



Reconnect with nature, have fun paddling.

THE HAW RIVER PADDLER

March 2009

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Haw River Trail Partnership Acquires 191 Acres

The Haw River Trail Partnership finalized the acquisition of 191 acres on the Haw River in February 2009. The property off Geringer Mill Road north of Burlington will extend the Haw River Trail by over a mile and includes over 7,000 feet of perennial streams.

The N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund provided funding to the state parks system for the land purchase. Though owned by the State, the property will be managed by Alamance County as a natural area. Development plans for the property have not been finalized, but possibilities include hiking trails, a paddle access and camping areas. In addition to recreational benefits, the location of the land also presents a wealth of environmental education opportunities with county schools located nearby.

2nd. Annual YEE HAW! River Paddle

The 2nd. Annual YEE HAW! River Paddle will take place on April 25, 2009. A rain date is scheduled for May 2nd. Paddlers with boats and paddling gear will paddle from the Glencoe paddle access to the Swepsonville River Park. Individuals and families without boats and paddling gear may rent them and paddle from the new Red Slide Park access in the Town of Haw River to the Swepsonville River Park.

There are two new features to the YEE HAW! River Paddle this year. One feature is a fundraising event that for a small donation will give paddlers a chance to win prizes. Called "Hold On & Hold EM", paddlers will select playing cards from each of five buckets placed along the river. Another new feature will be a post-paddle party called the "Mud Boggers Ball". From 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., paddlers will enjoy local music, food and camaraderie. Prizes will be announced at 5:00 p.m. You don't have to be present to win.

For more information and to register for the YEE HAW! River Paddle, please go to www.thehaw.org. By the way, The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company has been involved in organizing the YEE HAW! River Paddle both years as a way of supporting the creation and development of the Haw River Trail.

Schedule of Courses & Trips – March & April

If you are interested in a paddle course or a guided trip, you can find a schedule of activities on our website www.hawrivercanoe.com on both the Instruction and Guided Trips pages. Don't forget, you can rent a canoe or kayak and do a self-guided trip. A brief listing of activities for March & April follows:

March

- 1 Town of Haw River to Swepsonville
- 6 Sunset
- 7 Swepsonville to Saxapahaw
- 13 Full Moon Paddle
- 14 River Clean Up
- 21 Canoe & Kayak Classes * +
- 28 Paddle Dinner Brewery Style (Carolina Brewery)
- 28 Stargazing Float

April

- 4 Saxapahaw Whitewater
- 4 Swepsonville to Saxapahaw
- 5 Town of Haw River to Swepsonville
- 10 Full Moon Paddle
- 11 Sunset Paddle
- 11&12 Spirit Island Campout
- 18 Canoe & Kayak Classes * +
- 18 Owl Prowl
- 25 YEE HAW! River Paddle
- 25 Town of Haw River to Swepsonville
- 25 Paddle Dinner (Benjamin Vineyards & Winery)
- 25 Stargazing Float

Classes include Quick Start for Canoe & Kayak (3 hrs.), Introduction to Canoeing & Kayaking (8 hrs.), Basic Whitewater Canoeing (16 hrs.) and Sea Kayaking Fundamentals (16 hrs.).

Haw River Paddle Club Under New Leadership

The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company created the Haw River Paddle Club for the sole purpose of getting folks out onto the river to enjoy, love and protect this wonderful resource. Most Paddle Club members have boats and paddling gear and, other than shuttles, do not need the services offered by The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company.

Since our focus has been on meeting the needs of people without boats and gear, we have not given the Paddle Club the energy it deserves. Fortunately, Justin Geary - JustinMGeary117@hotmail.com and his friend and roommate Jacob Matheny - jakematheny@hotmail.com have stepped forward to lead the Paddle Club. Feel free to reach either of them. We still want to support the Paddle Club and plan to assist in any way we can.

Spirit Island and the Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon

For the second year in a row, Spirit Island will receive the help of Haw River Assembly volunteers during its 19th. Annual Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon. Situated just downstream of an 8 foot dam south of Swepsonville, Spirit Island and its surrounding channels are situated such that litter is trapped after major high water events. Soda bottles, in particular, get trapped when the water recedes.

Last year, Haw River Assembly volunteers picked up over 80 large trash bags full of soda bottles, Styrofoam, balls of all sorts and tires. Unfortunately, we estimate that approximately the same amount of litter has piled up over the past year.

If you would like to help clean up Spirit Island, please either call us at **336/260-6465** or send an e-mail to admin@hawrivercanoe.com. We would appreciate your help.



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