



The  
**Haw River**  
Canoe & Kayak Co.

*Reconnect with nature, have fun paddling.*

## THE HAW RIVER PADDLER

November/December 2009

*"I seek acquaintance with Nature, to know her moods and manners. Primitive nature is the most interesting to me. I take infinite pains to know all the phenomena of spring, for instance, thinking that I have here the entire poem, and then, to my chagrin, I learn that it is but an imperfect copy that I possess and have read, that my ancestors have torn out many of the first leaves and grandest passages, and mutilated it in many places. I should not like to think that some demigod had come before me and picked out some of the best of the stars. I wish to know an entire heaven and an entire earth."*

Henry David Thoreau

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### Guest Appreciation Day, Potluck & Gear Swap

We want to thank the folks who have done business with us over the years and do so in a way that is fun. On December 12th we are hosting a potluck lunch at our office in Saxapahaw, NC followed by a free paddle trip and opportunities to buy or trade for used outdoor equipment and personal gear.

The potluck lunch will begin at noon. We will provide vegetarian chili and ice tea. We ask that you RSVP [info@hawrivercanoe.com](mailto:info@hawrivercanoe.com) and either bring a vegetable, salad or desert. We also ask that you bring any type of outdoor equipment and/or gear that you would like to either sell, swap or give away. We hope to have some used canoes and kayaks for sale.

The 2-hour paddle trip will be good for all ages and skill levels and conclude by 5:00 p.m. If you do not have a canoe or kayak, we will provide them for free just like we do for river clean ups.

### What Do River Enthusiasts Do During the Winter?

What do river enthusiasts do during the winter? We paddle of course, in clothing that is appropriate for the weather. We start the new year off right with our annual Polar Bear paddle scheduled for the first Saturday in January. Take a look at the trip description found on the guided trips page of our website [www.hawrivercanoe.com](http://www.hawrivercanoe.com) if you think you might like to join us.

When we are not paddling, we are repairing our boats and gear, building new boats or planning trips for when the weather warms. At The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company, we do it all and would like to share our experience and talents with you.

During the winter months, we will be building pirogues, a wooden, hybrid canoe/kayak-style boat used for centuries by the Cajuns of south Louisiana. If you think you might like to build a pirogue, we can help you get started and provide the key wooden parts, tools and space you will need.

Ever wanted to know how to go about planning a day, weekend, week, or weeks-long paddling trip? We have been teaching how to plan paddling adventures for years and would like to share what we know with you. If interested, this February, we will offer a one-day, weekend course in trip planning.

There will be more about boat building and trip planning courses in upcoming editions of The Haw River Paddler. If you would like to see a pirogue being built, give us a call (336/260-6465) or send an e-mail [info@hawrivercanoe.com](mailto:info@hawrivercanoe.com) to schedule a time to come by our office.

### Schedule of Trips & Events – November & December

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](http://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 November & December follows:

#### November

- 1 Picnic & Paddle
- 6 Sunset Paddle
- 14 Red Slide Park to Swepsonville River Park
- 14 Stargazing Float
- 21 Paddle Dinner – Pittsboro General Store Café
- 21&22 Spirit Island Campout

#### December

- 4 Sunset Paddle
- 12 Guest Appreciation Day, Potluck & Gear Swap

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.).

### For the Holidays Think Gift Certificates & Memberships

For most of us, shopping for holiday gifts is always a challenge. What do we get for those special people in our lives that seem to have more than enough "stuff"?

This year, when you make your list of presents to buy, please consider two possibilities. You can purchase a gift certificate from The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company in any amount. Your recipient can decide whether or not to use the gift for lessons, guided trips and/or canoe or kayak rentals. Better yet, purchase a membership in an organization working to protect the Haw River. You could purchase memberships for yourself, loved ones and/or friends on your gift list. May we suggest the Haw River Assembly [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org), the Triangle Land Conservancy [www.triangleland.org](http://www.triangleland.org), and the Haw River Trail [www.thehaw.org](http://www.thehaw.org)? These organizations are working on our behalf to protect a resource we all enjoy and love. They need our help, so a membership gift is a win-win-win, a win for you, your recipient and the conservation organization.

### New Things Will Be Offered in 2010?

Earlier in this newsletter, boat building and trip planning courses were mentioned as something new for 2010. We will also begin operations on additional stretches of the Haw River, some that are family friendly and others that provide more of an adrenalin rush.

Spring will be a particularly busy time for us since we expect to once again be involved with the YEE HAW River Paddle, be a partner organization in a week-end-long Haw River Festival in Saxapahaw and support a week to 10-day long river awareness paddle from the Haw River State Park north of Greensboro to the Deep River in eastern Chatham County.

There will be more about 2010 offerings in upcoming editions of The Haw River Paddler. Remember, we want to offer those activities of most interest to you, so please do not hesitate to give us a call (336/260-6465) or send us an e-mail to [info@hawrivercanoe.com](mailto:info@hawrivercanoe.com) with your suggestions.

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