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# THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Spring 2012

### 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.

### YEE- HAW! RIVER PADDLE SLATED FOR MAY 5TH

2012 marks the fifth year of the Yee-Haw! River Paddle. This year we are happy to once again be partnering with Haw River Assembly and the community of Saxapahaw for a day long celebration of the Haw River .

The full day Yee-Haw! River Paddle and the Eastbound and Down River Race both be held again this year. We are also bringing back the family paddle for 2012, which will allow paddlers to spend some time on the water without travelling the six miles from Swepsonville to Saxapahaw. The event will conclude in the late afternoon, just in time for participants to enjoy the Haw River Assembly's Haw River Festival in downtown Saxapahaw. The festival will have live music, food and vendors and is a great end to a day on the river.

Full event details and registration will be available April 1st on [www.thehaw.org/yeehaw](http://www.thehaw.org/yeehaw).



**Paddlers at Last Year's  
Yee-Haw! River Paddle**

### HRT PARTNERSHIP COMPLETES PARTF GRANT PROJECT WITH NEARLY SEVEN MILES OF TRAIL CORRIDOR

Almost four years after applying for a first-of-its-kind grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the Haw River Trail Partnership has successfully completed the grant. Over the course of those four years, the Partnership has acquired property and easements creating a nearly seven mile trail corridor from Glencoe to Haw River.

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund has been helping local governments acquire and build parks since its inception in 1994. The grant program has rigid guidelines intended to ensure fairness and accountability on the part of applicants. However, those same rules made the grant difficult to use for trail corridor acquisition projects. Thanks to the cooperation and vision of North Carolina State Parks, the Haw River Trail Partnership was allowed to "test-drive" a new model of PARTF grant for trails and greenways, designed to allow greater flexibility while maintaining accountability. This new grant allowed the Partnership to work with landowners to determine how to best allow Haw River Trail/Mountains to Sea Trail access on their property, and to use the generous donations of landowners as a match for the grant funds.

**CONTINUED AT "PARTF" ON PAGE 2**

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



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

• **March 24 - FMST Trail Workday**

Help build the newest section of Haw River Trail. Start time: 9am; Address: 1179 Challenge Dr, Graham. Contact Jim Suiter for more information at jsuiter@mindspring.com

• **April 1 - Registration for Yee-Haw! River Paddle**

opens at www.thehaw.org/yeehaw.

• **April 14 - Nature Craft Workshop**

Children 3-10 can learn how to make bird houses from recycled materials. 1pm - 2:30pm at Shallow Ford Natural Area, pre-registration required at (336) 270-5124.

• **April 28 - Trailblazers Hiking Club**

You are invited to come out to Shallow Ford Natural Area for the Haw River TrailBlazers meet, greet and hike. This is our first hike for the Trailblazers and is a great chance to meet other hikers, make new friends and explore a great outdoor and hiking experience right here in Alamance County. We look forward to hiking with you!

• **May 5 - Yee-Haw! River Paddle and Eastbound and Down River Race**

• **May 19 - Nature Craft Workshop** - Children ages 3-10 can learn how to make a nature collage from materials found at Shallow Ford Natural Area. 1pm - 2:30pm, pre-registration required at (336) 270-5124.

### EAGLE PROJECT HELPS HRT BLUEBIRDS

Troops 1's Matthew Holmes earned his Eagle Scout badge this winter by creating new homes for bluebirds along the Haw River Trail. Matthew and his fellow scouts from Troop 1 built and installed 23 bluebird boxes at nearly every Haw River Trail paddle access and trailhead. Matthew also provided GIS coordinates and replacement boxes to assist with the long term maintenance of the boxes. Thanks to Matthew and Troop 1 for their hard work..

Monthly Attendance at Haw River Trail Sites

December 1, 2011 through February 29th, 2012

Altamahaw Paddle

Access:

3,564

Shallow Ford

Natural Area:

3,532

Great Bend Park:

2,188

Glencoe Paddle

Access:

2,105

Town & Country

Paddle Access:

634

Red Slide Park:

3,598

Graham Paddle

Access:

3,708

Sweptsonville River

Park-Upper:

7,223

Sweptsonville River

Park-Lower:

6,465

Sax. Lake Paddle

Access:

2,491

Sax. Mill Race

Paddle Access:

2,130

Total Attendance

For Period:

38,541

### “PARTF” CONTINUED

The cooperation of river-side landowners over the course of the grant exceeded the expectations of all involved. Their enthusiasm for the trail allowed a continuous trail corridor to be acquired between Glencoe Paddle Access and Red Slide Park in Haw River. Many landowners also donated land and easements along the trail route to create a match for grant funds to compensate landowners who could not afford to donate.

The “Great Falls” section of the HRT/MST will connect with the “Glencoe” section at Stoney Creek Trailhead and follow the north bank of the Haw River to Three Governors Bridge in Haw River. The trail will then cross the bridge and follow west bank of the river to Red Slide Park. Trail construction on the new section of trail has already begun and will continue over the next several years.

