

HRT News Winter 2007-2008

March 3, 2008

"Heal the Land" Tree Planting a Success

Over a dozen community groups came together Saturday for a day of fellowship and rejuvenation, successfully planting 2000 trees in area parks. The oak seedlings were installed at Cedarrock Park, Pleasant Grove Recreation Center and the Future Glencoe Park in Alamance County as well

as at Northeast Park in Guilford County. The trees will continue to be monitored and cared for over the coming year to help insure their long-term health.

To read more, [read the Burlington Times-News article on the event.](#)

February 25, 2008

"Heal the Land" Tree Planting Coming this Saturday

Community groups will be planting 2000 trees at park lands across Alamance and Guilford Counties this weekend in the "Heal the Land" Tree Planting. The event is a joint effort by the Elon Center for Environmental Studies, Elon's Terra Nova Community, and Elon First Baptist Church of Morgan Place. The organizers hope that the diverse participants will grow closer to the land, and to each other, by joining together to leave a lasting legacy.

Participants: Please remember to review the ["What to Bring" List](#) and the ["Planting Guidelines"](#) before Saturday. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Koehn at jkoehn@elon.edu

January 27, 2008

Haw River Clean-Up Planned for March 15

The Haw's 18th annual Spring cleaning is scheduled this year for Saturday, March 15. The event, organized by Haw River Assembly, mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to clean litter from the banks and waters of the Haw. To participate, or for more information, please contact Haw River Assembly at info@hawriver.org or 919-542-5790.

January 14, 2008

State Parks Reaches Agreement with Bluegreen Corp to Expand Haw River State Park

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced this week that it has come to an agreement with Bluegreen Corp., a Florida development company that planned a large golf course community adjacent to Haw River State Park. The State reported that it has agreed to acquire 692 acres in Guilford and Rockingham counties to expand the park.

Under the agreement, the state will purchase three tracts held by Bluegreen for \$14 million. The acquisition will be financed through certificates of participation to be repaid with future revenues into the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The property, assembled by Bluegreen for a residential golf course community, will instead be added to about 300 acres of the state parks system acquired since 2004 and which includes The Summit environmental education center. The state parks system expects to complete the purchase by the end of February.

"This agreement is a reflection of Bluegreen Corp.'s good corporate citizenship in North Carolina," Bill Ross, secretary of the department, said.

“When Bluegreen officials became aware that the state parks system had a sincere interest in this property and the means to pay fair market value, they were willing to negotiate in good faith. The result will be a vibrant state park that will offer conservation, recreation and education for future generations as this region develops.”

The acquisition is possible because of a commitment to conservation by the General Assembly, said Lewis Ledford, director of the state parks system. “The legislature’s decision in its last session for up to \$50 million in certificates of participation to be issued through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund allows us to respond quickly to opportunities such as this. Local park supporters, including the Friends of Haw River State Park, were strong advocates for the conservation of this property and its inclusion in the state park.”

The State indicated it may not be done purchasing property for the park, stating that development of Haw River State Park remains in the land acquisition stage, and negotiations with other willing sellers in the vicinity are ongoing. A map of the property to be purchased is available [here](#).

January 10, 2008

Kayak Fishing Guide Service Opens for Business on the Haw River

Mebane resident Philip Ruckart has recently begun offering guide services for kayak fishermen on the Haw River. Philip is a Heritage Kayak Endorsed Fishing Guide working in conjunction with Get Outdoors! in Greensboro. Philip, otherwise known as "Yak4Fish", fills a much needed void in the Haw River Trail business community, and looks forward to helping paddlers explore the often overlooked fishing opportunities on the Haw. In case you ever wanted to paddle somewhere besides the Haw for some reason, Philip also offers saltwater kayak fishing trips on the coast. More information on Philip can be found at his [website](#), and trips can be booked through Get Outdoors at (336) 294-3918 or www.shopgetoutdoors.com.

December 16, 2007

New River-Side Business Partners With thehaw.org

Thehaw.org has added The Lodge House, a new guest house in Glencoe Village, to its growing list of river-side business partners. The Lodge House is a two-room guest house occupying a renovated historic home on Front Street in Glencoe Village. As with all the businesses partnering with thehaw.org, The Lodge House has agreed provide Haw River Trail visitors with a 10% discount. Toni Murray, owner of The Lodge House is also happy to work with paddlers to provide shuttles to and from paddle accesses. For more information on The Lodge House, go to "Where To Stay" in the Paddle Trail area of the website.

December 5, 2007

Haw River Land Stewards Southern Kick-Off Meeting Held at River Landing Inn

The Haw River Land Stewards Program Southern kick-off meeting was held last weekend at Saxapahaw's new bed and breakfast, River Landing Inn. The Haw River Land Stewards Program is a grassroots effort to connect

individuals who own land on the Haw River. The program allows landowners to meet their river neighbors, stay up to date on current happenings on the River and learn about conservation options on their property. The meeting included a presentation by Elon University's David Welch on the scientific research he has been conducting on the Haw River over the past year.

More meetings on other sections of the River are planned for 2008. For more information on the Haw River Land Stewards Program, or if you would like to become a Haw River Land Steward, contact Rudy Langley at (336) 584-4737 or Brian Baker at (336) 229-2229.

November 12, 2007

**Applications for Alamance County's First Farmland Preservation
Purchase of Development Rights Program Due This Week**

Alamance County is making a large step toward preserving its farmland and open space this winter. This is the first year of Alamance County's new Farmland Protection Purchase of Development Rights Program. Under the program, landowners may apply to sell their farm's development rights. In exchange for the payment, landowners will grant an agricultural easement to Alamance County. While the landowner will still own the land, and remain free to continue using it for agricultural uses forever, the easement ensures that the property will never be developed. The funds for the property come in part from Alamance County, who earmarked \$50,000 for the program's first year. However, the County hopes to multiply that money through the use of Federal and State trust funds available for purchase of development rights programs. This program is a great start toward preserving Alamance County's open space, preserving its water quality and ensuring the viability of family farms. If you are interested in learning more about the program, or submitting an application, contact Phil Ross at 228-1753.