



The
Haw River
Canoe & Kayak Co.

Reconnect with nature, have fun paddling.

THE HAW RIVER PADDLER

May 2009

"To trace the history of a river or a raindrop, as John Muir would have done, is also to trace the history of the soul, the history of the mind descending and arising in the body. In both, we constantly seek and stumble upon divinity, which like the raindrops feeding the lake, and the spring becoming a waterfall, feeds, spills, falls and feeds itself over and over again."

Gretel Ehrlick
Islands, The Universe, Home - 1991

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20th. Annual Haw River Festival in Bynum – May 9th

Music, art, giant puppet parade, chalk drawing on the bridge, hiking along the river, catching critters that live in the Haw River, free short canoe rides for kids 12 and under, environmental awareness displays and activities, kayak raffle, good food—you'll find it all at the Haw River Festival in Bynum on Saturday, May 9!

Enjoy the silent art auction, including Clyde Jones art; kids' art and nature activities; "paint-your-own" Clyde critter; crafts for sale; and a great lineup of music and entertainment.

Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 under 14 (babies free). *Proceeds help fund efforts to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake, including the annual educational program on the river for 4th graders.*

For more information, go to www.hawriver.org.

Saturdays in Saxapahaw – May through August

The Saxapahaw Rivermill summer series known as "Saturdays in Saxapahaw" starts up again this year in May. The weekly festivities include performances by top bands featuring bluegrass, back porch, blues, folk, gospel, Latin, Celtic, funk, roots, Americana and old time music and a thriving Farmer's Market with fresh, local produce, cheese, eggs, baked goods, flowers, honey, organic meat, locally produced wine, hand made arts, crafts and more.

Exciting events and activities for children are featured each week. Festivities take place every Saturday from 5:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. through the end of August. Admission is free though donations are appreciated. Organizers pass around a "Swan Bucket" to pay for the band.

Bring a blanket or something else to sit on and come join the local community in celebrating what is special about Saxapahaw and the Haw River. Either bring food and drink or purchase it from the local merchants. We are sure you will have a wonderful time enjoying an evening outside.

Schedule of Courses & Trips – May & June

If you are interested in a paddle course or a guided trip, you can find a schedule of activities on our website www.hawrivercanoe.com on both the Instruction and Guided Trips pages. **Don't forget, you can rent a canoe or kayak and do a self-guided trip.** A brief listing of activities for May & June follows:

May

- 2 Saxapahaw Whitewater
- 2 Swepsonville to Saxapahaw
- 3 Town of Haw River to Swepsonville
- 8 Sunset Paddle
- 9 Full Moon Paddle
- 9&10 Spirit Island Campout
- 16 Canoe & Kayak Classes
- 23 Paddle Dinner – Benjamin Vineyards & Winery
- 23 Stargazing Float
- 30 Paddle & Potluck

June

- 5 Full Moon Paddle
- 6 Paddle Dinner – Grove Winery
- 7 Town of Haw River to Swepsonville
- 12 Sunset Paddle
- 13 Saxapahaw Whitewater
- 14 River Clean up (canoes provided for free)
- 20 Canoe & Kayak Classes
- 20 Stargazing Float
- 27 Paddle & Potluck

Classes include Quick Start for Canoe & Kayak (3 hrs.), Introduction to Canoeing & Kayaking (8 hrs.), Basic Whitewater Canoeing (16 hrs.) and Sea Kayaking Fundamentals (16 hrs.).

A Riverside Park in Saxapahaw?

Directly behind our office in Saxapahaw is a small strip of land next to the Haw River that used to be a riverside park. Currently, it has grown up in weeds and exotic vegetation, but the potential is there for the area to be a wonderful park again. Fortunately, the property belongs to the Saxapahaw Community Trust, the owners of the building where our office is located. We have the Trust's permission to make this site available to our guests.

We would like to establish a "Friends of the Mill Race Park" to help us refurbish the site and make it a wonderful place to not only put in canoes and kayaks, but to be a place of solitude where a person can enjoy the natural surroundings. We would also like to connect the area with a walking trail in the community.

If you would like to help us in any way, please give us a call at 336/260-6465 or send an e-mail to admin@hawrivercanoe.com. We are looking for ideas as well as volunteer help. How about working with us to bring this park back to life one morning and afterwards, as our guest, joining us for a paddle on Saxapahaw Lake?

Inspirational Quotes - A New Feature in Our Newsletter

At the beginning of this newsletter, there is a quote by Gretel Ehrlich. One of the many beautiful things about nature is that it provides inspiration to many of us and some people just have a wonderful way of putting that inspiration into words. We all know such writers as John Muir, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and even Edward Abbey. There are so many more.

If there is a quote about nature you love, particularly about rivers, streams and lakes, please share it with us so that we can add it to a future edition of The Haw River Paddler. Just send it to admin@hawrivercanoe.com. We will be very appreciative.

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