



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 2012

NEW PADDLE GUIDE PUBLISHED FOR SWEPSONVILLE TO SAXAPAHAW SEGMENT OF PADDLE TRAIL

One of the Haw River's most popular paddle trail routes will have a new draw for paddlers beginning next month. The Haw River Trail Partnership has completed the third in a series of paddle guides that highlight the historic, natural and community points of interest along the Haw River Paddle Trail. This brochure interprets the route from Swepsonville River Park to Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access. The guide is coordinated with a series of mile markers that orient the paddlers to the land they are passing through. Between each mile marker on the approximately five-mile stretch, the guide describes important historic events that happened along the river and educates paddlers about the river's natural heritage areas and key species. Highlights of the Sweeps-to-Sax route include The Hermitage, Puryear Dam and Powerhouse and Saxapahaw Sloughs and Slopes State Natural Heritage Area. Previous paddle trail guides focuses on the Glencoe to Red Slide Segment and the Red Slide to Swepsonville segment of the paddle trail. The guides were made possible by a grant from Alamance County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The guides can be downloaded from www.thehaw.org or picked up at Alamance Recreation and Parks Department Administrative Offices at Cedarock Park, Burlington Recreation and Parks Department or the Alamance County Convention and Visitors Bureau.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS ON THE HRT

National Public Lands Day

September 26th 10:00a.m.
Celebrate our public lands with a guided hike at Shallow Ford Natural Area.

Wednesday Walks at Shallow Ford Natural Area

Wednesdays in October and November (except for Nov 21) at 10:00 a.m.
This is a great program for people looking for a guided/group hike during the week. The hike will cover a variety of terrain but all skill levels are welcome.

Get to Know Your Trails Hike

October 6th at Shallow Ford Natural Area at 10:00 a.m.
We will celebrate Mountains to Sea Trail Month with a hike to introduce visitors to the various trails on the Haw River Trail/ Mountains to Sea Trail in Alamance County.

Pumpkin Painting

October 20th at Shallow Ford Natural Area at 11:00a.m.
This program is suitable for children ages 4-12. It is limited to 15 participants so pre-registration is encouraged.

For questions about upcoming programs or to pre-register: email kim.brown@alamance-nc.com or call 336/270-5124



www.thehaw.org

Quarterly
Attendance
at Haw River
Trail Sites

June 1st, 2012
through
August 31, 2012

Altamahaw Paddle
Access:

5,234

Shallow Ford

Natural Area:

4,366

Great Bend Park:

3,200

Glencoe Paddle

Access:

3,583

Town & Country

Paddle Access:

1,359

Red Slide Park:

7,909

Graham Paddle

Access:

6,436

Sweponville River

Park-Upper:

12,391

Sweponville River

Park-Lower:

12,800

Sax. Lake Paddle

Access:

4,552

Sax. Mill Race

Paddle Access:

10,841

Total Attendance

For Period:

72,671

SEEN ANY BIG TREES ON THE HRT?

NOMINATE THEM FOR THE CHAMPION TREE PROGRAM

The Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department is accepting nominations for the Champion Trees of Alamance County Program. The project is intended as a celebration, recognition and competition for the Alamance County's most important trees. Local citizens can nominate important trees in three categories: Champion Tree; Historic Tree; or Landmark Tree. The Champion Tree category recognizes the largest tree of any eligible species. Tree size is measured using a formula that takes into account circumference, height and crown spread. A list of eligible species and identification key may be found at www.countyrec.net. Trees that meet the criteria for the North Carolina Champion Big Tree Program will be submitted for state level recognition. The Historic Trees category is for trees that are at least fifty years old, with a verifiable story of historical significance. Landmark Trees include individual trees or groupings of trees that hold special value for a community or group.

Nominations for Champion Trees will be accepted from now through September 28th. Nominations can be submitted via the Alamance Country Recreation and Parks website at www.countyrec.net. For more information contact Ian Olson, Volunteer Project Coordinator at ianpatolson@gmail.com.



Largest Tree in Alamance County in 1939 Taken at the J.R. White Farm in Hawfields.

NEW MPO SURVEY SEEKS INPUT ON GREENWAYS, OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

For those of you who read the title and thought "What's an MPO?" here is a quick primer. MPOs, or Metropolitan Planning Organizations, are the folks who set policy and make decisions about where federally funded transportation dollars are spent. The Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization is updating the Long Range Transportation Plan for Alamance County as well as portions of Orange and Guilford County. In preparation for the update, the MPO is offering a survey to measure public opinion.

In addition to questions about congestion and traffic lights, the survey offers the public an opportunity to voice support for trails and greenways, preservation of natural areas and farmland, and biking opportunities. Take a minute to express your support for trails at www.bgmpo.org.

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