



# The Haw River

Canoe & Kayak Co.

## THE HAW RIVER PADDLER

April 2010

*"Now I see the secret of making the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth."*

Walt Whitman

### Table of Contents:

- 3rd Annual YEE HAW! River Paddle
- Spring Offers Reliable Water Levels
- Our Weekly Updates of Courses & Trips
- Schedule of Courses & Trips – April & May
- A Weekend Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw
- Bird & Wildlife Viewing on the River Has Been Great

### 3rd Annual YEE HAW! River Paddle

The 3rd annual community-wide paddle known as the YEE HAW! River Paddle will take place on April 10, 2010. The purpose of the paddle is to encourage community support for the development of the Haw River Paddle Trail. Come paddle with us and show your support for the river.

For more details, to register or to download a brochure, please go to [www.the-haw.org/yeehaw.htm](http://www.the-haw.org/yeehaw.htm). In case of rain or high water, an alternative paddle date is scheduled for April 24th.

### Spring Offers Reliable Water Levels

As far as we are concerned anytime of the year is a good time to paddle rivers, but spring is a special time for paddlers shaking off the remnants of cabin fever and nature lovers seeking opportunities for wildlife viewing.

It is during March, April and May that all sections of the Haw River can be paddled because of reliably higher water levels. By the time late June rolls around, the whitewater sections are a little "boney", certainly not the best conditions if you don't like to get scratches on the bottom of your boat.

### Our Weekly Updates of Courses & Trips

We are always adding unscheduled courses and trips to our original calendar of events. You can keep up with the additions by checking out our website schedule page at [www.hawrivercanoe.com/calendar.htm](http://www.hawrivercanoe.com/calendar.htm) or [Find us on Facebook](#). We update both of them each week.

Our Facebook site is also a good place to see images of past courses and trips. It is our way of enabling you to envision what a course or trip might be like.

Have a boat but need folks with whom to paddle? The Haw River Paddle Club is now a group on our Facebook page. [Haw River Paddle Club](#) Check out the group for spontaneous and scheduled trips and become a member. The Club is very informal. There are no dues, just folks who are interested in paddling with others.

### Schedule of Courses & Trips – April & May

The **2010 Schedule** of all our guided paddle trips and paddling courses can be found under both the **Instruction** and **Guided Trips** headings on our website. **Don't forget, you can rent a canoe or kayak and do a self-guided trip.**

We will update the HRCK schedule with **Rental Trips** as they are requested.

#### April

- 3 Whitewater Paddle  
Red Slide Park to Swepsonville River Park
- 10 YEE HAW! River Paddle  
Sunset Paddle
- 11 Paddle Brunch – Saxapahaw General Store  
Red Slide Park to Swepsonville River Park
- 17 Paddle Dinner – Pittsboro General Store Café  
Canoe & Kayak Classes  
Quick Start for Canoe (3 hours)  
Quick Start for Kayak (3 hours)  
Introduction to River Canoeing (8 hours)  
Introduction to River Kayaking (8 hours)
- 17&18 Introduction to Whitewater Canoeing (16 hours)  
Introduction to Sea Kayaking (16 hours)
- 18 Stargazing Float
- 24 YEE Haw! River Paddle – Rain Date  
Water, Wine & Hors D'oeuvres – Benjamin Vineyards & Winery  
Owl Prowl
- 24&25 Spirit Island Campout

#### May

- 1 Whitewater Paddle  
Haw River Festival – Poker Paddle
- 2 Red Slide Park to Swepsonville River Park  
Haw River Festival – Pedal & Paddle
- 8 Paddle Dinner – Pittsboro General Store Café
- 9 Sunset Paddle
- 15 Stargazing Float  
Canoe & Kayak Classes  
Quick Start for Canoe (3 hours)  
Quick Start for Kayak (3 hours)  
Introduction to River Canoeing (8 hours)  
Introduction to River Kayaking (8 hours)
- 15&16 Introduction to Whitewater Canoeing (16 hours)  
Introduction to Sea Kayaking (16 hours)
- 16 Picnic & Paddle
- 22 Paddle Dinner – Benjamin Vineyards & Winery
- 22&23 Spirit Island Campout
- 28 Full Moon Paddle
- 30 Swepsonville River Park to Saxapahaw Lake

### A Weekend Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw

For years, the annual Haw River Festival was held on a Saturday afternoon in May in Bynum, NC. The Festival this year is moving upriver to Saxapahaw, NC and will be an entire weekend of fun and educational activities designed to raise funds for the conservation and educational work of the Haw River Assembly.

The Haw River Festival will begin on the first Friday in May this year with outdoor movies and a dinner with the Saxapahaw General Store. The movies have been selected to be particularly appealing and educational for adults, as well as for children.

Saturday morning, Festival activities kick off with a Poker Paddle followed Saturday afternoon with Saturdays in Saxapahaw's now famous farmer's market, live music and kids activities. There will also be a giant puppet parade and canoe rides for kids. Later in the evening, the Festival celebration will move to Paperhand Puppet Intervention's studio for dancing till midnight.

For those who get up to exercise early on Sunday mornings, a Pedal & Paddle is scheduled. Participants will bicycle to Saxapahaw before joining a guided river trip. Later in the morning, a lecture on the mill history of the Haw River Watershed will be presented at the River Landing Inn Bed & Breakfast by Carrboro Mayor, Mark Chilton.

All weekend there will be opportunities to enjoy art and wine at Benjamin Vineyards & Winery and tour the new Haw River Ballroom and a new pub, The Eddy, being built in the upper mill in the Village of Saxapahaw.

There will be more information about the Haw River Festival in the May edition of The Haw River Paddler. You can also go to the Haw River Assembly's website [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org) for up-to-date information.

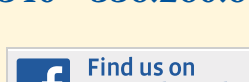
### Bird & Wildlife Viewing Has Been Great

During the last two weeks of March, bird and wildlife viewing has been great. Without much effort at all, we have seen bald eagles, osprey, great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, kingfishers, barred owls, geese, cormorants and gulls along with turtles, deer, beavers and raccoons. It has been easy to see them because they have been so preoccupied with preparations for parenthood and defending their territories.

Any time of the day has been good for seeing most species. Late afternoon has been the best time to see most of the birds as they return to their evening roosts and nests. Early morning has been the best time to see deer and raccoons while turtles are out in the heat of the day. Barred owls and beaver are best seen and/or heard at night.

*Reconnect with nature, have fun paddling.*

PO Box 22 Saxapahaw, NC 27340 • 336.260.6465 • [www.hawrivercanoe.com](http://www.hawrivercanoe.com)



If you do not wish to receive future editions of "The Haw River Paddler," an Electronic Update provided by The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company, please send an e-mail message to [update@hawrivercanoe.com](mailto:update@hawrivercanoe.com) with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject field. Thanks.