



newsletter

They say "once you get that Bynum mud between your toes, you'll always come back" and that is exactly what has kept the town going since the 1800s.

More Volunteers Needed!



Bynum Front Porch has grown tremendously over the past thirteen years. From hosting concerts and a storytelling series to sponsoring scout troops, funding college grants and supporting numerous Chatham nonprofits and producing this very newsletter, BFP plays a vital role in the Chatham community.

Thank you to all who have helped over the years to keep it thriving, because none of this would be possible without volunteers.

We are reaching out because you are still needed to keep it going! Whether you are a fan of the music series or storytelling, want to give back to the community or just need to complete school – or other :-)- community service hours, we'd love to have you!

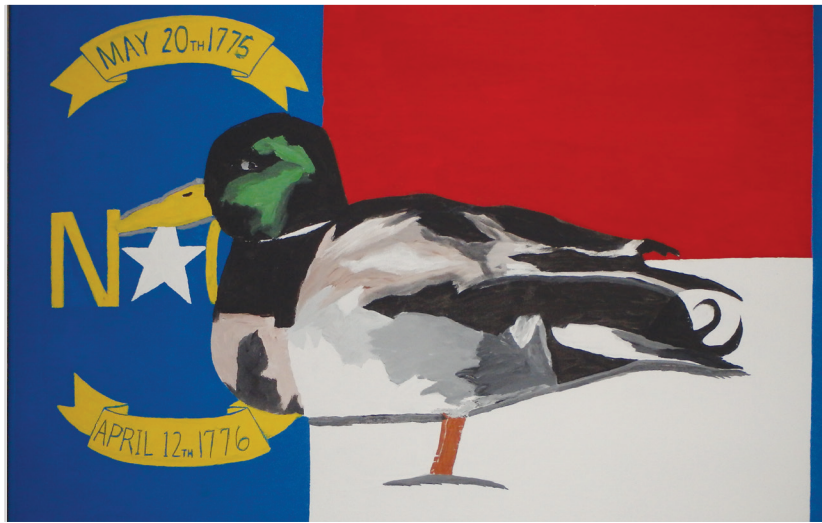
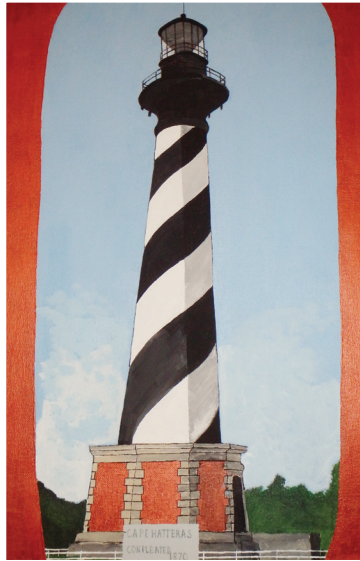
Some of the ideas of what you could do to help Bynum Front Porch Volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping to host a night at the Friday night music series -- set-up, helping performers, welcoming guests, and breaking down;

- Participating in Spring and Fall workdays -- help us get ready for the Summer Music Series; or help us along the way to maintain the Bynum General Store;
- Serving as a Board member -- help steer the direction of programming and events for Bynum Front Porch;
- Assisting with public relations, social media and more -- help spread the good word of Bynum Front Porch to Chatham County and beyond;
- Helping to host our fall, winter, and spring Storytelling Events – technical support;
- Plus many more opportunities!!

When you have some time to spare to help Bynum Front Porch, please contact our volunteer coordinator Dawninbynum@gmail.com.

It takes a village!



Bynum Artist Spotlight

Virgile Johnson

Virgile Johnson was born in Pittsboro but has lived his whole life in Bynum. When not walking his dog down the streets of Bynum, he spends a lot of his time out in the studio, behind the family home. When he was in school as a child “the teacher would get on me as a kid ’cause I was drawing instead of doing my work.” He recollects that the first large painting he did was in 1996 when he painted the Chevrolet truck on the side of Clyde Jones’ house. Virgile paints a lot – from exteriors and interiors of houses to working on smaller framed canvases. He used to paint on Masonite plywood with latex but now uses acrylic on stretched canvas. He enjoys spending time on the NC coastline and has focused a lot of his work on lighthouses of North Carolina, with the majority of requests being for the Cape Lookout lighthouse. His lighthouses have demanded the majority of sales; but, he thinks the paintings of the Bynum General Store follow close.

When he was 19 yrs old he began to play the banjo with the SouthLand Band which included Barney Collins. You can find him pickin’ around the village and enjoying the jam sessions twice a month at the Bynum store. Virgile Johnson – painter, musician and proud to be one of the many Bynum artists.

Writers’ Corner

Bynum Morning

Silent sanctuary.
 Black before dawn.
 Flowers perfume
 the air like incense.
 No one speaks.
 No one chants.
 Suddenly
 the Hum begins.
 High in the branches
 of the mimosa tree
 The wings
 Of ruby-throated hummingbirds
 and black and yellow bees
 Begin to sing.
 The new day drinks the holy wine.
 Time begins again.



~ Leela Ellis

Carolina River Meditation

Blackberry blossoms are on the altar.
 Wisteria hangs like purple smoke of incense
 Deep and fragrant in the greening trees.
 The river drums and drones an ancient chant.
 A heron stands
 In the midst of the quick flowing river
 One-pointed focus
 Gazing deep beneath the surface.
 Time rushes all around.

~ Leela Ellis

*If you would like to submit something
 for the Writers Corner, please send it to
 BynumNews@gmail.com*

Girl Scout Troop 1006

Written by Scouts Revy Godehn and Maddie Sparrow

This year, Girl Scout Troop 1006 has accomplished an array of deeds. To celebrate earning the prestigious Bronze Award, we took a trip to Washington D.C. where we learned about the history of the nation and built stronger bonds with each other. We ventured to numerous museums filled with significant information, and saw many lovely monuments, our trip focusing on women's empowerment and history.

At the moment, we are attempting to earn the Silver Award which is a distinguished recognition for extensive acts of service and is the next step in earning the esteemed Gold Award. We have completed a journey – phase one in the process of earning the award, learning about healthy relationships and bullying in the process. Not only did we learn about these topics, we are passing the knowledge down to a younger troop in a clinic focusing on how to maintain healthy relationships with your peers.

We also participated in the classic cookie selling, selling over 1200 boxes and aspire to maintain the level of excellence in future cookie seasons. In addition, we have helped the community in several ways, by participating with the Haw River Cleanup, subsequently disposing of an enormous amount of litter, some of which was interesting such as an old television set and clay mugs filled with old newspaper.

Overall, this year has been very productive, and as always, very fun! Lastly, we like to thank Bynum Front Porch and the Bynum community for the support given to our troop. Thank you!

Bynum United Methodist Youth Group

The Bynum Youth Group has had a busy year from hurricane cleanup, donations for eastern Chatham relief, our retreat to Pilgrimage, as well as every Wednesday we collect food for families in need at Horton Middle School. If you would like to donate food or supplies to our Wednesday Missions, then please contact Kandyce Wood or Pastor BJ Nielsen. Be on the lookout this summer as the youth group will be having delicious baked goods available to purchase at the Bynum Front Porch Music Series. All profits from baked goods will support the youth group attending Pilgrimage in the fall. All students 6th-12th grade are welcome to join in on Bible study on Wednesdays at 6pm.

You Can Be A "Friend of Bynum Front Porch"

Make a donation of \$50 and become a proud supporter of Bynum Front Porch.

Your tax-deductible donation will help provide 3 - \$1000 Grants to our Chatham County High School Seniors who plan to continue their education in college. The number of Grants increased from 2 to 3 in 2018 and your help is needed.

You can make your tax-deductible donation to any board member or on our Facebook page. Recognition of your support will be on our Facebook page and on signage inside the Bynum General Store.

If you prefer you can also mail your donation to: Bynum Front Porch, P. O. Box 381, Bynum, N.C. 27228.

*Thank you very much for your continued support,
The Bynum Front Porch Team*

NC State Parks – Lower Haw State Parks Natural Area



2019 is the Year of the Snakes in North Carolina's state parks. North Carolina State Parks will be bursting with activities.

The tradition continues as North Carolina State Parks celebrates its annual theme, "The Year of the Snake." Many of our State Parks will offer a variety of Snake programs, hikes and family events throughout the year. Jordan Lake State Recreation Area and the Lower Haw River State Natural Area will offer future programs about Identifying Snakes, Co-Existing with Snakes, and fun Snake Craft Activities.

Do you know which species of snakes live in your neighborhood? Do you know the largest and smallest snakes in N.C.? Do you know the lifespan of a Snake? Do you know how Snakes survive the winter? To learn interesting information about Snakes, please visit our NC State Parks webpage at www.ncparks.gov/year-of-the-snake-resources. While visiting our Snake webpage; you can find fun indoor and outside activities, games, and field guides and much more! If you are interested in attending a Snake program at Jordan Lake SRA or the Lower Haw River SNA, please contact the park office at 919-362-0586 or visit www.ncparks.gov/jordan-lake-state-recreation-area.

Watch where you Step! And Have a Naturally Wonderful Experience,
Park Ranger Brock Martin

Final thought! Jordan Lake State Recreation Area is now accepting applications for 2019 Summer Position. Jordan Lake SRA park team offers positions for General Utility Workers, Assistant Park Rangers, and Park Attendants. For more information please visit <http://ncparks.gov/Jobs/main.php> or stop by the Jordan Lake SRA park office for an application.



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You shop. Amazon gives.

Support Bynum Front Porch with Amazon Smile

Remember to shop at Smile.Amazon.com and let Amazon and your shopping donate to Bynum Front Porch.

News from Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area

Friends of Lower Haw is offering more volunteer opportunities and educational programs this year. Looking for a fun way to volunteer this spring and summer? We're recruiting volunteers for our new birdhouse and wildlife camera project in the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. This project is funded by a generous donation from bePhilARThropy's 2018 Bynum Bridge Fest. So far we've installed 12 of 14 nest boxes and the first of two wildlife cams and we're ready to start monitoring for nesting activity. Volunteers will check next boxes in a given area about once a week between March through June, and wildlife cams will be checked year-round to download images every month. Specific locations of boxes and cameras are visible on a map at this link: www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1cxjhB8yKPnpg-Wh6ktqUhBkKVol3hf43&ll=35.77168745728508%2C-79.14180779999998&z=16. Let Matt Spangler know if you are interested in signing up as either a birdhouse monitor, or a wildlife cam monitor, or both! Contact Matt at mbspand12@gmail.com.

We're also recruiting more volunteers to help our dedicated team who empty trash cans at popular access points, a project that has been successful in reducing the amount of litter from recreational use in these areas. Our volunteers augment annual clean-up efforts by tackling the trash problem on an ongoing basis. Volunteers sign up on a monthly basis for locations and months of their choice. If you want to make a difference by helping to tackle the recreational use trash problem, contact Matt Spangler at mbspang12@gmail.com.



Left to right: Craig Greiner, Tommy Richey, Ryan Cadwalader, Wallace Ambrose, and Matt Spangler install birdhouses.



Dedicated volunteer David Everage and his daughter Allyson help with the trash can project and river clean-ups.

Nature Journaling for Kids is back! Nature Journaling for Kids is an opportunity for kids ages 7 - 11 to put away their phones, escape from the internet and enjoy the renewing power of nature. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian but a parent may bring more than one child. Space is limited, pre-registration required by contacting lowerhawevents@gmail.com with "Nature Journaling" in the subject line. We're offering these from 2:15 to 4:00 pm on the following dates: May 11 and 25 and June 15.



John Flack with wood duck box he built.



Nancy Strong with Nature Journaling kids and their parents.

State Park Rangers from Jordan Lake have begun offering ranger programs in the Lower Haw River State Natural Area! So far we've had a program about animals and two about birds of the Lower Haw. This June a ranger will be offering the popular C.A.S.T. (Catch a Sure Thing) fishing program for kids on a weekday (date to be determined). Check out our website www.lowerhaw.org for more information about this and other upcoming events in the Lower Haw. You can also read about what else we've been doing this past year in our 2018 Annual Report available online at <http://www.lowerhaw.org/documents> and look at our photo albums on our Facebook page.

Thanks to volunteer Patrick Truesdell, you can now follow us on Instagram (@lowerhawfriends) and Twitter (@LowerHawFriends)! Post your favorite photos of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area on Instagram or send us a Tweet letting us know what you love about this special place.



Ranger Steve McMurray leading one of his birding outings.

Bynum Community Garden

The Bynum Community Garden is beginning another season, regardless of the weather. We held a contract signing and seed swap at the Bynum General Store March 3. Most of our gardeners are returning for another season of growing veggies and flowers. We are ever hopeful that the sun will shine and temperatures will rise.

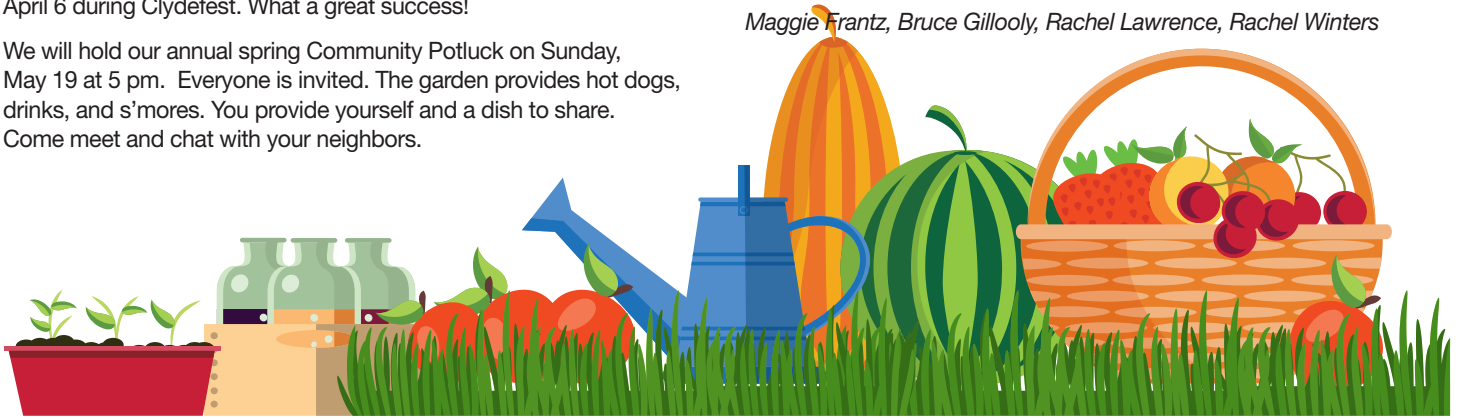
We again had our Plant Sale in cooperation with the CORA garden on April 6 during Clydefest. What a great success!

We will hold our annual spring Community Potluck on Sunday, May 19 at 5 pm. Everyone is invited. The garden provides hot dogs, drinks, and s'mores. You provide yourself and a dish to share. Come meet and chat with your neighbors.

The garden gate is closed but not locked. Stop in and eat lunch, check out what's growing, commune with nature. We only ask that you close the gate when you leave to keep the pesky 4-legged creatures out (deer).

If you have questions or comments about the garden, please let us know.

Maggie Frantz, Bruce Gillooly, Rachel Lawrence, Rachel Winters



Our Bynum Outpost offers a wonderful opportunity to get local folks out onto the Haw River to experience it in a unique way. Sure, you can see things from Bynum Bridge, driving 55 miles an hour over the Hwy. 15-501 bridge or hiking along the currently "unofficial" land trail from Bynum to Hwy. 64, but there is nothing like floating the river and being a part of the pace of Nature. It is very easy to do a self-guided trip upriver from the dam. Just give us a call at 336/260-6465 or go online at www.hawrivercanoe.com to reserve a single kayak, double kayak or canoe for a 3-4 hour or 4-5 hour leisurely paddle. If you have never been in a canoe or kayak, we will give you instruction in safety and technique so that your experience is enjoyable. By the way, we only offer flat-water trips upriver from

Hwy. 15-501 on weekends from May through September. For groups of 4 or more, we may be able to accommodate your paddling needs in April and October.

We are looking for someone to manage our Bynum Outpost this summer. Anyone interested can contact us at 336/260-6465.

If you are looking for a more adventurous paddling experience or need to purchase paddling gear and/or new or used canoes and kayaks, you may want to come visit us in Saxapahaw. While you are here you can visit our River Shop, eat food that is not only good but good for you and enjoy wonderful, live music like you experience at Bynum Front Porch.

Bynum Ruritan Club

Greetings from the Bynum Ruritan Club, located at 28 Charlie Fields Rd. The Ruritans are a national organization with almost 25,000 members in more than 900 local communities. Ruritan's purpose is to create a better understanding among people and through volunteer community service, make America's communities better places in which to live and work. The slogan of Ruritan is "Fellowship, Goodwill and Community Service." Club membership represents a cross-section of the community in which the club serves, and is not restrictive with regard to occupation, social position, or any other specific criteria. Unlike most civic service organizations, Ruritan rarely has national programs. Rather, each club surveys its own community as to the needs of that community and then works to meet some of those needs.

Here in Bynum, we have performed a variety of public service jobs, and have provided scholarships to local students on their way to college. We hold occasional fundraising events, and all profits go right back to the Bynum community. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

We'd love to have you attend and maybe even join the club! Our building is available for rental by other community organizations to hold meetings or other events. For further information on Bynum Ruritan activities, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BynumNCRuritanClub/.



17th Annual Chatham Arts Council **ClydeFEST** Was Full of Fun!

ClydeFEST, sponsored by The Jester Group at Baird & Chatham Arts Council (www.ChathamArtsCouncil.org), is an old-school kids' carnival celebrating Clyde Jones, the renowned folk artist, lovingly known as the "critter artist." The event included: Clyde's critter cut-outs, local

artists, young and talented musicians, face-painting, old-fashioned carnival games, clowns, fabulous local food trucks, and of course, lots of arts and crafts projects!

Thanks Bynum for hosting!



Photos from last year's ClydeFEST, courtesy of Chatham Arts Council



Our Sponsors:

Bynum Front Porch gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their support!

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Sheila Duignan & Mike Wilkins

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www.sanders-auto.com

The Wilkins Family
Fans of Bynum Front Porch



... at a glance

Our Mission: *Bynum Front Porch is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the history, identity and supportive atmosphere of the village of Bynum. Bynum Front Porch is a community funded non-profit venture.*

Moved In:

- Patrick Truesdell and his dog, Benny.

Dispatches:

- Jan Hermans
- Cora Lee Johnson
- Reunelle Partin
- Jackie Howard

Ways you can help Bynum Front Porch

- Volunteer on one of the BFP Committees
- Donate Items from the BFP Wish List
- Join the team as a Corporate Sponsor
- Be a volunteer at one of the BFP events

BFP Wish List

- Licensed Electrician - The building and stages could use some donated skills.
- Solar Powered Lights
- Roofer - There are some leak areas that need attention.
- White/Clear Rope Lights



Bynum Post Office Boxes

Great News **BYNUM!**

If you have wanted a Bynum mailing address, good news – there still is time to get one. The postmaster at the Pittsboro Post Office has opened some of the boxes at the kiosk near the ballfield on Bynum Hill Rd that had previously been closed. What does this mean? If you want a kiosk box, just ask to see Peter or Solita at the Pittsboro Post Office and request a box in Bynum. There will be a one-time charge of \$25 (for the new lock). When the boxes are all gone, the postmaster will consider opening more if there is interest. Let's get them all filled up so we can maintain the 27228 zip code and keep Bynum on the map!!!

For more information, you can contact Martha Collins at 919-357-5830 or martha.bynum1@gmail.com

2019 Bynum Front Porch Board of Directors

Amy Akins • Martha Collins (*Secretary*) • Steven Evans • Ron Hatley • Kurt Hein
Chuck Leippe • Jim Prewitt • Dawn Porter • Cindy Raxter • Nina Seigler (*Treasurer*)
Bill Swindell • Ken Tunnell (*Chair*)

If you are interested in serving the community on the BFP Board of Directors, just talk with one of the folks listed.

2019 summer community calendar

MAY

- 3 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Too Much Fun
- 4 - Haw River Assembly Festival in Saxapahaw
- 10 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Garrett Newton Band
- 11 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm
- 11 - BFP Storytelling 7-9pm
- 17 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - The Paper Crowns
- 18 - Bynum Ruritan Supper 4pm-7:30pm
- 19 - Bynum Community Garden Potluck 5 pm
- 24 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Sugar on Fire
- 25 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm
- 31 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Milagro Saints

JUNE

- 7 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Durham Ukulele Orchestra
- 8 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm
- 14 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Letters to Abigail
- 21 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Swift Creek
- 22 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm
- 28 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Near Blind James and Harmonica Bob

JULY

- 5 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Hindsight Bluegrass
- 12 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Chatham Rabbits
- 13 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm
- 19 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Bev and Dave Gude
- 26 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Tracy Lynn and Dave Smith
- 27 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm

AUGUST

- 2 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Nevilles Quarter
- 9 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - The Moon and You
- 10 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm
- 16 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - The Mix Tapes
- 23 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - M.S.G. Blues Trio
- 24 - BFP Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin' Jam 10am-1pm
- 30 - BFP Music Series 7-9pm - Bluegrass Experience

bynumfrontporch@gmail.com
www.BynumFrontPorch.org
Send newsletter content to
BynumNews@gmail.com



BFP is a non-profit organization, your tax-deductible donations are always welcome:

Physical Address/GPS: 950 Bynum Road, 27312
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 381, Bynum, NC 27228

