

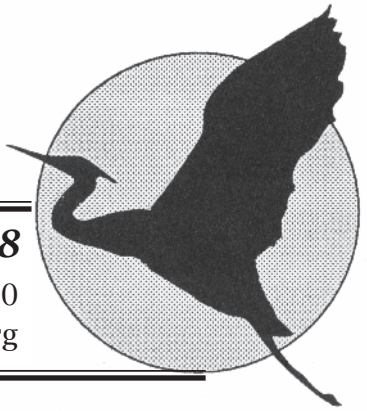
# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly April 2018

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)



## Our 28th River Cleanup - And a Week of Creeks!

We held our 28th Annual Clean-Up-A-Thon on March 17, going “green” on St. Patrick's Day. It was one of the biggest and best clean-ups ever! Three hundred ninety-seven volunteers of all ages came out to clean up trash along (and in) the river and our creeks. From



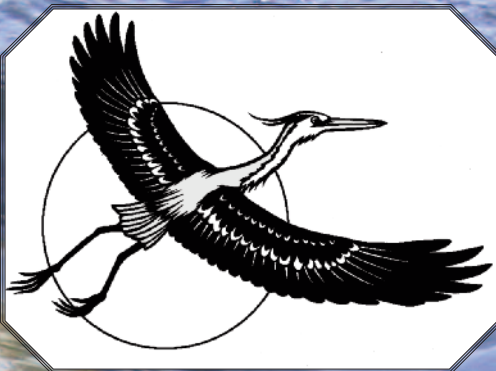
Photo by Woodfin Daly

*Glencoe paddler team shows off their haul!*

Guilford County down to Chatham, 30 teams picked up 520 bags of trash, 30 tires, and a lot of junk, including auto parts, signs, and even a shopping cart! Please read all about their efforts on pages 4 and 5, and see more photos of their great work. We also want to give a big shout-out to our local business sponsors (page 5). Please say thanks to them, and let's give them our support! The Haw River looks a lot cleaner than it did before March 17 and we know the fish and other water critters are grateful to our volunteers, as we all are!

Our river clean-up kicked off a whole week of activities in the watershed in March devoted to learning about and cleaning up the tributaries that flow to the Haw River. Guilford, Alamance, Durham, and Orange counties all held “Creek Week” events that we took part in through river monitoring demonstrations, presentations, exhibits, and creek clean-ups. We also had help from Chatham County and Pittsboro for disposal of trash we collected there. We're excited to be partnering with so many local governments to protect the Haw River and the creeks that flow into it!

## Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw May 5th, 4 - 8 pm



Join us in our annual **HAW RIVER FESTIVAL** on the Haw River in Saxapahaw – Saturday May 5 from 4 to 8 pm! For directions and more info, visit [www.HawRiver.org](http://www.HawRiver.org), or [www.RiverMillVillage.com](http://www.RiverMillVillage.com).

We'll have **live music** from \* Village Band of Chapel Hill

\* Saludos Compay \* Onyx Club Boys \* JAAFAR

\* 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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**Erin Jobe**, *Watershed Education Coordinator*  
**Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *Newsletter Editor*

Thanks to **Jan Burger** for art throughout this newsletter: HRF Heron, Boy with Butterfly, River Watch Heron, and Clean-Up-A-Thon logo.

To join the Haw River Assembly or renew your membership, send a check to **HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228**; or go online at <http://hawriver.org/join-hra/>. All contributions are tax-deductible.

*Thank you!*

*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](http://www.hawriver.org)**

## Notes from the Haw

As I write this on the second day of spring, a light snow is falling outside, although the birds and flowers seem determined to stay on schedule! Meteorologists say this frigid beginning of spring is the result of cold air flowing south, as Arctic temperatures were the warmest ever recorded in February, due to global warming. It's like opening the freezer door – the freezer gets warmer as the cold air rushes out.

The river is running high, and we've had enough water this winter to move us out of the drought category, but most parts of the Haw River watershed are still considered "abnormally dry." We can never take water for granted, either its purity or quantity. We are not doing enough in our region to ensure clean and plentiful water for future generations. Rapid growth is being encouraged, but it is relying on outdated data for "average" climate, droughts, and floods. We have too long relied on a system of oversight of our drinking water that does not adequately protect us from unregulated industrial chemicals in our surface waters. Drinking water that was considered safe, is now in question in many cities. We have NOT seen the political will to protect Jordan Lake from pollution. We need to make sure that these issues are understood and considered urgent by elected officials making decisions that impact all of us. As we come into election season 2018, ask candidates what they know about our water resources, and what they plan to do to ensure clean water for all!

We look forward to seeing you at our Haw River Festival on May 5th! Come out and hear some wonderful music, enjoy the farmer's market, and take part in river activities and our silent auction. We'd love to chat with you at our HRA booth, and hear your concerns about water issues.



Photo by Chris Carter

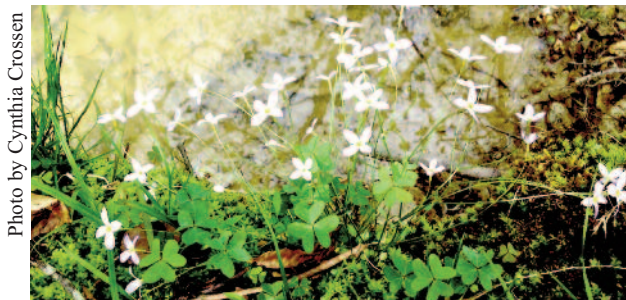


Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*From the river,*  
**Elaine Chiosso**,  
Executive Director

## Meet HRA Intern Caroline Choudhury!

Caroline grew up in Durham, and she is a junior at UNC majoring in Environmental Science and minoring in Geography. She is with us for her spring semester, working on several projects including the Clean-Up-A-Thon, industrial contaminate research, and outreach programming. She is also interested in transit and urban planning, and will be heading to Detroit this summer to work with Transportation Riders United. A huge thanks to Caroline for her hard work!



Photo by Erin Jobe

*Caroline assisted with the Clean-Up-A-Thon at Robeson Creek Paddle Access.*



# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## *Issues in the Watershed*

*from Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER®*

### ***Industrial Contaminants in the Haw***

In December of 2017, we began monitoring four sites in the watershed for industrial contaminants, including perfluorinated compounds and 1,4 Dioxane, an industrial solvent. As this research continues, the question I hear most often is, “How safe is our drinking water?” Our initial samples have found industrial contaminants at levels much higher than the health advisory.

In June of 2013, reports were released by a team of scientists that showed levels of seven types of PFASs, in both the Haw and finished drinking water for the Town of Pittsboro, that were five times the advisory limits established by the EPA. In addition to PFASs, Detlef Knappe’s team also found remarkably high levels of an industrial solvent called 1,4 Dioxane. EPA has also listed this contaminant as a likely human carcinogen, and more research is being done to trace direct impacts to human health. It is widely used as an industrial solvent and is a byproduct of manufacturing. The average levels found in the Haw were highest in 2015 at 17.1

ug/L. Levels of 1,4 Dioxane in the Haw and in Pittsboro’s drinking water were *forty-eight* times the advisory limits established by the EPA. While some industrial facilities have direct discharge permits (listing facility name and location of discharge, and identifying regulated chemicals they discharge), other facilities send their pretreated waste to municipal wastewater treatment plants, which shields their identity and location. High levels of these chemicals have consistently been found below wastewater treatment plants, which may have over 30 significant industrial users sending wastewater to them. These wastewater treatment plants then apply their biosolid sludge to agricultural fields, which can run off into nearby streams in storms. With so many pathways of contamination, pinpointing the sources of these contaminants in the river and drinking water is very difficult. As we collect more data to verify our results, the information will be made publicly available on our website. Our goal is for regulators to take protective actions against industrial pollution that prioritize the health of our communities.

### ***Industrial Meat Production as a Source of Pollution***

Haw River Assembly has joined ten other Riverkeeper organizations in North Carolina in a campaign to protect our water from industrial agriculture pollution. In the Haw, the largest potential source of industrial agriculture pollution is poultry production. In joining the Contained Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) campaign, we will take part in monitoring surface water for pollutants associated with industrial poultry production, and also

highlight farmers who are taking measures to protect water quality. We are discovering how weak regulations are around poultry operations, poultry manure hauling, and dry litter storage. There are many ways for poultry waste to run off into our streams, and little regulation to proactively prevent that runoff. Our monitoring data will be made publicly available. We will shine a light on the positive alternatives to industrial meat production – and hope that you will play a role in protecting water quality by choosing to support farmers producing meat in an environmentally protective way.

### ***Sediment and Nutrient Loads in Jordan Lake***

If you’ve driven over Jordan Lake at the Highway 64 bridge in the past few months, you may have noticed the machine anchored in the water north of the bridge. This is a Water Velocity Profiler. The UNC Collaboratory have been monitoring the flows in the Haw and Jordan Lake to find out how the

Haw effects sediment and nutrient levels in Jordan Lake. Their results have shown that flow from the Haw reaches the upper arms of the lake in times of high flow events, and perhaps even in times of normal flow rates. This new information shows that the Haw is causing sediment and nutrient issues throughout the lake, and not just in the lower reaches, as had been previously thought. We hope this will motivate upper Haw River municipalities to take a larger responsibility in managing sediment and nutrient loads and to support the Jordan Lake Rules.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

### ***Continuing Questions about Chatham Park’s Proposed Stormwater Design***

Chatham Park’s proposal to use a point system for “exceptional design” for stormwater management has raised concerns that it will be inadequate to prevent flooding and pollution into the Haw River and Jordan Lake. The Town of Pittsboro has hired the engineering consulting firm Hydrostructure to help them review the proposed stormwater proposal. It will take exceptional, if not extraordinary, design to adequately control stormwater, given the number of houses and commercial buildings Chatham Park is planning for this new city for 55,000 residents. Will future Pittsboro and Chatham Park residents suffer the impacts of massive downstream flooding, and new pollution into our waters? Read our comments to the Town of Pittsboro, and more about stormwater and Chatham Park, on our website at <http://hawriver.org/river-issues/chatham-park/>.



# 397 Volunteers Join Forces for

from Erin Jobe, Watershed Education Coordinator (919) 542-5790; erin@hawriver.org



On March 17th we hosted our 28th annual Clean-Up-A-Thon! The mild weather and positive energy of our eager volunteer teams made for a day full of smiles, hard work, fun, and even festive St. Patrick's Day attire! The Haw River Assembly's Clean-Up-A-Thon is an annual watershed-wide effort to remove trash from creeks, streams, and the Haw River. The event also raises awareness about the impacts of our consumption habits, and it brings people together to experience and appreciate the Haw River and their local creeks. More photos are on our website, [hawriver.org](http://hawriver.org).

**397 volunteers! 520 bags of trash and recycling! 30 tires!** ♦ GetOutdoors Paddlesports in Greensboro cleaned up along a stream in Starmount Park, removing 8 bags of trash. ♦ Reedy Fork at Altamahaw was cleaned up by Mike Reed's team of paddlers who removed 25 bags of trash and two car seat frames. ♦ Jimmie Kerr Road near Alamance Community College was cleaned up by Girl Scout Troop #02517 (at left) – they removed 14 bags of trash, 4



tires, 2 TV's and a heavy mattress. ♦ Little Alamance Creek at South Graham Park was cleaned up by Daniel Sigmon and Alamance Community College students. ♦ HWY 54 Paddle Access in Graham was cleaned up by Boy Scout Troop 41 – they removed 9 bags of trash, 3 tires, an old TV set, a tent and more. ♦ Red Slide Park, Town of Haw River was cleaned up by Eastern Alamance High School Environmental Club. ♦ Town and Country Park, Burlington was cleaned up by the Alamance 4-H Environmental Science Club and the Anglers Outdoor Club (at right & below). They removed 9 bags of trash, a Wal-Mart shopping cart, a basketball goal, and several car parts.

♦ Glencoe Paddle Access and Great Bend Park was the biggest cleanup this year. Five determined paddlers removed 45 bags of trash trapped above the dam. A team of 40 Alamance County Cub Scouts took on the land cleanup, removing 15 bags and several tires. ♦ Lake Michael Park in Mebane was cleaned up by the Mebane Women's Club, who took out 16 bags of trash and recycling. ♦ The Saxapahaw team led by Emily Sutton took on areas above and below the dam, taking out 51 bags of trash, 6 tires, and a very ironic "No Dumping" sign. ♦ Saxapahaw Lake was cleaned up by paddlers led by Haw River Canoe and Kayak, retrieving 12 bags of trash. ♦ At Union Bridge Paddle Access Tracy Jenkins collected 7 bags of trash and recycling, a DOT sign, and a coconut. ♦ Chicken Bridge in Chatham Co. was cleaned up by Jeff Pettus and neighbors from the Rock Rest neighborhood – together collecting 8 bags of trash, a seat cushion, and a toy bike. ♦ The Haw River at Rock Rest and Dry Creek were cleaned up by neighbors led by Cynthia Crossen and Cathy Markatos, collecting 8 bags of trash, a metal hat and an etch-a-sketch. ♦ Volunteers at the Haw River in Bynum included UNC Nurses and Girl Scout Troop 1006. They filled 44 bags of trash and recycling, 2 tires, 2 undelivered packages, laundry detergent, a "don't litter" paint rock, and more. ♦ 15-501 Bridge paddle access was tackled by Fearnington Green Scene, organized by Simon Maarten Thomas, paddlers led by Ed Pickens, and volunteers from Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. They collected 23 bags of trash, 1 tire, a car battery, a deer skull, pair of glasses, and a hub cap. ♦ Brooks Branch team led by Anne Geer collected 7 bags of trash and a large road cone. ♦ A section of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area was cleaned up by Redbud neighbors led by Sarah Goddin, collecting 3 bags of trash. ♦ Hwy 64 Bridge area on both sides was cleaned up by a team from Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area organized by Nancy Strong – they removed 5 bags of trash, 3 tires, and 2 bathing suit tops! ♦ Lower Haw River State Natural Area islands and river banks were cleaned up by paddlers from Carolina Canoe Club led by Bob Brueckner and Larry Ausley. They removed 11 bags of trash, 5



tires, a chair, and a traffic cone! ♦ Robeson Creek in Pittsboro clean-up was led by Gary Simpson – volunteers removed 34 bags of trash and recycling, 2 tires, paint cans, a Skoal sign, and a metal chair. ♦ Robeson Creek Paddle Access team was led by HRA intern Caroline Choudhury – removing 3 bags of trash. Caroline also led a team of fellow UNC students, who picked up 32 bags of trash along Booker Creek at the Eastgate Shopping Center in Chapel Hill on March 24. ♦ Bolin Creek in Chapel Hill got lots of love from Townsend Bertram & Company and volunteers cleaning up near Chapel Hill Community Center; students and parents from the Morningside School cleaning up a section they love to visit; and a Brownie Troop with 36 parents and girls organized by Town of Chapel Hill. All together they removed 37 bags of trash and recycling. ♦ Morgan Creek in Chapel Hill was tackled by Morgan Creek Valley Alliance, led by Johnny Randall, taking out 35 bags of trash. ♦ New Hope River Waterfowl Impoundment in Durham was cleaned up by a team from Clean Jordan Lake – 25 volunteers removed 58 bags of trash and 2 tires. GREAT WORK ALL!

# *the 28th Annual Clean-Up-A-Thon!*



**SPECIAL THANKS** to the following partners and supporters for helping us with trash collection, supplies, and organizational support: \* Haw River Trail and Alamance County Parks & Recreation \* Chatham County Solid Waste Department \* Saxapahaw Rivermill \* Town of Pittsboro \* City of Burlington \* Town of Graham \* City of Mebane \* Town of Chapel Hill \* Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company \* Trash hauling from Lynn & Brenda Featherstone, Efrain Ramirez, & Mark Barroso

## *Join Us in Thanking Our 2018 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors*

**Abundance Healing Arts** (Kim Calhoun), Chatham Co, [abundancehealingarts.com](http://abundancehealingarts.com)

**Academy Eye Associates**, Chapel Hill MLK Blvd office: (919) 942-8531; Durham Academy Road office: (919) 493-7456; [academyeye.com](http://academyeye.com)

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

**Alicia Ravetto, Architect**, Chatham Co. sustainable building, [aliciaravettoarchitect.com](http://aliciaravettoarchitect.com)

**Auto Logic Foreign Car Repair**, 200 West Main Street, Carrboro, (919) 933-6609, [autologiconline.com](http://autologiconline.com)

**Auto Pro**, 5522 US Hwy 15-501 N, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 542-0964

**Benjamin Vineyards**, Saxapahaw, [benjaminvineyards.com](http://benjaminvineyards.com)

**Bynum United Methodist Church**, 54 Bynum Church Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 533-7377, [www.bynum.church](http://www.bynum.church)

**Carolina Country Builders**, green home design build, Chatham Co., [greenhomedesignbuild.com](http://greenhomedesignbuild.com)

**Carrburritos**, 711 Rosemary St., Carrboro, NC 27510, (919) 933-8226, [carrburritos.com](http://carrburritos.com)

**Country Farm and Home**, 101 S Small St, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 542-3353, [chathamfarmsupply.com](http://chathamfarmsupply.com)

**Crosswinds Boating Center**, full service marina at Jordan Lake, [crosswindsboating.com](http://crosswindsboating.com)

**The Eddy Pub and Restaurant**, Saxapahaw, [theeddypub.com](http://theeddypub.com)

**The Farthest Pixel Educational Media Design**, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 590-9063, [www.thefarthestpixel.co](http://www.thefarthestpixel.co)

**Fair Game Beverage**, 220 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312, 919-245-5434, [fairgamebeverage.com](http://fairgamebeverage.com)

**Fifth Season Gardening Company**, 106 S. Greensboro Street, Carrboro, NC 27510, (919) 932-7600; Toll Free: (866) 544-4358, [fifthseasongardening.com](http://fifthseasongardening.com)

**Furniture Lab**, creative commercial dining spaces, Carrboro, [furniturelab.com](http://furniturelab.com)

**Grove Winery**, 7360 Brooks Bridge Rd, Gibsonville, NC 27249, (336) 584-4060, [grovewinery.com](http://grovewinery.com)

**Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.**, paddle guides and rentals in Saxapahaw, (336) 260-6465, [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com)

**Hobbs Architects**, located in Pittsboro (919) 545-2004, [hobbsarchitects.com](http://hobbsarchitects.com)

**Integral Counseling Services**, Miriam Lieberman, MA, LPCS, in Chapel Hill, [integralcounselingservices.com](http://integralcounselingservices.com)

**Ken Collins**

**Left Bank Butchery**, 1729 Saxapahaw Bethlehem Church Road, Saxapahaw, NC 27340, [leftbankbutchery.com](http://leftbankbutchery.com)

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

**Marcoplos Construction**, advanced green building, Orange Co., [marcoplosconstruction.com](http://marcoplosconstruction.com)

**Mellow Marsh Farm**, wholesale native plants and seeds, Chatham Co., [mellowmarshfarm.com](http://mellowmarshfarm.com)

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

**New Horizons West**, 674 West St, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 542-5487, [newhorizonstrading.com/west](http://newhorizonstrading.com/west)

**Pandora's Pies**, 130 N Williamson Ave, Elon, NC 27244, (336) 270-4599, [pandoraspizza.com](http://pandoraspizza.com)

**Pittsboro Animal Hospital**, (919) 542-5712, 1065 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312, [pittsboroanimalhospital.com](http://pittsboroanimalhospital.com)

**Pittsboro Toys**, 15 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 545-1546, [pittsborotoys.com](http://pittsborotoys.com)

**River Landing Inn**, 5942 Whitney Rd, Graham, NC 27253, (919) 602-0296, [riverlandinginn.com](http://riverlandinginn.com)

**Saxapahaw Rivermill** - live on the Haw River! [rivermillvillage.com](http://rivermillvillage.com)

**Screaming for Vintage**, 38 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 542-5884

**Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream**, in Elon and Graham, [smittyshomemadeicecream@gmail.com](mailto:smittyshomemadeicecream@gmail.com)

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

**Townsend Bertram & Company**, Carr Mill Mall, 200 N. Greensboro A16, Carrboro, NC 27510; (919) 933-9712; [tbandc.com](http://tbandc.com)



# Haw Watershed Outreach

## Getting to the Root of the Trash Problem

Managing trash and recycling is an ongoing issue for all communities, and the effects of our single use culture are apparent every day. Whether you are driving down the road, walking along a sidewalk, or even hiking a park trail, you can't go long without spotting a plastic bottle, or food wrappers. While recycling is an important way for communities to manage discarded items, doing so can be burdensome, and often requires large amounts of energy and transportation. The real root of the issue is our daily use and dependence on single use items like plastic cups and bags, food packaging, and more. Given that the average American produces over 1,600 pounds of trash every year, it is no surprise that stray trash eventually makes its way to our creeks and rivers during storms. It piles up in our waterways, harming water quality and wildlife. Let's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – in that order!



## List of 10 Weirdest Trash Finds

1. "don't litta" paint rock (Bynum)
2. Walmart shopping cart (Town & Country Park)
3. Pistol holder (Glencoe)
4. "No Dumping" sign (Saxapahaw)
5. Skoal chewing tobacco sign (Pittsboro)
6. Etch-A-Sketch (Rock Rest)
7. Undelivered packages of auto parts and food (Bynum)
8. Coconuts (at Bynum and Union Bridge)
9. Bathing suit tops (15-501 bridge)
10. 3 TV Sets (Graham)



## Creeks Throughout the Haw River Watershed

Our Clean-up-athon helped to kick off a Week of Creek, with events in four counties in the watershed. This year, Durham County held its tenth annual Creek Week, hosting many educational events, volunteer cleanups, and outdoor activities. HRA's Emily Sutton led a stream watch training, and partnered with Durham City Stormwater's Laura Webb Smith to teach new volunteers how to understand the health of a stream, and what common pollution sources into our Piedmont streams look like. This included learning about common "illicit discharges" and how to report them. We were pleasantly surprised to find a stonefly larva in New Hope Creek! We also held a Muddy Water Watch training in Durham and gave a presentation on watershed issues and how to take action. Alamance County, Guilford County, and Chapel Hill all held their first Creek Weeks this year. In Alamance, we had five families join us for a stream watch training at City Park in Burlington. We are so glad to see counties and municipalities rally around water protection, and hope these Creek Weeks continue to grow and reach new participants.



Photo by Emily Sutton

*Two young scientists learned how to keep our streams healthy during Alamance Creek Week.*

## Join Us For the Haw River Learning Celebration this Fall!



The 29th annual Haw River Learning Celebration will take place Saturday, September 22 – Friday, October 12, in Bynum, Saxapahaw, and Camp Guilrock. This hands-on riverside educational program teaches 4th-graders in our watershed about their river and how to protect it. To volunteer, register on our website, [hawriver.org](http://hawriver.org), under the Projects tab. We truly appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers – this meaningful program would not be possible without you! Come join us! *At left, 4th-graders explore the Haw River in Bynum.* Photo by Linda Smith





# Standing in the Stream

Project News from Emily Sutton, **HAW RIVERKEEPER®**  
(919) 542-5790; emily@hawriver.org



## River Watch

We have had six new teams join us this year, thanks to a few successful trainings with partners in Alamance, Guilford, and Durham. We are so thrilled to have more teams in these regions. If you are in these counties and interested in participating, we need your help! Please contact me to schedule a training.

Many of our teams have not found many of the more sensitive macroinvertebrates in their surveys, which could be due to the extreme flashiness we've had in the past year. We've had very high flow events, and long periods of low flow events. You may remember the extremely low water levels in December and January. These long periods of dry conditions stress those macroinvertebrates for many reasons, the most concerning being that the discharges of industries and wastewater treatment plants are not thoroughly diluted in the river. Additionally, the first rain following a dry period carries many toxicants into the waterways, because pollutants have dried and built up on roads and landscaping.

In June, HRA will be receiving an EPA certified meter to monitor chemical parameters, such as Nitrates, Phosphorus, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, and Alkalinity. (To better understand what those parameters tell us about water quality, visit our webpage.) With this governmentally certified meter, we will be able to collect results that can be used for violations of the Clean Water Act. The volunteers will still be a critical piece in this watchdog effort – seasonal sampling and monitoring of their site will serve as a red flag for a more thorough sampling, and the macroinvertebrate monitoring will be even more invaluable. Our organization is one of the

*New Stream Watch Volunteers found New Hope Creek in Durham was in better health than we expected, with high dissolved oxygen and sensitive macroinvertebrates.*

very few across the state that regularly assesses stream health through macroinvertebrate counts and visual and physical parameters on such a widespread basis.

We have continued our partnership with the statewide NC Aquatic Datahub, which aims to standardize citizen science monitoring programs. With this effort, regional monitoring programs will be able to have comparable data to aid the state in creating the Water Quality Report.

## Muddy Water Watch

Spring is here and we are preparing for the rains—and sediment—it will bring. We'd love to have more Muddy Water Watch volunteers in each county to act as watchdogs for sediment pollution. We ask volunteers to take photos of potential sediment violations by using a free smartphone application, and write an easy report summarizing what is happening. That report gets sent directly to the regulatory agency in the county. We have had successful Muddy Water Watch trainings in Chatham, Orange, and Durham counties, and plan to move to more counties as interest in the program grows. In order to maintain positive relationships with the Sediment and Erosion Control teams, we ask that volunteers look through the training presentation on our webpage, or attend a scheduled training. Contact Emily Sutton about scheduling a training or getting involved!



*Clean-Up-A-Thon triumphs: Mebane Women's Club (above top) left Lake Michael in Mebane a whole lot cleaner, and Emily's team (above) collected mounds of trash off of the river banks and islands in Saxapahaw.*

Photo by Emily Sutton

Photo by Elaine Chiosso

## Upcoming 2018 HRA Events

**Saturday, April 7, 1 - 4 pm, HRA booth at SpringFest at Haw River State Park.** Enjoy the arrival of spring at Haw River State Park's Iron Ore Belt Access during the free annual SpringFest, in the Green Field next to the parking lot. Includes Easter egg hunts, nature crafts, face painting, and tree climbing. More info at [www.ncparks.gov/haw-river-state-park/events-and-programs/springfest](http://www.ncparks.gov/haw-river-state-park/events-and-programs/springfest).

**Saturday, April 14, 1 - 5 pm, HRA booth at the Earth Day Festival at Kathleen Clay Library,** 1420 Price Park Rd, Greensboro (336-373-2923). Free - all ages welcome. Enjoy music, nature crafts, face-painting, hay rides, eco-exhibits, alternative energy displays, eco-art, garden demos, live animals, and more.

**Saturday, April 21, 1 - 3 pm, Robeson Creek paddle with Frog Hollow Outdoors and Emily Sutton.** Contact and Frog Hollow Outdoors, [froghollowoutdoors.com](http://froghollowoutdoors.com) to sign up.

**Saturday May 5, HRA's 29th Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw.** See page 1 for details. For more info: [hawriver.org](http://hawriver.org), 919-542-5790.

**June 23-24, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend.** For more info, contact Emily Sutton at [emily@hawriver.org](mailto:emily@hawriver.org), 919-542-5790.

**September 22 - October 12, Our 29th Haw River Learning Celebration for 4th-graders.** It's not too soon to sign up to volunteer! For more info or to volunteer, contact Erin Jobe at [erin@hawriver.org](mailto:erin@hawriver.org), 919-542-5890; or visit <http://hawriver.org/projects/4th-grade-field-trip/>.

For **paddle trips on the Haw River** contact our partners Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company, [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com), and Frog Hollow Outdoors, [froghollowoutdoors.com](http://froghollowoutdoors.com).

Updates and details can be found at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), on our Haw River Assembly Facebook page, and from our weekly E-newsletters which you can sign up for at [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org).

### Our 2018 "Butterfly" T-Shirt is Here!



Designed by Clyde Jones, our world famous Bynum folk artist! The shirt is soft pumpkin orange with a multi-color print (and Haw River map on the back).

It is 100% organic cotton, featuring non-toxic inks. Custom printed by makers of sustainable T-shirts in Burlington-T.S. Designs.

\$25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL

\$25 (ladies style) S, M, L, XL

\$20 (youth) S, M, L

To mail order from HRA, send check to HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC, 27228. Add \$4 per shirt for postage and transaction fee.

Haw River Festival  
Saturday, May 5  
in Saxapahaw

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