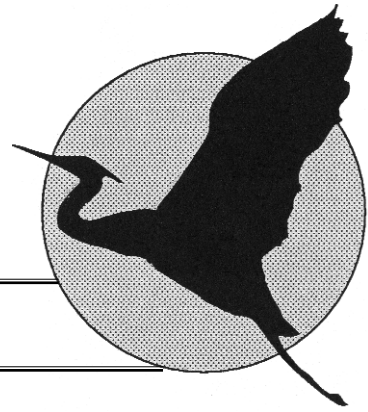


Haw River Assembly Newsletter December 2004



P.O. Box 187 • Bynum, NC 28228 • 919-542-5790
email: hra@emji.net • www.hawriver.org

Photo by Kojo E. Wilson, WERA EnviroArt Director



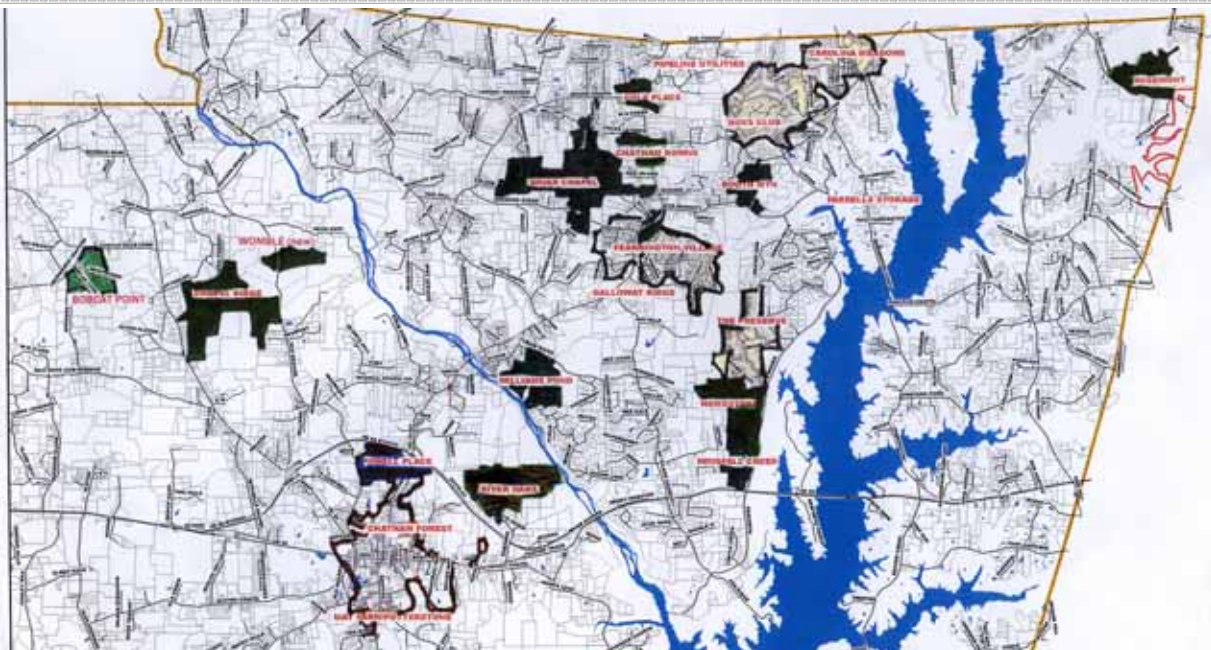
At the WERA Annual Awards dinner, President Omega Wilson introduces Sacoby Wilson, PhD candidate in the School of Public Health at UNC-CH and a member of WERA's EPA Collaborative Problem-Solving partners management team.

West End Revitalization Association Forges Partnership with HRA

The Haw River Assembly is proud to be a participating partner in an EPA Environmental Justice grant awarded to the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in Mebane. WERA's goal is to develop an environmental health assessment to be used in Mebane, and other low-income minority communities nearby that are denied safe water, sewer services and adequate housing conditions. The project will study ground and surface water pollution and other environmental hazards. WERA is one of only five community organizations chosen for these grants in the Southeast U.S. They will receive \$100,000 over the next three years and will work in partnership with grassroots, academic, local government, and non-profit organizations to achieve these goals. Omega Wilson, Executive Director of this African American community-based group, states, "This grant is specifically designed to compile a list of environmental risk factors in the communities we're investigating." The grant to WERA is the outcome of many years of

their efforts to get public recognition of long standing environmental problems. They recently celebrated their 10th anniversary of work. HRA is one of the many partners to this grant, and we hope to offer our stream stewardship and stream monitoring tools and experience to assist this effort, and in the process to learn much ourselves. (Visit www.wera-nc.org to learn more about WERA.)

OUT OF CONTROL CHATHAM DEVELOPMENT Where will it end? See Story on Page 9.



Map by Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities, www.chathamcitizens.org

■ = proposed or under construction

□ = already built

HRA Board of Directors 2004

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Margaret Tiano, Chapel Hill
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HRA Staff

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Cynthia Crossen, River Watch Project Coordinator
Catherine Deininger, Stream Steward Project Coord.
JJ Richardson, Learning Celebration Coordinator

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Cynthia Crossen
Contributors: Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, JJ Richardson
Photos: Ken Crossen, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Ann Cassebaum, Salli Benedict, Tad Boggs **Art & Logos:** 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: \$15 Family: \$25

Heron Circle: \$100 and above

Low Income: \$5 - \$10

The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grass-roots organization founded in 1982. Our mission is to protect and restore the Haw River and Jordan Lake, and to build a community that shares this vision.

(919) 542-5790 www.hawriver.org

Notes from the Haw

A mild, late autumn brought us the sight of river turtles still sunning on logs, with the last leaves of November falling in the water around them. A bold kingfisher has recently claimed the air space next to the Bynum Bridge and chatters loudly at all who dare walk by. I continue to feel blessed to work so close to our beautiful river--just a short walk down the street from our office--and a chance each day to see what's new on the Haw. Please feel free to stop by 647 Bynum Road for a visit if you are in Bynum.

Community action! is the best way to describe the successful campaign by residents and organizations who came together in **Alamance County** to fight the County Commissioner's proposal to turn the county landfill in Saxapahaw into a privatized regional mega-dump. The Commissioners rescinded their proposal, but citizens are concerned it could come back. Go to the CERES website, www.alamancecounty.org for the latest on the landfill.

We had one of our best **Annual Meetings** ever at Cedarock Park--read about our wetland restoration work in Catherine's "Stream Steward" report. After November 2 it felt really good to be working on something so tangible and positive with such enthusiastic volunteers. Our keynote speaker, **David McNaught** from Environmental Defense, shared with us the great vision of "Horizon 2100--Aggressive Conservation for North Carolina's Future", and told us how we can--and should--act now to ensure a future that has a healthy environment.

We elected our **new Board of Directors** at the Annual Meeting and want to extend a special welcome to our newest board members: Lauren Rosenthal, Margaret Jemison, Donna Riggs, and Margaret Tiano. Our tremendous thanks go to out-going member Kevin Webb, who has been an incredible part of HRA over the years, beginning as a Festival volunteer and our youth advisor on the board. Most recently he has been active on our Land Conservation committee and as our web czar. He will continue to be an advisor to Cynthia for our website. We all extend our best wishes to Lynn Featherstone who is recuperating from surgery. We wish him happy kayaking again soon! Safe and happy holidays to everyone this winter!

from the river, Elaine

Nan Freeland, a tireless advocate for environmental justice issues in North Carolina, passed away due to a stroke in November. We were blessed to have known and worked with her on HRA Board of Directors in 1998-1999. She will be greatly missed. The Conservation Council of NC Foundation has generously set up the Nan Freeland Memorial Fund to commemorate Nan's valuable contributions to the NC environmental community with proceeds given to Nan's mother. To make a tax-deductible contribution, please make your check payable to: CCNC Foundation, PO Box 12671, Raleigh, NC 27605; note the Nan Freeland Memorial Fund on the check.



Photo by Ken Crossen



Photo by Ann Cassebaum

Board members old & new, & staff, at our 2004 Annual Meeting



STREAM STEWARD PROJECT

Project Coordinator: Catherine Deininger Email: deininger@hawriver.org

HRA Volunteers Plant Wetlands Area in Cedarrock Park

Before our annual meeting this year, lots of eager volunteers gathered to help plant a demonstration wetland along Rock Creek just down the hill from the Cedarrock Park Center. The weather was glorious and the ground was wet, making it an easy planting day. We planted 20 trees (Swamp Chestnut Oaks, Sugarberry, River Birch, and Persimmons), 40 shrubs (Elderberry, Spicebush, Possum Haw, Virginia Sweetspire, Swamp Dogwood, and Winterberry) and around 30 flowering native plants (Joe Pye Weed, Swamp Sunflower, Swamp Milkweed, Marsh Mallow, Pickerel Weed, and Cardinal Flower). The plants were purchased from Cure Nursery and Mellow Marsh Farm, both of whom were extra generous and gave us discounts on their already wholesale prices. I look forward to visiting Cedarrock next spring and summer to see how everything is growing.

A special thank you goes to Huston Sally, Director of Alamance Parks and Recreation, and Eugene Jordan, Cedarrock Park Superintendent, for supporting our idea to create a demonstration wetland area and at the same time provide a gift of appreciation to Cedarrock Park. I'd also like to thank George Morris, riparian landscape specialist, who advised me on which wetland plants would be best for our boggy planting area and would be native to Alamance County. Volunteers that helped with the planting included Jeff Waller, Deborah Amaral, Joe Jacobs, Nancy Hilmer, Tom Patterson, Rak Kreager, Richard and Benjamin Goldberg, and Kim and Erin Colvin.

Photo by Catherine Deininger



Benjamin helps his Dad Richard Goldberg put a native plant into the soil, with the help of (l to r) Kim Colvin, Rak Kreager, and Tom Patterson.

Stream Stewardship News

☀ Congratulations! to the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, who has received the first Stream Steward Award for all they do to help promote healthy creeks in our watershed. We will be officially starting our Stream Steward Awards campaign focusing on Pittsboro's many commercial and industrial sites in January.

☀ In the works is a Stream Stewardship Watershed Model we want to create, for our outreach presentations and the Learning Celebration for 2005. This hands-on 3-D model would demonstrate stream conscious and stream careless practices.

Thank you to... Randy Dodd and Kevin Webb for their many hours spent on setting up GIS mapping for the Robeson Creek watershed. We will be using GIS to visually present our results from many stream assessments conducted over the last year.



Stream stewardship students use visual assessment tools to determine stream health.

Photo by Catherine Deininger

Hands-On Stream Stewardship Classes at CCCC A Resounding Success!

At Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) this fall, eight students participated in our first ever Hands-On Stream Stewardship class. The class consisted of four Saturday mornings learning how to determine the health of a stream through monitoring and assessment, and how to protect a stream with healthy riparian buffers and good stormwater practices. Each class, students were either down in the stream or walking the land that drains into the stream. The first class, Cynthia Crossen had students in the creek looking under rocks for water critters (macroinvertebrates) to determine water quality. The next class, Catherine Deininger had students wading in the creek with tape measures and clipboards visually assessing the physical condition of the stream. Next, George Morris, a riparian landscaping specialist that recently moved to the Triangle to work for Buck Engineering, took the class on a plant tour, past CCCC's landscaped area to the wild riparian zone near the creek, explaining how to protect streams by establishing and maintaining healthy riparian buffers. Hal House, a local water quality specialist, took the class on a walk around CCCC's parking lots and grounds to find sites where stormwater practices could be implemented to protect the stream from stormwater runoff.



Riparian plant expert George Morris (right) teaches about plants suited to streamside plantings.

Photo by Catherine Deininger

What did the students think of the class? They wanted to know when the class would be offered again, so they can take it again and get their friends to sign up too. Sounds like we have some stream stewards in the making. We plan to offer a second class on stream stewardship next fall. --Catherine Deininger



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



Photo by Ken Crossen

Lauren McGee (left), a student at Greensboro A&T, learns stream watch on Muddy Creek in Greensboro.

I am enjoying the variety of our Haw River Watch teams, from a single person who loves solitary poking around their creek; to a family whose children grow up loving and respecting their creek, becoming expert in the art of catching crawdads and identifying creek life; from a neighborhood group to a very lucky biology class. For me, the heart and soul of my work is getting down to the creek with folks--I love the excitement and fulfillment of discovering and sharing "creek magic" with others. This season I've trained all kinds of teams. Let me tell you a little about them.

Lauren McGee, a student at Greensboro A&T, became interested in stream watch after taking a workshop on critter identification in another state. She looked around for a way to become involved locally, and found us. She is now monitoring Muddy Creek in Greensboro. Though not muddy the day we monitored it, the creek shows the impacts of its urban setting, with very little life to be found in it, lots of trash, poor riparian buffer at our location, and signs of rip rap and channelization in its history. As you might expect, we did not find much life in the creek--except for a Great-Granddaddy crawdad!

Boothe Hill neighbors, organized by Allison Weakley, became interested in monitoring Herndon Creek to get a baseline of the its health before a proposed development goes in that will impact the creek. We were delighted to find an abundance of life in Herndon Creek, including lots of beetle larvae which I don't usually see, and big fat caterpillar-like cranefly larvae as well; this gave the creek an excellent water quality rating. They will be looking for changes if the development goes in.

Melinda Fitzgerald is leading her four 8th grade biology classes in monitoring Bolin Creek. Melinda's students are getting the kind of education I would wish for any young person--hands-on, feet-wet experience of the beauty of a creek. She is also guiding her students in tracking and conserving energy and reducing trash for the entire school as well as for class members' families.



Photo by Salli Benedict

Stream monitoring at the first Bolin Creek Festival at Umstead Park.

of a lifetime--the chance to tromp through the woods next to the New Century School in Saxapahaw, down to the confluence of Motes Creek and the Haw, where they look for macroinvertebrates in the creek and test for nitrates and phosphates in the river.

Another treasured experience has been sharing stream education with hundreds of fourth-graders for the three weeks of this fall's Haw River Learning Celebration. They learned about human impacts to water quality, found where they live on maps of the watershed, and saw how macroinvertebrate indicator species can tell us something about water quality in a creek. Kids at our Guilford/Rockingham site were able to "fish" with small nets, finding lots damselfly larvae, dragonfly nymphs, and mayflies. You could light a small city with this kind of excitement!



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

The Boothe Hill neighborhood team explores Herndon Creek.

Welcome to New River Watch Teams! Joining our Haw River Watch Network are: ♪ from Greensboro A&T, Lauren McGee monitoring Muddy Creek in downtown Greensboro; ♪ from Smith School in Chapel Hill, Melinda Fitzgerald and her 8th grade Biology classes monitoring Bolin Creek; ♪ from New Century School in Saxapahaw, Lynn Bossong and her Biology students monitoring Motes Creek and the Haw; ♪ from Chatham, Allison Weakley leading a Boothe Hill team on Herndon Creek; and Noreen Esposito leading a neighborhood team on Price Creek.



River Watch Thanks

✦ Kudos to our River Watch Steering Committee: Deborah Amaral (chair), Allison Weakley, Elaine Chiosso, Catherine Deininger, Cynthia Crossen

✦ Much gratitude to Susan Yarnell for entering monitoring surveys

✦ Hooray for teachers Melinda Fitzgerald at Smith School in Chapel Hill and Lynn Bossong at New Century School, for initiating stream monitoring with their biology classes.

✦ Congratulations to the Friends of Bolin Creek, for organizing the first Bolin Creek Festival in Umstead Park in Chapel Hill, where we monitored Bolin Creek with the enthusiastic help of many children.

✦ Thanks to all the Learning Celebration staff and volunteers who educate our children about the importance of clean streams.

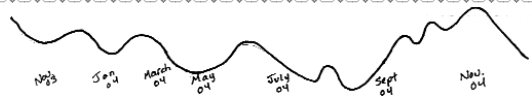
✦ Hooray for all of our River Watchers who faithfully care for their creeks.



Photo by Ken Crossen

Libby Searles-Bohs teaches upriver fourth-graders at the Haw River Learning Celebration about human impacts to the Haw River and its tributaries.

Our Rainy Day Fund



The line above looks like a typical river flow graph for the Haw River, which rises and falls quickly in storms and droughts. But this is not a graph of the river flow--**it is a graph of our cash flow in the past year.** Unfortunately this has been a pretty typical pattern for the past 15 years that we have been supporting staff and programs. We have an annual operating budget of about \$80,000. The actual income for 2003 was \$79,554 and expenses totaled \$75,502. This past year the lowest point in our cash flow was \$2800--too close for comfort and not good for planning. **We are an organization that does a lot with a little**--with part-time staff, donated materials, creative recycling, and the most amazing group of volunteers around. We also have a diverse and creative fundraising program that includes dues, donations, auctions, raffles, benefit concerts, T-shirt sales, and grants. But we can't always count on when that money is coming in or on having a surplus on hand for emergencies. **Our solution? We are launching the Rainy Day Fund!** A generous donor has challenged our members and supporters to match a \$10,000 contribution to put in a separate reserve account for the Haw River Assembly to act as a safety net beneath our normal operating expenses. This will ensure that if we don't receive expected funds or if some crisis arises we can turn to the Rainy Day Fund. Many of our members have already stepped up to the challenge and contributions are beginning to flow in. If you have not sent yours yet, please use the form below to support our Rainy Day Fund. This is also a great time to renew your annual membership dues if they are lapsed, or to join us if you aren't a member yet. **Thanks so much for supporting our work!**



Haw River Assembly Rainy Day Fund

Enclosed is a special donation of \$_____ for the Rainy Day Fund. (All contributions to HRA are tax-deductible.)

Membership Dues: (Please check the date on your mailing label to see if your dues are up to date. Memberships are good for one full year from the date received.)

\$15 Individual _____ \$25 Family _____ \$50 Sustaining Supporter _____

\$5 - \$10 low-income _____ \$100 (or more) Heron Circle Member _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip _____

Phone# () _____ E-mail: _____

Please mail to: Haw River Assembly, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228

Fall 2004 Haw River

learning celebration musings

by jj richardson

learning celebration coordinator

it was a beautiful, bright night on the haw, the warmest night of a very cold week. the air felt almost balmy as i stood transfixed on the river's banks. it was the middle of week one, and for days i had been hustling, focused, working, thinking, planning. finally, for a few brief moments everything else disappeared and it was just the rushing river, the clear night sky, and myself. the light from the full moon was illuminating the river all the way to the far banks, casting everything in an improbable blue glow. trees, in silhouette, surrounded me. moist air filled my nostrils, carrying rich smells of river life. all of a sudden the river seemed wild, exotic even, and for the first time i felt close to the haw.



Looking at all the colors of leaves: Emma Skurnick (top right) trains festival volunteers to teach nature art to fourth-graders.

i miss the river and i miss the beautiful, close communities we built there each week. one day during week three i led my group past "tent city", as i called it -- our campsite in the woods. as the fourth-graders spotted the first tent, and then the second and the third, their excitement grew and the incredulous response came quickly: "you guys live out HERE? in TENTS?!" a million questions followed. it was fun to see their reactions, fun to see them registering this new idea, adding to the list of powerful impressions fixed into their consciousness that day.

the power of the festival lies in the beauty and magic we create in our "tent cities" along the river. everyone's energy -- from crew to day volunteers to meal providers -- infuses the festival site with a feeling of caring, compassion, and purpose that even the fourth-graders and teachers can feel. in these few weeks, we knowingly or unknowingly heed words i have seen credited to gandhi: "be the change you wish to see in the world." i am very happy to be coordinating the festival next year, and i hope you will join us in creating our own world by the river.



In Saxapahaw, festival performers lead fourth-graders in singing and hand motions for "All Haw's Critters."



Misha Ulrich paints faces at the clay station.



Marena Campa (right) shows the fox skin to excited kids at the animal station.

Thanks to Ken Crossen for all Learning Celebration photos!

Learning Celebration



Bruce Holt (in chair) leads a circle to bless our new site in Saxapahaw.

Comments from the 4th-graders :

"I liked the part where we dipped the rock in the water and made paint."--Kassidy

"I liked listening to them play the drums." -- Ashley

"My favorite part was seeing all the little things that live in the water."-- Chris

"I liked it all a lot." -- Erin

And from their teachers :

"We were most impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm of all members of the Haw River Festival, and it was a perfect culmination to our ecology studies. Loved learning outside the classroom!"

"I thought that this was a GREAT field trip. Activities were well-planned and very interesting and the guides were very knowledgeable. Puppet show and songs were FANTASTIC!"



Our autumn festival provides lots of leaves and seeds on the ground--fascinating material for viewing with hand lenses and for leaf rubbings at the plant station.

The Festival Learning Celebration comes together with the work and support of many, many individuals and businesses!

thank you to:

- ❖ each and every weekly crew member
- ❖ each and every day volunteer
- ❖ all meal providers
- ❖ canoe guides
- ❖ everyone who helped with moves
- ❖ the learning celebration steering committee: chris shepard and martha pentecost, co-chairs; wanda sundermann, jo sanders, elia bizarri, ken crossen
- ❖ taylor garbutt
- ❖ rachel winters
- ❖ elaine chiosso
- ❖ cynthia crossen
- ❖ jeff dotson
- ❖ mac jordan
- ❖ john jordan
- ❖ donovan zimmerman
- ❖ jan burger
- ❖ jil christensen
- ❖ kim and kevin meehan
- ❖ chris carter and the solar village institute
- ❖ saxapahaw united methodist church
- ❖ sue mcbean and the jordan lake state park



please support these generous businesses and companies:

- * A Southern Season, Chapel Hill
- * Ciao Bella Pizzeria, Chapel Hill
- * Counter Culture Coffee Co., Durham
- * Pittsboro General Store, Pittsboro
- * Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Cary, Durham, and National
- * The Durham Food Co-op, Durham
- * The Wizard's Cauldron, Yanceyville
- * Townsend Bertram & Company Adventure Outfitters, Carrboro
- * Tropical Foods, Inc., Charlotte
- * Wellspring Bakehouse, Morrisville
- * Whole Foods Market, Chapel Hill
- * Michael Chandler, Chandler Design-Build

LAND CONSERVATION

The HRA Land Conservation Committee has accomplished its goals for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) Mini-grant we received for Alamance County lands on the Haw. This grant provided funding for appraisals and assessments of properties along the river and Cane Creek that could lead to permanent conservation easements. We will now seek funding for the purchases of easements with willing landowners.

HRA was not funded in the last cycle of CWMTF grants for a Lower Haw River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan. This project would assess lands between I-85 south to Bynum on the Haw River, and design for protection of this important river corridor. The primary work on the project would be carried out by faculty and staff at Elon University under Dr. Janet McFall. The plan would then be integrated with one already completed by Piedmont Triad Council of Governments for the river corridor that extends 20 miles upstream. With land disappearing rapidly beneath bulldozers for new development, we feel a great urgency to get this plan done on lands in southern Alamance and Chatham counties. We have made some improvements to our grant proposal and resubmitted it for the new CWMTF cycle.

At the Alamance County Commissioner meeting Nov. 1, Dr. Michael Holland presented a commendation to Swepsonville's Mayor Raymond Herring for his town's support of the U.S. National Park Service Guidelines for the Haw River Trail and for their development of an 18-acre Swepsonville River Park. The town's river park on the Haw is open to the public, although improvements will continue to be made on trails and access. Parking is off of Boywood Road in Swepsonville.

We are very concerned about the large developments already proposed for lands adjacent to the new Lower Haw River State

Natural Area in Chatham County since the land became part of the N.C. Parks and Recreation Dept. just this year (*see next page*). These large developments--one a gated community and the other a golf course development--will have a big impact on not only water quality, but on the wildlife species whose special habitat is the river and its buffer. We urge both the local and state government to do more to protect this important and fragile place.

The Haw River Assembly recognizes with much gratitude the incredible efforts that our all-volunteer Land Conservation Committee gives to this work. Thank you to Bob Brueckner and Lynn Featherstone (co-chairs), Deborah Amaral, Joe Jacob, Gail Galbraith, Janet McFall, Mac Jordan and Michael Holland for their hard and successful work.



Photo by Ken Crossen

Young boosters recruit for HRA at this year's annual meeting.



Join the Haw River Clean-Up March 12, 2005

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 12 for the Haw River Assembly's 15th Annual Clean-Up-A-Thon. Join with enthusiastic volunteers who will be out cleaning up trash from the river banks, creeks, and Jordan Lake on foot, and even canoe! Volunteers work in teams, at established sites near bridge crossings or new spots where trash needs to be removed. Small businesses and individuals are asked to sponsor the work of the volunteers by making a donation to HRA--so we are also raising funds for our projects to keep the river clean all year long.

Want to join a team or start your own team? Give us a call, or send an email to the HRA office. We provide the bags, gloves, and tally sheets--you provide the people power! Call (919) 542-5790, or email hra@emji.net to sign up. Let us know if you have a specific location you want to clean-up.

BE PART OF THE 2005 CLEAN WATER LOBBY DAY

On **Wednesday, April 6th, 2005**, residents from all over the state will converge on the state capitol to speak with legislators about water quality issues and upcoming legislation in North Carolina. The Clean Water Lobby Day is sponsored by water quality and river basin advocacy groups from across North Carolina, including the Haw River Assembly. Last year's Clean Water Lobby Day brought over 150 activists to Raleigh to speak to their legislators about the importance of clean water. High school and college students are encouraged to join us--it's a great opportunity to see democracy in action. Mark April 6 on your calendar now--and watch for more information from us about important issues we will bring to Raleigh!

The Lobby Day is organized by the Watershed Alliance (HRA is a member) with NC Conservation Network. Check our website for details closer to the date: www.hawriver.org.

Wish List: Can you donate, or donate money to buy, any of the following? **Thanks!** (it's tax-deductible)

·Laptop computer ·Digital projector (portable) ·Copier ·Pickup truck (appearance unimportant)

Note: Donated items need to be in excellent working condition.

Explosive Growth in Chatham Endangers Water Quality --- WHO'S WATCHING?

Chatham County is experiencing extraordinary growth pressures. The dark areas on the front page map show how explosive it has become. In less than three years we have seen at least **20 new major developments** begin construction, win approval to build, or submit new proposals for approval--all in the Haw River and Jordan Lake watershed. None have been turned down by the local governments (Chatham Co. and Town of Pittsboro) that have jurisdiction. The Haw River Assembly is increasingly concerned that the overall impact of this large amount of development is not being seriously considered. *Who's watching?* We do not believe that the "normal" system of review and permits is adequate to protect the water quality of the receiving waters downstream of these developments--not for the creeks, the Haw River, Jordan Lake, or the new Lower Haw River State Natural Area.

One by one, we are **degrading the creeks** that once provided some of the cleanest water flowing into the Haw River and Jordan Lake, including: Dry Creek, Brooks Creek, Pokeberry Creek, Bush Creek, Cub Creek, Parker's Creek, Herndon Creek, Wilkinson Creek, Prince's Creek, and many unnamed tributaries. We believe that Chatham County and Pittsboro should require the developers to provide real evidence that their projects will not degrade downstream water quality. The burden of this proof should come from those who are reaping the profits! **No re-zoning to less restrictive land and water protections should be given.** The State of North Carolina and the US Army Corps of Engineers should not be permitting certification of stream and wetland destruction with no more than a cursory look at the projects. If there is not enough staff, time, and resources to do it correctly, then we believe the process should be slowed down to do it right.

According to U.S. Census Data, **Chatham County is the 62nd fastest growing county** in the nation. It is the second fastest growing in NC. Most of this development is taking place in the Haw River/Jordan Lake watershed. We estimate that about **20,000 new residents** will be added to this watershed just from these new projects that are underway. That does not include the numerous smaller and individual home construction projects in the same area.

* **Chatham County does not have a centralized sewer system.** All developments in the Chatham planning area will be using spray field effluent irrigation systems or individual septic systems.

* **Chatham County still does not have its own sediment erosion control officer** and must rely on the underfunded resources of the state for monitoring and enforcement.

* **Chatham County was not included in the Phase II Stormwater legislation** enacted by the General Assembly this past session, although it is one of the most rapidly urbanizing areas as of the 2000 census.

* **Chatham does not have countywide zoning.** Although most of the Jordan Lake area is included in the current zoned areas, some of the Haw River drainage is not. Developers have demanded and won rezoning changes that allow more density in the fragile riparian areas.

* **Populations of endangered and protected species** in the Haw River are within areas downstream of several of these developments.

* **Chatham County plays a large role in the health of Jordan Lake** because of its proximity. The status of Jordan Lake as overall "Nutrient Sensitive Waters" and "Impaired

Waters" in the Upper New Hope arm has triggered a strategy by the state to reduce the loads of nitrogen and phosphorus from the watershed. Chatham County's nutrient load delivered to the Lake was calculated (using pre-2002 monitoring data) as over 13% of the total load for nitrogen and over 19% of the total load for phosphorus. This does not take into account what may be at least a doubling of the population in the Haw River/Jordan Lake watershed after build out of the current development projects in Chatham.

* Pittsboro has its own drinking water treatment plant that uses water from the Haw River above the Bynum dam. The Town of Pittsboro has agreed to sell water to two of the major new developments--Chapel Ridge and River Oaks. Both are golf course/residential projects. The Haw River becomes an extremely low flow waterway in times of drought. **What will be the impact to the Haw River below the Pittsboro water intake in times of drought** if this large amount of water is being pulled out for golf course developments?

We urge all those who care about these issues to speak up. The Haw River, Jordan Lake and the Lower Haw River State Natural Area are special places and resources that belong to all the citizens of this region and state--not just Chatham County. Attend the public hearings, and email or write your concerns to the elected officials. Write a letter to the editor. Organize your neighbors. Go to the website for Chatham County Citizens for Effective Communities, www.chathamcitizens.org, to find out the latest on developments in Chatham and schedules for public hearings. Go to the Haw River Assembly website, www.hawriver.org, to check out our latest postings on these issues and to see a complete list of developments in Chatham County. Stay informed and speak out. We are all that stands between these last beautiful streams and the bulldozers.



Clyde Jones welcomes visitors on Nov. 3, to his "art-full" yard in Bynum. Asst Sec'y of the Army John Paul Woodley Jr., US Army Corps of Engineers Col. Charles R. Alexander Jr., DENR Sec'y Bill Ross, and other officials from the Corps, DENR, DOT, and EPA had just finished a walk along the new Lower Haw River State Natural Area. The group was spending the day looking at area stream conservation and restoration projects made possible with NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program funds. Elaine Chiosso and Deborah Amaral (also pictured) helped show the visitors the river and local sights.

Photo by Tad Boggs

Upcoming HRA Events

Sat. March 12, throughout the Haw River Watershed, Clean-up-a-thon, our annual river cleanup project (see p. 8 for details)

Friday, March 18 - Saturday, March 19, Brown Summit, NC Conservation Network's 5th Annual Retreat

Join members of NC's environmental community in becoming more effective advocates through workshops, updates on issues, networking and fun. Go to www.nccconservationnetwork.org for details

March 19-20 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend

Wed. April 6, 9 am - 3 pm, Legislative Bldg in Raleigh, Clean Water Lobby Day (see p. 8 for details)

It's the Clyde Jones Swimming Turtle-- green and blue on an orange shirt. See photo at www.hawriver.org.



Visit the New "Green" Library in Price Park, Greensboro

(1420 Price Park Road (336) 373-2923 www.greensborolibrary.org/kcef)

The Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library is in memory of the late Kay Edwards, who helped make the purchase of Price Park possible, and whose dream it was to build a library focusing on the environment. The library was built with minimal site impact, and environmentally friendly building materials. Environmental education programs and technology, nature trails, a screened-in reading porch, a beautiful mural and a poem by Thomas Berry in the rotunda, and an amazing nature mural by Jan Burger and Emma Skurnick, make this a special place. Another important contribution to Greensboro and the environment is the recent election of long-time dedicated environmentalist Pricey Harrison (Kay's daughter), who will represent District 57 in the NC House of Representatives.

Available at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro, Townsend Bertram Outfitters in Carrboro, Great Outdoors Provision Co, Pringles in Fearington, and the Haw River Assembly office in Bynum.

*Clean-up-a-thon
Sat. March 12!*

Address Service Requested

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