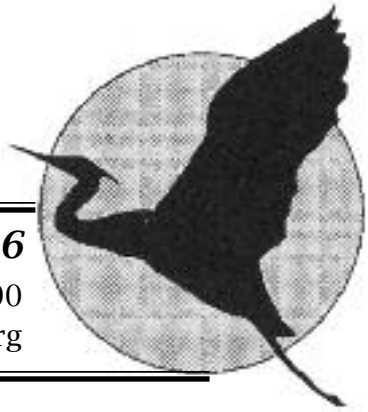


Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly August 2016



P.O. Box 187 · Bynum, NC 27228 · (919) 542-5790
email: info@hawriver.org · www.hawriver.org

Legislature Adjourns, Leaving an Environmental Mess

The 2016 session of the NC General Assembly continued the attack on environmental protections and programs. This session's bills included "regulatory reform" that would have done away with stream buffers, solar and wind power opportunities, even support for electronics recycling (S303, H593, and H169). The good news is that public outcry and opposition within the legislature kept those bills from passing before the clock ran out. The bad news involved both Jordan Lake and coal ash.

Jordan Lake Spurned Again The state budget that was approved included language that further weakens any protections for water quality in Jordan Lake. It brings more delays of the rules and more wasted money on studies on how to find a magical solution to treat pollution in the lake instead of reducing it at the source. The state Dept. of Environmental Quality announced May 5 that it was discontinuing the SolarBee project, after 21 months of data indicated no significant improvement in water quality. We applauded the end to this expensive and ridiculous folly, but it was quickly followed by another bad idea – funding a study to see if mussels could be used to filter pollution out of the waters of Jordan Lake – even though mussel populations have plummeted in the Haw River due to pollution and sediment. By the time the session ended, that idea was also ditched. But the budget delays

implementation of the Jordan Lake rules until 2019, and includes a provision that allows all impervious development in the Jordan Lake watershed built between July 2013 and December 2020 to *not* be counted as "built upon area". This means no one will take responsibility for new development water pollution – in conflict with the U.S. Clean Water Act. The legislature needs to immediately re-instate the pollution reduction rules that will improve water quality in Jordan Lake. Toxic algae blooms, fish kills, and polluted drinking water are an all too real danger if our state continues to ignore this problem.

Coal Ash Mess Lawmakers passed, and Governor McCrory has signed, a bad coal ash bill (H630) that could let Duke Energy leave millions of tons of toxic coal ash in leaking pits near our rivers and communities. The grassroots organization, Alliance of Carolinians Together Against Coal Ash, will be watchdogging the bill's promise of clean drinking water to those whose supplies have been contaminated by coal ash (ActAgainstCoalAsh.nccoalash.org). Meanwhile, tons of coal ash are being transported from Duke's coal ash plants near Charlotte and Wilmington for disposal in Chatham County under inadequate environmental and public health protections.

The Learning Celebration is Coming!

Want to help build a better world, inspire a new generation, and enjoy the beauty of autumn on the Haw River? Come volunteer at the Learning Celebration, the Haw River Assembly's acclaimed environmental education program that's now in its 27th year. Help us put on this amazing riverside education program for fourth-graders throughout our watershed – bridging connections between children, nature, and the Haw River.

** Week One: Bynum September 24 - 30

** Week Two: Saxapahaw October 1 - 7

** Week Three: Camp Guilrock October 8 - 14

Please join us! Learn more on page 4, and at www.HawRiver.org. *Sign up Today!*



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Cynthia Crossen, *Newsletter Editor*

To join the Haw River Assembly or
renew your membership, send a check to:

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

Individual: \$25; Family: \$40

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

Low Income: \$10

*The Haw River
Assembly is a non-
profit grassroots
organization founded
in 1982. Our mission
is to protect and
restore the Haw River,
its tributaries, and
Jordan Lake; and to
build a community
that shares this vision.*
(919) 542-5790
www.hawriver.org

Notes from the Haw

We are very happy to welcome our new Watershed Education Coordinator, Alex White, to our staff. She will soon be joined by Emily Sutton who will coordinate our Haw River Watch Project. So great to have both of them on board!



The sweltering heat wave underway at the end of July underscores the fact that climate change and more extreme weather (hot and cold, drought and flood) is the reality we are living with. Predictions are that 2016, aided by El Niño, will be the hottest year for the planet on the books. If so, it will be third hottest year in a row. We were fortunate here in the Piedmont to have had plentiful rain in the early summer that filled up reservoirs, recharged groundwater and provided water for forests and gardens. But the high heat is evaporating that water quickly. Staying cool in the shade gives me great appreciation for trees - sequestering carbon, cooling temperatures and providing critical habitat for the other creatures we share this land with. New development is on the rise in our watershed, and we must demand that our local governments require large parts of our existing forests be preserved. The minimum (unacceptable) 10% tree cover proposed by the massive 7,000 acre Chatham Park development is a case in point. The recent surge in logging where land is not only clear cut, but scalped to bare soil (to sell wood chips to be burned in Europe), is another example. The refusal by our state government to require water quality protections for our major drinking water reservoirs is on an absolute collision course with future needs of a thirsty region. It is appalling that we still have not woken up to the need to change how we live on this planet - and quickly.

I've used some of this cool time in the shade to read "This Changes Everything" by Naomi Klein (2014), perhaps the most important environmental book since "Silent Spring." She shows us how consumption and our extractive fossil fuel economy - treating our atmosphere as a waste dump - have brought us to the brink of no return with climate change, and how we can pull back to a saner, greener and more equitable world. A documentary has also been made that is based on the book and directed by Avi Lewis. I highly recommend both.

From the river, Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

We All Need Clean Water!

The Haw River Assembly Board of Directors adopted a resolution at their April 2016 meeting that supports the principals of environmental justice, diversity and inclusion as part of our organizational policy:

The Haw River Assembly is dedicated to the goal of environmental justice and equality for all people in our watershed. The Haw River Assembly is a stronger organization and our work to protect water is more successful when our organization represents the full diversity of people living in our watershed. We believe all people should have access to enjoyment of the natural world and a voice in decisions that may affect their environment and/or health. No group of people should bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial activities or governmental policies that situate polluting activities in their community.



HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Issues in the Watershed

from Elaine Chiosso, HAW RIVERKEEPER®

Industrial Chemicals in our Water

A June 10 article in the Washington Post, 'Emerging Contaminants' Unchecked, discussed the problem of unregulated emerging chemicals that are not being adequately monitored in drinking water. The Pittsboro byline for the story was due to studies underway by NCSU Professor Detlef Knappe that document 1,4-Dioxane in the Haw River, and in Pittsboro's drinking water. "In North Carolina, environmental officials published a report earlier this year detailing a year's worth of sampling for 1,4-dioxane within the Cape Fear River basin. It highlighted numerous "hot spots" for the contaminant located immediately downstream of wastewater facilities, suggesting that manufacturers or other industrial operators were sending it into municipal sewers. Current water treatments don't effectively remove the chemical." (Washington Post, Brady Dennis, 6/12/16)

The Haw River Assembly has repeatedly expressed concerns and calls for action about Pittsboro's drinking water, beginning as far back as 1985 when we produced a study of industrial contaminants in the finished drinking water. Pittsboro is the only municipality that uses the Haw River as its source (although downstream cities use the Cape Fear River as their source and face similar problems from industrial contaminants). Industrial chemicals have been found in both the treated effluent from wastewater treatment plants in Greensboro and Reidsville, and in tributaries downstream of agricultural fields where Burlington's sewage sludge has been applied. A new EPA drinking water health advisory for perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) is of concern to Pittsboro as well, since studies have shown that these industrial chemicals are present in relatively high amounts in the Haw River. PFCs were found in finished drinking water in downstream cities through targeted testing, under the recent EPA study that preceded the health advisory. Pittsboro was not included in that study that only looked at cities with populations of 10,000 or more people. Go to the HRA website for more information: www.hawriver.org.

Chatham Park

The Chatham Park Investors (CPI), developers of the 7000 + acre mega-development for land east of Pittsboro near the Haw River and Jordan Lake, have released the "Additional Elements" that were required under the approval for the project's Master Plan. They promised to provide detail on how city-size mixed use development of 55,000 people will have "exceptional design, character and quality" and "preserve critical environmental resources." We would argue that they have not yet met these goals.

CPI wants to use Chatham Park's undevelopable land (stream buffers, steep slopes, and wetlands) to meet the requirement for setting aside open space. The developers still refuse to set aside at least 30 percent of the project as a natural area and forest adjacent to the Haw River and Jordan Lake, as strongly recommended by the Haw River Assembly and others. This land is currently a forest that protects air and water quality for a large region, and much of it will be bulldozed to accommodate the massive building and infrastructure that is proposed. Only 10% tree coverage would be required, including new plantings after land disturbance, not preservation of existing forest. The

"Additional Elements" for stormwater and water utilities (drinking water and wastewater) do not offer adequate detail for analysis. The Town of Pittsboro is taking comments on the "Additional Elements" and will hold a public hearing. They are also soliciting people to serve on a new citizen advisory committee to provide input. Go to the Town of Pittsboro website under the tab for Chatham Park for further information: PittsboroNC.gov.

A Win for Pittsboro

Matters: On July 19, the North Carolina Court of Appeals unanimously

affirmed a lower court ruling denying a motion by Chatham Park Investors to seek \$59,000 in sanctions from Pittsboro Matters (a local, all volunteer, non-profit) because they had sought (and lost) a preliminary injunction on the building of the overpass on Hwy 64. The Court of Appeals called Pittsboro Matters' motion for a preliminary injunction "well grounded in fact and warranted by existing law and was not brought for any improper purposes." For more news from Pittsboro Matters, and to support their grass roots challenge of Chatham Park, go to PittsboroMatters.org.

Fracking – and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

The temporary injunction against fracking permits in NC that was granted HRA, due to our legal challenge of the Mining and Energy Commission and their fracking rules, continues, as does the lawsuit brought by Clean Water for NC concerning the prohibition of local control of fracking. We are closely watching the set up of a new commission to oversee fracking under a bill passed *continued on page 7*



Dr. Detlef Knappe (left) collects samples from Haw River tributary. Photo by Elaine Chiosso.

Watershed Education News

Learning Celebration 2016

I'm Alex White, the new Watershed Education Coordinator for HRA. I'll be your contact for the Learning Celebration (LC) this year and am excited to get things rolling. I've had the pleasure of meeting several of you, but hope to meet many more at the 27th annual Learning Celebration!

This Year's Learning Celebration Dates

Bynum: September 25 – September 30

Saxapahaw: October 1 – October 7

Camp Guilrock: October 8 – October 14

Food It takes a lot of energy and enthusiasm to guide students through the hands on activities at the Learning Celebration, so our onsite volunteers will work up quite an appetite every day. If you're unable to work with our 4th graders this year, please consider donating a vegetarian lunch or dinner. You don't have to be a master chef to help out, anyone who has a little bit of extra time is encouraged to cook a meal for volunteers.



Photo by Alejandra Hansen

from Alex White, Watershed Education Coordinator, shown at right with Bas Kimlinger at the HRA Booth at the Saturdays in Saxapahaw Series.

Crowdfunder Providing Learning Celebration programming at a cost that every student can afford has always been very important to HRA. In addition to planning, organization, and hard-working volunteers, it takes funding to sustain the Learning Celebration. We apply for grants and request restaurant food donations every year to offset costs, but this support is inconsistent. Monetary donations of any size from dedicated members of the Haw River Assembly allow us to purchase the supplies that make the Learning Celebration such a success and keep the kids coming back year after year. Please consider making a donation to the Learning Celebration this year so that we can continue to provide quality environmental education for decades to come.

Volunteer for the LC If you can give your time this year, please take a few minutes to sign up for a volunteer slot on our website, hawriver.org, under the Projects tab. This will allow us to make sure that we have enough volunteers each day so that our fourth-graders have a great experience. You can help out for a few hours, a full day, or camp on site to teach kids for the entire week, it's up to you!

Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or by email with any questions about the LC! alex@hawriver.org, (919) 542-5790



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

Creating with clay, and learning how it relates to the cultural history and the geology of the river, is a highlight for fourth-graders at the LC.

Saxapahaw Market

The Saturdays in Saxapahaw markets are in full swing. We set up this past Saturday to spread the word about the Learning Celebration, chat with local farmers, and enjoy great music. We'll be at the market again on Saturday, August 13, so feel free to stop by and say hello!

Centennial Celebration at Haw River State Park

The North Carolina State Park System turns 100 this year! HRA attended Haw River State Park's Centennial Celebration in mid-July. It was great to spend the day in Guilford County getting to know some residents of the western part of our watershed. Every state park will hold a special event to mark the centennial, so if you missed this one and you're looking for a weekend getaway, check out one of these upcoming centennial events:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday, July 30 | New River |
| Saturday, August 27-28 | Mount Mitchell |
| Saturday, August 27-28 | Grandfather Mountain |



Haw River Watch Project News

Our New Haw River Watch Coordinator!

We're pleased to announce that we have hired Emily Sutton to carry on the work of the citizen science stream monitoring project we began in 1995. She has a background in both stream monitoring and environmental education and looks forward to working with our volunteers and the public. We look forward to working with her! *At right, photo of Emily.*



Haw River Watch Manual

The newly revised and expanded Haw River Watch Manual is now available. We are sending a copy to each of our River Watch teams, but have some available to others who may want one. The cost is \$15, which includes postage; to order a copy, send an email to info@hawriver.org. The new manual includes step-by-step instructions for stream monitoring, macroinvertebrate illustrations and facts, and new information on stream assessment, riparian buffers and other indicators of healthy streams. Also – an updated list of whom to call about pollution incidents in our watershed.

New Monitoring Team A shout-out to the new team monitoring the ***Haw River below the Hwy 64 Bridge*** in Chatham County. Their site is in the downstream portion of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. The data collected will be very important as baseline information for this section of river, to monitor any impacts by Chatham Park. A big thanks to team leader George Pauly, and to team members Maja Kricker, Joy Hewitt, Mike Dunn, Dorothy Rawleigh and Phyllis Demko. *Photo at left shows the team in the stream: clockwise l-r: Maja Kricker, George Pauly, Mike Dunn, Dorothy Rawleigh, and Joy Hewitt.*



Photo by Elaine Chiosso



Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area Formed

A successful meeting organized by HRA in July has led to a new chapter of the NC Friends of State Parks for the Lower Haw River State Natural Area in Chatham County. Friends of State Parks is a non-profit organization with chapters throughout NC, dedicated to protecting and enhancing the North Carolina park system. State Natural Areas were established within the state park system to focus on conservation and preservation of special places. Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso presented maps and photos of this beautiful stretch of river. Jim Richardson, President of Friends of State Parks; and Jay Greenwood, Regional State Parks Superintendent, discussed the benefits of forming a local chapter to support the Lower Haw River State Natural Area and to answer questions. The Lower Haw River State Natural Area consists of about 1,100 acres along both sides of the river from above US 15-501 near Bynum (except for some private land near the Bynum Bridge) to below US 64, where it meets the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. It protects over four miles of river and stream buffers, significant natural areas, habitat for endangered species, and beautiful rugged scenery. The State Natural Area is threatened by impacts of development on all sides and will greatly benefit from a group dedicated to protecting it.

At the end of the meeting there was agreement that a chapter should be formed, and people stepped forward to become officers to continue the process. Gretchen Smith accepted the call to become the new president. As an active member of the Chatham Conservation Partnership and the Haw River Assembly, she has done much to advocate for public lands and trails. To become involved in the Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, please contact Gretchen Smith at gretchen_smith@bellsouth.net.



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

We Had a GREAT Time at the Haw River Festival!

Thanks to all our volunteers and participants for the making our beautiful Festival on the Haw River in Saxapahaw on May 2! It was a great fun and a great fundraiser, with donations and sales of raffle tickets and auction items netting us over \$4000. We also raised new awareness about our river, with lots of traffic at our information tent for conversations about water quality, volunteering, hiking trails and more.

We were sorry to have to cancel the kids canoe rides for the second year in a row due to the river being too high for safety, but there were lots of folks down enjoying stream monitoring by the river with our amazing River Watch volunteers. We also had a large enthusiastic crowd of participants who took part in the Puppet Parade, and kids who enjoyed finding out about stormwater runoff at our watershed model. It was a wonderful day with terrific music, the farmer's market, a successful silent auction and fun by the river.



Photo by Fred Tutman



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

Very Special Thanks to the Bands who played as a benefit for HRA!

- ❖ The Village Band (www.thevillageband.org)
- ❖ ZamBamBooGee (www.zambamboogee.com), with guest tapdancer, Jabu Greybeal (pictured at left)
- ❖ Diali Cissokho (www.kairabamusic.com)
- ❖ Luis Del Rio (artedelrio.wordpress.com)

And to the Silent Auction Donors:

Judith Brooks, Lea Clayton, Jonathan Davis, Eliza and Molly DuBose, The Eddy Pub, Fair Game Beverage Co., Brenda

Featherstone, Gerri and Co., Roy Girolami, Haw River Ballroom, Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co., Left Band Butchery, Mark Hewitt Pottery, Saxapahaw General Store, Emma Skurnick, Wanda Sundermann, Townsend Bertram and Co., and Nathalie Worthington. And a shout-out to Eliza DuBose and Deborah Amaral (pictured at right, with Sue Zimmerman to her right), for overseeing the silent auction!



Photo by Elaine Chiosso

And thanks to ❖ Crystal Honeycutt for leading the herbal plant walk,

❖ Chris Carter and Paperhand Puppet Theater for the parade, ❖ Great Outdoors Provision Company for the Kayak we raffled (won by Margaret Lillie), ❖ and to Saxapahaw General Store for displaying it!

❖ And to the wonderful folks of Saturdays in Saxapahaw for hosting us!!! The Haw River Festival kicked off the opening of the Saturdays in Saxapahaw for the summer. You can continue to enjoy live music and the



Photo by Fred Tutman

Farmer's Market every Saturday this summer from 5 – 8 pm through the end of August.

At left, Jeannie Ambrose, Maja Kricker, Dorothy Rawleigh, and Sharon Garbutt introduce festival-goers to the critters that live in the river.



Photo by Fred Tutman

Issues in the Watershed, continued from p.1

this summer. At this time the immediate threat of fracking in NC has retreated, with natural gas prices too low to attract drillers to bring expensive infrastructure to frack NC's meager supply. The big threat right now is the push to build pipelines to carry gas from the big frack fields up north down through WVA, VA and NC. Many communities and natural resources are facing destructive impacts from the building of these pipelines. Here in NC the eastern counties of Northampton, Halifax, Wilson, Nash, Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, Robeson (which include high percentages of minority and lower income people) are being threatened, and grassroots opposition has mounted. Very few local jobs will be created from this mess, more methane from fracking gas will be added to climate change, and the ratepayers of Duke Energy, PSNC and Dominion will foot the bill. More information at cwfnc.org.

HRA Annual Membership Meeting

Save the date for our Saturday November 5 Annual Membership Meeting. We'll announce the location on our website as it gets closer. This is a great time to meet staff, volunteers and other supporters of HRA, and get up to date on issues. We'll have time to explore outdoors as well. The Annual Meeting is when we hold **elections for our Board of Directors**. If you are interested in joining our Board (we meet 6 times a year alternating between Bynum and Saxapahaw) and would like to offer your talents for oversight and fundraising, please contact Elaine Chiosso, HRA Executive Director at info@hawriver.org.



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 MATINEE SHOWS 3:00
 WITH A 2:20 PRE SHOW
 AUG 1, 28 SEPT 4, 18TH

Clyde Jones Shirt "Cape Fear Shiner"

Designed by Clyde Jones, this is a beautiful picture of the little fish in the Haw River that is on the federal endangered species list. Raise awareness of the Cape Fear shiner by wearing this T-shirt - and supporting our efforts to restore our river! A colorful print on a soft blue 100% organic cotton T-shirt by TS Designs in Burlington, using their environmentally friendly non-toxic process.



Available from HRA at the HRA office in Bynum (call first at 919-542-5790); or by mail from HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228 (add \$3/shirt for shipping). Also available at Townsend Bertram in Carrboro, Saxapahaw General Store, & The Joyful Jewel in Pittsboro.

\$25 (adult) S, M, L, XL, XXL
\$25 (ladies style) S, M, L, XL
\$20 (youth) S, M, L

Books celebrating the River!

"Down Along the Haw - The History of a North Carolina River" by Anne Cassebaum is once again in print. This rich geographic, natural and cultural history tells the story of the Haw River, and its people, from the source to the confluence with the Cape Fear. \$28 (includes postage)

"River" is a beautiful art book created by Shelly Hehenberger, with paintings by 36 artists from the Orange County Artists Guild. The group has chosen the Haw River Assembly to be the recipients of proceeds from the book sales. \$30 (includes postage)

To purchase books (postage included in price) or T-shirts (add \$3/shirt for shipping) from HRA, send your check to HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum NC 27228.

Upcoming 2016 HRA Events

Updates and details can be found at www.hawriver.org, on our Haw River Assembly Facebook page, and from our weekly E-newsletters which you can sign up for at info@hawriver.org.

Saturday, August 13, 5-8 pm, HRA booth at "Saturdays in Saxapahaw"
Farmer's market and outdoor concert (for band listings for all dates in August:
www.saxapahawnc.com/bandschedule/)

Saturday, September 10, 9 am - 6 pm, HRA booth at Pinnacle Family Fun Day at North Park, 849 Sharpe Road, Burlington, NC. More info on Facebook at Pinnacle Family Fun Day.

Saturday, September 10, Bynum Reservoir paddle with Frog Hollow (contact HRA for member discount code and info)

September 17-18, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend. Contact info@hawriver.org for more info.

September 24 - October 14, Haw River Learning Celebration for 4th-graders. Sign up now to volunteer! For more info, or to volunteer, go to www.hawriver.org (->Projects->4th-grade-field-trip). Online form available for volunteer sign-up.

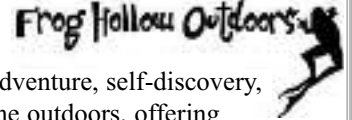
Sunday, October 23, Chicken Bridge to 15-501 whitewater paddle with Frog Hollow (contact HRA for member discount code and info)



features canoe, kayak, & stand-up paddleboard rentals for stretches of the Haw River flowing through Alamance & Chatham counties from Altamahaw to Bynum. Guided canoe & kayak trips are offered throughout the year, and canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard courses, taught by experienced instructors, allow both novice and experienced paddlers to enhance their skills. ❖ Call to schedule a trip or get more information at (336) 260-6465, or visit hawrivercanoe.com.

Saturday, November 6, HRA Annual Membership Meeting
(time and location TBA)

Frog Hollow Outdoors provides a resource for canoe & kayak education, the exploration of nature, relaxation, adventure, self-discovery, and a greater overall connection with the outdoors, offering trips, guide services, and instructional programs, with a *discount to Haw River Assembly members*. Please register online for the \$10 off discount at www.froghollowoutdoors.com, or call their outpost at (919) 416-1200. Call HRA at (919) 542-5790 to get your HRA membership discount code and schedule your next Haw River adventure!



**SIGN UP for the
Learning Celebration
Sept. 24 - Oct. 14**

Address Service Requested

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Haw River Assembly

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