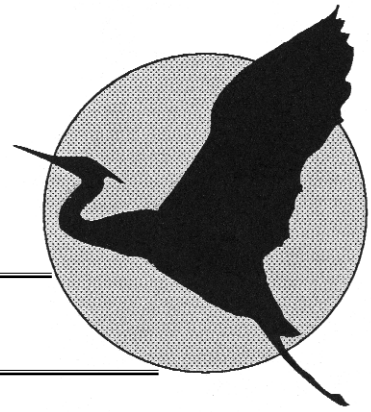


Haw River Assembly

Newsletter *January 2007*



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

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

The Haw River Assembly Celebrates its 25th Year!

Founded in 1982, the Haw River Assembly is thriving in its work to protect and restore our watershed, and is continuing to build a watershed community that supports this vision.

See highlights of our 25 years of work for the river on pages 8 & 9. And this April, come help us celebrate our 25th anniversary--look for details soon at www.hawriver.org.

It was 25 years ago. Two young men who loved to paddle the Haw River had just ended a long battle to try to stop the river from being dammed to build Jordan Lake. Chuck Brady and Lynn Featherstone knew that some of the best whitewater rapids on the Haw would be drowned under the lake waters. They had joined forces with farmers and conservationists to stop the dam; along the way they had become experts on water hydrology, water pollution, and the often convoluted workings of state and federal laws; and had met a whole new group of people--a watershed full. But they had run out of time--the dam was being built.

So they turned their energy and vision to a new dream: creating an organization that would work to restore the troubled waters of the Haw River, and protect the new Jordan Lake. A group--an assembly--of citizens would work together to improve water quality, preserve the beautiful river lands, support public access and recreation on the river, and educate the public about the importance of this river that runs through us.

They wasted no time in getting started. Joined by John Runkle, local environmental lawyer, they put together the workings for a non-profit and held a charter meeting in February 1982 to recruit interested citizens. The response was astounding! More than 100 people showed up to eagerly take part in this effort. A faded news clipping from the Burlington Times quotes Representative Joe Hackney saying, "All of us who love the Haw have been wanting for some time to put together such an assembly, and we are grateful to Chuck Brady and Lynn Featherstone for spearheading this effort."

Well, the rest is history--and you can read a timeline of what we have been doing for 25 years on pages 8 & 9. We'll be sharing more memories as the year goes on. If you have a favorite story or photo of HRA, please send it by mail or email to the HRA office--we'd love to hear from you! *You can help us continue our work for the river*--see our 25th Year Goals on page 9.

River Lands Protected

NC Trust Funds Add 122 Acres to State Natural Area, Upriver of 15-501 Haw River Bridge

It takes many people and organizations working together to preserve land for future generations. Hard work and generous hearts led to a successful outcome this fall when both sides of the Haw River above the Bynum Dam were purchased to add to the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. The Haw River Assembly worked with the Triangle Land Conservancy, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Natural Heritage Fund, and the North Carolina Botanical Gardens at UNC-Chapel Hill as a team to make this happen. It all began with landowners with vision--who want their land along the river to be protected and enjoyed by future generations as public lands. *continued on page 11*



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

View of conserved land, from 15-501 Bridge.

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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 and above

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The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grass-roots 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



Photo by Doug Wakeman

Happy Birthday to us! What an amazing 25 years this has been--protecting, celebrating and defending this beautiful river that runs through our lands. We are so indebted to the many many people who have been part of this effort--especially those of you who have served on our Board of Directors, as staff, as supportive donors, and in key volunteer roles. There are too many wonderful people to be named in this space, but I want to single out the strength, leadership and love given to us by Lynn Featherstone, Jane Sharp, Deborah Amaral, Louise Kessel and Cynthia Crossen. And finally, we will never forget those who are no longer with us, but will always be part of HRA, including Chuck Brady, Miles Agee, Jim Berry, Zach Ralston, Doug Avent, Joe Gibson, Bill Pollitzer, Nan Freeland, William Nealy, and many more. We will remember them always.

As we move into our next quarter century at HRA, we are looking ahead to the big issues that will face us, and how to be prepared for them. Are water shortages, increased water and air pollution, and shrinking forests and wildlife the only future we can envision? Or can we shift to water and energy conservation and re-use, alternative fuels, more creative recycling and less consumption, green building methods and sustainable living to dramatically alter the path we are on? Let's start by believing we can--and then start making it happen!

With love, from the river, Elaine Chiosso

HRA Has a Home! We have bought the little mill house in Bynum that we have used as an office since 1993! Our landlord, Mr. Stevens, sold it to us for a very nice price (\$5,000 plus closing costs). Thanks to the generosity of HRA Board members, and a \$1,000 donation from Weaver Street Realty, we now own the little house and property that runs between little Bynum creek and Bynum Road. Thanks also to attorney Charles Thibault and surveyor John Atkins for their work on this. What started out as a modest repair job in November has turned into the need for a pretty major overhaul of the building due to long ago damage by termites. We have had several big workdays to get us set for the winter, and are now working on a plan for rebuilding. Thanks to the volunteers who have already taken part in this **BIG** job: Ken & Debby Tunnell, Jeff Dotson, Patti, Austin Lybrand, Giles Blunden, Elaine Chiosso, Betsy Kraus, Kathy Buck, Ken Moore, Tom Patterson, Nancy Hillmer, Bob Brueckner, Katie Kenlan, Josh Koenig, Ruth Lucier, Roland McReynolds, Jim & Bev Wiggins. We'll send out the call for volunteers and donated construction materials when we are ready to proceed!

HRA Treasurer Jeff Dotson, River Watch volunteer Betsy Kraus, and HRA President Debbie Tunnell work on HRA office restoration.



Photo by Katie Kenlan



STREAM STEWARD PROJECT

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

Two Threatened Streams Project Off to A Running Start

The Two Streams project is essentially a three-year intensive field-study of Dry Creek and Pokeberry Creek, two major tributaries of the Haw River that are being and will be impacted by some of the largest new developments in Chatham County. HRA wants to establish a baseline of water quality data for these two streams as quickly as possible. This project is funded by a 319 nonpoint source pollution prevention grant from EPA and the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources.

We've contracted NCSU to conduct stormevent monitoring at sites upstream and downstream of new developments, so that we can evaluate the impact of the stormwater runoff from the increased impervious surfaces, wastewater spray irrigation, golf courses, etc. Dr. Daniel Line from NCSU Water Quality Group (WQG) will be overseeing the stormevent monitoring. We are also working with Dave Penrose, the N.C. expert on macroinvertebrates, to develop a more rigorous protocol for studying the declining macro communities in these two streams. Cynthia Crossen is heading up this effort. Kathy Buck and I will be contacting all landowners along Dry Creek and Pokeberry Creek to offer to conduct visual stream assessments, which are vital for identifying potential sites for stream and riparian restoration, installation of stormwater best management practices, and conservation.

The help and support that I've received from other HRA staff and volunteers for this project has been amazing. Our excellent advisory group, which acts as a technical and community oriented resource for this project, met in November and proved to be very helpful in providing the advice and encouragement we needed. Many thanks to its members: Janet McFall, Elon University; Betsy Kraus, HRA volunteer and chemist extraordinaire; Glenn Woolard, NC Cooperative Extension; John Wagner, HRA volunteer and macroinvertebrate enthusiast; Sydney Miller, Triangle J Council of Government; Dave Penrose, NCSU-WQG; Jamie Blackwell, NCSU-WQG; Dan Line, NCSU-WQG; Allison Weakley, HRA volunteer and avid botanist; Karen Hall, NCSU-WQG; Sharon and JC Garbutt, and Beverly and Jim Wiggins, long time HRA Riverwatchers on Pokeberry Creek; Jim Swenberg, landowner along Dry Creek; and Daryl Thornburg, HRA volunteer and researcher.

~ Catherine Deininger



Photo by Catherine Deininger

The *Enviroscape Watershed Model* has proven to be a great outreach and education tool for HRA. We have demonstrated stream steward principles at many events this fall, including street fairs, Jordan Lake Heritage Day, REI events, the Learning Celebration, and our HRA annual meeting--teaching stream steward principles in a hands-on, engaging, fun and memorable way for both kids and adults. (Above) At the Learning Celebration in Bynum, students from the Woods Charter School "rain" on the watershed to see the effects of stormwater on streams and lake.

Stream Planting on Tannery Branch

Tannery Branch originates from a small spring that emerges under Salisbury Street in Pittsboro next to Jane Pyle's driveway. Stormwater rushing off Salisbury Street greatly increases Tannery Branch's flow during rain events. Due to past straightening of its streambed and increased flow from stormwater, Tannery Branch became a deeply incised creek. Its bank eroded and began undercutting Rectory Street to the point where the street was in jeopardy of collapsing.

Late last summer Karen Hall from NCSU-WQG supervised restoration work on Tannery Branch. Then on a cool fall day in November, over twenty HRA volunteers came out to spend the morning helping Karen and I plant grasses, shrubs, and trees along the restored stream. Tannery Branch, that used to be hidden from public view by a dense hedge of privet, now flows through a field of native meadow grasses and flowering shrubs. In December, River Watch volunteer Chris Bouton began monitoring Tannery Branch in hopes of documenting the return of aquatic life to this newly restored creek.



Photo by Catherine Deininger

Bev and Jim Wiggins plant trees along Tannery Branch in downtown Pittsboro.



Photo by Omega Wilson

At the West End Revitalization Association's workshop in August, HRA Board member Chris Carter and River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen lead the group in song. Seated are Pat Brewer, workshop facilitator Jennifer Bynum, WERA Board member Evon Connally, and historic fiddler Joe Thompson. HRA partners with WERA in stream steward education about creeks in Mebane.



The River Watch 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

It's been a busy and fulfilling fall for the River Watch Project, with lots of opportunities to get down to the creek with folks of all ages. During the three weeks of the amazing Haw River Learning Celebration, we premiered the new Stream Steward station to enthusiastic participants--looking at maps of the watershed; discussing pollution problems and solutions; and using the Enviroscape watershed model for hands-on, engaging, memorable, and fun education about stream stewardship issues. The River Watch station focused on the science of stream monitoring, including pH testing, temperature measurement, and a more detailed treatment of macroinvertebrates. Thanks to River Watch/Stream Steward Committee members Betsy Kraus (at River Watch) and Susan Yarnell (at Stream Steward); Town of Chapel Hill's Environmental Educator Wendy Smith (for training and teaching at Stream Steward); and river watchers Sharon Garbutt (at Stream Steward) and her husband J.C. for the beautiful posters of the adult forms of macroinvertebrates.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Jordan High School's Environmental Club, with faculty advisor Chris Pupik (left back), monitor the newly-restored Third Fork Creek at Forest Hills Park in Durham.

Our new, 3-year Stream Stewardship initiative, **Two Threatened Streams**, has an awesome, dedicated, and hard-working team accepting the challenge--the River Watch/Stream Steward Committee, and the Two Threatened Streams Project Steering Committee. Catherine Deininger, key volunteers Betsy Kraus and John Wagner, and I will monitor macroinvertebrates in five sites on Dry Creek, four sites on Pokeberry Creek, and one reference site on Terrells Creek. Many thanks to John for the draft protocol for this more extensive macro monitoring, which we are using to develop the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) required by EPA. This protocol will enable us to offer more advanced monitoring opportunities to our River Watch volunteers. Dave Penrose, aquatic biologist with the NCSU Water Quality Group, has been an enthusiastic contributor of great feedback and ideas for our sampling methods, and will train us in February in collection protocol and macroinvertebrate identification.

In August, HRA Board member Chris Carter (and first Haw River Watch Coordinator!) and I represented HRA at the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) Partners meeting. Chris and I led the group in HRA's version of "Wade in the water...is it clean enough to wade in the water?"—particularly appropriate because of the disturbingly high levels of E. coli that have been found in Back Creek in Mebane, which WERA (with support from the EPA, HRA, and other partners) is working very hard to clean up. Also in August, Catherine and I met with Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Orange county officials, Friends of Bolin Creek (FoB), and the NC Botanical Garden representative for Morgan Creek, in a meeting organized by FoB's Carolyn Buckner. We had a very exciting and fruitful discussion about how the Towns could partner with the Haw River Assembly's Haw River Watch project, in order to help them to fulfill Phase II Stormwater Management requirements. A training with interested volunteers is planned for this spring.



Photo by Chris Bouton

Kathleen Rose Allden and Tim Keim learn about pH from Cynthia, at a stream monitoring training on Robeson Creek in Chatham.

Photo by Dave Otto



Kids and parents discover critters at the Bolin Creek Festival in Umstead Park, Chapel Hill.

September and October brought stream monitoring on the Haw in Bynum; a successful Bolin Creek Festival; and monitoring training with the Environmental Club at Jordan High School on Third Fork Creek at Durham's Forest Hills Park. It was very encouraging to see macroinvertebrate life returning to this (formerly nearly barren) creek, which has recently undergone stream restoration on the section running through the park. On a cold November afternoon, I trained Alyssa Wittenborn to monitor Bolin Creek at the Community Center in Chapel Hill. The next day, a hardy band of us went down to the Haw River island in Saxapahaw, to monitor as part of HRA's annual meeting (thanks to Board member Margaret Jemison for help).

Our new **Pollution Reporting section** on the HRA website has been very well received, by both citizens and some officials. Please go to www.hawriver.org and take a look at the sections under "Development and Pollution Watch": "Reporting a Pollution Problem," and "Pollution Reports." **We urge you to use this new tool to report any pollution problems you see!** ~Cynthia Crossen

Jordan Lake

A RESOURCE IN NEED OF PROTECTION

Haw River Assembly Investigates Sediment Plume at Jordan Lake

Doug Wakeman, a volunteer with HRA's Lake Watch project, first spotted sediment flowing out from Northeast Creek under the 751 bridge into Jordan Lake this past September. HRA alerted the state to the problem and did further tracking ourselves. Following the creek upstream, the sediment plume appeared to be mostly coming down Panther Creek into Northeast Creek--from the huge Amberly subdivision being built off of Yates Store Road, in the area annexed by Cary.

On October 12, 2006, Lake Watchers investigated by canoe going up Northeast Creek, and found an algae bloom going on as well--most likely the euglena species that thrives on nutrients and lives on the surface of the water. Samples were taken to Mark Vander Borgh, algae specialist at the NC Division of Water Quality, for further study.

Local pilot Bob Epting volunteered his services to do a fly over of the area with HRA Executive Director Elaine Chiosso and Doug Wakeman, on Friday October 13. It was very obvious that the muddy plume was coming down from Amberly.

The source of the algae bloom may be from a nearby golf course development or from the Durham wastewater treatment plant--that will need further investigation. The size of the Amberly project (actually nine different projects together) is quite massive, and there is a lot of bare dirt exposed, as can be seen in the aerial photo.

We hope that attention by the state and Town of Cary to this situation at Northeast Creek will result in less flow of sediment off site and into the lake. Jordan Lake is a valuable public resource that should not be degraded in this way.

Thanks again to our volunteers at "Haw River Air Patrol" and "Jordan Lake Watch Amphibious Expedition Force"! To see photos of the area taken from canoe and airplane please go to the Jordan Lake Watch website, <http://home.earthlink.net/~jordan.lake.watch>.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Northeast Creek brings sediment into Jordan Lake from Amberly Development.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Mom Katy McReynolds introduces baby Hannah to the joys of Jordan Lake, at HRA's presentation on the lake last summer. Let's make sure we protect the lake for future generations!

Will New Rules Clean Up Jordan Lake?

On January 10, 2007, the Environmental Management Commission's Water Quality Committee approved draft rules created by the Division of Water Quality to clean up Jordan Lake. The Haw River Assembly, which has taken part in stakeholder meetings to create these rules for 4 years, fears that the rules are not stringent enough to provide the nutrient pollution reductions Jordan Lake needs.

Haw River Assembly, Environment North Carolina, and the Southern Environmental Law Center and other environmental advocates are concerned that the draft rules presented to the Water Quality Committee push back implementation deadlines too far, and do not have enough "teeth" in the language to require pollution reductions from existing development to adequately protect the lake from nitrogen and phosphorous pollution. Wastewater treatment plants in cities surrounding the lake, including Greensboro, Burlington, Chapel Hill, and Durham, will not be required to make reductions in nitrogen until 2016.

Excessive algae from nutrient pollution has been an issue since the lake was first built. As the population grows in our watershed, so does the pollution. It threatens aquatic life, recreation, and a very important source of drinking water in a thirsty region. The costs to clean up this pollution will be shared by everyone--but what are the costs of inaction?

The Jordan Lake rules will next be presented to the full Environmental Management Commission in March, when the commission will decide whether to send the rules out for public comment. Let's make sure that we let the state know how important clean water in Jordan Lake is to us!

Join HRA's Lake Watch Initiative If you are a frequent user of the lake--a boater, paddler, fisherman, or hiker--you can help HRA track problems. Contact us for a Lake Watch form, or download one from www.hawriver.org (the Jordan Lake page) to report fish kills, algae blooms, outgassing, dangerous trash, or sediment plumes that you see on Jordan Lake. We'll ask for the date, the section of the lake where you saw the problem, and digital photos if any.

2006 Haw River Learning Celebration

The Learning Celebration has come and gone once more. In 2006, we served more schools than ever before, reaching nearly 1,700 students from five counties in the Haw River watershed, including some new schools we have never worked with before.

Students were incredibly thrilled by this year's Learning Celebration as always. One of the most popular new features this year was the addition of the Stream Steward station, featuring a unique 3-D watershed model, the Enviroscope, as well as lots of information about the Haw River watershed. The station, put together with help from Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, members of the Learning Celebration Steering Committee and the community at large, created a dynamic new way for our fourth-graders to take in the concepts of the watershed, the riparian buffer, the river environment, and the causes and effects of pollution. The Stream Steward station also proved to be a great way to bring out the strengths of our volunteer educator crew at all three weeks.

Another change in the Learning Celebration this year was the switch to a four-station day. This change was brought about initially by a change in the state school schedules, but proved to be a valuable way to lengthen the time volunteer educators were able to spend with the schoolchildren.

All in all, the 2006 Learning Celebration was another great success story, thanks in no small part to the great group of volunteers from the community, including our Learning Celebration Steering Committee. A great big thank you for all the crew volunteers, meal providers, landowners, canoe guides, and community members who made the 2006 Learning Celebration possible.

If you missed all the fun this year, please consider joining the ranks of volunteer environmental ambassadors as a crew member for the 2007 Learning Celebration! You can find information about becoming involved on the Haw River website, www.hawriver.org, or contact the HRA office at (919) 542-5790.

-Wanda Sundermann (Chair) & the HRLC Steering Committee

(Right) Volunteer crew member Eric Chetwynd demonstrates pH testing to students in Bynum, at the Stream Watch Station. Photo by Cynthia Crossen.



Comments from the 4th-graders :

"I really liked seeing how the damselfly larva swam. It was beautiful and cool how they swam...side to side like a lizard coming to take a big breath. I learned a lot today. I wish I could go over there next time!" -- Trenton

"I liked the clay because we got to put it on our face. I like the river up close because we got to see fish and some bugs in the river and the air. We got to see a turtle. I love the dancing where we all got to dance.." -- Alex

"It was one of our favorite field trips so far. What I

enjoyed was our first station when we saw a small figure of how Haw River gets its water. First you put fake fertilizer and fake poop and then you take spray bottles and spray it everywhere and have a rain storm. Then you look at the Jordan Lake and it is polluted." -- Kelsey



Riverwatcher Betsy Kraus (upper left) leads a critter hunt at Guilrock.

"I really liked putting my hands in the river, When it was time to leave I said, "I don't want to go home. I want to stay!" -- Alexandra

"I really liked the puppet show because it was funny, entertaining, and it also taught me a lesson about polluting...I t's hard to choose which [activity] I liked best, because I liked all of them." --Michael H.

"I like the Hawville model best. My parents stopped putting too much fertilizer and insecticide, they stopped putting trash around, so did my brother and I." --Ryan

"Thank you for letting us see the little critters. I learned how to not pollute the water and how to keep the animals in the water safe and healthy. I had a great time at the Haw River Festival." --Michael W.

Reaches Kids Throughout the Watershed

Comments from teachers :

"The Learning Celebration was GREAT-- educational, enjoyable, and well organized...a great experience for our kids."

"The volunteers are excellent. The Enviroscape was an excellent model. We look forward to next year."

"You all put on a wonderful program and we enjoy coming every year."

"The model of the ecosystem was new and most enjoyable educationally."

"I like the blend of subject areas, the tempo of moving about, the overriding theme of 'this is your river/world--take care of it.'"



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

(Above) Mardi Magoo (front) encourages river-inspired art on the upper Haw at Guilrock. (Below) Fourth-graders love being right out on the Haw River at Saxapahaw.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Many Thanks to: ❖ each and every weekly crew member ❖ each and every day volunteer ❖ all meal providers ❖ everyone who helped with moves ❖ all the terrific canoe guides ❖ the Learning Celebration Steering Committee--*the wonderful group of volunteers who devote their time & energy to organizing & planning this event:* Wanda Sundermann, chair; Martha Pentecost, Sarah Howe, Alan Best, JJ Richardson, Paul Fleckenstein, Mardi Magoo, Lauren Rosenthal & Sue Ellett ❖ Carly McGee, coordinator ❖ Taylor Garbutt, ass't coordinator ❖ Rachel Winters, food coordinator ❖ Donovan Zimmerman & Lea Clayton for hosting in Saxapahaw ❖ the McFall family for help with trails ❖ Mardi, Jimmy, and Zella Magoo for a fabulous new puppet show ❖ Chris Carter and the Solar Village Institute ❖ NC State Parks and especially the very helpful park rangers from Jordan Lake for use of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area ❖ Charles Stevens for our use of his land for the volunteer camp site ❖ Camp Guilrock for hosting the Learning Celebration at their lovely land along the upper Haw River

Special Thanks to HRA folks: ❖ Cynthia Crossen ❖ Elaine Chiosso ❖ Catherine Deininger ❖ Jeff Dotson ❖ HRA Board of Directors ❖ Bob Brueckner ❖ Mac Jordan

this project was partially funded by: Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) The employees at the Cary store nominated us for this grant. Please give them a big thanks when you shop there!



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Puppeteers Martha Pentecost (as True Blue Lou, left) and Zella Magoo (as Sunshine Sue, holding "Crazy Pete") entertain and educate 4th-graders.

Photo by Ken Crossen

25 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

1982 Hundreds attend February charter meeting of HRA in Pittsboro. HRA organizes "Canoe-A-Thon" for clean water at the dedication of Jordan Lake May 1, 1982.

1983 "Great Haw River Race" held in Haw River, field trip program, landowner contacts, and work with elected officials to help protect the Haw River underway.

1984 State begins "Stream Watch" program, and Miles Agee of HRA organizes volunteers to begin monitoring the Haw.

1985 HRA publishes "Haw River Drinking Water Survey, A Study of Synthetic Organic Chemicals in Pittsboro Drinking Water and Influent Haw River Water"--a scientific study funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Report and recommendations on clean water legislation are made to the General Assembly.

1986 First Haw River Spring Festival is held at Jordan Lake. HRA is involved in efforts to build trails at the Lake, and continues educational work on clean water.

1987 HRA works with the Bynum community and public health officials to investigate possible cancer link to Haw River drinking water.

1988 HRA works with Alamance citizens to stop siting of landfill on the river (not for long, unfortunately). First Haw River trash clean-up held, in Bynum!

1989 HRA talks with officials about the possibility of a future state park on the Haw. Louise Kessel proposes new "Haw River Festival Learning Celebration" for schools, modeled on programs

she took part in on the Hudson and Mississippi rivers. Organizing begins, with Louise and amazing volunteers leading the way.

1990 The first Haw River "Learning Celebration" takes place for three weeks in May, bringing hundreds of volunteers (including naturalists, cooks, artists, scientists, musicians, inventors) together with over 2000 schoolchildren.

1991 Annual March Clean-Up-A-Thon now expands to sites upriver. HRA sponsors "River Jamboree" in Pittsboro, bringing together 20 N.C. river groups. HRA works with citizens to stop re-zoning around Lake Jeanette, and a sewage discharge at the Haw headwaters near Oak Ridge. Learning Celebration is now 4 weeks long, plus public Festival Finale. Clyde Jones designs first Festival T-shirt.

1992 HRA teams with Jordan Foundation to hold first "Meadowfest" concert and fundraiser--a weekend of music in the hills over the Haw in Saxapahaw. HRA joins the battle to stop siting of Alamance landfill at Austin Quarter.

1993 HRA gets a home! Bynum mill owner Mr. Stevens rents the last house still owned by the mill to HRA for a very modest sum; we renovate and move in. Stream Watch project is revived and re-envisioned as River Watch; grant funding is sought to hire staff person to coordinate it.

1994 HRA receives grants from EPA and Z. Smith Reynolds to start "River Watch" monitoring project, and provide funding for new outreach work to bring in a more diverse membership (including geographically).

1995 Learning Celebration evolves to a new model: 3 weeks at 3 sites with 3 public "finales", partnering with Alamance Community College and The Summit Conference Center. Pete Seeger and grandson Tao Rodriguez perform benefit concert for Learning Celebration. We launch the new "River Watch" project. Cary



Members of the Haw River Assembly demonstrate for clean water at the completion of the canoe-a-thon, coinciding with the dedication of Jordan Lake, May 1, 1982. (from HRA's second newsletter, June 1982)

HRA's WORK FOR THE RIVER

annexes Chatham land on NE side of Jordan Lake, approves plans for huge "Amberly" development.

1996 Hurricane Fran causes massive flooding along Haw--crests bridge at Saxapahaw, alters stream-banks, rapids and islands. HRA joins with other organizations in the state calling for a moratorium on intensive swine operations, and storage for low level radioactive waste. HRA organizes meeting at Camp Guilrock to discuss vision for a future "Haw River Trail". HRA co-founder Chuck Brady is NASA flight surgeon on the Space Shuttle!

1997 HRA is asked to be on the state's River Assessment Advisory Committee. HRA joins with Deep River activists to protest building of Randleman Dam--Greensboro's increased water supply will end up as wastewater in the Haw. (American Canoe Association sues Greensboro under Clean Water Act for pollution from their WWTP). HRA organizes "flotilla" on Jordan Lake for clean water.

1998 Chris Carter, River Watch Coordinator, takes to the air to investigate massive sediment plume; tracks it to huge land clearing in Guilford Co. HRA helps save old Bynum Bridge from destruction. We receive grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the new N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund to preserve the headwater springs of the Haw in Forsyth County. Kudos to Lynn Featherstone!

1999 10th Learning Celebration takes place (with first Puppet performance)--over 20,000 4th graders have attended! HRA Advocacy Committee focuses on the problems of unprecedented growth and sprawl in the watershed.

2000 HRA gets and takes part in public hearing on state water quality permits for huge golf course development near Jordan Lake (now "The Preserve"). HRA receives its first EPA/DENR 319 grant and launches "Stream Steward Project" to work with Pittsboro community to clean up Robeson Creek. HRA joins other orgs. asking state for mandatory stream buffers on the Cape Fear.

2001 Heron Circle begins! City of Graham opens new canoe access on Haw at Hwy 54. HRA joins N.C. Watershed Alliance for first Clean Water Lobby Day. We join Alamance citizens protesting air pollution from Stericycle incinerator. Severe drought results in winter algae blooms on the river.

2002 Massive developments proposed in Chatham threaten tributaries and Haw. HRA publishes and distributes "Stream Steward Handbook". Upper New Hope Arm of Jordan Lake put on federal "Impaired Waters" list.

2003 Stream Steward Campaign teams up with Summerfield community in Guilford for conservation education and outreach. New Haw River State Park is created at beautiful wetlands on the Guilford/Rockingham county line. State begins process of new rules to reduce nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake--HRA joins Stakeholder Project.

2004 N.C. buys 900 acre Duke land in Chatham (between Bynum and Hwy 64 bridge) for river corridor park: Lower Haw River State Natural Area. HRA urges strong rules for Jordan Lake, and joins with other state groups for passage of rules to control polluted runoff. HRA helps Swepsonville create new River Park.

2005 HRA becomes a partner for the EPA Environmental Justice grant to the Mebane-based West End Revitalization Association fighting for "Rights to Basic Amenities", including clean water. HRA helps win passage at General Assembly of "Drinking Water Reservoir Protection Act". HRA is invited as presenter at the 5th Korean River Day in South Korea, focusing on river festivals (HRA represented by JJ Richardson, our Learning Celebration coordinator).

2006 We buy our office (the old mill house in Bynum)! We work with Triangle Land Conservancy to get 122 new acres added to State Natural Area on the Haw. New Bridge Watch and Lake Watch initiatives launched with volunteers. We Partner with Elon University on a river conservation assessment funded by CWMTF. Local governments along the Haw River sign memorandum of agreement to promote trails and conservation along the Haw.

25th Anniversary Goals!

We would like to use our anniversary year to strengthen our organization with new members and new funds. We have set a goal to raise \$25,000 in addition to our regular budget this year to increase our capacity to protect the Haw River. We will be sending a special appeal later this winter, and hope you can help us meet this goal! We have many needs, but many hands can make it happen!

We are also looking forward to celebrating our 25th with a big benefit music/dance bash in April. A committee spearheaded by Wanda Sunderman is at work on the plans for this--please let us know if you would like to join the committee! We are also looking for hosts for some house parties this year where our staff and board can bring the message of HRA to potential new members (such as your friends and neighbors). If you would like to host one of these, please let Elaine know at the HRA office.



Darrell McBane presents Haw River Trails Partner thank you plaque to HRA Board of Directors.

HAW RIVER ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING BRINGS US TOGETHER

We had a wonderful time at our HRA Annual Meeting on November 4, in the historic mill town Saxapahaw, overlooking the Haw River in Alamance County. Folks gathered in the brisk sunny afternoon for river monitoring led by Cynthia, and a demonstration of the new Enviroscape, a stormwater pollution model demonstrating good (and bad!) stream steward practices. We gathered back inside the warm and beautiful New Century Charter High School at Rivermill for a delicious potluck lunch and the meeting.

We said a fond farewell to outgoing Board members Kira Dirlik, Donna Riggs, Pierre Lauffer and Lauren Rosenthal, thanking them for all their good works, and especially for Kira's many years as Secretary. We elected and welcomed new Board members Chris Carter and Roland McReynolds. Chris runs the Solar Village Institute (alternative energy installation and workshops) in Saxapahaw. He has been part of HRA for many years, including past board member and president, a founder of the Learning

Celebration, and our first River Watch Coordinator! Roland has been very active in Chatham County, fighting some of the worst of the developments that have been eating up the countryside, and is the new Exec. Director of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc.

Our keynote speaker was Darrell McBane, Director of the State Trails Program. He brought some fabulous maps of proposed trails on the Haw, and explained how the Haw River corridor is now part of the primary route planned for the Mountains to Sea Trail. He presented HRA with a lovely framed plaque signed by Secretary Bill Ross of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, thanking HRA as a Haw River trails partner.

After the meeting Joe Jacob led a few brave souls out to paddle on the Saxapahaw lake under a full moon, and Heron Circle members attended a special reception organized by Margaret Jemison and Rachel Winters. At the reception, held in the lovely Rivermill Retreat Center overlooking the Haw, we enjoyed music by Jimmy Magoo, Donovan Zimmerman, and Lea Clayton, and excellent wines donated by wineries from the Haw River watershed! Many thanks to Mac Jordan and Heather LaGarde for use of the Rivermill Retreat Center (to inquire about renting the space for private parties go to www.rivermillvillage.com/retreat.html) and to New Century Charter School (www.newcenturyhs.org) for hosting our meeting. Thanks to the Haw River Wine Trail wineries (www.hawriverwinetrail.com)--Benjamin, Creek Side, Grove, Glen Marie, and Iron Gate--for their delicious donations. And a big thanks to the musicians and volunteers who made this Annual Meeting such a special event.

Join the Haw River Clean-Up March 17 On Saturday, March 17, join with enthusiastic volunteers for the Haw River Assembly's 17th Annual Clean-Up-A-Thon. We will be out cleaning up trash from the river banks, creeks, and Jordan Lake on foot, and even canoe! 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? We provide the bags, gloves, and tally sheets--you provide the people power! Call (919) 542-5790, or email info@hawriver.org to sign up. Let us know if you have a specific location you want to clean up, or would like to join an existing team.

Chatham Commissioners Deny Subdivision Application

The new Board of Commissioners has ushered in a new day in Chatham, by voting unanimously to deny approval for the Lystra Road Subdivision, citing the unsuitability of the land for the plan proposed. This was the first vote against a development in Chatham in four years. We applaud this decision to protect this steep land and streams close to Jordan Lake.

Another development nearby, the "Village" section of the Westfall (formerly Booth Mountain) development, was approved by the previous board and is creating problems as construction begins. Erosion on-site, and groundwater forcing its way through sediment control devices, is flooding lands and muddying Herndon Creek which flows into Jordan Lake. Allison Weakley has called the problems to the attention of local, state and federal agencies, and has urged the Chatham Commissioners to investigate whether some wetlands and streams were not correctly identified before construction began.

For updates on development, go to the HRA website page for "Pollution Reports", at www.hawriver.org. If you have a report to send in, please go to our website page "Report a Pollution Problem".



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

4th-grader enjoys the Lower Haw River State Natural Area at the Learning Celebration in Bynum.

River Lands Protected *continued from page 1*

The Haw River in this area of Chatham County has been identified as a nationally significant aquatic habitat, and the riparian lands as a natural area of state significance, because they provide habitat for rare native plants and animals, including the endangered Cape Fear Shiner. As part of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, these lands will be preserved for all times. This section of the river is also the water supply for Pittsboro and a popular access point for paddlers, swimmers, and fishing.

On August 25, 2006, a 40-acre tract on the Pittsboro side of the Haw River near Bynum was acquired by the state. Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) and HRA partnered with the state to help conserve the Chatham County land. State Parks now owns the land, while the state Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund paid for the purchase. HRA established the relationship with the seller, Charles Stevens (owner of the Bynum mill land) and secured the purchase option. TLC performed legal work and secured funding from the state trust funds. The property features a mixed hardwood forest and protects 4,373 feet of Haw River frontage and provides another 1,887 feet of stream buffer on Brooks Branch. Mr. Stevens wanted his land to become "public domain", and we owe him much thanks for this.

On November 7, 2006, eighty-two acres of woodlands along the Haw River directly across from the Stevens land were purchased by the state for \$1.2 million. The land, nestled between the US 15-501 bridge, the Haw River, and Moore Mountain Road, also will be included in the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. The

N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund paid for the land, which cost about \$14,600 per acre. TLC, with help from HRA, negotiated the purchase from the N.C. Botanical Garden at UNC-Chapel Hill, which had received the land as a donation from the owner, Mrs. Eloise Pegg. The property protects about 2,000 feet of river frontage on the Haw and another 3,400 feet of buffer on both sides of two small tributaries. The land is a lovely bottomland forest and home to a rare wildflower, *Phacelia covillei*, commonly known as the eastern buttercup phacelia. A parking area on the side of US 15-501 provides a path to the river for fishing and an access point for canoeists and kayakers who are taking out after a whitewater trip from Chicken Bridge--or just enjoying paddling on the quiet river waters above the Bynum Dam.

Remembering Robert K. Gardner (1949-2006)

The Haw River Assembly is most appreciative of memorial gifts received in honor of Rob Gardner. Rob is remembered by friends and associates as a generous plantsman, sharing together plants and plant secrets. He was an avid birder and fisherman and an enthusiastic wilderness hiker and camper. An avid paddler, he was always ready to put paddle and canoe in the waters, often along stretches of the Haw River. For Rob Gardner's sharing of a life filled with the joys and wonders of nature and gardening, we are all richer.

Help Us Protect the Haw River

Haw River Assembly Membership Join/Renewal/Donation

I want to: Join Renew my 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.)

\$20 Individual _____ \$30 Family _____ \$50 Sustaining Supporter _____

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip _____

Phone # () _____ E-mail: _____

Enclosed is a special donation of \$ _____ for HRA's 25th Anniversary campaign.

Tell me more about volunteering: Learning Celebration - Fall Haw River Watch Monitoring - ongoing

Lake Watch - ongoing Bridge Watch - ongoing River Cleanup - March Haw River Festival - May

Please mail to: Haw River Assembly, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Thank you!

Upcoming 2007 HRA Events

Sat., Feb. 24, 9 am, Lower Haw River State Natural Area Hike, Bynum. Leader: Joe Jacob (336)260-6465

Saturday, March 17, Clean-up-a-thon, throughout the Haw River Watershed, our annual river cleanup (see page 10 for details).

March 24-25 Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend

Sat., March 24, Paddle & Potluck, Saxapahaw. Joe Jacob (336)260-6465

Fri., March 24 - Sat., March 25 N.C. Conservation Network's 6th Annual Retreat, Brown Summit Join members of NC's environmental community in becoming more effective advocates through networking, workshops, skills building, updates on issues, and fun. See www.nccconservationnetwork.org for details.

April--date to be announced, 25th Anniversary Celebration Stay tuned for more information on a fun big evening with music, food, & dancing!

Sat., April 21, Earth Day Wildflower Hike along the Haw, Bynum

Saturday, May 12, 1-6 pm, Haw River Festival, Old Bynum Bridge

Sat., May 19, Stargazing Float, Saxapahaw. Joe Jacob (336)260-6465

Sat., June 2, Eagle Watch, Jordan Lake

Plus River monitoring this July (Saxapahaw) and September (Bynum); paddle trips Aug. 19, Oct. 31, and Nov. 24; Jordan Lake Heritage Day Oct. 6; Mill Tour Dec. 1, *and more!* Check

www.hawriver.org for details.

For info see Upcoming Events at www.hawriver.org; for info and to volunteer, contact HRA at (919) 542-5790; info@hawriver.org.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

2007 Haw River Festival T-shirt!

Clyde Jones flying ducks on pale moss green or pale yellow shirt, modeled by HRA Vice-President Ruth Lucier and HRA President Debbie Tunnell

\$ 20 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL

\$ 16 (youth small & medium)

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

Haw River Cleanup
March 17!

Address Service Requested

Bynum, NC 27228

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Haw River Assembly

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