



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](http://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

Winter 2011

### 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

2010 was another productive year for the Haw River Trail and its Partners. Highlights of the year were the opening of the Carolina Mill section of the Haw River Trail on January 1st and the opening of Shallow Ford Natural Area on September 18th. In addition, we were able to partner with the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail to establish a successful volunteer trail building task force on the Haw River. Other notable achievements from the past year include:

- 6 miles of hiking trail open to the public
- 12.21 acres of land acquired
- 4,750 feet of trail acquired
- \$234,600 received in grants and donations

Thanks for all your support this year, we look forward to another successful year in 2011!



Bridge Construction at Shallow Ford Natural Area, opened in September 2010

### CONSTRUCTION ON NEWEST PADDLE ACCESS UNDERWAY IN SAXAPAHAW

The newest paddle access on the Haw River Paddle Trail is growing closer to completion. Located in the Village of Saxapahaw, the new access seeks to revitalize a traditional community gathering place, and provide safe, legal access to one of the most popular sections of the Haw River. The new access will include an upper access at the "Boy Scout Camp" area above the dam, and a lower access behind the Saxapahaw Community Center. Thus far, work on the upper access has included the improvement of the current road, and the creation of several new parking spots.



Conceptual Site Plan for the Saxapahaw Paddle Access scheduled to open Spring 2011

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



www.thehaw.org

Help us Grow!  
Buy Some Stuff!

Help us meet our goals and show off your trail gear at the same time by buying Haw River Trail merchandise. These following items are available online at [shop.thehaw.org](http://shop.thehaw.org).

**NEW!**  
"Get Back To  
Where You Once  
Belonged"  
T-Shirt  
\$15.00



HRT Hiking  
Stick Medallion  
\$5.00



HRT Bumper  
Sticker \$1.00



# THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

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## TRAIL BUILDING CLASS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 19TH

Join the Haw River Trail Partnership and the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail for a basic trail building workshop this month in Burlington. The program is aimed at helping people learn basic and advanced trail-building techniques. "Trail building is an art and a science. These classes will help people learn how to design and build a beautiful and sustainable trail," said Kate Dixon, executive director of Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (FMST).



The free workshops will be taught by Randy Johnson, who developed Grandfather Mountain's back country trails management system and helped design the Tanawha Trail on the Blue Ridge Parkway. He is the author of "Hiking North Carolina," a statewide trail guide. The workshop will include classroom instruction followed by hands-on work along the Haw River Trail. In addition to the basic class, there will be an advanced class in Greensboro on March 5. Both will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The advanced class will include design and construction techniques for rock and log retaining walls and bridges.

Participants must register in advance by contacting Kate Dixon of the Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail at [kdixon@ncmst.org](mailto:kdixon@ncmst.org) or 919-698-9024.

## FMST/HAW RIVER TRAIL TASK FORCE SPRING WORKDAYS

- **March 5:** An all-day intermediate/advanced trail building workshop in Guilford County
- **March 19:** Alamance County Trail Workday 9am-3pm. Location TBD.
- **April 9:** Falls Lake Trail Race (12 miles or 50k) to benefit Friends of the MST. Run with the FMST team today! <http://www.bullcityrunning.com/events/mst-trail-challenge/>

For more information or to sign up, contact Megan Squire at [megansquire@gmail.com](mailto:megansquire@gmail.com).

### SAXAPAHAW continued

The lower access has seen more substantial renovations, as the former parking area has been converted into an open play area, and the former tennis court has been renovated to accommodate expanded parking. Over the next few months, other amenities will be added including a new picnic shelter and new steps to create safe access to river.

The new access will open two new stretches of river to the public. Paddlers will now be able to begin their trip upriver at Swepsonville River Park, and take out at the upper access on Saxapahaw Lake. Paddlers entering the river at the lower access will have a six mile journey downstream to Greensboro-Chapel Hill Rd. A new access at Greensboro-Chapel Hill Road is slated to open in 2012.

The Saxapahaw Paddle Access is made possible by a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the N.C. State Trails Office, which was awarded in Fall 2009. The access has also been made possible by land and easement donations from Sellers Manufacturing and the Saxapahaw Community Chest. Work at the access site is planned to be completed for an opening in Spring 2011.



## 2011 YEE HAW! RIVER PADDLE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7TH

Preparations are underway for the 4th Annual Yee Haw! River Paddle, slated this year for May 7th. Over the past three years, over 300 people have joined us for the community-wide paddle to benefit the Haw River Trail. This year's event promises to be better than ever as we offer a new route, a new race and new friends.

We are departing from our traditional Glencoe to Swepsonville route this year to showcase a new section of river, and two new paddle accesses at Saxapahaw and Great Alamance Creek. This new route also allows us to partner with the Haw River Assembly to combine the Yee Haw! River Paddle and the annual Haw River Festival on the same day in Saxapahaw. The Haw River Festival drew over 1,000 people in its first year in Saxapahaw last year, and provides a day of Haw River themed music and fun.



Paddlers at the 2010 Yee Haw! River Paddle

We are also excited to add a paddle race this year for the first time. Paddlers will race from Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access to Saxapahaw for pride and prizes in a number of divisions. We are currently accepting sponsorships starting at \$100 that will include recognition on all printed materials, on our website, and in the media coverage of the event. Booths at the Haw River Festival are also available.

Registration for the event will open March 15th. Stay tuned to [www.thehaw.org](http://www.thehaw.org) for more details as the paddle approaches.

## HRT PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FOR TRAILSIDE FACILITIES ON PADDLE TRAIL

The Alamance County Recreation and Parks, a Haw River Trail Partner, has received a \$75,000 grant from the N.C. State Trails Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to provide trail side restroom facilities at three paddle access sites along the Haw River Paddle Trail. Targeted sites include Glencoe Paddle Access, Shallow Ford Natural Area and Graham Paddle Access.

This project is an effort by the Haw River Trail Partnership to meet the draft paddle trail standards set forth by the N.C. State Trails Office requiring that restrooms be located no more than 15 miles apart. The Haw River Trail Partnership is striving to make the Haw River Paddle Trail the first paddle trail in the State to comply with the draft standards.

2010 marks the fourth consecutive year the Haw River Trail Partnership has received an RTP grant from the State. The 2009 grant is currently being used to construct a paddle access in Saxapahaw. Previous RTP grants were used to construct the 15-acre Red Slide Park in the Town of Haw River, trail development from Indian Valley to Carolina Mill, and to construct Swepsonville River Park.

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flickr

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



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### Monthly Attendance at Haw River Trail Sites

**November 2010**  
 Altamahaw Paddle  
 Access: 1,496  
 Glencoe Paddle  
 Access: 779  
 Great Bend Park: 724  
 Shallow Ford  
 Natural Area: 1,114

**December 2010**  
 Altamahaw Paddle  
 Access: 1,944  
 Great Bend Paddle  
 Access: 1,115  
 Great Bend Park: 1,090  
 Shallow Ford  
 Natural Area: 1,532

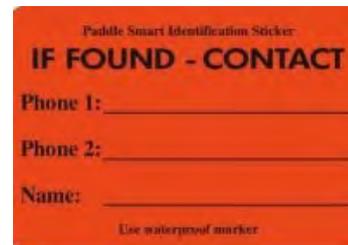
**January 2011**  
 Altamahaw Paddle  
 Access: 1,232  
 Glencoe Paddle  
 Access: 711  
 Great Bend Park: 587  
 Shallow Ford  
 Natural Area: 869

## COAST GUARD: "LABEL YOUR BOATS"

The Coast Guard has a new Paddle Smart Campaign to improve safety and emergency response for canoers and kayakers. The Paddle Smart Campaign provides water-proof, reflective, self-adhesive stickers for affixing owner identification and contact information to small, human powered water craft.

When there is a report or discovery of an unattended/adrift canoe, kayak, dinghy or other paddle type craft in the water, the Coast Guard, State or local authorities often times assumes that the owner is in distress until evidence can be found to support otherwise. The information on the sticker can allow response entities to quickly identify the owner/operator of the vessel and aid search and rescue planners in determining the best course of action.

Go to the Paddle Smart Campaign's Facebook page to request stickers: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Paddle-Smart-Identification-Stickers/316164896505>



## HRT PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES \$5,000 GRANT

Haw River Trail Partner, Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department, was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the N.C. State Trails Program last fall. The "Adopt-A-Trail" grant program awards \$108,000 annually to government agencies, nonprofit organizations and private trail groups for trails projects. The grant will be used to complete construction of the new sections of Haw River Trail on the property recently donated by The Challenge Golf Course.

## BALD EAGLE CAM AT JORDAN LAKE

The recovery of the Bald Eagle in the United States is one of the great wildlife conservation success stories of our time. Populations in the lower 48 states were as low as 450 nesting pairs in the 1960's when they were identified as an endangered species because of dramatic population declines associated with pesticide poisoning. Populations began to recover after these pesticides were banned in 1972, and the birds and their nesting habitats were given greater protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1973. Bald Eagles were down-listed to Threatened in 1995 and removed from the Endangered Species list in 2007. Today populations have grown to an estimated 9,789 nesting pairs. Populations in North Carolina have increased from a single breeding pair in 1984 to over 70 breeding pairs in 2005.

There are currently 5 active nests on Jordan Lake. There is now a live feed camera set up to record all of the action on one of the nests. The nest being monitoring has fledged young in each of the last three years. The purpose of the project is to stimulate interest in Bald Eagles by letting people in the Triangle and surrounding areas know that these magnificent birds are now nesting right in their backyards. As long as they have access to suitable large nesting trees, undeveloped forested habitat along lakes and rivers, and uncontaminated fish to eat, Bald Eagles should continue to thrive in the region.

Through a partnership with NC State University the eagle family can be viewed at: <http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/eaglecam/>

You can also stay updated on the eagle Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/JordanLakeEagleCam>