

DISPATCH

Friends of Lower Haw tackle trash problem

Volunteers with Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area are working with State Parks to help reduce the amount of trash along the riverbank in Chatham County. The Friends group is hoping to augment annual clean-up efforts by tackling the trash problem on an ongoing basis. Litter is not only an eyesore that detracts from the beauty of this state natural area, it also harms wildlife, their habitats, and water quality. According to Clean Jordan Lake, about 80 percent of trash in our watershed comes from rainfall that flushes trash off our watershed (stormwater runoff) and 20 percent comes from careless recreational use at access points. Key findings from research on littering behavior by Keep America Beautiful include:

A strong contributor to littering is the prevalence of existing litter. Ensure consistent and ongoing clean-up efforts.

Most littering occurs at a considerable distance from a receptacle. Make proper disposal convenient and accessible.

The project includes installation of permanent trash cans at popular Lower Haw River SNA access points. In December, a team of six dedicated Friends volunteers, including board member Ryan Cadwalader, David Everage,



CLEANING UP: From left, Jimmy Wood, Ryan Cadwalader, David Everage, Megan Lynch, George Pauly

Megan Lynch, board member George Pauly, treasurer Matt Spangler, and Jimmy Wood, installed three trash cans on State Parks property. One can is located at the "upper" parking lot on Bynum Road near the bridge, another is

located at the "lower" Bynum parking lot near the old mill site, and the third can is located on the southeast side of the US 64 access (river left, downstream of the overpass). Friends of Lower Haw is currently evaluating options

for installing additional trash cans at other access points along the Lower Haw, including above the Bynum dam off US 15-501 and at the southwest access off US 64.

State Parks funded these three cans and Ranger Brock Martin helped coordinate the project and select sites. Friends of Lower Haw has assumed responsibility for installing and periodically emptying the cans, since State Parks does not have the staffing resources to do it. The Friends group is looking for more volunteers interested in helping empty the cans. Contact Matt Spangler at mbspang12@gmail.com if you'd like to help keep this natural area beautiful.

Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area is operating as a local chapter of Friends of State Parks, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This state natural area consists of 1,100 acres owned by State Parks along both sides of the Haw River in Chatham County from above US 15-501 to below US 64 at Jordan Lake. It is home to a variety of wildlife and plants, beautiful rugged scenery, and the best white water paddling in the Piedmont. Visit www.lowerhaw.org to learn more about the Friends of Lower Haw.

— Gretchen Smith

BRIEF

Communication specialist joins Chatham EDC

Chatham Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is pleased to announce that Michele Kisthardt has joined the organization as its Communications Specialist. She will manage the organization's communications and marketing efforts.

Kisthardt earned her Master of Business Administration in marketing from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University and holds a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University, where she is an Alumni Board member and serves as the Triangle Alumni Chapter president.

After nearly a decade in retail bank marketing, Kisthardt founded her own business in Hudson, Ohio, where she helped small businesses create and implement their marketing and communication strategies.

"With so many projects underway, it's an exciting time to join the Chatham EDC," said Kisthardt, who relocated to Chatham County in late 2015. "I look forward to working with community leaders and business partners to market Chatham County as a great place to locate and grow a business."

EDC President Kyle Touchstone said, "Not only does Michele bring a strong set of skills and experience to a key role in our organization, our hiring committee was impressed with her enthusiasm and commitment toward developing business in Chatham County."

Remembering John Heuer

A lot of people have written about what a sweet, loving, determined, and genuinely good person John was. These qualities are surely part of what made John such an endearing and effective political actor. I want to focus on some of his other qualities, which haven't received as much attention and are just as crucial to building an effective peace movement.

John was a great connector of people. In my case, he connected me to Veterans For Peace, the Orange County Peace Coalition, and to the web maven for the Full Disclosure Campaign (for an Honest Commemoration of the Vietnam War). He did all this effortlessly and generously. I became one of many who were part of John's network. He could talk to pacifists, militants, hippies, church people, rural people, furniture makers and people of color with sincere solidarity. For the 2014 Asheville VFP convention, he met with Cherokee elders who welcomed VFPers to their traditional lands. He pulled together the multiple strands of the North Carolina peace movement. These connections were not happenstance, but represented John's well-honed sense of how to bring people in, focus people's strengths to bear on important work, and build unity among diverse forces and organizations. His openness resonated, welcoming people and putting them to work. John had strong principles, but was no sectarian, understanding that peoples' strengths and weaknesses were

often interconnected. And that almost everyone had a useful niche and role to play.

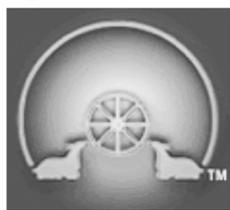
On long-distance drives to the mountains or DC, John would inform me about who was doing what where. He understood that sharing information, contacts, perspectives would build our movement and also help others understand the multiple perspectives of different constituencies. He was able to work effectively with people others found difficult and I was sometimes relieved to hear the occasional complaint. The point of his complaining was not to demean, but to get underneath the many contradictions that divide us and limit our effectiveness.

I will miss our bi-monthly lunches. In the past few years, after some prodding, he would list his many maladies and confess that he should have paid them closer attention sooner. We shared the inevitable health conversations that open up most conversations between old codgers. But then we would get to the latest scoops; plot how to get people out of their isolated silos, and in particular try to figure out how to better connect the struggle for peace to the struggle for racial justice.

So let's remember John's friendly disposition, his low-key determination, and long-term dedication. But let us not forget his exemplary political skills in leading our movement, deepening our consciousness, and broadening our base. All of him needs to be celebrated, emulated and built upon.

— Howard Machtiger, howmach@gmail.com

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