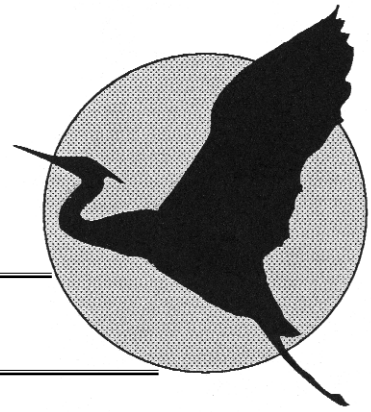


# ***Haw River Assembly Newsletter September 2007***



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)

## ***Jordan Lake--Let's Protect These Waters***

*The waters of Jordan Lake are home to magnificent bald eagles, herons and osprey, and a refuge for us to enjoy--to hike, paddle, swim and fish. For many, Jordan Lake is the water of life itself that comes out of the faucets each day. But these waters are endangered by the pollution of one million people who live upstream in the fast-growing Triangle and Triad regions. With growth must come responsibility --and protecting our waters is one of the most important responsibilities we have.*

The state's proposed rules to clean up Jordan Lake finally went out for official public comment this summer (until September 14). We thank all the HRA members and other citizens who came out to speak at the public hearings or sent in written comments. Chatham County, the Town of Chapel Hill, and the Town of Apex all passed resolutions urging the state to adopt strong rules to protect Jordan Lake. New Hope Audubon Society, Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities, and the Carolina Canoe Club have also spoken out and urged their members to support these rules to protect the lake for recreation, drinking water and wildlife.

The Haw River Assembly continues to push for the passage of strong rules. We are joined in this effort by environmental allies from around the state (see "Campaign to Clean Up Jordan Lake" box on page 5).

### **We Support Strong Rules**

#### ***Clean up ALL the waters that drain to Jordan Lake.***

In order to clean up Jordan Lake we need to reduce the nutrient pollution that flows into every creek in the watershed. There are creeks in almost all of our towns and cities in this watershed that are on the federal "impaired waters" list: North and South Buffalo creeks in Greensboro; Little Troublesome Creek in Reidsville; Little Alamance Creek in Burlington; Robeson Creek in Pittsboro; Bolin, Booker, and Morgan Creeks in Chapel Hill; Third Fork and Northeast Creeks in Durham. Reducing nutrient pollution will have a positive impact on all these creeks. People who never visit or drink water from Jordan Lake will enjoy the benefits of cleaner water right where they live if these rules are passed.

Photo by Elaine Chiosso



*Osprey carrying nest building sticks at Jordan Lake.*

### ***Clean up Pollution from Existing Development***

If these rules are going to accomplish the goal of a healthier Jordan Lake then we have to reduce pollution from existing sources--not just from new development. We must reduce the pollution that rushes into creeks in cities and suburbs after every rain from yards, roads, and parking lots. We can use both new stormwater technologies and old practices such as cisterns and rain gardens to make our urban streams cleaner and healthier. *continued on page 5*



*4-H Campers test the pH of Jordan Lake's water, to see whether it's in a healthy range. Photo by Cynthia Crossen*

**Join us for the  
HRA Annual  
Meeting!**

**Sunday afternoon,  
November 4,  
at Haw River State  
Park in Browns  
Summit. NC DENR  
Secretary Bill Ross  
will be our keynote  
speaker. Details on page 2**

**Haw River Festival "Learning Celebration" for Schools This Fall! Sept. 22 - Oct. 12 (see p.6)**

# HRA Board of Directors

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**Ruth Lucier**, Vice-President, *Bynum*,  
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## HRA Staff

- Elaine Chiosso**, *Executive Director*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *River Watch Project Coordinator*  
**Catherine Deininger**, *Stream Steward Project Coord.*  
**Aakara Wiegand**, *Learning Celebration Coordinator*  
**Kathy Buck**, *Office Manager*

## Newsletter Staff

- Editor:** Cynthia Crossen \* **Contributors:** Elaine Chiosso,  
 Cynthia Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Allison Weakley,  
 Aakara Wiegand \* **Photos:** Elaine Chiosso, Cynthia  
 Crossen, Ken Crossen, Catherine Deininger, Doug  
 Wakeman \* **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: \$20    Family: \$30*

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

*Low Income: \$10*

*The Haw River Assembly is a nonprofit grass-  
 roots organization founded in 1982. Our mis-  
 sion 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

*Late summer has come to the Haw River. The sweet smell of wild clematis fills the air, and asters are in bloom. The graceful seeds on river oats nod in the breeze. Leaves fall from weary trees who can wait no longer for the rains to come. The eagles and ospreys are taking advantage of the summer drought, ranging up river from Jordan Lake to swoop after fish in the clear low waters. Herons and egrets quietly stalk through the shallows.*

*I hope you can find time to sit by the beautiful Haw River, or a nearby creek, and listen to the music of the water flowing by. I hope you have the chance to see the magnificent eagles and ospreys soar above the river or Jordan Lake--and to take away a little of that beauty as you go. These waters give us life itself; we must do all we can to protect them.*

*From Cynthia Crossen's beautiful song for the Haw River:*

*"When I am weary and burdened by care,  
 Sorrows seem heavy and so hard to bear,  
 I sit by the water and find comfort there  
 By the river, I'm home.*

*Down by the river, the beautiful river,  
 Down by the river, river so free,  
 Flow on forever, beautiful river,\*  
 Beautiful river, fill me with peace."*

*May you too find peace by the river. From the river, Elaine*

## **HRA 25th Annual Membership Meeting** **Sunday afternoon, November 4** **at Haw River State Park** **Keynote Speaker: Secretary Bill Ross**

Twenty-five years ago, the possibility of a state park on the Haw River seemed like only a dream. Celebrate the reality of this new (and still growing) state park by joining us for an afternoon at the Haw River Assembly Annual Membership Meeting. The park is located on the Guilford/Rockingham County line near Browns Summit, about 15 miles from Greensboro.

We'll enjoy the beauty of the beautiful forest and wetlands--including a boardwalk nature trail. The meeting will be held at the lovely Summit Environmental Education Center on site (formerly owned by the Episcopal Diocese). We will also have a delicious lunch provided by the center (included in your \$10 donation to help us defray the cost).

Our keynote speaker will be Bill Ross, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, who has been at the forefront of new opportunities in North Carolina to save and protect our most special places. We will also have updates on our current work at the Haw River Assembly, and the most crucial issues in our watershed. Elections for our Board of Directors are held at the annual meeting--if you or someone you know would be a good candidate to serve on our board, please contact Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director, for more information: (919) 542-5790 or info@hawriver.org.

We hope you can join us for this special day on November 4th. We will be sending out invitations with more details and the agenda soon. To learn more about the state park, and for directions, go to <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/TheSummit/>.



# STREAM STEWARD PROJECT

Project Coordinator: Catherine Deininger Email: [deininger@hawriver.org](mailto:deininger@hawriver.org)

## Monitoring Stormwater Runoff from Two Major Developments in Chatham by Catherine Deininger

I spent a morning in June with Dan Line, Jamie Blackwell, and Brandon Culberson from NCSU Water Quality Group (NCSU WQG) installing a stormwater monitoring station on Pokeberry Creek. HRA has contracted the NCSU WQG to install and manage four monitoring stations to monitor pollution as part of the Two Threatened Streams project. There is one station upstream and one downstream of the Chapel Ridge development on Dry Creek; and one station upstream and one downstream of the Briar Chapel development on Pokeberry Creek. The stormwater samples collected at these stations are being analyzed for nitrogen (NH3-N, NO3-N, TKN), phosphorus (TP), and sediment (TSS). In addition, NCSU will be measuring stream flow, which will allow for the calculation of annual loading and discharge of pollutants for the drainage area.

At first glance the monitoring station appears to be just a big wooden box sitting in the floodplain, and a white ruler with one end set on the streambed and the other end sticking up into air. The white ruler is actually a staff gauge that is used to measure the water level in the stream. According to Dan Line, "Everything hinges on the stream gauge, so it has to be stable for a good sampling." Measurements from the staff gauge are used to calibrate depth measurements done by the sampler. Dan and Brandon spent most of that early summer morning attaching the staff gauge to streambank and to a tree so that it wouldn't end up being washed downstream during a big rainstorm.

While Dan and Brandon were wrestling with the staff gauge, Jamie set up the big wooden box that holds the automated water quality sampler with an integrated depth-measuring device. The depth-measuring device, attached to the streambed near the staff gauge, is a pressure transducer that measures the water depth based on water pressure at the bottom of the stream. The sampler is set to collect samples starting when the stream level has risen about .02 feet, estimated to be the amount the water level rises for about 1/2 inch of rainfall. Our hope is to sample at least 12 storm events a year. Since June, samples have been collected for only two storm events due to dry weather conditions--yet another reason to hope for more rain.



*Brandon Culberson checks out the automated water quality sampler for stormwater monitoring on Pokeberry.*

Photo by Catherine Deininger

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### Development Watch: *Issues in the Watershed*

**Guilford and Rockingham counties:** **Haw River State Park supporters are fighting a proposed golf course development on land adjacent to the new Haw River State Park.** This is the same development company, Bluegreen (based in Florida), that muddied creeks and had permit violations while building two golf course developments in Chatham County (Chapel Ridge on Dry Creek and The Preserve at Jordan Lake). They are requesting approval for an even more dense development on land that the state had hoped to purchase for the park. The Haw River Assembly joined local residents and park supporters at a public hearing this summer to urge that it not be approved. Regrettably, the Guilford Planning Board passed it, but the decision has been appealed to the County Commissioners who will make the final decision. For more information on this effort go to: [www.citizensforhawriversp.org](http://www.citizensforhawriversp.org).

**Alamance County:** **Martin Marietta Materials' request for expansion of their permit for a quarry near the town of Green Level sparked community protests.** Blasting and dust from the quarry has made life hard for the surrounding residents, and HRA's own investigation of water quality in Boyd's Creek showed considerable problems from the mining process. We joined others asking for a public hearing on the Army Corps permit, but it was denied. Our monitoring data has been helpful in getting the town government to take a more proactive position on this issue, and we believe the fight is not over.

**Another group of citizens has been organizing to fight the problems with land application of sludge** from municipal waste water treatment plants that can cause health problems to nearby residents, as well as air and water pollution. To join in this effort contact Sue Dayton: [sdayton@swcp.com](mailto:sdayton@swcp.com).

**Chatham County:** **HRA supports the recommendations of the Environmental Review Board** for environmental assessments of development proposals and important riparian buffers (see article by Allison Weakley on page 7). **We spoke up to protect Robeson Creek and urged the Pittsboro Town Board to disapprove Pittsboro Place**, a "mega-mall" development that would be a harmful to the creek and water resources. We have also been calling attention to several developments whose construction activities are muddying creeks, including The Legacy, Westfall and the "satellite" developments surrounding Chapel Ridge (see the "Pollution Reports" page at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org)).



# 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

Thanks to the efforts of river watchers since 1994, we have compiled a significant amount of data about the Haw River and its tributaries. Look for our latest comprehensive report: the **2006 Haw River Project Monitoring Report** on the River Watch page at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).

**River Watch News:** We extend a big thanks to REI, who has given the Haw River Watch Project a \$7,000 grant, which we will use to enhance the River Watch project. We have bought a topnotch microscope which connects to our laptop computer and digital projector to show the microscope contents to a larger audience, and to take “up close and personal” photos of macroinvertebrates to use in training riverwatchers. In the coming year, look for a special event for river watchers, to collect some critters, then take them into a nearby “lab” to show everyone their astounding details in the microscope.



**Two Threatened Streams Project:** We are holding identification sessions for the macroinvertebrate samples we collected this April from nine sites on Pokeberry and Dry Creeks. As we learn to identify mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies to the family level, our new microscope enables us to see so many beautiful and fascinating details, like neck gills on the Nemouridae stonefly and mouthparts for the Gomphidae dragonfly. Our wonder at these marvelous creatures grows by the day. We have been sending our macro photos to expert aquatic entomologist Dave Penrose to confirm our ID’s, and to identify “stumbers” for us. I am excited about using our photographs to compile a fantastic identification manual for river watchers.



We found this *Limnephilidae* Caddisfly in Pokeberry Creek, near its confluence with the Haw.

All photos on this page by Cynthia Crossen



*The Littlest River Watcher:* Board member Anne Cassebaum’s grandson is intent on catching critters from the Haw in Saxapahaw.

**Outreach:** Each year, more and more folks--adults and kids--come down to Bynum Beach during the Haw River Festival, to see what we are catching from the river. It’s a good thing that I get such excellent help from River Watch volunteers such as Allison and Rhiannon Weakley, and HRF volunteer Maja Kricker. When it began to rain, a large group of us all got under the bridge, and continued our monitoring, taking that opportunity to do transparency and pH testing. I also got to share my passion for river critters at the Nature Explorers Camp at the Botanical Garden, the 4-H camp at Jordan Lake, and at the Haw in Saxapahaw. \* For three days at HRA’s booth at the Eno River Festival, volunteers collected hundreds and hundreds of signatures on our petition to clean up Jordan Lake. Many thanks to Elaine (enthusiastic and tireless all three days), Ken Crossen, and all the volunteers who make it possible for HRA to “represent” at this, the largest environmental festival in our area.

**Press!** HRA and the River Watch Project got very nice coverage in the Carrboro Citizen, in an article on July 19 by Susan Dickson. You can read it at:

<http://www.carrborocitizen.com/main/2007/07/19/haw-river-watch-studies-river-health/>

### Welcome to new teams!

- Barb Thomas and neighbors on Morgan Creek
- Sarah Cornette and family on the Haw in Chatham

~For the river, Cynthia

*I wound myself in a white cocoon of singing,  
All day long in the brook’s uneven bed,  
Measuring out my soul in a mucous thread;  
Dimly now to the brook’s green bottom clinging  
Men behold me, a worm spun out and dead,  
Walled in an iron house of silky singing.*  
Edna St. Vincent Millay



Nature Explorers at the N.C. Botanical Garden summer camp check the transparency of Meeting of the Waters creek.

# Jordan Lake

## A RESOURCE IN NEED OF PROTECTION

**Clean up Nitrogen in Wastewater by 2011--the Lake can't wait until 2016.** *continued from page 1*

Ten big municipal and county wastewater treatment plants and 55 smaller facilities discharge their treated effluent into creeks that flow to Jordan Lake. During droughts it is estimated that up to 90% of the water flowing into Jordan Lake has been through a treatment plant at least once, and the concentration of nutrients is at its highest. Jordan Lake cannot wait until the year 2016, as proposed in the current rules, for nitrogen to be reduced from the wastewater treatment plants. The 2011 implementation date must be reinstated. The lake is at a tipping point, and we believe human health and the aquatic ecosystem will suffer if we don't act sooner.

### Opposition to the Rules

Unfortunately, there is strong opposition to the rules from many of the cities and towns of the Haw River watershed, including Greensboro, Burlington and Graham. Opposition, and what we consider gross misinformation about the rules, was voiced at the public hearings from local upriver governments, and from the homebuilders/realty lobby. The new Jordan Lake protections were called too costly, burdensome, or just plain unnecessary. Hardest to hear were comments that those upstream should not have to reduce their own pollution for the sake of those downstream.

### We Can't Delay

We know first hand what nutrient pollution looks like at Jordan Lake. The excessive nutrients--phosphate and nitrogen--"overfertilize" the lake, creating algae blooms and very high alkaline pH that stresses and kills fish and aquatic life. It makes drinking water treatment more difficult and expensive, and makes the lake much less attractive for recreation.

Jordan Lake should be one of the jewels of our rapidly growing Piedmont region. It should not be treated as the state's biggest stormwater pond and wastewater lagoon. There are close to a million people living in the Jordan Lake watershed now, and it will take all of our efforts and concern to clean up its waters.

The Triad and Triangle are prosperous and rapidly growing regions of North Carolina, and need clean creeks. We need a clean Haw River and a clean Jordan Lake for current and future recreation, greenways, wildlife habitat, and drinking water sources. The predictions of a drier and hotter climate for this area will make clean water an even more precious resource in the future. Right now, the entire state is in a drought and residents are being asked to conserve water before it gets worse--recalling the terrible drought earlier this decade. Water is a precious resource--keeping it clean is a responsibility we all must share.

### What's Next?

The NC Environmental Management Commission will make a final decision about the rules this fall or winter: to accept, revise, or reject them.

Whatever their decision, we expect that the opposition to the rules will mean that they will come before the General Assembly in 2008 for final passage. The mandate for these rules comes not only from state clean water requirements but also under the EPA Clean Water Act. We will be watching closely to see how these mandates are carried out.

### Clean up Jordan Lake now.



*4-H camp kids hunt for water bugs in Jordan Lake.*

### NC Environmental Groups Launch Campaign to Clean up Jordan Lake!

The campaign is sponsored by NC environmental groups that are supporting passage of strong rules to reduce the nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake:

Haw River Assembly  
NC Conservation Network  
Environment NC  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
NC Sierra Club  
Conservation Council of NC  
Environmental Defense.

Go to the website

[www.CleanJordanLake.org](http://www.CleanJordanLake.org)

for information about how to support the proposed rules and to add your name to an easy sign-on petition to the state. Links to background materials are also the website.

The campaign has bumper stickers and yard signs "Jordan Lake--Clean it Up" that we want to distribute. To get a sign or sticker, please contact HRA at (919) 542-5790 or [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org).

### 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](http://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.

# Learning Celebration News

So far our work together as a steering committee and my own efforts to build a fabulous Fall Learning Celebration (LC) have been bountiful. We are changing the way we look by creating brand new literature to attract and inform our schools and volunteers. We have handed out over 100 color brochures to potential volunteers, and are spreading the word about the Haw River and the school program called the Learning Celebration.

We have worked hard to get schools registered and expect to have a full schedule this year. The rising cost of gasoline has limited the number of field trips that many schools can take. Thus, our current worldly events limit nearby students from receiving education about the water and environment so close to home. We have a great set of recruitment materials to help them decide to choose us for their one field trip.

Our wonderful volunteers are still signing up--and we have extra help this year from David Ostrovsky, a soulful committed volunteer of the LC, who is assisting me in volunteer recruitment and registration. Thanks to his efforts and my own, we are very much in a successful stage of this process. If you have not registered your committed self yet, there is room--please consider volunteering for a day or more.

## Ways to help with this year's LC:

~ Tell family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about the enjoyment you have experienced in the many years of Haw River Festival Learning Celebration.

~ Prepare a lunch or dinner for about 30 people and bring it to our site. Or, donate either money or food for one of our meals. Contact Rachel Winters or myself to donate in this way.

~ Volunteer yourself, your energy, your time, your gratitude, your encouragement, your support, and your beliefs and be a part of the wonderful ever-expanding LC community. We need you whether you have never helped out before or whether you are a returning volunteer. Our program is built upon the support our volunteers provide to educate our communities. You are the Haw River Learning Celebration. As the coordinator, I am so pleased by the immense efforts of you all to give yet again, so that the 18th Annual HRA LC can actually happen.

To Volunteer: Contact Aakara at (919) 542-5790; info@hawriver.org; or aakarawater@gmail.com. Visit our website, www.hawriver.org, Learning Celebration page, for more info and to volunteer.

*Eager kids bound off the bus--they can't wait to experience the Haw River Learning Celebration.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

*from Aakara Wiegand, our 2007 Learning Celebration Coordinator*

## Learning Celebration 2007:

**Week One:** September 22 - 28, in Bynum at the Bynum river mill property.

**Week Two:** September 29 - October 5, in Saxapahaw on the property of Lea and Donovan

**Week Three:** October 6 - 12, at Camp Guilrock in Reidsville/Rockingham County,

Welcome to Jason Gabriel, our New Assistant Coordinator! Jason, a very experienced and dynamic candidate and a resident of Chapel Hill, has been hired as safety and logistics coordinator. We look forward to welcoming him to the LC community.

A Special Thanks to my very committed Steering Committee Members: Carol Payne, Catherine Miller, JJ Richardson, Jo Sanders, Libby Searles-Bohs, Maja Kricker, Martha Pentecost

**Note from the Coordinator** Water is my favorite element to see, be within, hold, drink, pour into my garden, and protect. I grew up along the Northeast coast and lived along the Southwest coast. I had never lived inland before moving to North Carolina three years ago. What keeps me alive these days is a visit to the Haw, the Eno, the Pool, the Ocean or just any creek, river or body of water I can find. We have many challenges ahead of us while dealing with water protection, increased water quality, abundant water resources and ample rain. May we each remember how important water is to our own lives and may we conserve, protect, respect and give back to our gentle water supplies in all of our communities. With love and respect of the water, hello from the Haw!



Photo by Ken Crossen

*Fourth-grader discovers life in the Haw, at Guilrock.*



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

# HRA SPEAKS OUT -- CLEAN WATER LOBBY DAY 2007

At Clean Water Lobby Day on May 2, HRA was part of a group of clean water activists from across the state, over 150 strong, who came together in Raleigh to advocate for clean water. HRA staff and volunteers spoke with legislators in the Haw River watershed to promote legislation targeting water quality problems. We advocated finally putting an end to the terrible air and water impacts of our state's mega-hog operations, including protecting well-users from groundwater contamination. We also spoke in favor of fully funding inspections and enforcement of sediment control regulations, to ensure the reduction of massive amounts of sediment and erosion impacting our waterways.

Thanks to the NC Watershed Alliance, a coalition of watershed protection groups and statewide water advocates, and to N.C. Conservation Network, for coordinating Clean Water Lobby Day.



Above: Clean water advocates from the Cape Fear River watershed gather: HRA Founder and longtime Board member Lynn Featherstone (on left holding sign), HRA Executive Director Elaine Chiosso (with notebook in front), Apex Town Commissioner Bill Jensen (to her right in suit); and next to him (left to right) LC Coordinator Aakara Wiegand, Stream Steward Coordinator Catherine Deininger, LC Volunteer and riverwatcher Sharon Garbutt, and Board member and LC volunteer Margaret Tiano (with hand on rail in front). At left: Lynn leads the parade to the Legislative buildings, followed by Margaret, Sharon, Elaine, and Catherine. Below left: We meet with Speaker of the House and clean water champion Joe Hackney (center, to Elaine's left) in his office.



## Newly Established Board Helps Chatham Protect its Environment

This February, Chatham County Commissioners created the Environmental Review Board (ERB) to advise them on matters affecting the environment and the protection of Chatham's natural resources. Qualifications of ERB members include professional and/or citizen knowledge of environmental research, policies and/or regulations.

At the request of the Commissioners, the ERB has recently recommended threshold criteria to help the County determine when an environmental assessment should be required for development projects, and has also recommended specific changes to the Watershed Protection Ordinance to strengthen the County's riparian buffer requirements. Citizens can give input on these recommendations at public hearings.

The ERB has made various requests of the Commissioners, including that they weigh in on the Jordan Lake TMDL rules, and that they formally request the US Army Corps of Engineers to send the county all information regarding decisions on stream and wetland delineations made in Chatham County in the past few years. The ERB is concerned that some of these decisions may have incorrectly resulted in less protection for streams and wetlands in our county.

Other duties of the ERB include providing peer review of environmental assessments, providing advice to the Commissioners on environmental policy and county ordinances including the watershed ordinance, conducting special projects as needed, reviewing State and Federal environmental permits and monitoring data on development projects as needed, and working with the municipal governments of Chatham County and other jurisdictions to cooperate on environmental issues of common concern.

To find out more about the ERB, including ERB recommendations up for public hearing, meeting schedule, agendas, meeting minutes, and other information, please visit the new County website at [www.chathamnc.org](http://www.chathamnc.org) (click on Quick Link to the ERB webpage). To receive notices of ERB meetings, sign up for e-notification! We hope to see you there, and your comments and questions are always welcome.

~Allison Weakley (ERB Chair), biologist --- [aewweakley@earthlink.net](mailto:aewweakley@earthlink.net) --- (919) 942-9731

Photos on this page by Cynthia Crossen

# A Tribute to HRA Founders

"This river has a will to live that's so strong, all we have to do is stop poisoning it a little bit and it will get up and put on a show for us."

(Lynn Featherstone, September 1993)



Photo by Ken Crossen

**Haw River Assembly Founder Lynn Featherstone**, along with Chuck Brady and others, shared a vision in 1982. After fighting to stop the construction of Jordan Lake, they joined together to protect the Haw and Jordan Lake by forming the Haw River Assembly. Twenty-five years later, Lynn is still at it, serving on HRA's Board of Directors and being a key player on its land, building, and fundraising committees. Lynn was instrumental in purchasing the headwaters of the Haw in 1998. Thank you, Lynn, for the heart you have for the Haw and for all of us who love her.

*In addition to being HRA's longest-serving Board member, Lynn leads canoe trips for HRA and volunteers for our Learning Celebration.*



Photo by Ken Crossen



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

"HRA has done more about cleaning up its river than anybody else has done in the state. We have made clean waterways a worthy cause for all North Carolinians--and this has spilled into all the other river basins in the state. Our Learning Celebration for fourth-graders is internationally famous." (Jane Sharp, September 2007)

**Haw River Advocacy pioneer Jane Sharp** (above left, with former HRA President Rachel Winters), in her long lifetime of environmental activism, has been an inspiration and encouraging force for many in the Haw River Assembly. During her time as Board member, Treasurer, Learning Celebration committee chair, LC volunteer, and LC food coordinator, Jane was there to provide enthusiastic support for all of HRA's projects and volunteers. Her extensive involvement with other environmental groups, including her work with the Conservation Council of North Carolina, made her an invaluable advocate supporting HRA's clean water activism. Thank you, Jane, for your helpful encouragement for all of HRA's projects, staff, and volunteers. *Jane currently chairs the Assisted Living Committee for Fairways at Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill, where she lives.*

"For those of us who were around in year one, it's quite an amazing feeling to see the festival weave its magic through these years...We have done a lot of growing too...as an organization, as individuals and as a community. For the first time, this year, I feel that the festival isn't being held together by chaos and magic alone! I hope there will always be a spark of both of those elements in our work. But, in our fourth year, sustainability was actively discussed and I feel a new stability emerging that is also vital to our creativity in the long haul."

(Louise Kessel, September 1993)

## Haw River Festival Learning Celebration

**Founder Louise Kessel** also had a vision that caught fire with HRA in 1990, a vision that continues to this day. After participating as storyteller for the Clearwater Festival to clean up the Hudson River, and after returning from a six week trip where U.S. and Soviet citizens sailed across the Atlantic on a peace-building mission, Louise dreamed of creating that kind of community in her own backyard. She envisioned us traveling down the river with canoes, kids, camping, community, music, storytelling, and river education for fourth-graders. All these elements are still present in our Learning Celebration for fourth-graders, happening for the 18th time this year. Thank you, Louise, for your vision, leadership, and hard work to build this project we call the Learning Celebration and this community that keeps it strong. *Louise continues her work with children at her summer camps at Clapping Hands Farm (www.clappinghandsfarm.com) in Chatham County, where she lives with her husband and two children.*



When asked if he made things to resemble something, Clyde Jones says he does take requests: "You go so far then these little school young ones come here and they figure out what they want." When asked if there was anything he was particularly good at: "I won't answer that question because when I get around someday to it I'll know...One thing about it, it is when I'm gone I hope somebody takes it up and does a lot better with it." (Clyde Jones, as told to Taylor Garbutt for *Turtle Tracks HRA Kids Newsletter*, April/May 1994)



Photo by Ken Crossen

**HRA T-shirt creator and arts benefactor Clyde Jones** loves to have Learning Celebration fourth-graders all over his yard, climbing on the critters he creates from dead branches, paint remnants folks bring him, throwaway items like flowers or tennis balls (which make such good animal eyes), and whatever else he can find. When he's not making critters or creating paintings of animals (some of which adorn our T-shirts), he might be riding around Bynum on his lawnmower, or mowing the Haw River Festival site. Clyde is probably our biggest benefactor--for best-selling T-shirt designs, and Clyde critters which sell like hotcakes at auctions to benefit HRA. Thank you, Clyde, for everything you do for us, for your big heart and generous spirit. We love ya. *Clyde is a beloved--and world famous!--presence in Bynum.*



Photo by Ken Crossen

"We are a part of a large movement of citizen ecologists involving themselves with water quality issues. A small spring, gurgling from our own hillside glade, trickling, then gushing down the valley, merging together with other waters, ancient waters, telling the story of our planet in a movement towards the Sea. Want to become a part of the flow?" (Chris Carter, *September 1995*)

**Haw River Watch Project Founder Chris Carter** (above right, with young Jesse Crossen) created the first map of the Haw River watershed for the first Haw River Festival, and it was a beauty--tributaries like the delicate tracing of veins in a leaf--showing the river's nature as a living being. Chris was part of the earliest days of the Learning Celebration, and built much of the hardware infrastructure that we are still using today (privies, kitchen cabinets, hoop tent, the Haw wagon). Chris was a founder and the first Coordinator of the Haw River Watch Project, and his charismatic outreach efforts drew many folks into citizen stream monitoring. From catching a crayfish to performing a rap song about the biosphere, Chris has done it all. Thank you, Chris, for the inspiration you have provided to get folks down to the river, to enjoy and protect it. *Chris installs independent renewable energy systems using solar, wind, and micro hydro power, through his company The Solar Village Institute (336) 269-1753.*



Photo by Ken Crossen

"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." (Elaine Chiosso, *January 2007*)

**First Executive Director of the Haw River Assembly Elaine Chiosso** (above right, with Haw River Watch Coordinator Cynthia Crossen) served as HRA President for three years before becoming our first Executive Director in 1998. She has kept this river ark afloat since then. Under her able leadership, HRA has become a substantial force for river protection and water quality advocacy throughout the state. A powerful voice for the environment, Elaine has served on the Jordan Lake Stakeholders group, and was appointed by the Governor to the Sediment Control Commission. Thank you, Elaine, for your courageous and tireless advocacy for the Haw River and Jordan Lake. *Elaine is HRA's Executive Director.*

# Our 18th Festival on the Haw!



*Festival goers love hunting for macroinvertebrate critters at Bynum Beach.*

The Haw River Festival in Bynum on May 12 turned out to be a celebration of rain as well! Despite storms all around us, the festival site stayed pretty dry until 3:30 when a steady spring rain started. We all enjoyed it for another hour, with the welcome sounds of The New River Rock Skippers from the stage, and some adventurous dancing in the rain. As the rain increased, we ended the day early with the raffle drawing for the Old Town canoe. The winning ticket was held by Gwen Overturf of Chatham County. Congratulations!

Before the rain came we had music from wonderful local bands, and a steady crowd of people down at the old Bynum Bridge who enjoyed the art, environmental displays and activities,



*Splish Splash--is how to paint a Clyde Critter.*

and of course, the Haw River itself. Clyde Jones generously donated a merry band of duck critter paintings for the silent auction, plus lots of critter cutouts for kids to paint that afternoon.

We are very grateful to him. A special ceremony celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Haw River Assembly. Tom Vanderbeck, Chatham County Commissioner, came up on stage to present HRA with a resolution from the Chatham Board of Commissioners proclaiming May 12 as Haw River Assembly Day, in honor of our river protection and education efforts.



*Tom Vanderbeck presents Lynn Featherstone and Elaine Chiosso with the Chatham Board of Commissioners' Proclamation of May 12 as Haw River Assembly Day in Chatham County.*

**Paperhand Puppet Intervention** put on a parade of giant puppets, and a show that captured the spirit of living in harmony with nature. Folks took part in stream monitoring down at Bynum Beach with Cynthia Crossen. Joe Jacob, with the Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company, Bob Brueckner, and other paddling experts gave free



*Learning Celebration Coordinator Aakara Wiegand enjoys a quiet moment on the river.*

short canoe rides to children--a very popular activity! Local environmental groups, state parks, and land conservation folks were on hand to show how we can save planet earth, and this special part of it.

Once again the Bynum Ruritan Club provided delicious food for Festival-goers.

**A Heartfelt Thanks** to All the Volunteers and HRA Board and staff for a wonderful, wild and wet day! Special thanks to Rachel Winters on the silent auction, Lynn Featherstone on parking, and Jeff Dotson and Chris Carter on the stage set-up.

✧Elaine Chiosso, Festival organizer



*A HUGE Thank You to Clyde Jones, who creates zany critters to grace our T-shirts, provide paintable cutouts, and fuel our silent auctions!*

# Thank You for making the 18th Haw River Festival a Success

*Thanks to Local Businesses (please support them!) and Agencies:*

- 👉 **General Store Cafe**, Pittsboro, [www.thegeneralstorecafe.com](http://www.thegeneralstorecafe.com), for raffle sales, display, and September 4 Burrito Bash
- 👉 **The Poster Guys**, [www.theposterguys.com](http://www.theposterguys.com), (919) 967-1245, for putting up flyers
- 👉 **Great Outdoor Provision Company**, [www.greatoutdoorprovision.com](http://www.greatoutdoorprovision.com), for providing the raffle canoe
- 👉 **REI** local stores, [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com), and **Z. Smith Reynolds**, for ongoing grant support
- 👉 **Chatham County**, for use of the recycling containers
- 👉 **Mellowmarsh and Cure Nurseries** of Chatham, for donation of native plants
- 👉 **Kevin Meehan**, for use of the Use-Yer-Foots
- 👉 **Bynum Ruritan Club**, for the site, help, and wonderful cooking



*Canoe rides for kids are a huge hit.*



❖ *Thanks to the Performers who donated their performances to benefit HRA:*

- ✂️ **Auxiliary House** [www.auxiliaryhouse.com](http://www.auxiliaryhouse.com)
- ✂️ **New River Rock Skippers** [marydpossum@yahoo.com](mailto:marydpossum@yahoo.com)
- ✂️ **Saludos Compay** [www.saludoscompay.com](http://www.saludoscompay.com), and **Risuenos** (rained out)
- ✂️ **Paperhand Puppet Intervention** [www.paperhand.org](http://www.paperhand.org) & **Jimmy Magoo**

*We love a parade-- thanks to Paperhand Puppets!*

## Help HRA Rebuild Our Office in Bynum!

HRA hopes to be able to go full steam ahead with our Bynum office rebuilding project this fall. *Here's how you can help:*

**Donations of materials:** good insulated windows, interior and exterior doors, framing lumber, nails and hardware, plywood, and more. See Wish List below.

**Donations of labor:** We need skilled construction help--carpenters, masons, plumbers (as well as a licensed electrician), plus general volunteer help for a series of Saturdays this fall.

**Donations of money:** always welcome!

If you wish to volunteer any of the above, please contact our office manager Kathy Buck at (919) 542-5790 or [info@hawriver.org](mailto:info@hawriver.org). We'll post updates, the supply wish list, and volunteer work days on our website: [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org).

**Wish List of Specific Supplies:** Window units • Interior and exterior doors • Door hinges • Framing Lumber of all sizes, treated and untreated • Nails, common coated or galvanized and finish • 1/2" rebar • 4" block • 12" anchor bolts • 1/2" plywood • 5/8" plywood and OSB • 15# tar paper • 1/4"x3" lag bolts • metal T bracing • 3/4" pressure-treated plywood • PVC DWV pipe -- 4" and smaller • 3/4" and 1/2" water line and fittings • Bags of pea gravel concrete • 2" extruded Styrofoam • 1" extruded Styrofoam • 6 mil polyethylene • 4 mil polyethylene • 1/2" Pex for radiant floor • 6x6 10-10 remesh • German siding • White gutters and downspouts • Unused electrical boxes, switches and outlets • Fiberglass insulation • Kitchen cabinets

## Upcoming 2007 HRA Events

*September 22-23* Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend

*September 22 - October 12*, Haw River Learning Celebration for schools (see page 6 for details)

*Saturday, October 6*, Jordan Lake State Recreation Area Heritage Day at Jordan Lake

*Saturday, October 6*, North Carolina Big Sweep Leader: Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

*Wednesday, October 31*, Pumpkin Paddle in Bynum, led by Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

*Sunday afternoon, November 4*, HRA Annual Membership Meeting, Haw River State Park, Browns Summit (details on page 2)

*Saturday, November 24*, Harvest Full Moon Paddle on the Haw River in Alamance, led by Joe Jacob (336) 260-6465

*Saturday, December 1* Historic Haw River Mills Tour, led by Elaine Chiosso, 919-542-5790

*December 15-16* Haw River Watch Monitoring Weekend



For info see Upcoming Events at [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org); for info and to volunteer contact HRA at (919) 542-5790; [info@hawriver.org](mailto: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 Fearington, and the Haw River Assembly office in Bynum.

**HRA Annual Meeting,  
Sunday November 4,  
Haw River State Park!**

Address Service Requested

**Bynum, NC 27228**

**P. O. Box 187**

**Haw River Assembly**

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