

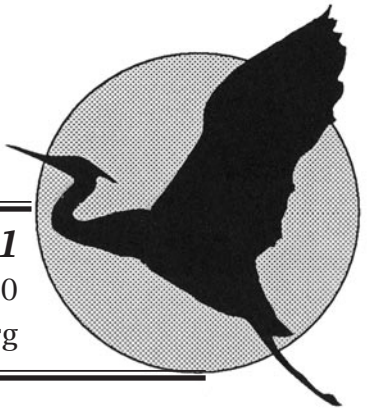
# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly April 2021

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)



## Climate Action — What is Our Government's Role?



Within the first week of the new administration, President Biden issued a sweeping Executive Order on Climate Change initiatives. These include: rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and setting emission targets; leveraging the federal government's clean energy buying power; pausing and reviewing all federal fossil fuel leases, and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies; identifying new clean energy, and a goal of doubling wind power by 2030; creating clean energy jobs and a new Civilian Climate Corps; setting a conservation target of 30% of our lands, and new climate smart agricultural practices; ensuring climate justice and economic opportunity, and ensuring scientific integrity in government again.

The HRA Climate Action committee has sent letters to all members of the U.S. House and Senate who represent our watershed, urging them to support President Biden in the crucial actions needed to tackle the climate crisis, and to do so with equity for all. We included in this letter the summaries we wrote this past year on what climate change impacts will look like for the Haw River watershed, and Piedmont NC. We are seeing some of these changes already, with more severe storms, flooding, and warmer summer nights.

We have also sent letters to NC Representatives and Senators who represent our watershed, with recommendations for legislation and budget support for actions that can reduce greenhouse gases, and mitigation to prevent or reduce harm to communities from climate change. A similar letter was sent to local elected officials and members of planning, sustainability, and climate change committees, with recommendations for initiatives at the local level.

To read these letters, please go to our webpage, <https://hawriver.org/home/climate-action-campaign/>. We hope that understanding the very real impacts from climate change to their constituents—the voters—will make a real difference. Knowledge can be a powerful tool.

### Upcoming Events to Look Forward To!

#### Earth Day Panel – Thursday, April 22, 7 pm

We will be hosting “Decolonizing Earth Day – a BIPOC Perspective,” an online panel of HRA Board members Nicole Spivey, Crystal Cavalier, Ayo Wilson, Jeannie Ambrose, and Maribel Sierra, who will discuss what Earth Day means to them as Black, Indigenous, Asian, and Hispanic environmental and environmental justice activists. (Registration will be announced on our website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).)

#### Virtual Haw River Festival Saturday May 1

With Covid restrictions not expected to be lifted yet, we are taking our annual Festival online this spring. Live music, a silent auction, kayak raffle, and sights and sounds from the river will be included in this 2 hour extravaganza. Free for all, but with donations VERY welcome for HRA and the bands. (Time and registration will be announced on our website: [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).)



Our 31th Haw River Assembly Clean-Up-A-Thon took place on March 20, with volunteers again doing a terrific job of getting trash removed from river and stream banks, before it harms aquatic life and continues washing downstream. Go to pages 4 and 5 to see the full story about the cleanup, and the wonderful local business sponsors who help make this happen. *David Jester's team (above) cleaned up a truck-load's worth of rubber balls and 22 bags of trash from the Seaforth Road Game Lands.*

## HRA Board of Directors

**Chris Carter**, President, *Alamance County*  
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**Kyleene Rooks**, *Event & Outreach Coordinator*  
**Emily Sutton**, *HAW RIVERKEEPER®*  
**Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *Newsletter Editor*

Thanks to **Jan Burger** for art throughout this newsletter: Climate Action Logo, Plastics Campaign Logo, ACP/MVP graphic, and River Watch Heron.

**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.

*Thanks for your support!*

*Individual: \$30 Family: \$45*

*Sustaining: \$60 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

Spring is very welcome this year after such a cold, wet winter. What a joy to see the ephemeral wildflowers and green returning. We also have much reason to hope for a post-pandemic future soon, with the return of people gathering together again. But we are also reflecting on how much loss there has been in this long year behind us, and we grieve for those now gone, and for life disrupted in so many ways.

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of George Pauly's death from a sudden heart attack on March 2. George was an invaluable member of our Board of Directors, leader of our Hwy 64 River Watch team, a wonderful Learning Celebration volunteer, and part of our Climate Action Committee. He supported and volunteered with many other conservation organizations including Triangle Land Conservancy and the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. He strove to live sustainably, and with kindness and generosity to others.

He dedicated his life to advocacy for wild creatures and places, and to biodiversity and Earth Justice. He shared an article with us before his death on his efforts to see greater protection of natural areas by the state. You can read it on page 7 of this issue. George will be greatly missed, but always remembered, and his work will be lifted up and carried on by those who knew and admired him.

My heart has found solace in the natural world during these times, and I hope yours have, too. These lyrics from Cynthia Crossen's "Beautiful River" song express the feeling so well:

When I am weary and burdened by cares,  
Sorrow seems heavy and so hard to bear.  
I sit by the water and find comfort there,  
On the river, I'm home.

Down by the river, the beautiful river,  
Down by the river, river so free.  
Flow on forever beautiful river.  
Beautiful river, fill me with peace.

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



*Beloved Board member George Pauly*





# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## *Issues in the Watershed*

*from Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER®*

### ***Mountain Valley Pipeline***

While impacted landowners continue to fight Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate's threats of imminent domain, the fourth circuit court has ruled that NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) has the authority to deny the pipeline permits. The original denial letter from NCDEQ was issued in August of 2020, and MVP Southgate quickly challenged the state's authority to deny the permit. In late March, the fourth circuit denied the appeal, but sent the permit back to NCDEQ to further explain their denial decision. We expect the agency will reissue a denial letter in the coming months.

In denying the certification, the department prioritized the health of our communities and our rivers and streams over an unnecessary fossil fuel project. We are glad that the court found the agency has the authority to do so, and we look forward to the department continuing to protect our waters by again denying the pipeline's certification. NCDEQ is under new leadership with Michael Regan's appointment to the lead the E.P.A. Secretary Dionne Delli-Gatti was appointed to lead NCDEQ in late February.

The Southgate project relies on the main Mountain Valley Pipeline. However, construction on the mainline has been delayed because of successful legal challenges to its permits that would allow the route to cross sensitive waterways and forests, some of it federal park land. Contractors for the mainline in Virginia have also been cited with hundreds of environmental violations related to the construction.

### ***Industrial Contaminants in the River***

Since filing a Notice of Intent to sue the City of Burlington for PFAS discharges in November of 2019, Haw River Assembly finalized a memorandum of agreement with the City in which the City agreed to investigate the sources of PFAS within their wastewater system. That investigation is ongoing, and we are committed to working with the City to find solutions. The City's sampling data collected as part of the investigation can be accessed at our website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).

We have begun a new partnership with CycloPure, a lab company that prioritizes PFAS treatment within industrial facilities. Our goal is to identify additional sources of PFAS within the Haw River basin and connect polluting industries with solutions for treatment.

One of those upstream sources of industrial contaminants is the City of Greensboro. A draft special order by consent (SOC) was issued in June 2020 which would allow Greensboro to make a slow transition to minimizing their 1,4 dioxane discharges into South Buffalo Creek, which flows into the Haw. This SOC initially allowed Greensboro a total of two years to meet the federal effluent requirements. The draft was reviewed after public comment and has been reissued with very minimal changes. This permit delays any enforcement action for effluent violations for Greensboro, and could set a dangerous precedent for other polluting industries.

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## ***Saving a Creek — with Mushrooms!***



Ches and Laura Stewart, owners of Haw River Mushrooms farm, recently purchased land near Saxapahaw to expand their mushroom growing business. After the first major rain event, Motes Creek, which bisects their farm, ran bright orange with clay from eroded banks and compacted soil from years of intensive livestock. Concerned that erosion would continue to harm the creek and their land, they called Emily Sutton, Haw Riverkeeper.

Haw River Assembly had the experience to restore the creek, but Laura had a vision of something different. Mycoremediation is the science of using mushrooms to pull pollutants and toxins from water and soils. Rather than creating traditional check dams, we'd use spent mushroom substrate as material for erosion control – slowing the velocity of the runoff, and filtering soil before it reached the stream.

We found overwhelming support for this project from our community. Joe Van Gogh Coffee Roasters donated burlap coffee sacks. Mellow Marsh Farm, a wetland and stream restoration nursery, donated 300 native plant live stakes. We raised \$500 through a GoFundMe campaign for additional plants and posts needed, and volunteers signed up to help.

On February 20, twelve volunteers of all ages joined us to build the erosion control structures, driving in posts and filling burlap sacks with spent mushrooms substrate. They slogged through the mud to get the structures wired in place, and left with tired muscles and a sense of

accomplishment. The next big rain came the following day, and the check dams were already making an enormous difference in the color of the stream and the erosion of the stream banks. *continued on page 7*

# Over 350 Volunteers Participate in the 31st Annual Haw River Clean Up A Thon!



On Saturday, March 20th, we hosted the Haw River Clean Up A Thon – our 31st annual watershed-wide effort to remove trash from creeks, streams, and trails leading to the Haw River. The event also raises awareness about the impacts of our consumption habits, and brings people together at the river and local creeks. Enthusiasm surrounding cleanups continues to grow, and this year 364 volunteers from 35 different teams and locations removed **467 bags of trash, 29 tires**, and several other large items including box springs, a refrigerator, televisions, car bumpers and more! Wow! Please check out some of the great photos on our website and Facebook to see what else volunteers fished out of the river.

**Town and Country Park in Burlington** was cleaned up by Michelle White's team who found predominantly plastics and styrofoam. \* **Shallow Ford Natural Area** was led by Trace Ruckart and a group of student cadets from Western Alamance NJROTC. \* **Glencoe Dam and the Lower Paddle Access Trail** were cleaned up by Belinda Brown and

Peggy Wilson's teams, along with some guests from Elon's Student Made Store leaders and students; they were able to collect lots of scrap metal from the trails and river. \* **Little Alamance Creek** behind South Graham Park was cleaned up and led by Sea Scout Ship 4019 Youth Leader, Randall Cress Jr. \* **Big Alamance Creek** near the Altamahaw Paddle Access Point was cleaned up by Sandra Cooke's team of five, where they picked up 90% plastics and a children's scooter toy. \* **Swepsonville Paddle Access Point and Ball Park** was cleaned up and led by Lauren Bradshaw's team where they found lots of trash along with multiple box springs and a washing machine door. \* **Saxapahaw Island** was cleaned up by several families and led by board members Dianne Ford and Chris Carter, where they collected loads of trash and plastic. \* **Haw Creek** cleanup was an organized family and neighborhood effort made by Jennifer McDuffie, where they picked up 12 bags of trash and found several small children's toys, lots of plastic, and a small metal lock box. \* **Town Lake Park** was cleaned up by New West Horizon and Mary DeMare's team. \* **Seaforth Road Game Lands** (where the Haw and Jordan Lake Connect) was tackled by David Jester's team of 11 where they found a truck-load's worth of rubber balls, along with 22 bags of other traditional trash items. \* Shane Brown with Carolina Canoe Club coordinated several paddle cleanups in **Bynum** and on the island off of the **Robeson Creek Boat Launch**; there they paddled the mountains of trash off of the island as a group. \* **Red**



**Slide Park** was picked up by Nathan Griffin's team of 12. \* **Dry Creek** was cleaned up by Cathy Markatos, and **Haw River at Chicken Bridge** was cleaned up by Jeff Pettus, both long-standing volunteers who keep trash from washing downstream to other neighborhoods. \* Sarah Goddin's team tackled the east bank of the **Lower Haw River State Natural Area near Redbud** as they have in years past. \* The 15-501 **Bynum Dam** area along with the **Highway 64 bridge** area along the Haw River had several teams spread out over a large area. These teams were led by Gretchen Smith and Nancy Strong with Friends of the Lower Haw, Carolina Canoe Company, HRA Executive Director Elaine Chiosso and Girl Scout Troop 1006, and



Maarteen Simon Thomas. Dozens of bags of trash were collected in the area along the trails and by paddlers. Some notable items collected included a manual typewriter and carrying case, rebar and pvc piping, a few tires, and a plastic car bumper lining. \* **Tributaries throughout the Town of Pittsboro** were picked up by many smaller teams led by Gary Simpson, where they collected 27 total bags, of which 6 were plastics. Some notable items they found included an air conditioner cover, coffee maker, car seat cover, and book shelf. \* **Bolin Creek and nearby tributaries** behind Chapel Hill High School were cleaned up by a group of 12 volunteers led by Christian Savelli, who managed to pull 6 tires out of the river along with a playground set and a full bag of tennis balls. \* **Booker Creek** saw action in two locations - behind the Burger King off Fordman Blvd and behind the Food Lion parking lot on Jones Ferry Rd. These two teams were led by Eric Knight with Steel String Brewery and Rachel Mathai. A dozen tires were taken from the creek along with a television set. \* **Tom's Creek** was cleaned up by Helen Kalisher's group who managed to collect lots of plastic and scrap metal from the





area. \* Haw River Assembly's intern Eli Bradley led a group of students to clean up near **Union Bridge on Old Greensboro Road** where they collected a weed whacker and car speaker along with other trash items. \* **Morgan Creek in Chapel Hill** gets cleaned up each year by a team from the Morgan Creek Valley Alliance, led by Johnny Randall with the NC Botanical Gardens. \* Vicki Morgan and her family picked trash from **Elephant Rock Hiking Trail** before it could run off into the river and tributaries. \* **Muddy Creek** behind the Greensboro Farmers' Market had a cleanup led by board member Nicole Gaines. \* Kathryn Royall and other state park



employee volunteers to clean up along the **Haw River State Park** up into North Summerfield. \* **North and South Buffalo Creek** were tackled by two different teams led by Sharon Neely and the Westover Church, and Jeremy Harlan, where they were able to collect lots of tires and even a shopping cart. \* A **Third Fork Creek** team was led in Durham by Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton where they pulled tires and refrigerator out of the creek.

*A special thanks to these organizations and individuals who helped us haul off the trash we collected:* Haw River Trail and Alamance County Parks and Recreation \* Chatham County Solid Waste Department \* Saxapahaw Rivermill \* Town of Pittsboro \* Mebane Parks and Recreation \* Town of Graham \* Town of Chapel Hill \* Jordan Lake Parks and Recreation \* Trash hauling assistance from Lynn and Brenda Featherstone.

Spring and Washing Machine Door (Swepsonville Paddle Access Point) \* Scrap Metal (Glencoe Area) \* Children's Scooter (Altamahaw Paddle Access Point) \* Rubber Balls (Seaforth Road game Lands) \* Manual Typewriter and Carrying Case (Lower Haw State Natural Area) \* Weed Wacker (Union Bridge)

*Weird Trash Finds:* Refrigerator (Third Fork Creek) \* Mattress Box

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Thank you to the sponsors of the Haw River Clean Up A Thon*

**AbunDance Healing Arts**, 224 East St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 636-2545; abundancehealingarts.com

**Auto Pro**, 5520 US Hwy 15 501 N Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 542-0970; autopro2.com

**Benjamin Vineyards**, 6516 Whitney Rd, Graham, NC 27253; (336) 525-2401; benjaminvineyards.com

**Crosswinds Boating Center**, 565 Farrington Rd, Apex, NC 27523; (919) 387-7011; crosswindsboating.com

**C.W Dunn & Associates CPAs, PLLC**, 326 West St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 542-5228; cwdunncpa.com

**Fair Game Beverage Company**, 192 Lorax Ln, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 548-6884; fairgamebeverage.com

**Frog Hollow Outdoors**, 614 Trent Dr #3927, Durham, NC 27705; (919) 416-1200; froghollowoutdoors.com

**Freehand Market**, 1735-G Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Rd, Saxapahaw, NC 27340; (336) 525-5131; freehandmarket.com

**Fullsteam Brewery**, 726 Rigsbee Ave, Durham, NC 27701; (919) 682-2337; fullsteam.ag

**Furniture Lab**, 103 W Weaver St, Carrboro, NC 27510; (800) 449-8677; furniturelab.com

**Grove Winery**, 7360 Brooks Bridge Rd, Gibsonville, NC 27249; (336) 584-4060; grovewinery.com

**Hempsmith Clothing Co.**, 198a Lorax Ln, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 704-5189; hempsmith.co

**Hobbs Architects**, 159 W Salisbury St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 545-2004; hobbsarchitects.com

**Integral Counseling Services**, 121 S Estes Dr Suite 104, Chapel Hill, NC 27514; (919) 618-4919; integralcounselingservices.com

**Left Bank Butchery**, 1729 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Rd, Saxapahaw, NC 27340; (336) 525-2092; leftbankbutchery.com

**Mellow Marsh Farm**, 1312 Woody Store Rd, Siler City, NC 27344, (919) 742-1200; mellowmarshfarm.com

**Pittsboro Toys**, 15 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 545-1546; pittsborotoys.com

**Reverence Farms**, 1568 Haw Ranch Rd, Graham, NC 27253, (336) 266-9416; reverencefarms.com

**Saxapahaw General Store**, 1735 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Rd, Saxapahaw, NC 27340, (336) 376-5332; saxgenstore.com

**Starrlight Mead**, 130 Lorax Lane Pittsboro, NC 2731; (919) 533-6314; starrlightmead.com

**Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream**, 130 N Williamson Ave, Elon, NC 27244, (336) 270-3800; smittyshomemadeicecream.com

**Swanson and Associates**, 100 East Carr St. Carrboro, NC, 27510, (919) 929-9000; swansonlandscapearchitecture.com

**The Jester Group**, 1414 Raleigh Rd #420, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, (919) 918-2900; bairdfinancialadvisor.com/thejestergroup/

**The Workshop**, 313 Providence Rd, Graham, NC 27253, (336) 417-4425; theworkshopnc.com



# HRA Outreach and Watershed Education

from Kyleene Rooks (at left),  
Outreach & Event Coordinator  
(919) 542-5790;  
krooks@hawriver.org

## It's our 32nd year of the Haw River Learning Celebration!

Moving forward, the Haw River Assembly is planning to bring back the 'GREATEST field trip ever'! The 2021 LC will take place Saturday, September 25th through Friday, October 15th 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 vol-

unteer, register on our website, [hawriver.org](http://hawriver.org), under the Programs tab. We truly appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers who make the program possible! Join us to celebrate our 32nd year of the program!

### Save the Dates for this fall!

- ❖ Bynum: Saturday, September 25 – Friday, October 1
- ❖ Saxapahaw: Saturday, October 2 – Friday, October 8
- ❖ Guilrock: Sunday, October 10 – Friday, October 15

NOTE: Learning Celebration dates are subject to change based on federal law and CDC regulations.



### Teacher Guides for our Virtual Learning Celebration

The Haw River Assembly created a virtual online tour of our wonderful annual Learning Celebration field trip, since we couldn't host it in person in 2020. We have now added teacher (and parent) guides for each of the six video episodes, to enhance the online presentations on water monitoring, solutions to pollution, cultural history, art, wildlife, geology and more. Enjoy the videos and teacher guides at: [hawriver.org/resources/education/](http://hawriver.org/resources/education/).

### Plastics

After a full year of microplastic sampling throughout the Haw River watershed, we have partnered with other Waterkeepers across the state to better understand the presence and sources of microplastics in our waterways. Waterkeepers Carolina received a grant to monitor microplastics in each of our basins for two full years. We have focused our efforts on Third Fork Creek in Durham. Working with the city stormwater program and Asheville Greenworks, we will install an instream litter trap, a Trash Trout, in January 2022 to capture litter before it reaches Jordan Lake and before these plastics break down. As we receive data from our lab partners at PlasticOceanProject, we will be focusing on potential solutions through legislative actions, local government actions, and personal behaviors. Right now, Haw River Assembly is working with local businesses like Meantime Coffee and Elon University's Student Made Store, to eliminate single-use plastics in their business models. Look out for our campaign's window decal, and support these local businesses working to eliminate the consumption of microplastics one straw at a time!

### Intern Update



Eli Bradley is a Junior at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, majoring in biology with minors in environmental studies and marine science. At the Haw River Assembly he works as an intern, assisting with the Clean-Up-A-Thon, Plastics Pledge, and Climate Action Campaign.

Leah Nelson is our new Field Data Collection Intern for the Spring 2021 semester. She's from Apex and is a senior at UNC Chapel Hill, majoring in Environmental Studies. Leah is assisting the River Watch Program by conducting stream surveys and scouting stream locations throughout the Haw River watershed each week.

The River Watch data collected by both Leah and our volunteer teams is compiled by the Haw River Assembly to help determine water quality. She's excited about helping people learn more about the health of our waters.







# Standing in the Stream

Project News from Emily Sutton, **HAW RIVERKEEPER®**

(919) 542-5790; emily@hawriver.org

*Continued from page 3, Saving A Creek With Mushrooms*

On February 27th, another group of volunteers replanted the buffer with native silky willows, elderberries, and ninebark shrubs – species that have hardy root systems to hold the banks in place. The upper floodplain will be seeded with native grasses and cover crops, and held in with organic matter from the mushroom substrate while the natural forest seed bed is reestablished. We're hopeful that the stream bank can be stabilized within a full growing year.

Haw River Mushrooms produces hundreds of blocks of spent mushroom substrate every week. With so many small farmers committed to regenerative practices throughout the Haw River watershed, we look forward to recreating this project again, and already have a few new sites in mind. Raising healthy food and protecting our waterways – that's a win-win for everyone.



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## What Portends Bush Creek Marsh? *by George Pauly, Rock Spring Branch, Haw River Watershed, Winter, 2021*

For many years the evening red-orange sun would angle through the trunks of pines and winter hardwoods of Bush Creek Marsh Natural Heritage Area onto the north end of Big Woods Road in Chatham County. This rural southern scene was cut down when the NC Wildlife Resources Commission sold Bush Creek Marsh NHA trees to a logging company that clearcut the northwestern high bank and selectively logged into the riparian zone along the marsh and deep into the northeastern part of the Natural Heritage Area. Bush Creek Marsh was turned into a rutted and muddy post-logging wasteland like so many others in the Piedmont. The opposite was supposed to happen. As a Registered Natural Heritage Area, Bush Creek Marsh's 217 acres was one of the few places in Chatham County thought to be protected from this fate. A 2015 agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers and several NC state agencies mapped out the NHA and clearly stated that it should be allowed to mature in ecological succession to old growth stage, a rare ecosystem in the Piedmont, a process lasting centuries. This agreement lasted less than two years.

What went wrong? When preparations for logging were noticed, urgent pleas were made to NC Department of Environmental Quality, the agency in charge of Natural Heritage Areas. DEQ replied that they had approved the logging. Both DEQ and WRC offer a varying litany of weak defenses. Neither will address the point that they broke their written word and laid to ruin and profited from the very public heritage that they were charged with protecting.

Some people say leave it be, it's done and past, it happens all the time. Yet there is a larger picture. The practiced excuses and utter lack of any shame or even second thoughts on the part of DEQ and WRC point to an institutional mindset within our government of using public lands as forest farms and as a revolving funding source. This is a 19th or 20th century idea of conservation.



Since the 1980s scientists have raised the alarm that we need to protect our ecosystems to avoid a catastrophic biological collapse that will deal devastating consequences for life on Earth, not excluding our own species. Fifty percent of land and water area will need to be protected to pursue the modest goal of saving 85% of species, which yet implies extinction of an estimated one million species. Surprisingly, many people think this is too much protected area. Should one species have a parasitic relationship with more than half of Earth to the doom of all? There is no option for boundless economic growth: either we rein ourselves in or the planet will do it for us.

Focusing again on our local situation, there are hundreds of Natural Heritage Areas in North Carolina, including dozens in Chatham County and the areas around Jordan Lake. How many of these are in danger of logging or other extractive industrial practices? Much of the land we thought was protected is evidently not. Most public land – state and national forests, BLM lands, USDA lands, military lands, wildlife areas, city and county lands, and others – is not protected and could face the same fate as Bush Creek Marsh.

In this time of ecological, climate, and social justice crises, all of this land and more must be protected at every level of government, and through private land trusts. We must also change our relationship with other lands, including farmland, pasture, lawns, road margins, and landscaped land. We must abandon old ways of thinking and learn to live in a mutually enhancing manner with Earth.

The end to growth does not mean the end to abundance. In fact, the opposite can be true. The future can hold beautiful winter sunsets through protected trees, slopes of colorful spring wildflowers, abounding natural farms, sustainable energy and electric vehicles. Write to your lawmakers. Ask them to protect existing government land with strong inviolable permanent legal protection, and with sustainable roles for traditional and local people such as hunting, foraging, and fishing. Ask that more land be protected. This land is our land.

## Upcoming 2020-21 HRA Events

**Thursday, April 22, 2021, 7 pm, "Decolonizing Earth Day - a BIPOC Perspective,"** an online panel of HRA Board members who will discuss what Earth Day means to them as Black, Indigenous, Asian, and Hispanic environmental and environmental justice activists. (Registration will be announced on our website.) See more on page 1.

**Saturday, May 1, 2021, VIRTUAL Haw River Festival,** with music, kayak raffle, silent auction, and more! See page 1.

**June 19-20, 2021 Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend.** Our volunteers monitor water quality on creeks or sections of the river, recording changes over time and notifying us of pollution incidents. Find out more on our website at Programs/River Watch, or contact Emily Sutton, Haw Riverkeeper [emily@hawriver.org](mailto:emily@hawriver.org).

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 2021 T-Shirt Available May 1!

The 2021 T-shirt is in production! The "crayfish", by Clyde Jones, will be on a light blue organic cotton T-shirt, produced by T.S. Designs of Burlington, using their environmentally friendly process. Shirts will be available by May 1 online from HRA. Check our website in May to order: [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).



\$25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL  
\$25 (women's style) S, M, L, XL  
\$20 (youth) S, M, XL (sorry, no youth Large)

Add \$5 per shirt for postage and transaction fee. To order from HRA, send check to HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC, 27228.

**VIRTUAL Haw River  
Festival Sat. May 1**

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**Haw River Assembly**

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