



THE HAW RIVER PADDLER

March 2010

"I need a place of grace, where life's more than just the race. Where my spirit is at peace and my heart is at home. Where Nature abounds and wild things roam."

Jay D. Hair
Rag Mountain - March 12, 1995

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Celebrate the Haw River; a Paddle to Promote the River

In 1982, two river conservationists filled up a clay jug with water from two springs that are the beginning of the Haw River and paddled over 100 miles to the river's confluence with the Deep River. Upon arriving at the Deep River, they poured their jug full of Haw River spring water into the Cape Fear River, the symbolism being that the Haw River would flow that clear and clean again.

This spring, 28 years later, students from Hawbridge Charter High School in Saxapahaw, NC will duplicate the 1982 trip to celebrate efforts to protect, conserve and promote the Haw River Trail. The students will be lead by their history and social studies teacher, Matt Steible, who is also a guide with The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. Matt was the first to duplicate the trip three years ago while a student at Elon University.

Matt and the students are using the trip to raise money for their school and the Haw River Assembly. The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. will be providing canoes, gear and logistical support. If you or your place of work would like to support the students' efforts with a contribution of dollars or cents per mile paddled, please contact The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. **336-260-6465** or info@hawrivercanoe.com for more information on how to do so.

Haw River Clean-Up-a-Thon Scheduled for March 20th

The 20th Annual Haw River Assembly's Clean-Up-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday March 20. Volunteers will work in teams at established sites near bridge crossings, shorelines, islands or other places trash piles up. Local businesses and individuals sponsor the teams by making a donation to the Haw River Assembly to protect the river year round.

We are proud to once again be a business sponsor of the annual Clean-Up-A-Thon and will focus our efforts on both Spirit Island and at our riverside location in Saxapahaw. Please give us a call **336-260-6465** or send us an e-mail message info@hawrivercanoe.com if you would like to help at one or both of these sites.

A New Stretch of River Added to the Haw River Trail

We are happy to announce that 12.5 acres of riparian property have been donated to the Haw River Trail Partnership for addition to the "land trail". Through the generosity of the Tar Heel Land Group, approximately 2/3 of a mile of river frontage between the town of Haw River and parcels owned by the Town of Graham south of I-40/85 will serve as a visual buffer along the "paddle trail".

Development of the "land trail" is underway. An opening date has not been set. You can keep up with developments for both the "land trail" and the "paddle trail" by going to www.thehaw.org.

The Haw River Trail Partnership was very active in 2009.

Here are Alamance County statistics:

- 200 Riparian Acres Conserved
- 8,500 Linear Feet Conserved along the Haw River
- 14,000 Linear Feet Conserved along Perennial Streams
- 2 Miles Added to the Haw River Land Trail
- 9 Miles Added to the Haw River Paddle Trail

Schedule of Courses & Trips – March & April

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.

A brief listing of scheduled activities for March & April follows:

March

- 6 Red Slide Park to Swepsonville River Park
- 13 Stargazing Float
- 14 Sunset Paddle
- 20 River Clean Up
- Paddle & Potluck
- 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)
- 20-21 Introduction to Whitewater Canoeing (16 hours)
- Introduction to Sea Kayaking (16 hours)
- 21 Picnic & Paddle
- 27 Full Moon Paddle
- 27-28 Spirit Island Campout
- 28 Swepsonville River Park to Saxapahaw Lake

April

- 3 Whitewater Paddle
- Red Slide Park to Swepsonville River Park
- 10 YEE HAW! River Paddle
- Red Slide Park to Swepsonville River Park
- Sunset Paddle
- 11 Paddle Brunch – Saxapahaw General Store
- 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

3rd Annual YEE HAW! River Paddle

The YEE HAW! River Paddle is an annual community-wide paddle in Alamance County put on to benefit the Haw River Trail. The 3rd annual paddle will take place on April 10, 2010. Over 300 people during the first two years have enjoyed a day of fun while supporting the creation of both the Haw River Paddle Trail and the Haw River Land Trail. In case of rain or high water, an alternative paddle date is scheduled for April 24th.

Paddlers who own their boat and paddling gear will paddle from Glencoe Paddle Access to Swepsonville River Park. Individuals and families without boats and paddling gear may rent them and paddle from Red Slide Park in the Town of Haw River to Swepsonville River Park.

For more details, to register or to download a brochure, please go to www.thehaw.org/yeehaw.htm. By the way, we are proud to say that The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. has been involved with organizing the YEE HAW! River Paddle since its inception.

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.

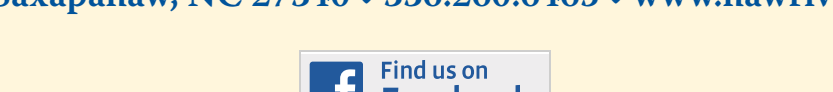
The Festival will begin on the first Friday in May with outdoor movies and an optional dinner with the Saxapahaw General Store. The movies have been selected to be particularly appealing and educational for adults, as well as for children.

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 moves to the Paperhand Puppet Intervention 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.

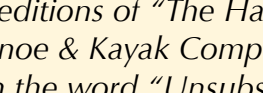
All weekend there will be opportunities to enjoy art and wine at Benjamin Vineyards & Winery and tour the new Haw River Ballroom and a new pub, The Eddy, being built in the upper mill in the Village of Saxapahaw.

There will be more about the Haw River festival in future editions of The Haw River Paddler.



Reconnect with nature, have fun paddling.

PO Box 22 Saxapahaw, NC 27340 • 336.260.6465 • www.hawrivercanoe.com



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