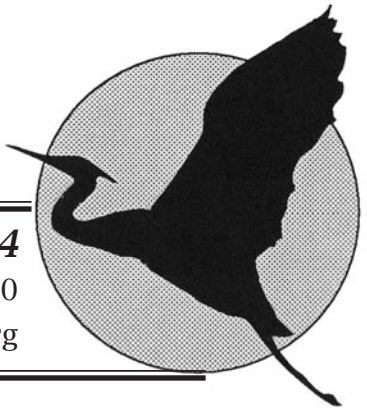


# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly *Spring 2024*

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)



## 2024 Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon A Big Success!



On Saturday, March 16, we hosted the Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon! This was our 34th annual watershed-wide effort to remove trash from creeks, streams, and trails leading to the Haw River. The event served to raise awareness about the impacts of our consumption habits, and brought people across multiple communities together for a common good. A total of **320 volunteers** at **38 different locations** removed **20 tires** and **347 bags of trash**. Alamance Parks, who helped with trash removal, notified us that over 680 pounds of trash was removed just in Alamance County! Check out the awesome work our team leaders and their teams accomplished around five counties within the Haw River Watershed — see pages 4 and 5. *Above: The Rotary Club of Pittsboro removed trash from a tributary of Roberson Creek.*

### Trash Traps are Cleaning Up Our Streams



*By Madison Haley, HRA Plastics Program*

HRA's Trash Traps had an incredible start to 2024! Our traps in Durham (*pictured at left*), Greensboro, Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Pittsboro have collected over 8,400 pieces of litter so far this year, bringing our total Trash Trap litter collection to 49,270 pieces. All of this has been made possible by our fantastic volunteer teams (come join!), with a special shout out to

our new Trash Trap Team Leaders – Halle Amick and Daphne Vogelsang. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we've been able to audit all the litter in the traps, finding that a whopping 97% of all pieces are styrofoam or plastic. With detailed data like this we've been able to work with Duke's Environmental Law and Policy Clinic to better understand the problem, communicate the issue to decision makers, and inform future policy initiatives. *continued on page 6*

**Haw River Festival**  
**Saturday May 4,**  
**4 - 8 pm, in**  
**Saxapahaw**



Join us for fun by the river at our annual free festival, including live music by Mahalo Jazz, Travis Williams Group, and New Potatoes. There will be a fabulous silent auction, a raffle of a 3 Waters Big Fish kayak (donated by Great Outdoors Provision Co.), a nature walk and river monitoring demonstrations on Saxapahaw Island, canoe rides in the Voyager on Saxapahaw Lake for families, and a Paperhand Puppet Parade featuring the new River Spirit trash sculpture. Plus, a Farmer's Market and food and drink vendors! Find out more at: <https://hawriver.org/haw-river-festival/>.

## HRA Board of Directors

**Ayo Wilson**, President, *Durham County*  
**Rufus King**, Vice-President, *Chatham County*  
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**Omega Wilson**, *Environmental Justice Advisor*,  
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**Elaine Chiosso**, *Executive Director*  
**Emily Sutton**, *HAW RIVERKEEPER®*  
**Hannah Welborn-Lewis**, *Events & Program Manager*  
**Kaitlyn Elliott**, *Water Quality Manager*  
**Anita Moore**, *Communications Manager*  
**Mike Wallace**, *Field Technician*  
**Carolyn Paden**, *Office Manager*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *Print Newsletter Editor*

Thanks to **Jan Burger** for art throughout this newsletter: Climate Action Logo, River Watch Heron, Haw River Festival Heron, Learning Celebration logo, and Haw River 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](http://www.hawriver.org)**

## Notes from the Haw

We have a new President of our Board of Directors, Ayo Wilson (*pictured below left*), who has stepped up after serving as Vice-President for several years. He is Director of Clean Energy &



Climate Justice at West End Revitalization Association (WERA), an environmental justice organization we have partnered with for many years.

We are very grateful to Nicole Gaines, who served as Board President from 2022-2024, guiding us through some exciting years – and our 40th anniversary. We also want to thank Jo Sanders, who has just stepped down as Treasurer after many years of service, and welcome John Runkle into this position. We have a terrific Board of Directors who play a very active role at the Haw River Assembly. Many thanks to all of them!



With great sadness we mourned the passing in February of a long-time member of HRA, George Lucier, a retired toxicologist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in RTP. He was a tireless champion of the environment in Chatham County, where he and his wife, Jane Gallagher, raised their family near the Haw River. During his time as a County Commissioner, and Planning Board member, George advocated for and won stronger policies and regulations to protect our natural resources. He was a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, for his many years of exemplary service to North Carolina. We appreciate the gifts to HRA in his memory which will continue the work he cared about. (*At right, Jane and George at the Haw.*)



We held a new round for our Sustainability Scholarships this winter and were pleased to award three applicants (Daniqua Callender, Hannah Ball-Dahmberg, and Kirsten Reberg-Horton) funding for programs at the NC Botanical Gardens, and to further their work at Hub Farms and Healing Gardens. We plan to open a second application period this summer.

Hope to see you at the May 4th Haw River Festival!

*For the river, Elaine Chiosso*, Executive Director





# Issues in the Watershed

from Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## ***PFAS and other Industrial Toxins in our Watershed***

Though our settlement with Burlington was finalized several months ago, we are still working with the major polluter within the system, Elevate Textiles (now Burlington Finishing), to eliminate their discharges of PFAS. We worked with Burlington staff to submit a pretreatment permit for the industry. The new permit goes far beyond what is required by the state or federal government, and requires Burlington Finishing to phase out the major production line of PFAS by July 31st of this year, and all remaining sources of PFAS in medical and military production by January 2025. Until then, all PFAS-containing wastewater is captured in a closed loop system, meaning those toxins will never reach the wastewater treatment plant, the agricultural sludge fields, or our river.

Additionally, Burlington has submitted a pretreatment permit for Apollo Chemical, an industry responsible for releasing 1,4-dioxane into the wastewater stream and into the Haw on two separate instances. This permit required Apollo Chemical to produce a 1,4-dioxane minimization plan and collect a sample of their wastewater every day to track compliance. These permits are an example of municipalities using their existing authorities to control toxic pollutants. We have seen this in Greensboro with their 1,4-dioxane users through our successful permit challenge, although Greensboro, along with Reidsville and Asheboro, have been the loudest opponents of regulatory action on either of these classes of toxic pollutants. We continue to push our other local municipalities to do the same while the state continues to delay meaningful PFAS regulation in state permits.

## ***Disney Development at Chatham Park - HRA Urges Better Environmental Stewardship***

Disney Company and DMB Development announced in December that they will build “Astoria,” their second Storyliving development in the nation, in Chatham Park. Astoria would be located on about 1,500 acres, on land adjacent to the NC Lower Haw River State Natural Area. We fear this valuable public land and the Haw River will be degraded by the removal of the forest nearby, and the introduction of lights, noise, and roads, if Chatham Park’s current and inadequate development standards are followed. We have sent letters to the Disney Company and DMB Development asking them to commit to greater protections for the environment and the Haw River as they move forward with plans to build Astoria in this sensitive ecosystem. Because the development is within Chatham Park’s master plan, design standards and ordinances have already been approved. However, the Disney Company has its own sustainability and environmental commitments and goals that

we hope will guide them. We have recommended no paved roads in the Haw River buffer, better stormwater management, greater protection of riparian buffers, and more tree coverage. We have a petition online asking people to support our recommendations, and by March 28 it had nearly 1,000 signatures. Go to our website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), to see the petition and read our full recommendations.

## ***Alamance Muddy Waters - Call for Local Action***

Due to lack of enforcement, Alamance County has consistently seen sites without permits or submitted stormwater plans, sites without basic sediment control measures, and sites releasing sediment into streams throughout the entire construction process. Emily and Kaitlyn have been working to document sediment violations, by collecting water samples and photographing examples of failed sediment control methods. Aside from the City of Burlington, Alamance County differs from the majority of the Haw River Watershed in that it does not have a local program for sediment and erosion control.

Alamance County has roughly 245,587.2 acres outside the city limits of Burlington, all of which fall to the Winston Salem regional office’s jurisdiction for Sediment and Erosion Control. Therefore, jurisdiction falls to our state environmental agencies, which are insufficiently funded and staffed to manage the volume of construction and sedimentation issues in North Carolina. This year alone, we have submitted 14 reports to Winston Salem’s regional office, many of which have resulted in violations. We are working with Alamance County Planning Department to establish a local program to rectify this situation in a rapidly growing region of our watershed.

*Issues in the Watershed, continued on page 9*



*“Leaf us alone!” “Trees protect us!” “Chatham Park or Chatham Parking Lot??” Forest animals protest Disney’s cutting down trees.*

# Another Successful Clean-Up-A-Thon!

**CHATHAM:** \* David Jester led friends and family on a big cleanup of the gamelands on the **Haw River near Robeson Creek**, collecting 37 bags of trash. \* Elaine Chiosso & Susie Crate led a clean-up of the **river in Bynum and the Lower Haw Natural Area** with neighborhood volunteers, and members of Chatham Outfitters (*see photo on page 5*). \* Led by Amanda Robertson, the “Together We Can” clean-up group (*pictured at right*) picked up 3 bags of trash from **Town Lake Park in Pittsboro**. \* Cathy Markatos and several neighbors retrieved litter near the Dry Creek bridge on Old 87. \* Khryste Griswold and members of the Windham HOA cleaned up around **Hwy 15-501 in Bynum**. \* Jeff Pettus picked up a full bag of trash around **Chicken Bridge in Pittsboro**. \* Zak Critter and friends contributed 3 bags by kayaking and picking up trash from **Chicken Bridge to Bynum**. \* Rachel Wilfert and Rock Rest neighbors picked up trash along the **Haw River**. \* Julie Cleaver and friends removed 10 bags of trash from the **Haw River Canoe Access near HWY 64**. \* Jenny Herndon and other volunteers worked to clean-up along **Roberson Greenway**. \* The Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area group was led by Reuben Wilson and Carl Fisher, where they retrieved 9 bags of trash on land around the **Robeson Creek Canoe Launch**. \* Members of the Carolina Canoe Club used kayaks on **Robeson Creek Canoe Launch** to remove 9 bags of trash. \* A friendly competition occurred between the Rotary Clubs of Alamance and Pittsboro. \* The Rotary Club of Pittsboro worked near the **creek behind Food Lion** in Pittsboro to remove 23 bags of trash (*see photo on page 1*). \* Audrey Mann and the Woods Charter School Green Team put in a heroic effort collecting 25 bags of trash by **Robeson Creek Boat Access**. \* Daphne Vogelsang led trash trap volunteers cleaning out the **Pittsboro Trash Trap in Roberson Creek**.



**ALAMANCE:** \* The Rotary Club of Alamance collected trash along **Gerringer Mill Road from Highway 87 to Burch Bridge Road** and hosted a second group effort near **Glencoe Dam**. \* Harold Kernodle and friends cleaned up at **Swepsonville’s Haw River Park**. \* BSA Troop 47 & Ryan Kerrins tackled **Glencoe Dam in Alamance**. \* The Eastern Alamance Environmental Club (*pictured at right*) and Medora Burke cleaned up at **Red Slide Park**, removing several bags of trash and tires. \* Sandra Cooke and members of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church collected 8 bags of trash at **Town and Country Nature Park in Burlington**. \* Haw River Canoe & Kayak hosted paddlers as they removed trash at **Saxapahaw Lake**. \* Lauren Bradshaw and friends removed 3 large bags from **Swepsonville River Park Lower Access**. \* Lauren Hill led Elon Sustainability Volunteers at **Graham Paddle Access** for a successful clean-up effort. \* Matt Stansbury and family gathered several bags from **Little Alamance Creek**. \* Riley Hoffmeier and Anita Moore led a group around **Saxapahaw Island Loop and the camping grounds in Saxapahaw**. \* Tavoires Vanhook and volunteers from Winners Institute for Successful Empowerment (WISE) had a successful clean-up at **North Park in Burlington** (*pictured at left*).



**ORANGE:** \* Led by Charles Coble, members of Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation tackled the trash **behind the Cookout in Chapel Hill and near Booker Creek**. \* Kaitlyn Elliott and employees of Boro Realty collected trash along **Booker Creek behind Ridgewood Pool**. \* Johnny Randall and members of the Morgan Creek Valley Alliance gathered 23 full bags from **Morgan Creek**. \* Suzy Lawrence led volunteers in **litter trap clean-out in Carrboro**. \* Chloe Hall and the Carolina Outing Club are wrapping up the clean-up-a-thon at **Union Bridge on Old Greensboro Hwy!**

**DURHAM:** \* Brooke Hassett led the Durham Girl Scout Troop 1702 & Cub Scout Pack 350 at **South Boundaries Park in Durham**, where they collected 11 bags. \* Emily Sutton and Madison Haley were team leaders at the **Durham Trash Trap in Third Fork Creek**.

**GUILFORD:** \* Lionheart Academy of Greensboro collected multiple bags of trash at **Oak Henry Park in Greensboro**. \* Marie Noel and members of the Piedmont Plateau Group Sierra Club of Greensboro removed bags of trash along the stream at **Cascade Park**. \* Volunteers and employees from the City of Greensboro cleaned out the **Greensboro Trash Trap in a tributary leading into South Buffalo Creek**.





*A group from Chatham Outfitters tackle litter at the Lower Haw Natural Area in Bynum.*

## ***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](http://abundancehealingarts.com)

**Benjamin Vineyards**, 6516 Whitney Rd, Graham, NC 27253; [benjaminvineyards.com](http://benjaminvineyards.com)

**Boro Realty**, 605 W Main St #207, Carrboro, NC 27510; (919) 240-7016; [bororealtync.com](http://bororealtync.com)

**Blue Heeler Properties**

**Branley Electrical Service, Inc.**, 1824 Chandler St., Elon, NC 27244; (336) 538-9953; [www.branleyelectricalservice.com](http://www.branleyelectricalservice.com)

**Chatham Outfitters**, 674 West Street Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312; (919) 542-5487; [chathamoutfittersnc.com](http://chathamoutfittersnc.com)

**Country Farm & Home**, 101 S. Small St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; [chathamfarmsupply.com](http://chathamfarmsupply.com)

**Compassionate Wildlife Removal**, Graham, NC; [compassionatewildliferemoval.com](http://compassionatewildliferemoval.com)

**Crosswinds Boating Center**, 565 Farrington Rd, Apex, NC 27523; [crosswindsboating.com](http://crosswindsboating.com)

**Flock Design and Architecture**, 202 N. 7th St, Mebane, NC 27302; [flockdna.com](http://flockdna.com)

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

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

**Integral Counseling Services & Miriam Lieberman**, 121 S Estes Dr Suite 104, Chapel Hill, NC 27514; [integralcounselingservices.com](http://integralcounselingservices.com)

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

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

**Rotary Club of Alamance**, 103 E Front St, Burlington, NC 27215; [alamancerotary.org](http://alamancerotary.org)

**Rotary Club of Pittsboro**, Pittsboro, NC; [rotaryofpittsboro.org](http://rotaryofpittsboro.org)

**Shakori Hills Community Arts Center**; 1439 Henderson Tanyard Rd. Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 704-9174; [shakorihills.org](http://shakorihills.org)

**Starrlight Mead**, 130 Lorax Ln, Pittsboro, NC 27312; [starrlightmead.com](http://starrlightmead.com)

**The Farthest Pixel**, (919) 590-9063; [thefarthestpixel.com](http://thefarthestpixel.com)

**The Jester Group at Baird**, 1414 Raleigh Road Suite 420 Chapel Hill, NC 27517; (919) 918-2900; [jestergroup.bairdwealth.com](http://jestergroup.bairdwealth.com)

**The Work in Progress Art & Story Studios**, 123 Beech Forest Way, Pittsboro, NC 27312; [123wipstudios.com](http://123wipstudios.com)

**YoPo: The Yogurt Pump of Chapel Hill**, 106 W Franklin Street Chapel Hill, NC 27516; (919)942-7867; [yogurtpump.com](http://yogurtpump.com)

***A special thanks*** to these organizations and individuals who helped with providing additional materials & coordinating trash arrangements: ♦ Alamance County Parks and Recreation ♦ Clean Jordan Lake ♦ Guilford County Environmental Offices ♦ GSO Goes Green ♦ Greensboro Parks and Recreation ♦ Keep Durham Beautiful ♦ Saxapahaw Rivermill ♦ Town of Pittsboro ♦ Town of Haw River ♦ Town of Graham ♦ Town of Chapel Hill ♦ The team led by Lynn and Brenda Featherstone, who hauled bags of trash to the dumpster in Bynum provided by Chatham County Solid Waste Department.



# Standing in the Stream

Project News from

Hannah Welborn-Lewis, Events & Volunteer Coordinator, (919) 542-5790, events@hawriver.org;  
and Kaitlyn Elliott, Water Quality Manager, (919) 542-5790, kaitlyn@hawriver.org

## A Warm Welcome to New River Watch Teams!



Bill Brennan and Janet Schaeffer make up the Saxy Duo team and survey at Saxapahaw Island under the Church Street Bridge. The duo just filled out their first survey this spring! In 2021, they found Saxapahaw and decided it was time to make a move, so they purchased a condo in the restored Cotton Mill and Dye House on the banks of the Haw River. They fell in love with the village and life on the river. While hiking the river trails they got to know the local hik-

ers, critters, and the sounds, smells and beauty of the Haw. Bill and Janet started picking up trash as we hiked to keep the trails and river clean. They remarked, “We were amazed at the things we found. It gave new meaning to the adage “have you been living under a rock?””



The Travis Creek Team is back in action with Mary Fralix (above left) and Anne

Cassebaum (above right). Mary is a member of the NC Native Plant Society, and loves to rescue plants and walk rescue dogs. Anne lives between Travis Creek and Tickle Creek in Alamance County, and taught English for 25 years at Elon University. After walking, paddling, and interviewing people along the river, she published *Down Along the Haw* in 2011.

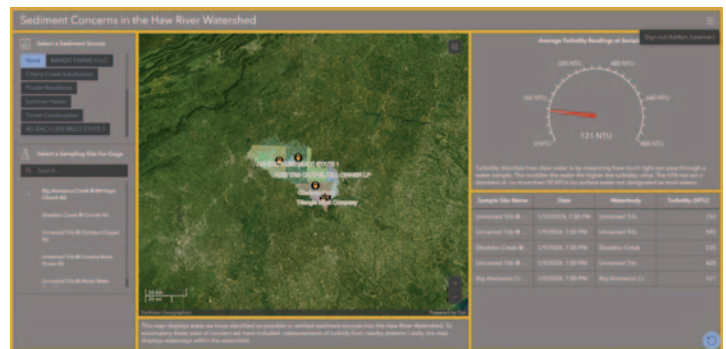
## River Watch Updates

Eleven participants came out to our most recent River Watch Training December 16th, on Reedy Creek at Bold Moon Preserve in Guilford County. Even though the water was a little high, we were able to find many fun macroinvertebrates like mayfly larva and snails.

**Join us for our next River Watch training session** on Saturday, June 8th, in Guilford County. The data you learn to collect will help inform HRA about the water quality of your stream.

## Introducing our Sediment Issues Map

To help facilitate our Muddy Water Watch program, Kaitlyn created a dashboard (shown above) that shows the locations of different developments and other sites that could lead to possible sediment issues in our streams and rivers. The dashboard also showcases turbidity measurements that have been taken near these sites of concern. This map is meant to help our Muddy Water Watchers know where to be looking, and to give them updates on the status of different reports we have sent to the state.



## Trash Traps are Cleaning Up Our Streams, continued from page 1

So far this year, we’ve spoken with both the Durham City Council and Chapel Hill Town Council, and have updated a public ArcGIS Dashboard and StoryMap to communicate our work (available on our website). To further advocate against plastic pollution, we’ve been using the litter from our trash traps in local sculptures! Check out ‘Rubbish the Raccoon’ by Nyssa Collins at 140 Franklin Street in Chapel Hill until mid May, and keep an eye out for our ‘River Spirit Sculpture’ by Emma Skurnick and Jan Burger (project team at right) that will be debuted at the Haw River Festival on May 4th!



# HRA Happenings

## Introducing HRA's Spring Interns!



**Events and Volunteers Intern Lauren Havenstein** is the Spring events and volunteers intern for the Haw River Assembly. She is a sophomore at UNC Chapel Hill, double majoring in Environmental Science and Statistics & Analytics. She is interested in ecology, marine science, and all things sustainability. She is most excited to help plan and attend the Haw River Festival this spring! Lauren works with Hannah Welborn-Lewis, our amazing Events and Volunteer Program Manager.

**Riverwatch Intern Lily Hawkins** is a senior environmental studies student at UNC Chapel Hill. Growing up in Wilmington, NC made water quality and river health a huge passion of hers. She is excited to join the Haw River Assembly in protecting the Haw River, and has created many of our popular Macro Monday, macroinvertebrate social media posts! Outside of academics, Lily also enjoys hiking, swimming and making music with the Carolina Bluegrass Band.



**Saturdays on the Haw** are monthly events, and opportunities for volunteers. Go to our webpage, [hawriver.org/saturdays-on-the-haw/](http://hawriver.org/saturdays-on-the-haw/) to sign up, or contact Hannah at [events@hawriver.org](mailto:events@hawriver.org).

**Saturday, April 13, 8 am - 12:30 pm, Haw River Island Ramble**  
The 3rd Haw River Island Ramble will take place at Saxapahaw Island Park on April 13th at 9 am. Registration is full, but individuals are invited to cheer on our runners and ramblers and enjoy a wonderful morning at the river. We invite families with children to partake in the day's festivities, which will include engaging activities, refreshing local lemonade, and a variety of local vendors.

**Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 pm – 8 pm, Trivia Night with bmc brewing!** Join fellow river lovers as bmc brewing at The Plant in Pittsboro hosts a special trivia night dedicated to Haw River Assembly. As a sponsor of the HRA Trash Trap in Pittsboro, bmc brewing recognizes the need to rely on clean water to make the beer we love! Come meet Haw River Assembly staff, grab some beer, and compete in a fun evening of watershed trivia! Trivia will start at 6:15 pm.

**Trash Trap Cleanout (multiple sites) One Saturday a month, 10 am – noon** Join our mission to protect our waterways by volunteering for our litter trap cleanups in Greensboro, Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Pittsboro. We operate these trash traps in urban creeks in our watershed, and need your help each month to clean them out and maintain them. To get involved and find the site nearest to you, please contact [events@hawriver.org](mailto:events@hawriver.org) or sign up at link from <https://hawriver.org/saturdays-on-the-haw/>.

**Saturday, July 27, 10 am – noon, Greensboro Group Paddle** Join us for a paddle adventure at Lake Brandt, courtesy of Get'Outdoors Pedal & Paddle of Greensboro! Feel free to bring your own kayak. We'll have a limited number of kayaks available for use. To ensure you have a spot, please register in advance at link from <https://hawriver.org/saturdays-on-the-haw/>

**Saturday, August 24, 10 am – noon, Wetland Hike in New Hope Creek Watershed in Durham** Join us for a guided wetland hike! Please come prepared with gloves and a trash bag for our journey. Advance registration is required; sign up at link from <https://hawriver.org/saturdays-on-the-haw/>

## Nature4All Events

Haw River Assembly's Nature4All Diversity series seeks to encourage Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and other people of color to find a sense of connection to outdoor recreation, featuring instructors and groups that provide BIPOC representation.

**Birding in Alamance County, Saturday, April 27, 9 – 11 am** The birding hike will be led by Alfie Ferrington, an avid birder with an unquenchable passion for exploring the world's avian wonders through her binoculars. Explore the fascinating realm of the birds that call Alamance County their home, both year-round and during their migratory journeys. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/B9LkbZpLHaPQWBuk6>

**Water Confidence Workshop, Saturday, May 18, 9:30 – 11 am** This workshop, held at Ebenezer Beach at Jordan Lake, will guide participants into feeling comfortable around natural bodies of water, and develop basic skills in water. Our certified instructor, Stephanie Cobb-Winfrey with the Black Butterfly Swim Club of Winston-Salem, will review basic water tips, discuss barriers to swimming & experiences, and explain swim equipment including proper suit, cap, and goggles. Stephanie will also teach water comfort by enabling participants to get their faces wet and introduce front & back float. Capacity for this event is limited and EMS will be onsite to ensure safety. Participants need to be 18 and above. Register at <https://forms.gle/B9LkbZpLHaPQWBuk6>.

**Kayaking (EVENT FULL), Saturday, June 1, 10 am – noon** Join Raphael Darden of Xplore Kayak (a veteran-owned business) for a kayak paddle to start the month of June! You will enjoy a nice paddle at Jordan Lake as Raphael shares tips to enhance your paddling skills! Kayaks and equipment are provided, but there is limited quantity! Registration is currently full, but if you would like to bring your personal kayak to join the paddle, please email [events@hawriver.org](mailto:events@hawriver.org) to let us know you'll be joining in on the fun!

# HAW RIVER FESTIVAL

**MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

**SAXAPAHAW, NC 4-8PM**

**CELEBRATE THE RIVER!**



**live music from:**  
**Mahalo Travis The New Jazz Williams Potatoes Group**

**silent auction  
 kayak raffle  
 farmers market  
 river walk &  
 monitoring  
 puppet parade!**

\*All proceeds help the Haw River Assembly to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake\*

**Free parking | free entry**

**WWW.HAWRIVER.ORG**



## Our Last Clyde Jones T-Shirt — The Great Blue Heron!

Clyde Jones created the art for our Haw River Assembly T-shirts for 33 years! He is still kickin', and about to celebrate his 88th birthday, but is no longer



able to create new paintings for us. So, we're reprinting this one last shirt, with the Great Blue Heron he painted back in 2012, as an homage to Clyde and our Haw River Assembly logo.

It's on a soft teal color shirt, produced by T.S. Designs of Burlington, using their unique environmentally-friendly dye process on a 100% organic shirt. Shirts are available in styles for:

- Adults (S, M, L, XL, 2X), for \$25;
- Women (S, M, L, XL, 2X), for \$25; and
- Youth (S, L) for \$20; (sorry, no M available)

Pick up your new shirt at the May 4th Haw River Festival, or at our office in Bynum, or online at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).

Send Clyde a birthday greeting at:

Clyde Jones, The Laurels Of Chatham, 72 Chatham Business Park Drive, Room 301-A, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Target has partnered with in/PACT and Simple Generosity to identify nonprofit partners working in areas nearby, and we have been selected as a featured Target Circle participant! HRA was selected based on our mission, programming, the community we serve, and our area of impact. Place a vote for us by June 30. Here's how: (1) Choose "My Target" in the Target app <https://www.target.com/c/target-app/>. (2) Tap on "Target Circle™". (3) Select "Vote for nonprofits". (4) Find "Haw River Assembly" & vote! *THANKS!*



## The Haw River Learning Celebration is Coming This Fall!

From September 21 through October 11, the 33rd Haw River Learning Celebration will take place in Bynum, Saxapahaw, and Camp Guilrock. This hands-on riverside educational program brings 4th-graders in our watershed on a field trip to learn about their river and how to protect it. Volunteers make this program possible and trainings are included. You can camp with us,

or come for a day or more. To volunteer, register on our website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), under the Programs tab.





### **Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate Changes Route**

In late December, MVP Southgate submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) requesting approval to move ahead with a shortened revised route for the proposed project. This came after FERC granted an extension on the Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience, which grants the authority to use eminent domain. The revised route, as proposed, would exclude the Haw watershed entirely. It would be shifted to the Dan River watershed, from northern Rockingham County to Person County, where it would link to a plant in Roxboro, NC. The landowners that have signed easements in the Haw River watershed are also left in limbo. We are still working with those community members and other advocacy groups to organize the newly impacted community members. Appalachian Voices, Sierra Club, Good Stewards of Rockingham County, Sound Rivers, and 7 Directions of Service are leading the work along the newly proposed route.

### **Restoring Stream Banks**

Many of our urban streams are prone to flooding and poor water quality. The typical method for managing stormwater is to send the stormwater away, into our creeks, as quickly as possible. When high volumes and velocities of water reach our streams, the stream banks are scoured and eroded, and with little to hold in their soil, the waters turn brown with sediment. We have been working with the City of Durham to restore many of our urban creeks. In 2023, we worked with several volunteers to remove invasive plant species on our stream banks, and plant thousands of native species, to restore stream banks of tributaries of Sandy Creek and Northeast Creek in Cornwallis and Bethesda Parks. This year, we planted hundreds of native species into the stream bank of a tributary of Third Fork Creek in Forest Hills Park. The key to these small restoration projects is to reestablish a healthy buffer to a small tributary to slow down the stormwater runoff and prevent further stream degradation downstream. We are hoping to expand this work in the early winter months later this year through a grant that would allow us to facilitate stream restoration projects throughout the watershed.



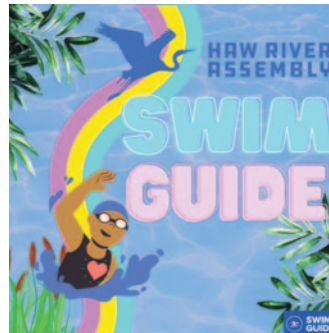
*Riley Hoffmeier holds a bucket of silky dogwood, elderberry, silky willow, and black willow to be planted in the stream banks at Forest Hills Park.*

### **Changes Beyond Our Watershed**

The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) has recently changed leadership in favor of less regulatory, more industry favoring policies. The EMC is the governing body approving and reviewing all environmental regulations for the NC Department of Environmental Quality to enforce. Last year, the EMC approved regulatory limits for 1,4-dioxane, but that decision was challenged by the Rules Review Commission. That case was recently dismissed at the hands of the new EMC leadership, who were heavily influenced by pleas from Reidsville, Asheboro, and Greensboro, insisting that managing 1,4-dioxane discharges in their waste stream was far too costly. However, we have seen the success of Greensboro's use of the pretreatment program to control their discharges. Through three years of the Special Order by Consent, Greensboro has not once exceeded their regulatory limits. We are working with downstream drinking water providers in Pittsboro, Fayetteville, and Wilmington to assess how costly the treatment is for providing safe drinking water, flushing contaminated water, and installing advanced treatment. Those numbers will be submitted to the EMC later this month.

President Biden has committed to establishing science-based drinking water standards for six PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, GenX, PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA. When these Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are established, drinking water providers will be required to treat their finished drinking water in order to not exceed those standards. We expect to see those limits later this month.

### **Stay Safe This Summer With The Haw River Swim Guide**



Each summer between Memorial Day and Labor Day, we test favorite swimming sites along the Haw River and Jordan Lake each week, to see if levels of E-coli bacteria are safe or not for swimming and wading. We publish the results

as Pass/Fail online each Friday. This data also helps us zero in on potential contamination sources on the river. Go to

<https://hawriver.org/swim-guide/> for weekly results, and to get the Swim Guide app for your phone. You can also look for the results in our Friday e-newsletters and on social media.



## Upcoming 2024 HRA Events

**Saturday, April 13, 8 am - 12:30 pm**, Haw River Island Ramble and 6k, Saxapahaw Island Park. See details on page 7. (EVENT FULL)

**Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 pm - 8 pm**, Trivia Night with bmc brewing! The Plant in Pittsboro. See details on page 7.

**One Saturday a month, 10 am - noon**, Trash Trap Cleanout (multiple sites). See details on page 7.

**Saturday, April 27, 9 - 11 am**, Birding in Alamance County, Nature4All series. See details on page 7.

**Saturday, May 4, 4 - 8 pm**, Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw, Free festival! See more on page 1 & page 8.

**Until mid-May**, Nyssa Collins' "Rubbish Raccoon" viewing, at 140 Franklin Street, Chapel Hill.

**Saturday, May 18, 9:30 - 11 am**, Water Confidence Workshop, Jordan Lake, Nature4All series. See page 7.

**Saturday, June 1, 10 am - noon**, Kayaking (EVENT FULL), Jordan Lake, Nature4All series. See details on page 7.

**Saturday, June 8, 10 am - noon**, Haw River Watch Stream Monitoring Training, Guilford County. Pre-registration required; contact Hannah at [events@hawriver.org](mailto:events@hawriver.org).

**June 15-16**, Haw River Watch Quarterly Stream Monitoring by current volunteer teams.

**Saturday, July 27, 10 am - noon**, Greensboro Group Paddle at Lake Brandt. See details on page 7.

**Saturday, August 24, 10 am - noon**, Wetland Hike, New Hope Creek Watershed in Durham. See page 7.

**Sept. 21-22**, Haw River Watch Stream Monitoring by current volunteer teams.

**September 21 - October 11**, Haw River Learning Celebration. The 33rd Annual Learning Celebration will take place in Bynum, Saxapahaw, and Camp Guilrock. To volunteer, register on our website, [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), under the Programs tab.

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).

**Get our E-newsletter:** We often announce new activities in our weekly online newsletter. Subscribe to it using the form on the front page of our website: [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).

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).

**Haw River Festival in  
Saxapahaw Sat. May 4**

Address Service Requested

**Bynum, NC 27228**

**P. O. Box 187**

**Haw River Assembly**

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