



# THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Summer 2008

[www.thehaw.org](http://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, the Elon University Center for Environmental Studies and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation 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 accomplishments and goals of these positions and the ongoing work stemming from the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding.

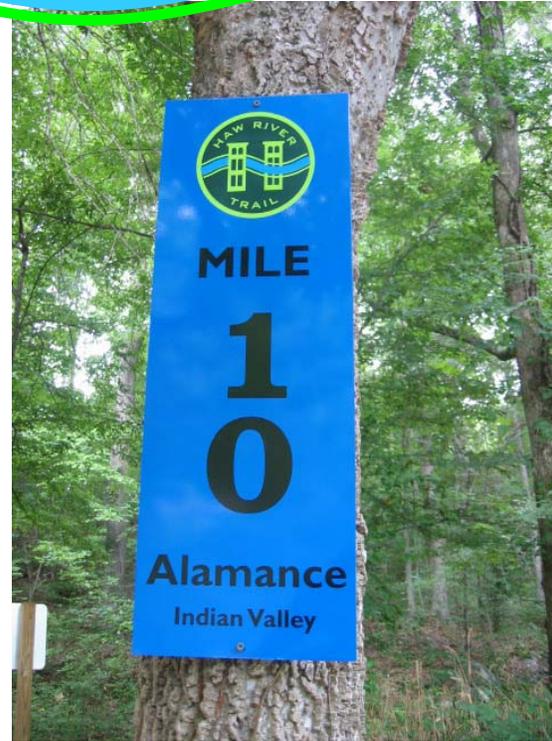
### HRT GROWS WITH DONATION OF NEW TRAIL EASEMENT

The route of the Haw River Trail became more defined this month, thanks to the donation of a trail easement by Tom Sykes of Haw River. The easement allows the Haw River Trail to travel south of US-70 to within a few hundred feet of the new "Red Slide Park" now under development in the Town of Haw River.

The land on which the trail easement was given has been in the Sykes family for generations. Tom maintains an orchard on the upper property, and was more than willing to accommodate the Trail near the Haw River. The site is home to a family of Canada Geese, and Tom reports that a bald eagle frequents the spot many mornings. Tom's willingness to share his land is an example of the spirit of sharing that is driving the Haw River Trail. We look forward to building the trail through this beautiful stretch of river.

### FIRST MILE MARKERS GO UP ON THE RIVER

The first of 37 mile marker signs have been going up on the banks of the Haw. The signs are being placed every mile along the River and include the name of the each community the Paddle Trail passes through. The signs are an effort on the part of the Haw River Trail Partnership to improve safety on the River and to enhance the experience of paddlers on the Haw River Paddle Trail. In the event of an emergency on the River, the mile markers will help paddlers identify their location on the river and help emergency responders locate paddlers in need of assistance. In addition, the markers are being integrated into a series of Haw River Paddle Trail guide booklets, highlight-



New Mile Marker Sign at Indian Valley Paddle Access

### HRT PARTNERSHIP RECIEVES \$5,000 GRANT

The City of Graham, a Haw River Trail Partner, was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the North Carolina State Trails Program this month. 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 build the Haw River Trail and to construct a public access point on property owned by the City of Graham near Interstate 85/40. The land was previously acquired with grant funds from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Trail work will begin soon - if you would like to volunteer, please contact us [getinvolved@thehaw.org](mailto:getinvolved@thehaw.org).

CONTINUED AT "Signs" on Page 2



www.thehaw.org

**Haw River  
Trail Hiking  
Staff  
Medallions  
Available**

We now have a limited supply of hiking staff medallions available for purchase. The medallions are popular among hikers as a memento of hiking trails conquered. Each medallion comes with two nails.

The medals are available for \$5 dollars at the Cedarock Park Visitors Center.

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**Railroad Bridge over the Haw River—Adjacent to Red Slide**

## “Signs” Continued

ing historical and natural sites of significance on the Haw.

The signs were made possible by a Kodak American Greenways Grant, a joint effort of Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society. These grants stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. In addition to receiving the grant award, the Haw River Trail Partnership will be showcased as a national model for innovative efforts to develop a greenway on the Haw River.

## HRT RECIEVES \$1000.00 DONATION

The Haw River Trail Partnership received a generous donation of \$1000.00 from an anonymous donor in July. The purpose of the gift was not specified, but the donation will be used to construct a trailside facility or to match a grant recently received from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. If used as a match, the value of the donation will be doubled to \$2,000, which will be available to acquire additional trail in Alamance County.

## HRT FEATURED IN STATE WIDE MEDIA

The Haw River Trail has taken center-stage in media outlets across the State this summer. In May, the Haw River Paddle Trail was the lead story on UNC-TV's "North Carolina Weekend." The story focused on the unique experience of paddling the Haw River, and the conservation efforts that are supported by the recreational users. The segment featured interviews with many well known figures around the river including Haw River Canoe and Kayak's Joe Jacob and avid paddler Greg Massey. After being photographed paddling on the front page of Alamance Magazine in 2007, Massey lacks only a cameo in a feature film to complete the rare Haw River Media Hat Trick. UNC-TV is North Carolina's public television station and broadcasts statewide. If you missed it, the show can also be viewed on the "[North Carolina Weekend](#)" website.

The hiking portion of the Haw River Trail has also gotten its due, thanks to feature articles in The Raleigh News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer. The Raleigh News & Observer discussed the Haw River Trail in a four-part series about the Mountains to Sea Trail. The series follows path of the Mountains to Sea Trail from Clingsman's Dome to the Outer Banks, and explores the MST's history and progress over the past 30 years. The second article in the series focuses on the Triad, and highlights the critical role that the HRT is playing in the MST's development. The Haw River Trail in Alamance and Guilford Counties represents the first large-scale effort by local governments to compete the MST over private land. Since 2006, almost 3 million dollars have been dedicated to the trail work in Alamance County alone. The series can be viewed at <http://www.newsobserver.com/trailblazing>.



## ELON PLANNING SUSTAINABLE BUILDING CONFERENCE

The Elon University Center for Environmental Studies will be hosting a conference on sustainable building and development this fall. The annual forum focuses on a unique environmental issue every year. This year's conference is entitled "Sustainable Communities – A Greener Tomorrow" and is billed as a conference for "leaders, builders, developers and citizens with a vision for a sustainable community." Speakers include Patrick McCrory, seven term mayor of Charlotte and current Republican gubernatorial candidate, as well as Dr. Jim Johnson of the UNC-Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler School of Business.

The afternoon sessions of the day long conference will offer three different breakout classes including "Building for Tomorrow" focusing on green building, "Planning and Developing for Tomorrow" discussing environmentally responsible development techniques and "Living for Tomorrow" highlighting tips and techniques for homeowners looking to reduce their environmental impact. The conference will be held at Elon University on Friday, Sept. 19, 2008. To register, or for more information, visit <http://www.elon.edu/agreentomorrow>

## WORK UNDERWAY AT GLEN RAVEN PADDLE ACCESS

The Haw River Paddle Trail is close to becoming a little bit longer. Haw River Trail Partner Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department finalized a lease with Glen Raven, Inc. on a 2.8 acre parcel in Altamahaw last month. The property is located on the west side of Highway 87, at the road's intersection with the Haw River. When completed, the Glen Raven Paddle Access will add approximately 6 miles to the northern end of the Haw River Paddle Trail. The section of river between Glen Raven Paddle Access and the next access at Indian Valley is one of the most beautiful on the entire Haw. Navigable only at elevated water levels, the stretch challenges paddlers to navigate substantial rock gardens on the narrow river. The section also encompasses one of the largest elevation drops on the paddle trail.

The site of the paddle access has been used by paddlers and fisherman for years with the informal permission of Glen Raven, Inc. The new agreement with ACRPD will allow for improvements and regular maintenance on the property. The agreement will also create safe portage around Glen Raven Dam, the only remaining stonework dam in Alamance County. The ACRPD is currently making improvements to the site including constructing a parking area, installing steps to the river and placing a pedestrian bridge on the property. The bridge is being renovated and moved to the property after being removed from its former home in Burlington's NorthPark. Haw River Trail Partner Burlington Parks and Recreation Department donated the bridge, and the renovation and setting of the bridge will be done by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.



Glen Raven Dam. Alamance County's last remaining stonework dam on the Haw River.

### Want More Pictures?

To see more pictures of the Yee-Haw! River Paddle, or of life on the Haw River Trail, visit the Haw River Trail Group on Flickr.com.

Upload a few of your own while you are there.

### Want To Help?

We welcome community involvement in our projects and can always use motivated volunteers. We currently need volunteers to assist:

- Picking up Litter on the Trail and in the River
- Manning Booths at Festivals and Events
- Organizing and Leading Volunteer Events
- Creating Newsletters and Promotional Materials
- Building Trails and Footbridges

To help, email us at [getinvolved@thehaw.org](mailto:getinvolved@thehaw.org)



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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](mailto:info@thehaw.org) or call 336/229-2229.

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## HRT RECEIVES FIRST OFFICIAL DESIGNATION AS MOUNTAINS TO SEA TRAIL

Swepsonville River Park was officially designated as a portion of the North Carolina Mountains to Sea Trail this month, the first section of the Haw River Trail to receive such a designation. The park was one of the first sections of Haw River Trail opened in 2004 and represents an important node on the planned Haw River Trail/Mountains to Sea route. The site of the park has been an important crossing point on the Haw River for over 200 years, and was the site of troop crossings in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Swepsonville River Park offers approximately two miles of hiking trails, extending northward from the confluence of Great Alamance Creek and the Haw River. It also offers two paddle accesses, numerous fishing points and overnight camping to park visitors.



Swepsonville River Park

## GRAND OPENING OF NEWEST HAW RIVER TRAIL SEGMENT SET FOR OCTOBER

The newest section of Haw River Trail will celebrate its Grand Opening on October 11, 2008. Located between Indian Valley Paddle Access and Glencoe Paddle Access, the new segment will add approximately 2 miles to the Haw River Trail. The trail will traverse the City of Burlington's Indian Valley Golf Course before connecting to a new 20 acre park adjacent to the Glencoe Mill Village. The dedication of the Haw River Trail will take place on October 11 in conjunction with the new park's grand opening. The new park will be operated by Alamance County Recreation and Parks and will protect almost a mile of river frontage. In addition to hosting the trail, the new park offers access to a 5-acre island, numerous picnic areas and designated fishing areas. For paddlers coming from upstream, the park also secures portage around the Glencoe dam. The property was acquired with a grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

The park's name will be revealed to the public at the grand opening, but should reflect the rich history of the Glencoe Mill Village. Glencoe Mill Village is a National Historic District and is one of the state's most historically important industrial sites. Glencoe Mills, Inc. was incorporated in 1880 by James H. and William E. Holt, sons of the textile pioneer, E.M. Holt. Glencoe was the last water-powered mill developed by the Holts and manufactured cotton plaids known as Glencoe Plaids or Haw River Plaids. At its peak, the village had nearly 50 houses and the mill employed more than 200 workers. The mill closed in 1954 and fell into disrepair. Today, the village and the mill are being restored and redeveloped since being purchased by Preservation North Carolina in 1997. You're invited to come out and share in the celebration on October 11!

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@thehaw.org](mailto:info@thehaw.org) or call 336/229-2229