



www.thehaw.org

What is the Haw River Trail Partnership?

In 2006, 10 governmental agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together for the development of the Haw River Trail and the conservation of its land and waters.

In this spirit, the cities of Burlington and Graham have partnered with Alamance County, to fund a full-time position to coordinate conservation and trail efforts on the Upper Haw River. This newsletter, and our website: www.thehaw.org, are an effort to inform the public about the ongoing work stemming from the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding.

THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Fall 2009

STUDY REVEALS HAW IS ONE OF NC'S MOST POPULAR PADDLE DESTINATIONS

A study released this month by the North Carolina State Trails Program shows the Haw River as one of North Carolina's most paddled rivers. The "2008 Paddle Tourism Study" surveyed paddlers across the state and region about their destinations and preferences. The study found that the Haw River Paddle Trail, including Jordan Lake, was the second most popular river in the State behind only the Neuse. The study also confirmed paddling has become a substantial economic engine in North Carolina. The over 2,000 respondents reported spending approximately \$650 a year on paddle trips and 60% responded that they drove at least an hour to reach their last paddling destination.



To see the entire study, visit: http://www.ncparks.gov/About/docs/paddle_report.pdf

CEREMONY OPENS ALTAMAHAW PADDLE ACCESS

Public officials and members of the community came together on June 20th to officially open Altamahaw Paddle Access. John Gant of Glen Raven, Inc. spoke about the history of the site and the partnership of Glen Raven in creating the new access. Bryan Hagood, director of Alamance County Recreation and Parks and Tony Laws of Burlington Recreation and Parks also spoke on behalf of the Haw River Trail Partnership. Immediately after the ceremony, a group of paddlers from Haw River Outfitters arrived to utilize the new access.

The opening of the Altamahaw access adds approximately 6 miles to the northern end of the Haw River Paddle Trail. Paddlers may also put in at the site and paddle upstream for several miles in the calm water behind the Glen Raven dam. The 2.8 acre parcel is located on the west side of Highway 87, at the road's intersection with the Haw River. The site will be maintained by the Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department.



Haw River Outfitters Canoes at
Altamahaw Paddle Access

For questions, comments, or to remove your name from the mailing list, email info@thehaw.org or call 336/229-2229



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MST Month Hike Planned for October 10th

In celebration of Mountains-To-Sea Trail Month, the Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department will be hosting a guided hike on October 10th at 9:00am. The hike will lead hikers down what we hope will soon be the newest section of Mountains to Sea Trail in the State. The hike will also feature a preview of an unopened section of trail from Glencoe Paddle Access to Carolina Mill.

The hike will leave from Indian Valley Paddle Access. For more information or to sign-up, please contact Kim Brown at kim.brown@alamance-nc.com

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TRAILBLAZERS WORK DAY SET FOR OCTOBER 3RD

The next workday for the Haw River TrailBlazers Crew will take place October 3rd at 10am. We will be constructing the final two foot bridges on the new section of trail from Glencoe Paddle Access to Carolina Mill.

The work of the trailblazers will become critical in the next year as we undertake several large trail building projects. New projects at the Gerringier Mill Road property and at the Challenge Golf Course will provide plenty of work for our volunteers. If you have not participated in one of our work days in the past, please consider coming out in October. We will provide tools and water for everyone, and hope to have our new TrailBlazers T-shirts in hand. Please bring your own gloves and safety equipment. For more information, or to sign up, please email Chris Clark at chris.clark@alamance-nc.com.



ONLINE DONATIONS AND HRT GEAR NOW AVAILABLE

Our website, www.thehaw.org has been updated to allow online donations and shopping. Haw River Trail T-shirts and bumper stickers are among the items that can be purchased. Online donations are available in \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$250 dollars increments. Just click on HRT logo in the "Donate" section. Please consider helping us build the trail with a donation this year.

RED SLIDE PARK OPENING WELL ATTENDED

The Haw River Trail's newest park opened on May 30th in downtown Haw River. Approximately 50 people were on hand to celebrate the event and hear comments from Mayor Buddy Boggs, Haw River Trail Coordinator Brian Baker and Haw River Parks and Recreation Director Randall King. Red Slide Park was funded by a Recreational Trails Program grant from the State of North Carolina in 2007. The grant funds, along with matching funds from the Town of Haw River, purchased nearly 15 acres of property on Lang Street, across the Haw River from the historic Granite Mill complex.

The park hosts the Haw River Trail/Mountains to Sea Trail, as well as a new access to the Haw River Paddle Trail. Park visitors will also be able to explore the stone remnants of the old dam across the Haw that once created a lake reaching as far as Stoney Creek in the community of Carolina. Once the site of the easternmost terminus for the streetcars from Burlington and Graham, the park promises to restore the land as a community gathering place.





FIRST RUN FOR THE HAW RAISES MONEY, AWARENESS

The City of Graham's first "Run For The Haw" was a great success. The 5k run drew over 100 runners and walkers for the first time event in June. When all was said and done, the event raised over \$1,000 for the Haw River Trail and raised awareness of the HRT to all involved. The fastest times were turned in by Graham Crawford of Burlington with a time of 17:41 and Missy Foy of Cedar Grove in 19:45.

Thanks to all the participants and sponsors for their support.



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The Haw River Trail is on Facebook! Click below to "Friend Us" and get updates on news and events.

flickr

To see and share more pictures of the Haw River Trail, visit the Haw River Trail Group on Flickr.com.

GRAHAM PADDLE ACCESS IS GETTING A MAKEOVER

After 9 years, the Graham Paddle Access is getting a makeover. Graham Paddle Access was the first formal paddle access in Alamance County when it was dedicated in October, 2000. Since then, the site has survived several floods and thousands of paddle trips. Now one of the most popular accesses on the river is getting some repairs and improvements. By the end of this fall, the access will have a new seating area for visitors, new signage and improved maps for paddlers. If you have suggestions for the site, let us know, and keep your eyes peeled for the new and improved site.



New Gazebo at
Graham Paddle Access

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTING THE NATURAL SPECIES OF THE HAW RIVER BASIN

The Shield Darter is one of the most common species of darter on the eastern seaboard. Growing to a length of 40-70 mm at maturity, the Shield Darter is identified by its two nearly connected dorsal fins, the first of which is emblazoned with a dark band along the fin. A distinctive vertical band above and below the eye also help identify the fish.

The Shield Darter reproduces in clear streams with gravel bottoms, burying their eggs below a layer of gravel in the stream bed. In April and May the fish spawns, and males set up camp behind a rock. Males vigorously defend their mating area or two to ten feet around their chosen rock by chasing away other males. When intruders approach, the darter first displays, turning his body parallel to the intruder. If there was no retreat, he then strikes with his mouth open and his fins erect. Fights last less than 20 seconds, with rest periods of 3 to 5 seconds, until one fish is driven off.



Shield Darter (*Percina peltata*)



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Please Send Us Your Trip Reports

For visitors and first-time paddlers on the Haw River Paddle Trail, knowing what water levels are required for each section of the river can be difficult. To help, we are considering placing gauges near the accesses that display proper water levels. We need your help to determine what water levels to recommend. Next time your on the Haw, take a quick minute to tell us what section you paddled, what the water level was (or when you paddled) and whether that level was acceptable. Please email trip reports to info@thehaw.org or call 336/229-2229.

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HRT A TESTING GROUND FOR STATE PADDLE TRAIL STANDARDS

In 2006, Jan Trask and Carol Kline, then graduate students at North Carolina State University, embarked on an ambitious project entitled “How to Build a Paddle Trail in Your Community.” The purpose of the project was to share the collective wisdom gained from past efforts and to help local communities learn the basics of paddle trail building.

Almost three years later, the project has resulted in a set of “paddle trail standards” to guide local efforts in establishing paddle trails or “blueways.” After unveiling the standards to the public last year, the North Carolina State Trails Program is seeking to ground test the standards on existing and developing paddle trails.

At the request of the State Trails Program, the Haw River Paddle Trail has agreed to be a pilot project for the new standards. We have begun the process of assessing the compliance of our paddle trail with the new standards and attempting to remedy those portions of the paddle trail that are not in compliance.

We hope the process will be instructive for both the Haw River Trail and for the State Trails Program as they attempt to expand the reach of safe and legal paddling opportunities throughout the state.



Green Heron searches for lunch on Haw Creek

PTCOG BEGINS REGIONAL TRAIL PLANNING EFFORT

The Piedmont Triad Council of Governments began a 12 county regional trail planning effort this month. The PTCOG is working in cooperation with NCDENR, the Northwest COG, local governments and other stakeholders. Keying off large scale regional trails already in development, such as the Mountains to Sea Trail, the planning effort will attempt to

catalog and connect other local trail efforts. The effort coincides with the Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department’s creation of a county-wide trail master plan, expected to be finalized in 2010. Local stakeholder meetings will be held in the fall. For more information contact Jesse Day with the PTCOG at jday@ptcog.org.



PIEDMONT TRIAD
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS