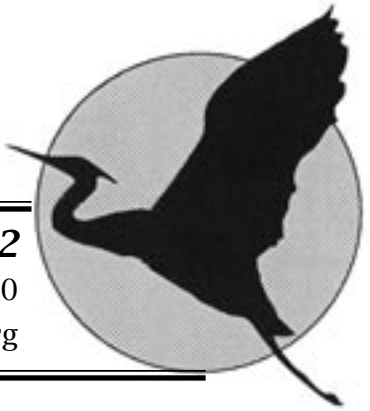


# Voice of the Haw



The Haw River Assembly *Spring 2022*

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

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

## HRA — 40 Years as Clean Water Advocates Fighting Pollution

In 1982, people from around the watershed joined together to form the Haw River Assembly – an organization dedicated to protecting the Haw River watershed, including the newly created Jordan Lake. We’ve had many challenges over the decades fighting industrial pollution, fracking, pipelines, construction sediment, nutrient pollution, loss of biodiversity, and habitat, to name a few. We’ve had many successes in these battles against polluters, and have also helped bring about new public access, trails, and parks on the river, growing a strong network of members and volunteers in the process. We created programs like the Learning Celebration and Haw River Watch stream monitoring, to help children and the public learn about and love this river. In our newsletters this year we’d like to share with you what we’ve been doing for 40 years for the Haw River. **In this issue we’ll focus on our advocacy work for clean water and fighting pollution.**

### **Development and Muddy Waters**

The Haw River watershed is in one of the fastest growing parts of the state. We work for greater environmental and water quality protections as more forests and fields become housing developments and shopping centers. New construction often means our streams run orange with red clay as land is disturbed. Over the decades we’ve worked with citizens on issues such as re-zoning around Lake Jeanette in Greensboro in **1983**, organized a “flotilla” in **1997** for clean water in Jordan Lake under threats from new Chatham development and golf courses, and have spoken as the voice for the river at countless public hearings. In **2011**, we brought a legal challenge against a Durham developer who proposed shrinking the normal pool elevation boundary of Jordan Lake so that his development would fall outside the protected area. From land and air we documented examples of major sediment plumes caused by massive land clearing for new construction in western Wake, Guilford, and Chatham counties. Since **2014** we’ve been the major watchdog on the Chatham Park 7,000 acre mega-development: examining and challenging their plans and permits that will allow major deforestation and too much impervious surface adjacent to the Haw River and Jordan Lake – a recipe for sediment and stormwater pollution.

*continued on page 6*



Our **32th Haw River Assembly Clean-Up-A-Thon** took place on March 19, with volunteers again doing a terrific job of getting trash removed from river and stream banks, before it harms aquatic life and continues washing downstream. Go to pages 4 and 5 to see the full story about the cleanup, and the wonderful local business sponsors who help make this happen. *Pictured above is the team that cleaned up the Robeson Creek and downtown Pittsboro area, led by Gary Simpson.*



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

### ***Upcoming Events to Look Forward To!***

- ❖ **Haw River Island Ramble, April 30**
- ❖ **Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw, Sat. May 7**
- ❖ **40th Anniversary Haw Riverkeeper Paddle, May 14 - 21**

See details on page 9.

## HRA Board of Directors

**Nicole Gaines**, President, *Guilford County*  
**Ayo Wilson**, Vice-President, *Durham County*  
**Dianne Ford**, Secretary, *Alamance County*  
**Kate Fulbright**, Co-Secretary, *Durham County*  
**Jo Sanders**, Treasurer, *Chatham County*

**Jeanne Ambrose**, *Chatham County*  
**Chris Carter**, *Alamance County*  
**Crystal Cavalier**, *Alamance County*  
**Gerald Lynn Featherstone**, *Chatham County*  
**Chris Foushee-Green**, *Chatham County*  
**Sharon Garbutt**, *Chatham County*  
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**Dr. Janet MacFall**, *Alamance County (Elon University)*

**John Runkle**, *Orange County*  
**John Wagner**, *Chatham County*

**Mac Jordan**, Emeritus Member, *Saxapahaw*  
**Omega Wilson**, *Environmental Justice Advisor, Mebane*

## HRA Staff

**Elaine Chiosso**, *Executive Director*  
**Kyleene Rooks**, *Event & Outreach Coordinator*  
**Emily Sutton**, *HAW RIVERKEEPER®*  
**Carolyn Paden**, *Office Manager*  
**Cynthia Crossen**, *Newsletter Editor*

Thanks to **Jan Burger** for art throughout this newsletter: Climate Action Logo, Plastics Campaign Logo, ACP/MVP graphic, River Watch Heron, Haw River Festival Heron, and Haw River Ramble.

**To join the Haw River Assembly** or renew your membership, send a check to **HRA, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228**; or go online at <http://hawriver.org/join-hra/>.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

*Thanks for your support!*

*Individual: \$30 Family: \$45*

*Sustaining: \$60 Heron Circle: \$100 & above*

*Low Income: \$10*

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

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

## Notes from the Haw

It's a beautiful spring, and we're excited to be able to hold our big outdoor events in person again, including our annual Haw River Festival May 7 in Saxapahaw, and the Haw River Learning Celebration later in the year. It's our 40th Anniversary, and we've got some special events planned, including a week-long paddle in May down the Haw River led by our Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton. There will be opportunities to join in during the week, to celebrate both HRA's 40 years and the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Clean Water Act.

Chris Carter stepped down from his role as Board President of HRA in December. We are very grateful to him for his leadership for so many years, and for chairing our meetings with cheer. We're glad he's remaining on our Board of Directors!

We're happy to announce that Nicole Gaines is our new Board President – making her our first President from Guilford County. Nicole is also chair of the NC Chapter of Sierra Club, and the Greensboro Community Sustainability Council, so she is not a stranger to leadership. Thank you Nicole! Thanks also to our new Vice-President, Ayo Wilson, and to Co-Secretary Kate Fullbright, and we appreciate Jo Sanders and Dianne Ford continuing as Treasurer and Secretary.

We also welcome Chris Foushee-Green as a new Board Member. Chris is a music teacher and performer who lives in Bynum, and loves the river and Jordan Lake. He hates to see trash along the waterways, and led teams during our March clean-up to get a lot of trash picked up near Jordan Lake. We're so glad he has joined our Board of Directors!

And one last shout out is to Cynthia Crossen, who has produced our newsletter for so many years. She does such a wonderful job, and makes it almost seem easy. Our heartfelt thanks to her for doing this!

Hope to see you all at our events this spring!

*For the river,*  
**Elaine Chiosso,**  
 Executive Director



*Elaine Chiosso monitors the Haw River in 2002 for the 30th Clean Water Act Anniversary.*



*Clockwise from above: Outgoing HRA President Chris Carter; new HRA President Nicole Gaines; newsletter editor Cynthia Crossen, at Dry Creek; and new HRA Board member Chris Foushee-Green.*





# Issues in the Watershed

from Emily Sutton,  
**HAW RIVERKEEPER®**



*Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton with the “Trash Trout” that collects plastics in the creek.*

## **Industrial Contaminants**

Our PFAS sampling with the City of Burlington has been a long but productive process. The investigation has revealed industrial sources of PFAS into the city’s wastestream, and we’re continuing to work with Duke University and the city to make sure that we identify all possible sources. We are also working with the city to prevent those industrial discharges of PFAS into the Haw River. By eliminating industrial sources of PFAS into Burlington’s wastestream, we can stop PFAS pollution from those sources into our environment and drinking water supplies.

In November, we worked with Southern Environmental Law Center to reach a settlement with the City of Greensboro regarding their Special Order by Consent (SOC). Under the settlement, the city must sample 58 sites, including industries, industrial branches of its sewer system, surface water locations, and drinking water sources, to track down any remaining sources of 1,4-dioxane. Industrial sources with 1,4-dioxane discharges above the updated limits must prepare and adopt a source reduction plan to prevent future discharges. Further, the city must post its sampling results to its Water Resources Department website, making this important information available to the public. We are closely monitoring Greensboro’s sampling program and will be fully engaged when the Department of Environmental Quality releases a new draft permit for the City, which we expect in the next two months.

## **Industrial Animal Agriculture**

In the 2021 Legislative session, Emily worked with Representative Ricky Hurtado to draft and introduce legislation that would correct an oversight in the very minimal regulation from poultry operators. Under existing law, poultry operators are required to submit Nutrient Waste Utilization plans that detail how much poultry waste is being produced and where it is being stored or land applied. However, this plan is not required to be submitted or reviewed, and the plan is rarely made in the first place. House Bill 913 would require digital submission of those plans, which would provide information to state and local agencies, and organizations like ours, about how much poultry litter is stored next to streams and potentially polluting our waterways. We are working with the NC Riverkeepers to move this bill forward, along with a bill that would study the impacts of dry litter poultry on our streams and on public health.

## **Mountain Valley Pipeline**

We’ve been fighting the proposed MVP Southgate pipelines project since April 2018. Four years later, the project is three years behind schedule and more than \$2 billion over budget. Thanks to our organizing efforts with Sierra Club, Appalachian Voices, POWHR, 7 Directions of Service and many impacted landowners along the way, even the funders say there is a “very low probability of pipeline completion.” No state permits have been granted for the

project in North Carolina. The company faces an \$800 million “impairment charge,” which means the value of the fracked gas has dropped below the cost to produce it. We are still working with our partners in Virginia to fight the mainline, which would further prevent the Southgate extension from ever being built. On March 29, Mountain Valley Pipeline gave up its appeal to overturn the VA Air Board decision, which denied a permit for the compressor station needed for MVP Southgate.

## **Brief Updates**

**Burlington Missile Plant:** The Army Corps of Engineers announced in January they’ll finally restart environmental testing at a former Army missile plant in East Burlington. This is the long-delayed step in cleaning up widespread contamination that has burdened a Black, Indigenous, and Latinx neighborhood for more than 30 years.

**Chatham Park’s Land Grab:** Chatham Park Investors threatened to withhold \$9 million in funding if DOT built Chatham Park Way North on its own land, instead of building it through the adjoining older North Woods community. On March 14, NCDOT’s Patrick Norman told the Pittsboro Commissioners that NCDOT will build the road through North Woods, regardless of the Pittsboro Commissioners objection to their decision to bisect the 40-year-old neighborhood.

**Caswell County SLAPP Suit Thrown Out:** A victory for free speech for those in Caswell County who are fighting the Carolina Sunrock asphalt and concrete plants. The SLAPP suit (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) by Carolina Sunrock, against members of the ACE Justice group in Caswell County and the NAACP chapter, was dismissed in March by the Superior Court Judge. We will continue our work with ACE Justice to stop the siting of these polluting industries.

# Over 300 Volunteers Participate in the 32nd Annual Haw River Clean Up A Thon!



*"Hey, look at all this trash we got out of our watershed!" Thanks, Clean-up-a-thon volunteers!*

On Saturday, March 19th, we hosted the Haw River Clean Up A Thon – our 32nd annual watershed-wide effort to remove trash from creeks, streams and trails leading to the Haw River. The event also raises awareness about the impacts of our consumption habits, and brings people together at the river and local creeks. Clean ups have been a popular way to get outdoors since lockdown, making this year's clean up a little easier on our volunteers! A total of **344 volunteers at 29 different locations** removed **267 bags of trash, 22 tires, and several other large odd items including metal and plastic piping, tractor tires, a shopping cart, and more!** Wow! Please check out some of the great photos on our website and Facebook to see what else volunteers fished out of the river.

**Red Slide Park** was cleaned up by Sandra Cooke's team, who found predominantly plastics and styrofoam \* **Great Bend Park/Glencoe Paddle Access Trail** were cleaned up by the Elon Sustainability Volunteer Club (*pictured at right*). They were able to collect some scrap metal and electronics from the trails and river. \* **Swepsonville Bridge** team was led by Harold Kernodle. \* **Graham Paddle Access Point** was cleaned up by Scout Troops 6041 and 4041 who had a run in with some roadkill but were still able to collect 9 bags of trash. \* **Swepsonville Paddle Access Point and Ball Park** was cleaned up and led by Lauren Bradshaw's



team. \* **Saxapahaw Island** was cleaned up by several families and single clean up-goers; and were led by organizer Kyleene Rooks; they collected loads of trash and plastic. \* **Tributaries throughout the Town of Pittsboro** were picked up by many smaller teams led by Gary Simpson, where they collected 41 total bags, separating plastics and aluminum. Some notable items they found included barbed wire, a pet kennel, and a traffic cone. \* **Bynum Lower State Natural Area**



*Milada Vachudova and sons with their hefty trash haul from Saxapahaw Island.*



was tackled by Girl Scout Troop 1006 and the Carolina Creek Club, as well as other families and solo clean up-goers, and were led by HRa's Executive Director, Elaine Chiosso (*pictured at left*). They were able to collect a total of 25 bags of trash, with the most notable item being an old political campaign sign from 5 years ago. \* The **15/501**

**Bridge area** was cleaned up by a mid-sized team led by Maarten Simon-Thomas, where they collected several bags of trash. \* Jonathan Sheline and his wife were able to canoe down **the Haw from Bynum to the Hwy 64 bridge** and collect a large blue plastic barrel and an orange plastic traffic cone. \* From the Hwy 64 bridge access point to the Lower Haw State Natural Area, Sophia Miller led a high school team in collecting 8 bags of trash, much including roadside and asphalt debris. \* **Dry Creek and Chicken Bridge** both had clean ups from longtime clean up volunteers Rachel Wilfert, Melissa Frey, Jeff Pettus, and Cathy Markatos. They all catch trash in the creeks near the neighborhoods before it makes its way downstream. \* Lexie Wolf led Yoga Garden - Pittsboro in cleaning up **Town Lake Park**, where they collected 16 bags of trash, 3 tires, and a power unit for an old dental machine. \* Along **where the Haw and Jordan Lake connect**, David Jester led a mid-sized group in collecting 18 bags of trash. \* Also surrounding the **Jordan Lake areas**, three additional teams of walkers and kayakers were led by Jerry Bolas,





Carolina Cone Club's Shane Brown, and HRA board member Chris Green. These teams collected an additional 30 bags of trash. \* **Bolin Creek** received lots of attention in Orange County this year in Umstead Park as well as along the bridge on Franklin Blvd, and were led by team leaders Margie Muenzer with the Climate Reality Project, Orange County Chapter; Will Stanley and his family; and Amy Smoker and her children. They collected mostly plastics. \* Maya Rose Plaza and her school's team cleaned up along **New Hope Creek near the Johnston Mill Nature Preserve** and collected a few bags along with additional car parts like bumpers and rims. \* **North Buffalo Creek, Cascade Park, and Muddy Creek** were all areas that were tackled in Greensboro this year led by multiple organizations: Westover Church, Piedmont Plateau Sierra Club, and the Greensboro Farmers Market. Together they collected roughly 30 bags of trash including some unique items like old blankets, a shopping cart, and an old paperback copy of *The Catcher in the Rye*. \* Several **Third Fork Creek** teams were led in Durham in the spirit of Durham Creek Week. This effort was overseen by Haw Riverkeeper, Emily Sutton, and they pulled several tires and a retail mannequin out of the creek.



*NC A&T students participate in this year's Clean-Up-A-Thon at Muddy Creek behind the Greensboro Farmers' Market.*

*A special thanks* to these organizations and individuals who helped us haul off the trash we collected: Haw River Trail and Alamance County Parks and Recreation \* Chatham County Solid Waste Department \* Saxapahaw Rivermill \* Town of Pittsboro \* Town of Graham \* Town of Chapel Hill \* Jordan Lake Parks and Recreation \* Trash hauling assistance from Lynn and Brenda Featherstone.



**Weird Trash Finds:** Retail Mannequin (Third Fork Creek) \* Shopping Cart (Muddy Creek) \* Deer Skeleton (Bolin Creek) \* Animal Print Thigh High Boot (Jordan Lake) \* Power Unit for an old Dental Machine (Town Lake Park) \* Shredded Tractor Tire (Chicken Bridge). And of course, the ubiquitous Mylar balloon (pictured at left).



*"What a good feeling it is, working together to clean up our creek!" And thanks to our business sponsors who support our efforts.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Thank you to the sponsors of the Haw River Clean Up A Thon*

**AbunDance Healing Arts**, 224 East St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 636-2545; [abundancehealingarts.com](http://abundancehealingarts.com)

**Branley Electrical Service, Inc.**, 1824 Chandler St., Elon, NC 27244; (336) 538-9953; [www.branleyelectricalservice.com](http://www.branleyelectricalservice.com)

**Fair Game Beverage Company**, 192 Lorax Ln, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 548-6884; [fairgamebeverage.com](http://fairgamebeverage.com)

**Furniture Lab**, 103 W Weaver St, Carrboro, NC 27510; (800) 449-8677; [furniturelab.com](http://furniturelab.com)

**Hempsmith Clothing Co.**, 198a Lorax Ln, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 704-5189; [hempsmith.co](http://hempsmith.co)

**Hobbs Architects**, 159 W Salisbury St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 545-2004; [hobbsarchitects.com](http://hobbsarchitects.com)

**Mellow Marsh Farm**, 1312 Woody Store Rd, Siler City, NC 27344, (919) 742-1200; [mellowmarshfarm.com](http://mellowmarshfarm.com)

**Peachy Clean, Inc.**, Home Maid Cleaning: (919) 422-2643; [peachycleaninc.com](http://peachycleaninc.com)

**Pittsboro Toys**, 15 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 545-1546; [pittsborotoys.com](http://pittsborotoys.com)

**Reverence Farms**, 1568 Haw Ranch Rd, Graham, NC 27253, (336) 266-9416; [reverencefarms.com](http://reverencefarms.com)

**The Jester Group**, 1414 Raleigh Rd #420, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, (919) 918-2900; [bairdfinancialadvisor.com/thejestergroup/](http://bairdfinancialadvisor.com/thejestergroup/)

**The Workshop**, 313 Providence Rd, Graham, NC 27253, (336) 417-4425; [theworkshopnc.com](http://theworkshopnc.com)

**Yoga Garden Pittsboro**, 184 East St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (919) 533-7935; [yogagardenpbo.com](http://yogagardenpbo.com)

### ***Working with Communities Against Pollution***

In **1992** we joined the battle against a new Alamance landfill being built at Austin Quarter Road near the Haw in Saxapahaw, after stopping it earlier upriver. We were not successful this second time, but citizen protest kept the county from expanding it to a regional landfill. In **1997** HRA joined with Deep River activists to protest the building of Randleman Dam, since Greensboro’s increased water supply would end up as more wastewater in the Haw. In **2001** we teamed with BREDL and Alamance residents protesting air pollution from the Stericycle medical waste incinerator, near the Haw River in Graham. In **2005** we joined Omega Wilson and Mebane-based West End Revitalization Association to be a community partner for their EPA Environmental Justice grant, fighting for “Rights to Basic Amenities”, including sewer line connections. In **2012** HRA joined the battle with community activists in Greensboro to stop the re-opening of the White Street Landfill, located in a primarily Black neighborhood. The city finally agreed to keep it closed, and it is currently used only for a mulching operation and C&D. In **2015** we joined with community members to challenge Duke Energy’s plans to build a huge coal ash dump in southeast Chatham County that could pollute the Haw and Cape Fear rivers and harm surrounding residents. In **2021** HRA joined with others fighting environmental injustice in Burlington, where a former Army missile plant is polluting surface and groundwater; and in western Caswell County, where a proposed asphalt and batch concrete plant would create air pollution in the community and degrade a tributary of the Haw River. Both communities have majority Black, Indigenous, and Latino populations.



*“Mr. Big” (played by Chris Carter) reluctantly accepts a petition from citizens fighting pollution from his Stericycle plant.*

### ***Protecting Jordan Lake***

In **2002**, Jordan Lake was put on the federal “Impaired Waters” list due to excess algae caused by nutrient pollution. The state began the process of creating new rules to reduce nutrient pollution from all sources – cities, agriculture, wastewater, stormwater, roads, etc. HRA joined the Stakeholder Project and became the leading voice for strong new water protections. This stakeholder process continued for five years, and then went through the legislative “wringer”. The final rules were made law in **2009**, and though not perfect, the rules to combat existing pollution, not just new pollution, were precedent setting. However, beginning in **2011**, the new Republican majority in the NC General Assembly started passing bills that extended deadlines for reducing pollution and weakening major parts of the rules. In the following years the legislature spent ridiculous amounts of time and money on proposed “fixes” for Jordan Lake such as the \$1 million for SolarBee aerators in **2018**, which were deemed a failure after a couple of years on the Lake. More studies ensued, and pollution keeps flowing into Jordan Lake.



*Kayakers and canoeists come out for our Save the Lake flotilla in 1997. Photo by Samantha Hartford Royster*

### ***Stopping Wastewater Spills and Agricultural Pollution***

In **2010**, HRA questioned the lack of state investigation after a 1.45-million-gallon raw wastewater spill from Greensboro following a storm. Paddlers downstream in the Haw alerted us to a resulting fish kill. In **2014**, a massive 3.5-million-gallon raw sewage spill into the Haw River from Burlington’s aging sewer system was the third significant spill in just one month. HRA, represented by Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), brought a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue the City of Burlington in April to prevent future spills. This brought them to the table for negotiations that resulted in an agreement that included fixing and replacing sewer pipes, improving their grease reduction program, and faster notification to the public of spills. HRA was named one of “America’s Most Endangered Rivers” by American Rivers that year, due to threats from wastewater and stormwater to the river and Jordan Lake. In **2018**, our new Haw Riverkeeper, Emily Sutton, began monitoring water quality downstream of big poultry operations where runoff from chicken litter is getting into streams. With support from Waterkeeper Alliance, we now have in-house lab equipment to analyze water samples for bacterial levels, to use in reporting violations of the state standards.



Photo by Cynthia Crossen

### ***Keeping NC Frack Free***

In **2011**, fracking for shale gas in the Triassic Basin of the Haw River watershed became a new threat. We joined forces with Clean Water for NC and other groups to fight to keep fracking out of NC, and formed

*continued on page 7*



Frack Free NC. In **2012** and **2013** we helped organize large turnouts for the state public hearings in our region against rules for fracking, and 59,000 petitions were delivered to the Governor calling for a ban on fracking. In **2015**, SELC filed a lawsuit on behalf of HRA and a Lee County landowner, to overturn fracking rules in NC after a court ruled that the legislature had overstepped their authority in setting up the Mining and Energy Commission who created the rules. We won an injunction that prohibited any fracking permits to be issued while the case is heard. We also worked to get Chatham, Lee, and Rockingham counties to pass moratoriums on fracking within their jurisdictions.

### ***Stopping Industrial Contaminants in the Haw***

In **1985**, HRA published the “Haw River Drinking Water Survey: A Study of Synthetic Organic Chemicals in Pittsboro Drinking Water and Influent Haw River Water”, funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. The study identified 38 chemicals present in the Haw River and in the finished drinking water in Pittsboro, the only municipality that draws drinking water from the Haw. Our study, and recommendations for new legislation, were shared with Chatham and Pittsboro governments and the General Assembly, but mainly ignored.



*HRA holds a forum on Pittsboro’s water contamination, with a panel of state scientists.*

Beginning in **2013**, HRA joined with scientists from UNC-CH, Duke University, NC State, and EPA at RTP, to investigate the runoff of industrial chemicals such as PFAS and 1,4-dioxane from municipal sludge fields into streams in our watershed. In **2015**, Haw Riverkeeper Elaine Chiosso co-authored the “Sludge in Our Waters” report documenting these findings, along with an interactive mapping tool for over 4,000 sludge fields in NC. In **2019**, HRA, represented by SELC, sent Burlington a Notice of Intent to Sue over continued high levels of PFAS and other industrial chemicals being released into the Haw River and sludge from the city’s wastewater treatment plant. In **2021** they signed an agreement to investigate the sources of PFAS and 1,4-dioxane in their wastewater, and to take steps to stop this pollution from entering the Haw River. In April **2021** SELC filed a legal challenge for HRA against the state, due to Greensboro’s wastewater treatment plant discharging high levels of 1,4-dioxane into the Haw under their existing permit. In November **2021**, the state agreed to a settlement with HRA (and Fayetteville) requiring Greensboro to have stricter limits and penalties for 1,4-dioxane under a new Special Order of Consent, and more monitoring to investigate the industries responsible.

### ***Mountain Valley Pipeline***

In **2018** HRA quickly mobilized when we learned that the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) had applied for a permit to build a new Southgate pipeline for fracked gas extending from their mainline from Virginia through Rockingham and Alamance counties. The pipeline would cause destruction to communities, health, and streams. Haw Riverkeeper joined Sierra Club and many others already fighting the main pipeline, and began reaching out to landowners and communities in the path of the pipeline and blast zone, to organize against MVP South. Local governments (including Alamance County) and state agencies joined in the opposition to MVP

Southgate Pipeline during the FERC comment period. HRA organized opposition to MVP’s 401 permit (for stream and wetland impacts), which was denied by the state (twice). Other permits for the main MVP pipeline and the air permit for the Southgate compressor station have been denied in Virginia, and the future of the whole project looks increasingly bad for MVP.

Photo by Michelle Lotker



## ***Help Haw River Assembly Raise \$40,000 This Year For Our 40th Anniversary!***

You’ve just read about all the great work we’ve done since 1982 to protect our waters from polluters. Now support us as we enter our fifth decade, to help us face new challenges, and to strengthen our voice for the river. Use the enclosed form to send us a check, or make a donation online at <https://hawriver.org/join-hra/>. You can also donate \$ per mile for our core team of paddlers that Emily Sutton is leading on the 40th Anniversary Haw River Paddle. **Thank You!**



# Standing in the Stream

Project News from Kyleene Rooks (at right), Outreach & Event Coordinator  
(919) 542-5790; krooks@hawriver.org

and Emily Sutton, HAW RIVERKEEPER® (919) 542-5790; emily@hawriver.org



## Haw River Watch

The Haw River Watch Project, sponsored by the Haw River Assembly, gives us a clearer picture of the health of the Haw River by determining the type and location of pollution sources. By conducting four seasonal “snapshot” surveys per year, River Watch volunteers document water quality across the tributaries and riverbanks of the Haw. Teams are trained and equipped to monitor water quality through biological, chemical, and visual parameters.

We have had six new teams join us this year, thanks to a few successful training sessions in Chatham, Alamance, Guilford, and Orange Counties. We are so thrilled to have more teams in these regions. If you are in these counties and interested in participating, we need your help! Please contact Kyleene Rooks (krooks@hawriver.org) to schedule a training session.



Margot (far right in photo at left) teaches about stream stewardship with the Enviroscope at World Water Day in Durham. Photo by Kyleene Rooks.



The Hwy 64 Haw River Bridge team braved higher than usual waters for their monitoring in March.

## Our Spring Intern

We welcome Margot Francini, a college freshman interning at the Haw River Assembly this spring through UNC Chapel Hill's EcoStudio program. She has always been passionate about protecting local ecosystems; as a little kid she always played in the creek that ran through her backyard and to this day wants to ensure our environment is protected so that future generations will be able to experience the joy that she did. She wants to go to law school to study environmental law after finishing her undergraduate degrees (environmental health sciences and public policy). All of her academic efforts are invested to learn more about how she can best aid in protecting the environment and curbing the climate crisis. At HRA, Margot is gaining experience in working in environmental education, water monitoring, and outreach and awareness. Thanks for joining us, Margot!

## Keeping Plastics and Other Trash Out of Our Waters

We're continuing our campaign to get businesses to reduce or eliminate single use plastics in their restaurants, bars, coffee houses, and other stores. The most recent business to take the Plastics Free Pledge is Freehand Market in Saxapahaw, whose store specializes in sustainable packaging and products. If you're a business owner (or know of one) that wants to be part of the Plastics Free Pledge, contact Kyleene Rooks at krooks@hawriver.org.

On Saturday, February 12th, over a dozen people came out to the Third Fork Creek Trail in Durham to install the first Trash Trout in the Haw River watershed. The Trash Trout, a product of Asheville Greenworks, is a floating litter trap that will allow us to capture trash in Third Fork Creek before it ends up downstream and eventually in Jordan Lake.

Lots of folks walking the trail were excited to see this happening. This trap is not only meant to capture litter, but to start a conversation about the issue of plastic pollution in our waterways. We're signing up volunteers to help maintain our Trash Trout in Durham. Learn more about it, and sign up at <https://hawriver.org/trash-trout/>. A BIG Thanks to our sponsors: Joe Van Gogh Coffee, Great Outdoors Provision Co., Frog Hollow Outdoors, and Fillaree (refillable soaps)!



Volunteer Fred Pfeiffer is doing maintenance on the Trash Trout. Photo by Emily Sutton.



# HRA Happenings



## ***Haw River Island Ramble, Saturday, April 30th***

Come join the Haw River Assembly Saturday, April 30th, as we run for the protection of our river! Walkers, runners, strollers, and ramblers alike are all welcome. Competitive or recreational participants can complete this outdoor 5K on the marked Saxapahaw Island Loop Trail that runs right along the scenic Haw River in Graham, North Carolina. Registration cut-off is Monday before the event, April 25th at midnight. Don't want to run, but want to participate? We need volunteers too!

Check out <https://hawriver.org/haw-river-island-ramble/> to register or volunteer to help.

## ***Haw River Festival, Saturday May 7, 4 - 8 pm, in Saxapahaw***

Join us in our annual HAW RIVER FESTIVAL on the Haw River in Saxapahaw. We will have **live music** from Honey Magpie, Saludos Compay, and Jasmé Kelly, as well as \* stream monitoring \* canoe rides for kids \* info on watershed issues \* T-shirts new & vintage \* local arts & crafts \* food trucks \* farmers' market \* silent auction.

Free – everyone welcome, donations happily accepted!

Haw River Festival May 7 Saxapahaw



## ***40th Anniversary Haw Riverkeeper Paddle, May 14 - 21***

In celebration of our 40th anniversary, and the 50th anniversary of the landmark Clean Water Act, Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton is paddling the 85 miles from Haw River State Park near the headwaters down to the dam at Jordan Lake. This paddle will celebrate our connections to this beautiful resource and tie our watershed community together. Interested in participating? We have many opportunities for you. We invite the public to join us on the river for one of our flat water paddle days, or one of our evening dinner party potlucks. Or, you can pledge to donate per mile, or sponsor one of our core paddle team members so they can take off work for a week to join us. Or, any or all of the above! Learn more about the paddle and ways to get involved at our website: [www.hawriver.org/40thpaddle](http://www.hawriver.org/40thpaddle)



## ***Haw River Learning Celebration***

The 33rd Annual Learning Celebration will take place Saturday, September 17 - October 7, in Bynum, Saxapahaw, and Camp Guilrock. This hands-on river-side educational program brings 4th-graders in our watershed on a field trip to learn about their river and how to protect it. Volunteers can camp with us, or come for a day or more. To volunteer, register on our website, [hawriver.org](http://hawriver.org), under the Projects tab. We truly appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers – this meaningful program would not be possible without you!

Photo by Tracy DeVoe



## Upcoming 2022 HRA Events

**April 30, Haw River Island Ramble.** See more on page 9.

**Saturday, May 7, 4 - 8 pm, Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw,** with live music, kayak raffle, silent auction, and more! See more on page 9.

**May 14 - 21, 40th Anniversary Haw Riverkeeper Paddle.** See more on page 9.

**June 18-19, Haw River Watch Monitoring weekend.** Our volunteers monitor water quality on creeks or sections of the river, recording changes over time and notifying us of pollution incidents. Find out more on our website at Programs/River Watch. Contact Kyleene Rooks (krooks@hawriver.org) to schedule a training session.



For **paddle trips on the Haw River** contact our partners Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company, [hawrivercanoe.com](http://hawrivercanoe.com), and Frog Hollow Outdoors, [froghollowoutdoors.com](http://froghollowoutdoors.com).

Photo by Cynthia Crossen.

Updates and details can be found at [www.hawriver.org](http://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](mailto:info@hawriver.org).

### Our 2022 T-Shirt — Duck!

"The Duck", by Clyde Jones, is a purple and green duck on a purple organic cotton T-shirt, produced by T.S. Designs of



Burlington using their unique environmentally-friendly dye process. NOTE: This is an oldie from the 90's. Clyde cannot paint anymore, so we're re-creating some of the old favorites, while he's still with us. Shirts are available in styles for:

- Adults (S, M, L, XL), for \$25;
- Women (S, M, L, XL), for \$25; and
- Youth (S, M, L, XL) for \$20;

at the Haw River Festival in Bynum on May 7, or after that online or at our office.

Check our website to order:

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

**Haw River Festival in  
Saxapahaw Sat. May 7**

Address Service Requested

**Bynum, NC 27228**

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**Haw River Assembly**

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