. New monitoring has been set up for Pokeberry Creek before clear cutting and development begins, as well as for Stinking Quarter before sections of adjacent land go through clear cutting practices. Thank you to our new teams for taking on these streams! There will be new River Watch Manuals coming out this spring, as well as a new online River Watch survey form for folks to fill out online and submit. We have lots going on this season and are very busy helping to get projects underway. Thank you to everyone who has helped with suggestions and ideas along this journey. This is truly an exciting time for HRA’s River Watch Project. Our next river monitoring weekend is scheduled for the weekend June 20-21. See you on the river!

Frog Hollow Outdoors Paddle Trips and Instructional Programs



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. Their trips, guide services, and instructional programs are excellent for individuals, families, groups of friends, office retreats, youth groups, school classes, outings, or even a romantic date. These stellar folks want to help you experience the outdoors to the fullest. So, Get Outside, Explore, and Discover your region’s hidden treasures!

Our friends at Frog Hollow Outdoors are offering a *discount to Haw River Assembly members*. Please register online for the \$10 off discount at <http://www.froghollowoutdoors.com/exploring-nc-paddle-trips/haw-river-tour-series> or call their outpost at (919) 416-1200. Call HRA at (919) 542-5790 to get your HRA membership discount code and schedule your next Haw River adventure!

Intro to Swift Water Rescue: Important Frog Hollow Outdoors Instructional Clinic on River Safety

This condensed 1-day introductory course is designed to help students understand basic swift water rescue techniques and principles. This course will cover communication, site management, self-rescue, wading techniques, throw rope usage, pins and entrapments, use of snag lines and more. Please contact folks at Frog Hollow Outdoors for more info or to register: (919) 416-1200 or info@froghollowoutdoors.com. Cost is \$95 per person, \$75 per person when combined with another course. Offered **Sunday May 3** and **Saturday September 5**.

Haw River Tour Series: Paddle Trips by Frog Hollow Outdoors

Paddle trips from Chicken Bridge to 15-501 will be offered on **Saturday April 25**, **Saturday June 20**, and **Sunday September 6**. A paddle trip on the Bynum Reservoir will be offered on **Sunday August 16**. Please contact folks at Frog Hollow Outdoors for more info or to register: (919) 416-1200 or info@froghollowoutdoors.com.

Clyde Jones Shirt “Spotted Salamander”

The 2015 Haw River Assembly T-shirt designed by Clyde Jones is here -- a beautiful native spotted salamander on a blue-green background, printed on a light yellow T-shirt of soft 100% organic cotton by TS Designs in Burlington - with their environmentally friendly non-toxic printing process.

\$ 25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, 2X
\$ 25 (ladies style) S, M, L, XL
\$ 20 (youth) S, M, L

Available at the HRA office in Bynum, and at Townsend Bertram & Co. in Carrboro and the Saxapahaw General Store. The HRA office is located at 199 Bynum Hill in Bynum (a Pittsboro 27312 address). You may wish to call first on weekdays to make sure we are there, at 919-542-5790. You can also call or email us (info@hawriver.org) to order.



Created to introduce paddlers to one of the North Carolina Piedmont’s most engaging rivers, The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company features canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard rentals from 3 to 11 mile segments of the Haw River flowing through Alamance and Chatham counties from Altamahaw to Bynum.

Guided canoe and kayak trips are offered throughout the year, and canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard courses, taught by experienced instructors, allow both novice and experienced paddlers to enhance their skills.

Call to schedule a trip or get some more information at (336) 260-6465 or hawrivercanoe.com.

Upcoming 2015 HRA Field Trips and Events

See HRA's website, www.hawriver.org, for details, updates, and info on field trips and events.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Tuesday April 13 (Sanford), Thursday, April 16 (Pittsboro). DENR Public Hearings on Coal Ash Dumps.

Saturday April 25. Chicken Bridge to 15/501 Paddle Trip, Frog Hollow Outdoors, Haw River Tour Series. See p.7.

Saturday May 2, 4-8 pm, Haw River Festival, in Saxapahaw. See page 1. For more info: www.hawriver.org, (919) 542-5790.

Sunday, May 3. Intro to Swift Water Rescue. Frog Hollow Outdoors, Haw River Tour Series. See page 7.

Saturday, May 9, 2-4 pm at Burlington City Park. **Stream Discovery Program for Little Alamance Creek.** Free and open to the public. For more info contact Tracy: (919) 542-5790, WatershedEducationCoordinator@gmail.com.

Saturday June 20. Chicken Bridge to 15/501 Paddle Trip, Frog Hollow Outdoors, Haw River Tour Series. See p.7.

June 20-21, Summer Solstice Haw River Watch monitoring weekend. For more info contact Tracy: (919) 542-5790, WatershedEducationCoordinator@gmail.com.

Sunday July 11, 5-9 pm. Concerts for a Cause benefit for HRA, at *Piedmont Biofuels* in Pittsboro.

Sunday August 16. Bynum Reservoir Paddle Trip, Frog Hollow Outdoors, Haw River Tour Series. See page 7.

Sunday September 6. Chicken Bridge to 15/501 Paddle Trip, Frog Hollow Outdoors, Haw River Tour Series. See p.7.

September 20 - October 9, Haw River Learning Celebration for 4th-graders. See page 6. For more info, to register, or to volunteer, contact Tracy: WatershedEducationCoordinator@gmail.com, (919) 542-5790.

Haw River Festival
Sat. May 2 in
Saxapahaw, 4-8 pm

Address Service Requested

Bynum, NC 27228

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Haw River Assembly

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