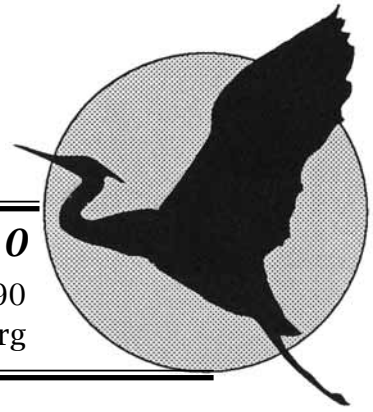


# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly April 2010



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)

## Haw River Festival Weekend in Saxapahaw April 30 - May 2, 2010



**Friday**

**April 30th,**

**6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

**Haw River Film Festival** with a fabulous dinner by the Saxapahaw General Store chefs. Suggested donation \$15  
*Film schedule and more info available online at [www.HawRiver.org](http://www.HawRiver.org) and [www.RivermillVillage.com](http://www.RivermillVillage.com)*

**Saturday May 1:**

**All Day - Saxapahaw Open House**, with tours of new mill construction

**10 am Poker Paddle** with Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.  
*Email [info@hawrivercanoe.com](mailto:info@hawrivercanoe.com) to reserve a spot.*

**1 - 8 pm Haw River Festival** Free admission!

**8 pm Dance Party** at the Paperhand Puppet Studio

**Sunday May 2:**

**8 am Peddle & Paddle** with Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. *Email [info@hawrivercanoe.com](mailto:info@hawrivercanoe.com) to reserve a spot.*

**11 am History of the Haw River:**  
Brunch & lecture with Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton at the River Landing Inn. Suggested donation: \$15

The **Haw River Festival** is celebrating its 21st year of exceptional local music, environmental education activities, local art, and unique children's activities.

This event is one of the Triangle region's premiere outdoor spring environmental festivals. After 20 years in Bynum, we are moving upriver this year to the charming village of Saxapahaw, a one-of-a-kind mill village on the edge of the mighty Haw River in Alamance County!

Please join us on the first weekend in May to celebrate the presence of spring, the kindheartedness of community, and the river we treasure so much!

This year, we are also expanding the celebration into a full weekend of events, with all proceeds and donations benefiting the Haw River Assembly. **See the full schedule of events at left.**

Our May 1 Haw River Festival, with free admission, will be a day for the whole family to enjoy, with fun catching critters down at the Haw River, live music, kids' activities & guided canoe rides, nature walks, rain garden plant sale, river monitoring, kayak raffle, farmer's market, craft sales, live art auction, & much more!

Our lineup of performers features:

**Saludos Compay \* Mosadi Music \***

**John Howie \* Django Haskins \***

**Jimmy Magoo \* Louise Kessel \***

**D-Town Brass Band \***

**Cynthia Crossen & the Festival Jam.**

Saxapahaw is located about 10 miles west of Chapel Hill.

For directions and info about events, visit [www.HawRiver.org](http://www.HawRiver.org) or [www.RiverMillVillage.com](http://www.RiverMillVillage.com).

## HRA Board of Directors

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**Editor:** Cynthia Crossen \* **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Germane James, Donna Myers \* **Photos:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Fran DiGiano, Brandy McCandless, Efrain Ramirez, Johnny Randall \* **Logos & Poster Art:** Jan Burger

### To join The Haw River Assembly

or renew your membership, send a check to:

**HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228.**

**Individual: \$20    Family: \$30**

**Sustaining: \$50    Heron Circle: \$100 & above**

**Low Income: \$10**

*The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grassroots organization founded in 1982. Our mission is to protect and restore the Haw River, its tributaries, and Jordan Lake; and to build a community that shares this vision.*

**(919) 542-5790    www.hawriver.org**

## Notes from the Haw

*It's been a glorious spring along the Haw River, with temperatures rising so quickly after cold and snowy days. How wonderful to see the blossoms along the river, from trout lilies to redbuds, and to watch the arrival of birds returning to nest, including that magnificent river fisher the osprey. It has also been a wet winter. We had four major flood events from November through March, which has helped to recharge the groundwater. Those floodwaters also moved a lot of trash downriver, which was confirmed by the tallies from our March Clean-Up-A-Thon. Teams down towards Jordan Lake had a lot more trash to pick up than our upriver teams. We are excited about the new Clean Jordan Lake group that has formed to continue large scale trash clean-ups at the Lake. Read more about the upcoming clean-up on May 8 (on page 4) and join in if you can.*

*Walking along beautiful stretches of the river and creeks this winter and spring is always a joy. But what if the creek you live near is polluted? This is all too often the case in poorer areas, both urban and rural, where environmental injustice is more likely to occur. If polluting industries or other development are allowed to be a threat to public health and our environment through weak regulations or lack of enforcement, both the people and our river suffer. As Haw Riverkeeper I recently provided comments to the state Division of Water Quality (DWQ) on the Draft 2010 EPA 303(d) list of "Impaired Waters". Fifty-seven sections of streams, river and lake in the Haw River watershed are on the list this time around. (To see the whole list, go to this link at DWQ's website: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/mtu/assessment>). The pollutants that cause impairment to the use of our waters are manyfold, including excess nutrients from agriculture and suburban fertilizer, heavy metals from industry and sometimes the cumulative effect of urban runoff. In addition, all waters in N.C. are in Category 5-303(d) List for Mercury, due to statewide fish consumption advice for several fish species. Much of this mercury can be attributed to coal burning plants and incinerators. We have a lot of work to do to improve water quality in our streams. We need to find new ways to work together with all people in all parts of our watershed, and to find solutions for the streams that need our help. We also will continue to celebrate the beauty that is there around us--and that inspires us to keep working for change.*

*We hope you'll come celebrate the river at our incredible weekend of fun in Saxapahaw April 30 - May 2, and be reminded of why this river and our watershed community are so great!*

*I look forward to seeing you there.*

*From the Haw,*

*Elaine Chiosso*  
**HAW RIVERKEEPER®**



*Heron tracks at Spirit Island in Swepsonville remind us of the life the river supports. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.*



# HAW RIVERKEEPER®

## *Issues in the Watershed*

### ***New Demand for Drinking Water from Jordan Lake***

The ink barely had time to dry on the new Jordan Lake rules before local governments asked to withdraw more water out of the reservoir. At the request of a local government partnership, the state Environmental Management Commission has begun a process that could lead to a fourth round of Jordan Lake water supply allocations. This partnership includes the existing water supply allocation holders (Cary, Apex, Chatham, Durham, OWASA etc.) as well as two cities from the Neuse River basin – Raleigh and Hillsborough.

The first step is to update the Cape Fear River Basin Hydrologic Model to give best information for decisions about what is the safe yield for new withdrawals. The Army Corps (who built and owns the lake) set a total withdrawal of 100 mgd (million gallons per day) for Jordan Lake, and current users are normally using about half of that, although total Round 3 allocations were for 63 mgd. We are urging the state and the local governments to incorporate the best available data to predict drought, including hypothetical flow models to predict effects of climate change. Any new allocations should be based on a model that incorporates a conservative view on water supply, otherwise local governments could be planning for additional growth that the actual water supply cannot sustain. The model should incorporate ecological flow requirements. We must meet key ecological flow needs based on real-time environmental conditions, as well as predict the impact of any new allocations for water withdrawal on water quality.

We support the need to encourage local governments to predict how their wastewater systems may be changing in the future. There is a growing trend towards re-use water (purple pipes) and interest in “non-discharge” systems using, for example, effluent applied to landscaping, constructed wetlands and bio-fuel crops instead of discharging treated effluent directly into streams.

We hope there is not a rush to complete the model, especially since the current allocations are not being fully used at this time by local governments. We believe it is crucial to use the best possible information and data in this model, so that decisions made about future allocations from Jordan Lake “hold water”. Remember what Falls Lake looked like in the last drought? We need a smart model that will balance the use of water to meet both human and environmental needs.

### ***Impact of UNC Facility on Collins Creek***

We joined with the citizen group Preserve Rural Orange (PRO) to express concerns in February to the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) about the spills of wastewater effluent from the UNC-CH Research Resource Facility in Bingham Township Orange County, into Collins Creek, a tributary of the Haw River. The university is planning to expand this medical research facility (consolidating research at other locations here). Equipment at the facility failed several times since October of 2009, including an incinerator fire and malfunction, an ongoing animal wastewater lagoon liner leak reported in December that

spilled into Collins Creek in unknown volumes, and other problems with leaking wastewater pipes. Exactly what pollutants are in the lagoon and the other wastewater effluent? We would assume that nutrients from animal waste, including residual chemicals used in animal research, would be present.

The section of Collins Creek downstream of the UNC Research Resource Facility to the confluence with the Haw River was listed in 2006 on the NC 303(d) list of Impaired Streams due to impaired biological integrity, and a 2009 state biological assessment showed that “conditions are not improving here”. The UNC Research Resource facility may have contributed to the degraded water quality in Collins Creek. The facility operates under “deemed permitted” status – which is clearly not appropriate for a facility of this type, and with its record of problems. We joined with PRO to ask DENR Secretary Freeman to revoke UNC’s non-permitted status for the facility, and were pleased to hear that the state had done so. We will continue to work with PRO to urge UNC to reduce their environmental impact as they expand this facility.

### ***Chatham Cary Joint Land Use Plan – Let’s Protect Jordan Lake***

Chatham County Commissioners and the Cary Town Council have been discussing for several years a joint plan for the land east of Jordan Lake in Chatham County. Land in this area has already become the site of large dense developments such as Amberly, with annexations by Cary. A moratorium by Cary on annexations during this planning process has now ended, and some final version of the plan is expected to be adopted by the elected boards before the end of 2010. HRA joins with Chatham residents and other slow growth and environmental groups in both jurisdictions who think the rural and forested nature of this land should be protected, rather than be used to create new zones for denser development. The abundant streams in this area – all flowing a short distance to Jordan Lake – make it unsuitable for a “mixed use” commercial zone – especially since commercial properties are languishing nearby.

### ***Stericycle Incinerators on the Haw River – How our Healthcare Waste Endangers our Health***

We are waiting to hear the state’s response to requests for a public hearing on the Title V Air Permit for the two medical waste incinerators located in the Town of Haw River. We have long been concerned that the pollutants from the Stericycle stacks are ending up not just in the air we breathe, but also in the adjacent Haw River, and downstream to Jordan Lake. The permitted levels of heavy metals allowed to discharge from this facility will be considered too high under new EPA standards that will be adopted in North Carolina in October. We believe that if this permit is renewed before then, Stericycle will continue to operate under the old rules

until 2014, exceeding the new standards for lead, cadmium and mercury emissions once the new rules are in place. All waters of the state of North Carolina have been listed as impaired for mercury on the NC Draft 2010 303(d) list, including the Haw River and Jordan Lake. Stericycle should be required to use safer alternative methods to treat medical waste at their Haw River facility. Many of these technologies, such as autoclaving and their own patented Electro Thermal Deactivation (ETD) treatment system, are already in use at other facilities they own. In addition, some chemicals can be reclaimed for reuse. It is unfortunate that the very medical facilities that work to protect and save human lives may be contributing to health problems through the disposal of their medical waste.

### ***Brenntag Southeast – An Environmental Justice Issue in Durham***

Brenntag Southeast in Durham has been allowed to contaminate the headwaters of Third Fork Creek for years. It is one of the most degraded creeks in our watershed and is on the draft 2010 NC 303(d) list of impaired waters for violations of Low Dissolved Oxygen and Copper. The resulting pollution impacts the immediate neighborhood, including the McDougal Terrace Public Housing Complex; as well as downstream communities including NC Central University. The stream flows through two Durham parks – Elmira Park and South Boundaries Park – and finally reaches Jordan Lake, a source of drinking water for over 300,000 people. The contaminated stormwater that has been allowed to pollute Third Fork Creek is an environmental justice issue as well

as a concern for all those who are affected downstream. We are encouraged that the state of North Carolina is finally going to require that this Brenntag facility conduct regular monitoring of its outfall and pump and haul waters, and apply for a NPDES individual stormwater permit. We have joined with Clean Water for NC to urge that the Special Order of Consent protect the health of people and the environment.

### ***Pittsboro WTPP – A Better Solution***

The Town of Pittsboro is planning to upgrade their current waste water treatment plant to re-use water quality and to expand their capacity with a new discharge to the Haw River right above Jordan Lake (south of Hwy 64). We have great concerns that this section of the river has too many red flags for such a discharge, including it being habitat to the federally listed endangered species the Cape Fear shiner, and a current classification by the state of “excellent water quality” – the only place on the Haw to get such a rating. The site is much too close to Jordan Lake and its use for drinking water and recreation. Even highly treated waste water can contain residual chemicals (especially pharmaceuticals) not removed in the treatment process, and accidents can cause raw sewage spills and storm event problems. We support some current discussions that could put Pittsboro on the map for a much more environmentally excellent bio-treatment system and use of the re-use water for industrial, landscaping and bio-fuel crop applications. We look forward to seeing something this innovative in our own watershed.

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## ***Jordan Lake Spring Clean***

Clean Jordan Lake’s first volunteer cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 8 from 9 am to 2 pm in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Logistical support will also be provided by the Highway Stormwater Program of the NC Department of Transportation, and North Carolina Big Sweep. Clean Jordan Lake is a new non-profit corporation founded by Tom Colson, an environmental consultant, and Fran DiGiano, a professor of environmental engineering at the University of North Carolina. Clean Jordan Lake’s mission is to remove trash and prevent its further accumulation on the lake’s shoreline. The targeted shoreline is near the B. Everett Jordan Dam where large amounts of trash accumulate after being carried into the lake by the Haw River, New Hope Creek, and other tributaries during storms. This event is a



follow-up to the successful volunteer effort to remove trash on nearby shorelines organized by the Haw River Assembly. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to sign up at <http://www.meetup.com/HelpCleanJordanLake/>. Alternately, residents west of the lake can contact Fran DiGiano (919-542-0829, [fran\\_digiano@unc.edu](mailto:fran_digiano@unc.edu)), and residents east of the lake can contact Tom Colson (919-630-2569, [tpcolson@hotmail.com](mailto:tpcolson@hotmail.com)). The cleanup group will meet at the Jordan Dam Visitor Assistance Center (also known as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters) at 2080 Jordan Dam Road in Moncure (Exit 79 off US Hwy 1). Boats and kayaks are needed to reach those parts of the shoreline not accessible by foot. Pants, long sleeve shirt, hat and bug repellent are suggested. Bottled water, lunch, gloves and trash bags will be provided. *Photo, taken by Fran DiGiano, shows an egret atop Jordan Lake trash.*

# Exploring the Haw Headwaters

by Elaine Chiosso

On February 20, HRA took a field trip to look at our newly purchased land at the headwaters of the Haw River in Forsyth County. HRA members, staff, and Board came along, including Bob Brueckner, who chairs our HRA Land Conservation Committee and filled us in on details. Joe Jacob, HRA board member, generously drove many of us in his Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. van. The 2 acres we bought with your help last year are now preserved, along with the 4 acres we bought in 1999 (with funds from NC's Clean Water Management Trust Fund and US Fish and Wildlife) now held by the Piedmont Land Conservancy for permanent conservation. The combined 6 acres holds the two headwater springs that form our river.

We took the trip up on a cold day, with patches of snow still in the forest. We looked for the source of each spring, and then followed them down to where it becomes a little stream flowing over a mostly white quartz stream bed and very white sand along the banks. Jeannie Ambrose commented on the mica that is also present in the streambed, "In the bright sunlight the streambed looks like it is sprinkled in glitter." The running cedar and little ground pines displayed their beautiful green against the winter landscape. We noticed more algae in each stream than we would have expected, and more surprisingly, one spring had red algae, indicating iron in the bedrock, while the other had green algae. We ended our visit there with a clean-up of the trash littering the roadside at the edge of our forest (the first site cleaned up for our 20th Clean-up-a-thon!)

before she becomes the first Park Superintendent for the new Grandfather Mountain State Park. We will miss her in our watershed. We took a walk down to the river where a boardwalk crosses through a beautiful bottomland Piedmont swamp. Our river was a little wider there, growing as it flows downstream. On the way home, Joe drove the backroads that follow



the river, and we had the chance to see new river access areas in Alamance Co. including one at Altamahaw and at Red Hill in the town of Haw River, as well as take a quick tour through the old mill towns along the way. It was quite a ride!

While we were at the headwaters, a few of us were interested in learning more about the water quality of the two springs and the headwaters, and were curious about the macroinvertebrates that inhabit the quartz stream bottom. The first 8 miles of the Haw River, beginning at the headwaters, have been on the state's "Impaired Waters" 303(d) list since 1998 because of not adequately supporting aquatic life. We would like to better understand what the source of this impairment is. In March, four of

us returned to the Headwaters to do some further investigation. Jeannie Ambrose, Cynthia Crossen, Donna Myers, and I spent an afternoon doing water tests, stream assessments, and macroinvertebrate collecting. The pH of both springs and the water below their confluence was acidic, slightly below 6, and even more algae was prevalent than we had seen in February (as is typical of late winter/early spring for algae growth). It was clear from the sand deposits that the headwater stream carries a lot of water during storms, but we did not see any direct connections to sources of stormwater beyond the forest. We did not find a high number of aquatic organisms. We did not find any stoneflies or mayflies but saw, at least, one each of scuds, chironomids, caddisflies, aquatic beetles and worms, crane flies, crayfish, as well as a couple of small salamanders. We plan to return again to find out more about this very interesting place where our river begins. *Photo above, taken by Cynthia, shows Donna & Elaine at the Haw Headwaters.*

We left the headwaters and drove about 20 miles on Hwy 150 to the Haw River State Park. While there we ran into our good friend (and former Jordan Lake park ranger) Park Superintendent Sue McBean, on one of her last days at the park



***HRA Volunteer Finds Rare Caddisfly in Haw Headwaters!*** The headwaters of the Haw received a bit of attention last week. Jeannie Ambrose, Two Streams and River Watch volunteer, found a type of caddisfly rare for North Carolina (*shown at left*). In the Haw Headwaters, Jeannie found the *Neophlax atlanta* in the Uenoidae family, which constructs stone cases on quartz rocks. Her identification was confirmed by David A. Etnier, UT, at the Carolina Area Benthos Workgroup held in Hot Springs this spring. There was some interest in where this specimen was found, due to its reported rarity for NC.

# Cleaning It Up at the 20<sup>th</sup> Haw River Clean-Up

On March 20, 2010, over 250 volunteers headed out to area lakes, rivers, streams and creeks with one mission in mind -- to clean up the trash! This year we celebrated our 20th event doing just that. This landmark anniversary was commemorated with beautiful weather, hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers, and literally tons of bagged trash and debris.

Thirty-five teams collected 600 bags of trash, 75 tires, and much more from the river, shorelines, islands, under bridges and along roadsides. The teams covered over 100 miles of river from the Headwaters forest to the Jordan Lake dam in Moncure, plus many urban creeks and areas at Jordan Lake. Collaboration with the City of Durham and their Creek Week program gave us the opportunity to add four new Durham sites to the effort as well as engage a new group of volunteers.

The Army Corps of Engineers team at Jordan Lake, led by Francis Ferrell and with the help of 20 hard working volunteers, bagged the most trash once again this year with over 80 bags and 15 tires. Germane James was lucky enough to lead the Thataways youth group from Burlington on a fun clean up at Stoney Creek Park. The kids had a great time trying to find the weirdest trash, observing the work of beavers, and bird watching. One of the boys was having such a great time that he asked if he could do this every weekend! The Spirit Island team, led by Joe Jacob, had another very successful clean up with 30 bags of trash collected and zipped down from island to shoreline on their nifty trash zip line invention! They may be the front runners for weirdest trash, recovering a bowtie-wearing rubber mannequin!

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers, local businesses and other sponsors who supported this effort. Thanks to NCDOT of Chatham County for providing us with gloves and bags again this year. Also, a big thank you to Brian Baker of the Haw River Trail and Alamance Parks and Recreation for picking up the bagged trash in Alamance County and helping to coordinate the Shallow Ford team with Cecelia Vassar. We appreciate all of the school, church and youth groups that took part this year. It is unfortunate that we have to do an annual river clean up and that every year it seems to get bigger and bigger. However, we cleaned up garbage that was a threat to wildlife and water quality and made the Haw River and Jordan Lake a priority in our lives. As it should be!

## Special Thanks To Clean-Up-A-Thon Team Leaders & Volunteers!

*Headwater's Forest; Joe Jacob*

*Haw River State Park; Torrey Nergart, Haw R. Park Ranger*

*Brooks Bridge Road (Grove Winery); Max Lloyd*

*Glencoe Village, Burlington; Howard Tash*

*Shallow Ford Natural Area, Gerringer Mill; Cecelia Vassar*

*Stoney Creek Park; Germane James & Thataways Youth*

*Sweptonville - Spirit Island; Joe Jacob & Cynthia Crossen*

*Saxapahaw, Boy Scout Camp; Mary Longhill*

*Saxapahaw, along river; Ben Noblit & Alam. Comm. Coll.*

*Saxapahaw, at the dam; Ricky Brown*

*Morgan Creek; Johnny Randall*

*Old Greensboro Hwy; Kennedy Family*

*Chicken Bridge; Jeff Pettus*

*Dry Creek at Old Graham Rd; Mary Honeycutt*

*Rock Rest; Cathy Markatos*

*Bynum Beach & other Bynum sites; Elaine Chiosso*

*15-501 between dam & Bynum; Nancy Guthrie*

*15-501 bridge (north); Debbie Tunnell*

*15-501 bridge (south); Anne Geer*

*Lower Haw; Larry Ausley, with Carolina Canoe Club Paddler team*

*Upper Haw; Bob Brueckner, with Carolina Canoe Club Paddler team*

*Middle Haw; Larry Ausley, with Carolina Canoe Club Paddler team*

*Redbud; Sarah Goddin*

*Hwy 64 Bridge; Donna Myers*

*Robeson Creek, Pittsboro; Catherine Deininger*

*Jordan Lake (Robeson Creek); Tom Colson*

*Jordan Lake Hwy 751; Susanne Gomalski*

*Jordan Lake - Rivers Junction; Archana Aragon*

*Jordan Lake, near the dam; Francis Ferrell, Army Corps of Engrs*

*Jordan Lake Parker's Cr.; Steve McMurray, Jordan L. State Parks*

*Northeast Cr. at Alston Ave; Michael Pollack, Friends of NE Creek*

*Rocky Creek at ATT; Laura Webb Smith*

*Third Fork Creek at Forest Hills; Forest Hills Neighborhd Assoc.*

*Sandy Creek Park; New Hope Creek Watershed Association*



2010 Clean-up-a-thon on Morgan Creek



Photo Collage by Johnny Randall

# Join Us in Thanking Our 2010 Clean-Up-A-Thon Business Sponsors

Photo by Brandy McCandless



*The Thataways Youth Group hauls out a big load of trash from Stoney Creek Park in Burlington.*

Alicia Ravetto AIA, Architect PA, 400 W. Weaver St., Carrboro, (919) 933-0999, [aliciaravettoarchitect.com](http://aliciaravettoarchitect.com)

Blunden Studio, 103 West Weaver Street, Carrboro, (919) 967-8505, [www.blundenstudio.com](http://www.blundenstudio.com)

Bynum United Methodist Church, Bynum  
Bynum United Methodist Women

Carolina Country Builders (Paul Konove), 1459 Redbud Road, Pittsboro, (919) 542-5361, [www.greenhomedesignbuild.com](http://www.greenhomedesignbuild.com)

Chimneys Plus, 1250 Sanford Rd. Pittsboro, (919) 542-1631, [www.chimneysplusgutters.com](http://www.chimneysplusgutters.com)

Cure Nursery (Bill and Jennifer Cure) 880 Buteo Ridge Rd., Pittsboro, (919) 542-6186, [www.curenursery.com](http://www.curenursery.com)

Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co, Saxapahaw, (336) 260-6465, [www.hawrivercanoe.com](http://www.hawrivercanoe.com)

Honey Electric & Solar Inc., 4501 Alamance Church Road, Liberty, (336) 438-9786, [honeyelectricsolar.com](http://honeyelectricsolar.com)

Jordan Properties / Saxapahaw River Mill, Saxapahaw, (336) 376-3122 [www.rivermillvillage.com](http://www.rivermillvillage.com)

Lynn Hayes Real Estate (Lynn Hayes), 103 W. Weaver St. #4, Carrboro 27510 (919) 968-9989 [www.lynnhayes.com](http://www.lynnhayes.com)

Mellow Marsh Farm, (919) 663-1945, [www.mellowmarshfarm.com](http://www.mellowmarshfarm.com)

Nested, 118 E. Main St., Carrboro, (919) 338-8023, [www.nestedhome.com](http://www.nestedhome.com)

Open Eye Cafe, 101 S. Greensboro St., Carrboro, (919) 968-9410, [www.openeyecafe.com](http://www.openeyecafe.com)

Space Builders, 112 East Main Street, Carrboro, (919) 929-7072, [spacebuilders.biz](http://spacebuilders.biz)

Swanson & Associates (David Swanson), 100 East Carr St., Carrboro, (919) 967-3355

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



*HRA's trip to the headwaters provided a cleanup opportunity.*



*We kayaked a few feet out to Spirit Island. We're taking our bowtied mannequin back as weird trash.* Photo by Cynthia Crossen.

TechView Corporation, Carrboro

Twig, 99 South Elliott Road, Chapel Hill, (919) 929-8944, [www.twigliving.com](http://www.twigliving.com)

Weaver Street Realty, 116 E. Main St., Carrboro, (919) 929-5658, [weaverstreetrealty.com](http://weaverstreetrealty.com)

Whole Foods Market, locations in Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh, [www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com)

# Haw River Learning Celebration 2010!

It's never too early to start planning the 2010 Learning Celebration (LC). The LC Steering Committee began our monthly meetings in February. We immediately began planning the **Learning Celebration Hootenanny** kickoff event, as well as discussing ways to improve school recruitment for 2010. Additionally, the committee plans to incorporate 4th Grade Standard Course of Study Competency Goals into station guides for this year's program. Please contact me if interested in volunteering for the Learning Celebration (see key dates below). *Hope to see you on the river!*

Come to the **2010 Learning Celebration Hootenanny!** Learn more about the Learning Celebration, meet old and new friends, hear some great music, and enjoy goodies for sale at Chatham Marketplace, at the Learning Celebration Hootenanny on **Saturday, June 5, from 5 to 8:30 pm** on the **Chatham Marketplace Lawn**, located on 15-501 just north of downtown Pittsboro. Look for details at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).

September 18th - October 8th is the  
**2010 Haw River Learning Celebration!**

The Haw River Learning Celebration (HRLC) is celebrating its 21th year. We have begun recruiting schools and volunteers for this year's LC. *Learn more about the HRLC at HRA's website, [www.HawRiver.org](http://www.HawRiver.org).*

- Week 1 in Bynum:** September 18 - 24, with programs for students offered September 21 through 24  
**Week 2 in Saxapahaw:** September 25 - October 1, with programs for students offered September 28 through October 1  
**Week 3 at Camp Guilrock:** October 2 - October 8, with programs for students offered October 5 through 8

*Sign up to Be Part of HRLC 2010.* Volunteers make the Learning Celebration happen, and we want **YOU** to be there! There are many ways to get involved--so sign up today to volunteer on the Learning Celebration Crew, cook a meal, help with a site move, or provide housing for the safety and logistics coordinator. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Donna Myers at [donna@hawriver.org](mailto:donna@hawriver.org), or by phone at (919) 542-5790.



*Above left, students create art inspired by the river setting. Above right, students quietly observe the river, listening with their "deer ears". At right, the Learning Celebration crew relaxes after the fourth-grade program is done, over a good meal provided by our treasured meal providers. Photos by Cynthia Crossen.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*from Donna Myers, our 2010 Learning Celebration Coordinator, shown here in her 2010 Clyde Jones T-shirt.*



# Stream Investigation Program Gets 8th Graders Down to the River!

This spring we took our Stream Investigation Program for 8th graders to Horton Middle in Pittsboro and Northern Guilford Middle in Greensboro. At Horton, Cynthia Crossen, volunteers Erin Martin, Dorothy Rawleigh, Sharon Garbutt, and I worked with about 100 students over three days. The first day, students participated in an interactive classroom activity based on Haw River Watch data collected throughout the watershed. The students also discussed ways to determine stream health by using bioindicators and testing for nitrates, phosphates and pH, as well as how to take action to improve water quality in their watershed. The students put these procedures into practice during the next two days at nearby Robeson Creek at the 15-501 bridge. There, they enjoyed collecting and identifying aquatic life with Cynthia, Sharon and Erin. Many had never walked along a



Photo by Cynthia Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Northern Middle students sample the wetlands next to the Haw River in Guilford County.*

creek, let alone set foot into

*Horton students hunt for and identify macroinvertebrate indicator species to determine the health of Robeson Creek in Pittsboro.*

one to find all of the life teeming along the banks, in leaf packs and just below the surface. The students were quick to learn and practice the various ways to collect macroinvertebrates with nets, by rummaging through leaf packs and churning up the creek beds. They also conducted visual stream assessments along the banks of Robeson Creek, assessing its health by measuring pH and transparency, looking at the riparian buffer, observing signs of wildlife, and determining stream flow. The eighth-graders were happy to be a part of Haw River Watch data collection, but even more so to be at the creek enjoying the warm spring air and cool flow of the stream. They were excited to spot a wild turkey!

The following week, HRA staff and volunteers presented the same classroom lesson, and then implemented a field day with 120 students from Northern Guilford Middle School at the Haw River State Park! We had an 8 station 'mini-Learning Celebration' at sites on and near the park's boardwalk to the Haw River, with activities that included collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates and conducting stream assessments. Students circled up around the watershed model for a hands-on demonstration of the concepts they'd been learning about. Students, parent chaperones, teachers, and volunteers braved unseasonably hot temperatures and long equipment hauls to the learning stations. Despite these discomforts, all deemed the program a huge success. Students and parents were impressed by the knowledgeable volunteers, and were excited about being at the river, where concepts discussed in the classroom were brought to life.

We are grateful to Northern Middle science teacher Ms. Cyndie Lawrence, whose vision it was to take her students to the Haw River State Park to learn more about water quality monitoring, and whose logistical efforts helped make the day such a success. We hope to partner in the future for ongoing river monitoring and more field days.

A special thanks to Cynthia Crossen who has given a tremendous amount of knowledge, time, and enthusiasm to make the 2010 Stream Investigation program successful. Also, a very special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who committed to early wake up times, long days, and extreme temperatures to share their extensive knowledge and their amazing abilities in order to teach children the importance of protecting and restoring the Haw River and Jordan Lake. It was clear that all volunteers were having fun themselves! These volunteers were Sharon Clarke, Elaine Chiosso, Dorothy Rawleigh, Sharon Garbutt, Susan Andreatta, Courtenay Vass, Heather Hill, Erin Martin, Lauren Merin, and Wanda Sundermann.

As always, we welcome volunteers for the 2011 Stream Investigation Program--contact me to volunteer. --Donna Myers

Since taking the helm as Watershed Education Coordinator, I have attended school science nights, neighborhood fairs, and volunteer/job fairs throughout our watershed to promote and recruit for HRA programs. Right now, we're gearing up for a flurry of fun spring events that include Earth Day fairs, music festivals, and our very own Haw River Festival. I very much hope to see you at these events. Please contact us (919-542-5790) to volunteer at any of these outreach events.



# The River Watcher Haw River Watch Project News

**Project Coordinator:** Cynthia Crossen **Email:** riverwatch@hawriver.org

**P.O. Box 25, Saxapahaw, NC 27340 (919) 967-2500 (office); (919) 542-3827 (home)**

## Standing in the Stream by Cynthia Crossen

**River Watch Trainings:** It seems like the colder and longer the winter, the more folks want to get outside in the spring! We've had lots of interest in streamside activities this warm spring. \* We now have a new team, led by Matt Dannenberg and HRA Board member Cecelia Vassar, monitoring Little Alamance Creek in Burlington City Park. It's good to get this site, which had been monitored for many years by Bill and Myra Moore, active again. Scott Jewell, Environmental Specialist for the City of Burlington, and his wife Monica also attended the training. Scott is part of the new Little Alamance Restoration Alliance initiative, and we hope to partner for further stream education activities in Burlington. \* In March, Watershed Education Coordinator Donna Myers, River Watch volunteer Jeannie Ambrose, and I worked with Amy Kennedy's Central Carolina Community College Environmental Science class, collecting macroinvertebrates in nearby Hill Creek, and taking them back to the lab to identify--great practice in field work for the students, as well as being lots of fun! \* I am setting up trainings for several other interested volunteers, doing stream monitoring with fifth-graders at Frank Porter Graham this month, and monitoring with festival-goers at our May 1 Festival in Saxapahaw. Come down to the river to visit!

**River Watch Social:** On February 27, about thirty River Watchers, HRA Board members, Woods Charter School Envirothon team members, and interested others (including landowners on Dry Creek), met for breakfast at the General Store Café in Pittsboro. We got a chance to socialize and learn about our successfully completed three-year Two Streams Project studying Pokeberry and Dry Creeks in Chatham County. Elaine Chiosso welcomed us and gave a brief Riverkeeper report, Catherine Deininger gave a summary presentation about the Two Streams project, Two Streams volunteer Jeannie Ambrose shared the many things she learned about macroinvertebrate identification during her work with the project, and I gave a tutorial on macroinvertebrate ID'ing using the fabulous photos we took during the project. We are grateful to River Watch Committee member Jeannie for her presentation, and to the General Store Café for providing an excellent venue and assistance for the event.

**River Watch Publications:** The Haw River Watch Monitoring Report, presenting River Watch data from December 1994 through December of 2009, has been published on the River Watch page at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org). Thanks to Susan Yarnell for her help with data entry. \* Using our River Watch data, I submitted comments to DWQ on the latest 303(d) list of impaired creeks. \* Check out the **How To Be A River Watcher** presentations on the River Watch page, which cover material I teach at my streamside trainings.

**River Watch Outreach:** I attended a focus group meeting for the new Little Alamance Restoration Alliance initiative, headed by the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments. This exciting and much needed grant-funded project will work with citizens of Elon, Burlington, and Graham, with the goal of improving water quality conditions in Little Alamance Creek through public awareness and involvement. I shared some of HRA's success stories with similar projects, and offered our support and assistance in their efforts.

**8th Grade Stream Investigation Program:** Donna and I, along with key volunteers, have successfully completed two stream investigation programs this spring. We took 8th graders from Horton Middle School in Pittsboro down to Robeson Creek, where they loved catching critters—finding enough diversity to give us an “excellent” water quality rating (however, I would have liked to have found more quantities of bugs). We held a very successful field day for Northern Middle School 8th-graders at the Haw River State Park in Guilford County. The students hunted for macros in the wetlands bordering the upper Haw River. Special thanks to Board member Sharon Garbutt for her participation in all aspects of these programs.



*CCCC Environmental Science students aren't afraid to pick up a crayfish in Hill Creek in Pittsboro, where they learn stream monitoring.*

Photo by Donna Myers

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



*(Left to right) Matt Dannenberg, Cecelia Vassar, Scott Jewell, and Monica Jewell learn to monitor Little Alamance Creek, at Burlington City Park.*

# HRA Spring Photo Gallery

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



*Jeannie Ambrose, Catherine Deininger, and Donna Myers walk Robeson Creek in early spring.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*Erin Martin (right) helps Horton students at Robeson Creek.*

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



*We see the ground pine in the snow, at the Haw headwaters.*

“...As scientists understand more and more about the interdependence not only of living things but of rocks, rivers - the whole of the universe - I am left in awe that I, too, am a part of this tremendous miracle. Not only am I a part of this pulsating network, but I am an indispensable part. It is not only theology that teaches me this, but it is the truth that environmentalists shout from the rooftops. Every living creature is an essential part of the whole.”

--Desmond Tutu

Photo by Cynthia Crossen



*Jeannie Ambrose tests the water at the Haw headwaters.*

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



*The Haw River reflects the old mill Town of Haw River.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*The Spirit Island team tackles trash with spirit!*

**2010 Haw River Festival T-shirt**  
**Clyde Jones "Coyote"**  
**makes a great gift!**

*Shirts are available in: Adult clay (modeled by Cynthia Crossen, River Watch Coordinator and Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director), Ladies' deep red (hanging on far right), and youth vivid pink (hanging on right)*

**\$ 20 (adult & ladies) S, M, L, XL, XXL**  
**\$ 16 (youth small, medium, & large)**

Available at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Great Outdoors Provision Co. in the Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Greensboro locations, Saxapahaw General Store in Saxapahaw, and the HRA office in Bynum.

To order, send checks made out to Haw River Assembly, to: HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228. Include total number, sizes and colors of shirts ordered and to whom to ship them. Add \$3 per shirt for shipping. Or call us at (919) 542-5790 to arrange a time to come by our office in Bynum to shop. Shirt designs from previous years are also available.



Photo by Efrain Ramirez

**Haw River Festival**  
**April 30 - May 2 in**  
**Saxapahaw!**

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