

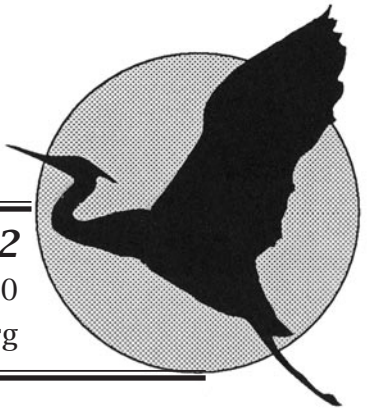
Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly *Summer/Fall 2022*

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

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



50th Anniversary of the U.S. Clean Water Act — Why It Needs Our Protection!

A Landmark Act for Clean Water

Before the EPA's Clean Water Act was passed by Congress in 1972, America's waters had very little protection against pollution, and two-thirds of our rivers, lakes, and bays were severely contaminated by sewage, sediment, and industrial pollution. They were unsafe for water quality, recreation, and fishing. Pollution from factory pipes and sewage was often discharged directly into rivers. Wetlands were rapidly disappearing through fills and dredging. Today, the Clean Water Act has dramatically reduced pollution and improved water quality across the country. But progress is threatened by deregulation, and lack of enforcement, and the Act has been under constant attack by those who want to weaken or destroy it. **The Haw River Assembly has joined with other members of the Watershed Alliance to celebrate our nation's most important tool for clean water, and to act to strengthen and defend it.**

The Clean Water Act, under EPA, states, and tribes, has these major parts:

1. **No more direct piping of pollution into our waters** and no dredging and filling of waters and wetlands for mining and pipelines without permits to protect waters.
2. **States and Tribes can require stricter pollution limits** and disapprove or put stricter conditions on them to protect water quality.
3. **Clean up plans are required for polluted waters.**
4. **Citizen rights to information, participation in decisions on permits, and rights to bring legal action against polluters through citizen suits.**

The Clean Water Act and the Haw River

The Haw River saw huge improvements after passage of the Act, with major upgrades to wastewater treatment plants and elimination of "straight pipe" pollution from industries. *continued on page 6*

Wild & Scenic Film Festival IN PERSON!



Varsity Theater
Chapel Hill
August 25
Doors open 6:30 pm
Program at 7 pm
Tickets \$14 - \$17

Weatherspoon
Art Gallery
UNC-Greensboro
September 8
Doors open 5:30 pm
Program at 6 pm
Tickets Free

Get details and tickets:
hawriver.org/wild-scenic-film-festival/

Our Haw River Learning Celebration Returns This Fall! **Sign Up to Volunteer!**

We're back in person this fall for the 2022 Learning Celebration, our river education field trip for 4th- graders in our watershed. Join us for an inspiring and fun time by the Haw River as a volunteer – introduce children to the river; or help us feed the crew, move from site to site, or fund this amazing project! See page 7 for details.



HRA Board of Directors

Nicole Gaines, President, *Guilford County*
Ayo Wilson, Vice-President, *Durham County*
Dianne Ford, Secretary, *Alamance County*
Kate Fulbright, Co-Secretary, *Durham County*
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Mac Jordan, Emeritus Member, *Saxapahaw*
Omega Wilson, *Environmental Justice Advisor*,
Mebane

HRA Staff

Elaine Chiosso, *Executive Director*
Kyleene Rooks, *Event & Outreach Coordinator*
Emily Sutton, *HAW RIVERKEEPER®*
Carolyn Paden, *Office Manager*
Cynthia Crossen, *Newsletter Editor*

Thanks to **Jan Burger** for art throughout this newsletter: Climate Action Logo, Plastics Campaign Logo, River Watch Heron, Haw River Festival Heron, and Haw River Island Ramble.

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

Notes from the Haw



HRA was voted “Best Non-Profit in Orange and Chatham Counties” in the INDY’s Reader’s Choice Awards this June. Thanks to all our supporters who voted for us – this seemed especially sweet as part of our 40th anniversary year!



Check out the article on pages 4 and 5 by Emily Sutton, Haw Riverkeeper, of her adventure in May paddling and camping the length of the Haw with a wonderful and diverse team of paddlers and supporters. Another journey celebrating the river and connecting to communities along the way happened back in 1982, led by HRA founder Chuck Brady, and then again in 2007, celebrating HRA’s 25th anniversary, by our Board member, Matt Steible, along with Nolan Wildfire. It’s a journey that always is deeply meaningful – and memorable – for those who accomplish it.

BIG thanks to HRA staff and our Board member, David Jester, who worked with Tommy Johnson to put on a 5k foot race in April at Saxapahaw Island Park. The “Island Ramble” was fun for runners, walkers, and even parents with baby strollers, with awards for all categories. As well as fun, it was a great fundraiser and outreach for HRA and we hope to do it again next year.



Our front page story talks about how important it is that we protect (and restore) the U.S. Clean Water Act. Laws and policies to protect our waters are under federal, state, and local controls, and elected officials make all the difference in how strong those protections are. We urge you to vote in November! HRA will be sending out a questionnaire about climate and water issues to all candidates running for local, state, and federal office in our watershed. Stay tuned to see the results this fall – and please get out and vote!



For the river,
Elaine
Chiosso,
Executive Director

HRA Annual Meeting and Board Elections!

Looking for a Latino/a Board Member!

We haven’t picked the location yet, but please save the date for our Annual HRA Membership Meeting the weekend of November 12-13. We hold Board of Director elections at our annual meeting, along with updates, speakers and socializing. We are proud to have a Board that represents the demographics of our watershed, including race, geography, gender and more, but for the past few years we have not had someone of Hispanic background on our Board. Our eight county watershed population is about 10% Latino/a. We want to make sure all communities and voices have representation on our Board. Please contact Elaine at info@hawriver.org if you are interested or have a suggestion.



Issues in the Watershed

from Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

PFAS News

We are nearing the end of the investigation to identify the sources of PFAS pollution in the City of Burlington's discharges into the Haw. The next step is to negotiate a settlement agreement with the City under which we expect Burlington to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to control those sources of pollution so that PFAS is not entering the Haw through the City's wastewater or the sludge (biosolids) that is land-applied near streams.

Southern Environmental Law Center sent a Notice of Intent of litigation to Burlington on behalf of HRA in November of 2019. Since that time, we have undergone a lengthy investigation that is the first of its kind. This long-awaited settlement agreement will be a huge step to preventing PFAS discharges into the Haw. The agreement, along with the investigation, will also act as a model in efforts to stop PFAS pollution across the country.

Along with 14 other Riverkeepers in North Carolina, we're launching a statewide project to monitor for PFAS discharges across the state with CycloPure. This project will target multiple sources, including wastewater treatment plants, landfills, military bases, Superfund sites, and industries with direct discharges. This information will shed light on the scope of contamination in the state and help us to move statewide PFAS policy forward.

We are grateful to the NC Representatives in our watershed who continue to push for stronger protections, including Rep. Pricey Harrison, Rep. Robert Reives, and Rep. Ricky Hurtado.



Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton (at right) and other PFAS activists meet with NC State Representative Robert Reives in Raleigh.



Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton speaks to concerned citizens in Pittsboro about industrial contaminants in drinking water.

Legislature Adjourns – No New Pollution Controls

The NC legislative session is now in recess until February of next year, and we did not see the meaningful bills move through the legislature as we had hoped. However, we will continue to use this time outside of the legislative session to gain support for strong PFAS regulation, stormwater protections, tree protections, and plastic mitigation, until the bills are reintroduced next year.

MVP Southgate

Landowners along the proposed MVP Southgate route continue to face pressure from MVP Southgate representatives to sign easements. However, the pipeline company has yet to reapply for stream crossing permits in North Carolina. The project hinges on the completion of the MVP mainline through West Virginia and Virginia, which increasingly becomes less likely. That project has faced regulatory hurdles and legal challenges racking up violations of state and federal clean-water rules, many to do with digging trenches for the pipeline through wetlands and across streams. The project is proposed to cost \$6.6 billion before completion. This has MVP investors questioning the project's financial viability publicly stating that it is unlikely the Southgate project will ever be completed. We are continuing to support the fight to stop the MVP mainline with our community partners and advocacy groups in Virginia, and eagerly awaiting the downfall of this unnecessary pipeline project.



Haw River Paddle Celebrates

by Emily Sutton, **HAW RIVERKEEPER®**



With help from Chris Green, the paddlers get ready to start the journey.

and Francisco Plaza – and fundraised to help pay for their time off of work. This allowed us to have a diverse team of BIPOC paddlers with different perspectives, backgrounds, and experience to bring into this journey. This also allowed others along the way to see themselves represented in this work, and feel more included in this community.

We started on May 14 with a hike at Haw River State Park, joined by many HRA supporters who gave us a great sendoff. We camped near the headwaters of the Haw, then got on the river the following day. After scouting the best route, we drove an SUV and trailer into the powerline easement down to the river. The Haw is very small at this section – with a running start, you could easily jump across. We hit our



Here is the core team of paddlers at Haw River State Park (from left to right): Raphael Darden, Francisco Plaza, Emily Sutton, and Juju Holton.



Log jams behind them, the paddlers enter the swifter waters of the Haw in Alamance County.

After two years in a global pandemic, I knew it was time to get on the water with others, to renew our sense of community and love for this river. For over two years we'd been fighting polluters and bad legislation, with frustrating almost wins, and steps backward in water regulations. Two years of outreach events cancelled due to Covid meant not seeing the faces of the people who love this river. Without that, fighting for this place can become a lot more grueling.

What better way to celebrate the 40th anniversary than to recreate the Haw River paddle trip first undertaken in 1982 by founders of HRA! We planned an ambitious week-long paddle for May, down the 80 miles of the Haw River, inviting people to join us on the river or during our dinners to be a part of this river community. I needed a core team of people to paddle with me for the entire trip, who would feel the significance of the journey and be willing to camp out every night for 8 days, and paddle in sun, wind, storms, through log jams and rock gardens, for 80 miles. As a young woman, I am generally underestimated and underrepresented in the paddling community. It was critical for me to include other groups that are underrepresented in the paddling community along for this expedition. I worked with partners to find my dream team –

Raphael Darden, Juju Holton,

first log jam in the first 10 yards of the trip. We could

generally paddle fast and hard over the first of the log jams to hit the low spot just right, and cruise over the top of it. Other log jams, we could shift lower in our kayaks to limbo under the branch. Some, we had to get out and pull our boats and gear over or under the logs. But the worst, most cumbersome log jams had to be scouted and portaged. This first day, we hit twenty-five log jams! We had only 6 miles to go from our put-in to our take-out, and it took every bit of 7 hours. During one portage, a man waved to us from his porch as he watched us. He yelled something indiscernible and eventually walked to the river's edge. When I crossed my kayak back into the river, I paddled over to him. "I've lived here in this house since 1995 and you all are the second group I've ever seen paddling here." We all laughed. These log jams made it nearly impossible, so we could see why.

Our next days were filled with slow and easy paddling, river swims, snake watching, log jams, picking through rock gardens, navigating currents through narrow chutes, picnics on the rocks, kingfisher calls in the day, and barred owl calls all night. Community members provided places for us to camp, along with home-cooked meals and cold drinks each night. Many supporters, including Chris Green, Dan Riverkeeper Steve Pulliam, and Joe Jacob with Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co. helped us with shuttles, and other folks joined us for a day paddle. We shared our own stories and heard the stories of others, and their connection to this place, their river trips, and fishing from the banks with their

HRA's 40th Anniversary!



Thanks to boats provided by Joe Jacob (second from right), the team is joined by some day paddlers, including Kyleene Rooks (third from left).



Waiting out one of the storms...

throughout the year, we are evaluating the impacts of these ripples that began on this paddle. How do we expand our work in the environmental justice space to honor intersectionality and access to water for all people? The mental health and wellness benefits of being on, in, or near water are well documented and go far beyond purely recreation. We learned so much from this 8 day paddle about how to better address these needs, and plan to continue this type of paddle access and water confidence work for years to come.



A weary but happy team of paddlers at the end of the journey, overlooking Jordan Lake.

dad. The feeling of place in this river community is what fuels us to do this work.

But the diversity in the paddling community does not reflect the diversity of our watershed. By working with community partners and outfitters, we were able to provide boats and paddling instruction to people that had never been on the water before or didn't know how to swim. Outdoor Afro, Xplore Kayak, and H2Afro invited their communities to join us on our last paddle of the trip – from where the river flows into Jordan Lake, down to the dam. We had over twenty participants who joined us, in boats provided by Frog Hollow outfitters.

One young girl in the front of a canoe wanted to paddle close to me. She didn't feel safe. The boat was rocking back and forth, side to side, and she was sure she was going to fall out. We talked about the cool water beneath her, the life jacket she was wearing, and the calm rocking back and forth, like a baby in a cradle. After a few minutes, she trailed her fingers in the water and I paddled ahead to catch up with the group. We were all hot and tired and running behind schedule. I looked back to their boat, and she was standing, arms outstretched in the front of her canoe with a huge smile. I could hear them giggling from across the cove. Seeing this confidence on water develop so quickly in a young child was incredible. Seeing people of all ages – people that look like her, people that look like her parents – on this paddle, gave her the confidence she needed to relax and be fully present on the water.

When we reached the take out near the dam, the rangers from Army Corps and members of HRA were there to help us get the gear and boats out of the water and back on trailers. We all gathered up at the shady picnic tables at Army Corps headquarters above the dam for lunch and stories from our paddle team.

As our 40th anniversary celebration continues



Francisco and a paddler buddy triumphantly reach the take-out at Jordan Lake.



Rain Doesn't Dampen Spirits at the Haw River Festival!

We had a great crowd and music at the Haw River Festival on Saturday, May 7, after moving into the Haw River Ballroom! Storm clouds rolled in early afternoon, but with enthusiastic volunteers and the amazing Heather LaGarde and her Ballroom team, we got everything set up inside, including the vendors from the Saxapahaw Farmers Market. The bands kept the crowds happy – with Jasmé Kelly (*pic-*



tured at right) playing soulful original songs and classic covers, followed by the indie folk band Honey Magpie, and Saludos Compay's Latin beats, which got everyone on their feet to dance. Outside, under a roofed area, Maja Kricker (*pictured below left*), our Haw River Watch monitoring volunteer, showed kids and adults water critters (macroinvertebrates) from the river, and Learning Celebration volunteers Sharon Garbutt, Dominik Bryant, and Sutton King demonstrated our interactive watershed model. Paperhand Puppet lent us some beautiful puppets to liven up the stage, and our board and staff enjoyed chatting with



festival-goers about river issues at the HRA membership table (*HRA Board President Nicole Gaines with J.C. Garbutt, pictured below right*). Thanks to all our volunteers who helped us set up, staff, and break down the Festival – we couldn't do it without you! It was also a great fundraiser, bringing in \$4,050 from silent auction sales, donations, t-shirt, and kayak raffle ticket sales. Not bad for a rainy day, with a much smaller crowd. All proceeds from the festival go towards helping us to continue protecting our waters!

Special Thanks to the Silent Auction Donors: Nathalie Worthington for paintings; Sarah Howe, House of Clay, for two beautiful bowls; Roy Girolami for his handmade sweet gum bowl; Wanda Sundermann for handmade pillows and tote bag; pottery by Katy Petrisin at Wareware Studio; gift basket from Tick Warriors; gift cards from the Eddy Pub and Great Outdoor Provision Co.; Tour Passes from the

Carolina Tiger Rescue; Chris Carter's forged metal snake; and jewelry & watercolor paintings donated by The Charmed Azalea.

BIG THANKS to the BANDS! Jasmé Kelly (<https://www.facebook.com/LadyJasme>), Honey Magpie (honeymagpie.com), and Saludos Compay (saludoscompay.com)

EXTRA BIG THANKS to Saturdays in Saxapahaw for hosting us at the Haw River Ballroom!

Without their enthusiasm, bringing the festival indoors wouldn't have been nearly as fun! Their Saturday music and market series continues on through the summer – see the full schedule at saxapahawnc.com/bandschedule/.



Continued from page 1, Clean Water Act Needs Our Protection!

The Clean Water Act has been at the heart of the work that the Haw River Assembly has used to protect our waters. We review and comment on permits for new development and rally people to speak at public hearings. Our litigation against polluters has won legal settlements to stop further sewage spills and industrial pollution.

Many waters across the country remain polluted due to failures to implement and enforce the Act. We need EPA to:

- **Restore Protection of ALL Waters of the U.S.**, including all streams and wetlands.
- **Stop contamination from industrial farming.** Protect our waters, communities and people's health with stronger rules and enforcement that protect people over profit.
- **Stop polluted stormwater.** Fully enforce and strengthen regulations and fund infrastructure to prevent polluted stormwater runoff from entering our rivers and lakes.



- **Create and enforce standards for PFAS “forever chemicals”** and other industrial pollutants that are poisoning our drinking water.

North Carolina Can Protect Our Waters

The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that limits EPA's authority to set climate standards for power plants may forecast a weakening of all federal environmental protections, including the Clean Water Act. **North Carolina can step up to create stronger rules to protect our waters and people, including PFAS standards, and provide funding for better enforcement.**

Be a Part of the Haw River Learning Celebration This Fall!

The Haw River Learning Celebration (LC) will sprout up along the banks of the Haw River, moving from Chatham to Alamance to Guilford counties over three weeks this fall, after a hiatus since 2019 due to COVID. Now with schools back in session and vaccinations for children on the rise, we're ready to get back outside with students. Volunteers will guide fourth-graders through the forest and along the river to explore and discover the wonders of their own watershed! Since 1990 we have been putting on this unique program that gets school kids outside into nature, and inspires them to be the next generation of conservationists. Students come from schools in Guilford, Rockingham, Alamance, Orange, Durham, and Chatham counties. 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.



Over the years, so many volunteers have given their hearts and hands to the continual creation of the Haw River Learning Celebration. Some come for a day, others join our "river camp" and set up a tent for the week. We have connected over 48,000 fourth-grade students to our beautiful river with the help of these amazing volunteers. Students experience activities during their daylong field trip where they observe, explore, and discover the life of the river and forest; learn how to protect the river; and use art to observe the natural world.

2022 Learning Celebration Dates:

Bynum site: September 17-23

Saxapahaw: September 24-30

Camp Guilrock: October 2-7

Come join us as a volunteer guide – we provide the training! We also need volunteers to help with weekend field site set-ups and break-downs (Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon), and to cook meals for the volunteers. You can help as well by making a donation to support our Crowdfunder for this wonderful program (see our website, hawriver.org, for details). Come be part of the Haw River Learning Celebration, "The Best Field Trip Ever!" For details and to volunteer, go to our website at <https://hawriver.org/projects/learning-celebration/>. While on our website, check out our whimsical "Virtual Learning Celebration" short videos from 2020 to see what the program offers.

Eliminating Plastics in Our Waters

Volunteers have been cleaning out our Third Fork Creek Trash Trout in Durham twice monthly, and our partners at Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic have been collecting data to inform new policies to reduce plastic litter. We've now removed 320 pieces of hard plastics (bottles, etc.) and 2,369 pieces of styrofoam! We're working with statewide advocates on plastic minimization ordinances for several municipalities in N.C. We hope to receive grant funding to purchase more Trash Trouts for our watershed. Our intern, Sarah Masters, has been working with stormwater departments in Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Pittsboro, and Burlington to identify potential locations. If you would like to join our Trash Trout team, contact Emily at emily@hawriver.org.



Our **HRA Climate Action Committee** will send out questionnaires about climate change and water quality issues to **all** candidates running for office in November. We'll make public the answers we receive from these local, state, and federal candidates. Want to join the committee? Email us at info@hawriver.org.

We are also partnering with local businesses to eliminate single-use plastics. Look for our window decal, and support the local businesses working to eliminate plastics one straw, cup, and packaging at a time! Kudos to these latest businesses who have signed the "plastics free" pledge: Cup 22, The Eddy Pub and Haw River Ballroom in Saxapahaw, and Namu Restaurant and Coffee Bar in Durham. Know a business who might join our plastics free pledge? Reach out to Kyleene at krooks@hawriver.org.



Standing in the Stream

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

and Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER® (919) 542-5790; emily@hawriver.org



This Summer's Swim Guide

We've increased our weekly Swim Guide sampling with more river sites this year, including Swepsonville River Park and the Hwy 64 access. We're excited to see so many people using and sharing our swim guide results. We've been working with statewide partners to use these results to push for stronger bacteria standards in the state, and to protect waterways for all uses, including primary (body contact) recreation. Segments of streams, rivers, and lakes have protections based on their formal classified "use". However, the state has authority to protect streams based on their demonstrated use, regardless of the formal classification. We'll continue to hold the state accountable for enforcing stronger water quality standards. The Swim Guide is published each Friday with our e-newsletter, on our website, Facebook and Instagram, or get the Swim Guide free app. If you have benefited from our Swim Guide program this summer, please consider donating to help cover the travel and equipment costs for our weekly sampling each summer: <https://hawriver.org/join-hra/#swim-guide>.



Alka Manoj, our Swim Guide intern, gathers samples at Jordan Lake.

New Algae Monitoring at Jordan Lake

In early July, after a day of sailing at Jordan Lake near Farrington Point, a family reported their dog got very sick and died after drinking a lot of water from the lake. Cyanobacteria toxin produced when blue green algae starts to decompose was a suspected cause. It's a potent liver toxin if consumed in large amounts. We cannot confirm that it was the cause of



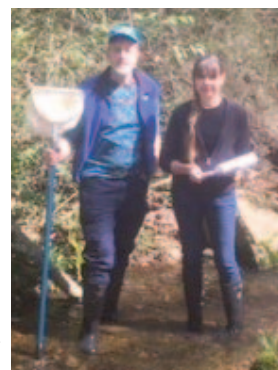
Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton collects algae samples.

death, but we begin monitoring for cyanobacteria throughout Jordan Lake and the Haw. All of the NC Waterkeepers recently received microscopes and training to identify types of algae and cyanobacteria. We detected high levels of cyanobacteria in and

near Farrington beach, but not elsewhere in the lake. Algae blooms are driven by warmer water temperatures, stagnant water, and nutrient pollution from upriver stormwater runoff and wastewater. There have been many studies about nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake, but with limited upstream regulatory actions and enforcement to curb nutrient pollution, algal problems will continue.

Welcoming New Haw River Watch Teams!

Alice Wesselman owns land on Little Alamance Creek and is interested in understanding the water quality of the creek that runs through her property. She looks forward to learning more through River Watch monitoring. The Piedmont Plateau Group (PPG) of the Sierra Club has a new River Watch team led by Marie Noel (at right). They are at the headwaters of the watershed in Guilford County and understand the importance of monitoring for water quality to maintain clean water for everyone to enjoy. PPG has done the tremendous job of taking on two locations: Cascade Park Stream and Horsepen Creek.



Saturdays on the Haw Join us for a Saturday adventure along the river this fall – details on our website at hawriver.org/projects/stream-monitoring/.

Saturday, September 10, 2022, 10 am – 12 pm: Looking to start a River Watch team? Join us for our quarterly scheduled training. New teams can sign up through our portal on the website. Existing teams can join us too – just email emily@hawriver.org.

Saturday, October 8, 2022: Join us for a Jordan Lake Paddle. Participants are responsible for bringing their own paddling boats, or can rent boats from Frog Hollow Outdoors for the event. Advance registration is required on our website.

Saturday, November 9, 2022: Be a water advocate! Want to learn more about how to advocate for issues that are important to you? Join us at the UNC Chapel Hill Botanical Gardens to learn how to write effective comment letters, get involved in local issues, and make sure your voice is heard by local and state officials. Advanced registration is required on our website.

Saturday, December 3, 2022, 10 am – 12 pm: Looking to start a River Watch team? Join us for our quarterly scheduled training. New teams can sign up through our portal on the website. Existing teams can join us too, just email krooks@hawriver.org.

Saving Wild Places on the Haw

In 1982 there were no accessible public lands along the Haw River – HRA has worked for 40 years to support conservation lands and new state and local parks and trails for all to enjoy!

From our beginnings, HRA believed that people in the fast-growing Triad and Triangle regions needed places close to home where they could enjoy the outdoors and the beauty of the long neglected Haw River. We've played a key role in the creation of state and local parks, trails, and paddle access areas, partnering with regional land trusts, state and federal agencies, local governments, and paddlers and dedicated volunteers.



Northern Guilford Middle School students learn river monitoring at the Haw River State Park, as part of HRA's educational mission.

Saving the Headwater Springs! In a forest in eastern Forsyth County, two springs flow together, forming the very beginnings of the Haw River. In 1999 we heard that this four acres of forest was up for sale, and our terrific land committee jumped into action, spearheaded by Deborah Amaral, Lynn Featherstone, Bob Bruekner, Mac Jordan and Mike Holland. State and federal grants were used to purchase the land, which HRA put into a permanent land trust with Piedmont Land Conservancy. In 2009 we purchased an additional two acres of this forest, protecting the headwater springs of the Haw for generations to come.

Haw River State Park on the upper Haw! In 2003, the state purchased the Summit Camp and Conference Center, north of Greensboro. With its beautiful forests, wetlands, and access to the Haw, it was a perfect home for a new state park and the state's Environmental Education Center. HRA helped the Guilford Open Space Committee and others who worked tirelessly to bring this to reality! In 2007 the new park was threatened by a proposed golf course development on land the state hoped to purchase to expand the park. HRA joined the fight in Guilford County to have the proposal successfully denied. The land became the Haw River State Park's new Iron Ore Belt Access. Find out about programs and trails for this 1,500 acre park at ncparks.gov/haw-river-state-park.



HRA Executive Director Elaine Chiosso at the Headwater Springs of the Haw.

The Lower Haw River State Natural Area in Chatham County! In 2004, NC State Parks bought 900 acres of Duke University forest research land bordering each side of the Haw from Bynum down to the Hwy 64 Bridge. HRA



Hikers navigate a stream crossing at the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, on an HRA Winter Walk.

partnered with Triangle Land Conservancy, and state and federal agencies, to use new EEP funds for this purchase. In 2006, we again worked with TLC and the state for purchasing 82 acres of river land above the Bynum dam that had been gifted to the NC Botanical Gardens. HRA acted as lead negotiator for the purchase by the state of 40 acres of river frontage on the Pittsboro side of the river from the former owner of the Bynum mill. Both lands were added to the the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Conservation and wildlife habitat are its focus, but the trail and paddle accesses are beloved by many.

Over the years we also worked with the Town of Swepsonville for a new river park, and with Carolina Canoe Club for paddle access, and encouraged the formation of the Haw River Trails Partnership by towns and counties. We helped form the Friends of the Lower Haw chapter, and secured state grants for conservation planning on the Haw River and support for our conservation advocacy from Triangle Community Foundation. Forty years later, we are happy to see there are many parks, trails, and paddle accesses along the Haw River and its tributaries! Find out where they are at hawriver.org/about-the-river/recreation/.



Paperhand Puppet Show ***"The Meanwhile Clock"***

August 12 - September 18 at the
Forest Theater, UNC-Chapel Hill

September 24 - 26 at the
NC Museum of Art, Raleigh

Get details at www.paperhand.org.

Upcoming 2022 HRA Events

Thursday, August 25, Wild & Scenic Film Festival at the Varsity Theater, Chapel Hill. Doors open 6:30 pm; program at 7 pm. Seats limited; tickets \$14-\$17.

Thursday, September 8, Wild & Scenic Film Festival at the UNC-G Weatherspoon Art Museum. Doors open at 5:30 pm; program begins at 6 pm. No ticket fees but seats are limited. Donations welcomed.

Saturday, September 10, 2022, 10 am - 12 pm, Haw River Watch training. See details on page 8.

Sept. 17 - Oct. 7, Haw River Learning Celebration. See page 7 for details on how to volunteer.

Saturday, October 8, 2022, Jordan Lake Paddle. Participants bring their own paddling boats, or can rent boats from Frog Hollow Outdoors for the event. Advance registration required on our website. See page 8 for details.

Sept. 17-18, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend. Find out more about our river monitoring program on our website at Programs/River Watch. Contact Kyleene Rooks (krooks@hawriver.org) to schedule a training session.

Saturday, November 9, 2022 Join us at the UNC Chapel Hill Botanical Gardens to learn how to write effective comment letters, get involved in local issues, and make sure your voice is heard by local and state officials. Advanced registration is required on our website. See page 8 for details.

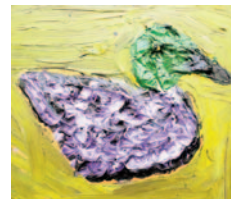
November 12-13, HRA Annual Meeting. Date and Location to be decided.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 am-12 pm, River Watch training. See page 8.

For **paddle trips on the Haw River** contact our partners Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company, hawrivercanoe.com, and Frog Hollow Outdoors, froghollowoutdoors.com.

Updates and details can be found at 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.

Our 2022 T-Shirt — Duck!



"The Duck", by Clyde Jones, is a purple and green duck on a purple organic cotton T-shirt, produced by T.S. Designs of Burlington using their unique environmentally-friendly dye process. Shirts are available in styles for:

- Adults (S, M, L, XL), for \$25;
- Women (S, M, L, XL), for \$25; and
- Youth (S, M, L, XL) for \$20;

Check our website to order, hawriver.org; or come by our office in Bynum (call first to check our hours: 919-542-5790).

Sign up for the
Learning Celebration
Sept. 17 - Oct. 7

Address Service Requested

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Haw River Assembly

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