



Issue 32
April 2023

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.



Elvis In Chatham?

Yes, *Elvis* (aka: Stephen Freeman) and *The Echoes of A Legend Band* were in Chatham County on Friday, January 6. Bynum Front Porch hosted this FUNdraising event which included a delicious dinner by Best Foods of Siler City.

We had a rocking good time and the performance was both exciting and nostalgic. Guests came from as far away as Brussels, Belgium, as well as from the mountains of Tennessee to the shores of North Carolina.

Bynum Front Porch says *Thank You!* Without supporters like you, we would not be able to continue our Educational Grants to students of Chatham County. Thanks to all who attended and to those who support other BFP Fundraising events and who provide cash donations.





Friends of

LOWER HAW RIVER State Natural Area

News from Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area (FLOHA!)

ecoEXPLORE™
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Earn prizes while you **EXPLORE!**

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Sign up today at [ecoexplore.net!](http://ecoexplore.net)

**Lower Haw River
State Natural Area
HotSpot**

Scan here to see what we've been finding!

THE NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM
an arm of the University of North Carolina System

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

NORTH CAROLINA GLAXOSMITHKLINE FOUNDATION



ecoEXPLORE guide Adam Prince with FLOHA board member Leah Purvis. Leah is also one of our nature photographers.

At our Annual Membership Meeting in September 2022, long time President Gretchen Smith reached her term limit and transitioned to her new role as Past President on the Board of Directors. Anne Geer was elected as our new President, Megan Lynch was elected as our new Vice President, and newly elected board members Daniel Cohen, Leah Purvis, Matt Spangler, and Reuben Wilson joined Secretary Catherine Deininger and Treasurer Sam Jackson on our Board of Directors. We appreciate the years of service of outgoing board members Ryan Cadwalader, Guil Johnson, and Jan Sherwin.

Our newest project is joining the ecoEXPLORE program by getting the Lower Haw River State Natural Area designated as an ecoEXPLORE HotSpot location. Developed by The North Carolina Arboretum, this program is an incentive-based citizen science program for children in grades K-8 that encourages outdoor exploration. Children can earn ecoEXPLORE badges and earn points that can be redeemed for field prizes by taking and submitting photographs of organisms. Participants can use their own device to

photograph their nature observations or check out an ecoEXPLORE Discovery Pack with equipment from the Chatham Community Library. We have installed an ecoEXPLORE sign at the US 15-501 kiosk and plan to install another sign at the US 64 kiosk.

We continue to focus on advocacy efforts for three major goals: active management of Lower Haw by State Parks and/or Chatham County; development of sustainable land and paddle trails; and expansion of Lower Haw and the Haw River Trail through land acquisition and easements. Our advocacy activities include presenting to local elected officials and county staff, cultivating partnerships with The Conservation Fund and Triangle Land Conservancy, and continuing our work with the Haw River Trail Steering Committee. In February we began working with Alta Planning + Design and the county's new Trails and Open Space Planner on the Haw River trail corridor feasibility study as part of a working group of the Haw River Trail Steering Committee. Expected to be completed by August, this project is funded by an EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation grant to Triangle J Council of Governments on behalf of Chatham and Alamance counties.



We are excited about our partnership with the Great Trails State Coalition, a broad coalition of nonprofits, local governments, industry partners, and state agencies dedicated to advocating for more state funding for all types of trails in North Carolina. The coalition successfully lobbied the NC General Assembly to designate 2023 as the Year of the Trail in North Carolina. This statewide celebration marks the 50th anniversary of the 1973 North Carolina Trails System Act. Year of the Trail will showcase and promote all types of trails throughout our state with events and programming on television and radio as well as print and digital media. Friends of Lower Haw kicked off our Year of the Trail celebration with a First Day Outdoors Hike led by FLOHA board member Megan Lynch. We are planning more events throughout the year.



First Day Outdoors Hike Led by Megan Lynch 2023

Friends of Lower Haw is thrilled about two bills introduced in the NC General Assembly to authorize the Haw River Trail as a State Trail. We have been advocating for this designation and have been working on it with Bill Holman, NC State Director of The Conservation Fund. SB 100 was introduced by Senator Amy Gale of Alamance County on February 14 and is also sponsored by



FLOHA board members Reuben Wilson and Leah Purvis laying out the new design for the pollinator garden at US 15-501.

Senator Natalie Murdock of Chatham County. A companion bill, HB 124, was introduced by Representatives Stephen Ross and Dennis Riddell of Alamance County on February 15 and is also sponsored by Representative Robert Reives of Chatham County. Both bills have been referred to committee. We appreciate the support of these state legislators for the Haw River Trail, a concept for over 70 miles of land and paddle trails from Haw River State Park to Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. State Trail designation must be authorized by the NC General Assembly and signed by the Governor. In addition to giving a trail more status and marketing clout, this designation means the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources “shall support, promote, encourage, and facilitate the establishment of trail segments” and “the State may receive donations of appropriate land and may purchase other needed lands for the Haw River State Trail.” We are very grateful to Bill Holman for his role in working with state legislators to introduce these bills.



State Parks biologist Jessie Jordan with Green Level High School students doing mapping of invasive plants in the Lower Haw.

We continue to offer volunteer opportunities such as our trash can project, wildlife camera and bird box monitoring, and invasive plant removal and pollinator garden workdays. Learn more about our volunteer opportunities and how to sign up at this link: <https://www.lowerhaw.org/volunteer>.

Learn more about us at www.lowerhaw.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Our 2022 Annual Report is available online and you can subscribe to our e-newsletter at this link: <https://www.lowerhaw.org/documents>.

Gretchen Smith, Past President



FLOHA board members Daniel Cohen and Reuben Wilson working in the pollinator garden at US 15-501.



The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company reopened its Bynum Outpost on April 1. For now, the Outpost will only be open on weekends for rental of solo sit-on-top kayaks for self-guided paddle trips upriver from the Bynum dam and back down. You will be able to reserve dates and times by going to www.hawrivercanoe.com to our online reservation system. Later in the year, we hope to introduce guided natural history-oriented upriver trips and, if water levels allow, downriver guided trips.

If you would like to keep up with our activities both now and before the next edition of the Bynum Front Porch Newsletter, you can subscribe to our monthly newsletter and blogs by sending a request to admin@hawrivercanoe.com or calling 336/260-6465.

If interested in part-time work, contact Ben Clarke by sending an e-mail message to him at admin@hawrivercanoe.com. You can find a list of job descriptions on our website at www.hawrivercanoe.com.

Joe Jacob

Scenes from Clyde Jones' 86th Birthday!



Rebekkah Cote, Clyde Jones, Stephan Meyers, Diane Swan



Clyde Jones and Lauren Phillips (left)



Bynum United Methodist Church

Greetings! Grace and peace be with you.

As a reminder, our doors are open for any who want to participate in the worship, Christian education, spiritual formation, and fellowship opportunities that Bynum UMC offers – ranging from Bible studies

to bluegrass picking sessions and friendship feasts. Truly, our invitation is an open one to come as you are, all are welcome.

In this new year, we have much to look forward to in engagement with you, our friends and neighbors, whether through community Easter-egg hunts, a blessing of Bynum’s animals, or hotdogs on Halloween (among other events!). However, Bynum UMC also has some serious contemplation to do as a community of faith. We are in the midst of deliberation regarding our ministry in mission, in hopes of reaffirming our ties and deepening our relationship with the village of Bynum.

Currently, we are in the first stretch of a UMC-led, 18-month long program which is intended to help rural UMC churches prayerfully discern the best way to be effective disciples in cultivating broader community through relationship-building. It is our earnest hope that our budding mission might serve as a tangible fruit of our faith in Jesus Christ and our belonging to Bynum.

We could use your help, even if you belong to another faith community, or do not belong to one at all. As impartial residents of Bynum, we would appreciate any knowledge of particular gaps in the community which you may be attuned to that could be addressed through the gifts, resources, and energies of Bynum UMC. If you think you have an idea worth sharing, drop me a line at easmith@nccumc.org, I would be curious to know your thoughts!

If you are interested in the goings-on of Bynum UMC, check out our weekly and upcoming events. To stay up-to-date, please follow our facebook or our website at bynumumc.org. We are excited to be in a relationship with you!

Weekly Events:

Sunday School: Sundays, 10am

Worship: Sundays, 11am

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7pm

Bynum Gospel Bluegrass Band/Picking: Thursdays, 7pm

Upcoming Events:

May 28: Friendship Feast

June 25: Friendship Feast/Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

July 9: Ice Cream Social

July 30: Friendship Feast

August 13: Blessing of the Backpacks

August 27: Friendship Feast

September 17: Blessing of the Animals

September 24: Friendship Feast

Best,

Evan (and the folks at Bynum UMC)

“Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete”

—(Matthew 5:48; CEB)

The CHATHAM ARTS Council

Thanks to the Bynum Community!

The Bynum community generously welcomed us for so many beautiful ClydeFEST years, and that ballfield holds many a special ClydeFEST memory,” explains Cheryl Chamblee, CAC Artistic Director. “This year, we’re shifting venues to make ClydeFEST more accessible to more kids and families. We’re excited to have more parking for folks with disabilities, not to mention parents

juggling kids and strollers! And we love that the Ag Center was created to be a resource to the full breadth of the Chatham community so that everyone can feel at home there. The heart and soul of ClydeFEST has always been about kids (and kids-at-heart!) making art with found materials in a joyful atmosphere, and we are thrilled that all of those things will be available to even more people this year.” This year’s ClydeFEST at the Ag Center is on April 22, 2023 from 11am to 4pm.



2023 Bynum Front Porch Board of Directors

Martha Collins • Ron Hatley (Chair) • Kurt Hein • Chuck Leippe • Rich Levinson • Matthew Malec • Mike Orbon
Nina Seigler (Treasurer) • Jason Snipes • Ken Tunnell • Ted Williams • Kelly Woods (Secretary)

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

The Haw River Assembly News

What's New at Haw River Assembly!



A big thank you to last year's Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon participants!

Happy Spring!

As we begin our 41st year working to protect the 110 miles of the Haw River, we invite you to take a look back online at 40 years of memories: <https://hawriver.org/resources/publications/>.

In many ways the Haw is in better shape than it was 40 years ago but we're continuing to fight hard to get industrial chemicals like PFAS out of the Haw, and to watchdog new development construction for violations that cause muddy waters. We'll be starting up our weekly Swim Guide again this summer to let the public know if favorite swimming, tubing, and wading spots along the Haw River (including Bynum) have safe levels of E-coli. We post our sampling results on our social media each Friday, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. On March 18, we held our Clean-Up-A-Thon with teams cleaning up the Haw from Greensboro

to Jordan Lake. Thanks to everyone who joined in the effort here in Bynum – the picture is from the clean-up last year.

Want to know more about our events and pollution issues on the Haw? Sign up for our weekly Friday E-newsletter at www.hawriver.org. Better yet, become a member of the Haw River Assembly to be part of our work for clean water! With COVID-19 on the wane, we are at our office on 143 Bynum Church Rd Tuesdays through Thursdays, so drop in and say hi, or browse our lending library of environmental and nature books.

Have a beautiful spring on the river!

Elaine Chiosso
Executive Director, Haw River Assembly

2023 Bynum Front Porch Newsletter Committee

Reporting for the community that rocks
Bynum Front Porch

- Martha Collins • Cyndi Harris
- Sharon LaPalme • Debbie Tunnell



Bynum Community Garden

Help solve the mystery of who painted this beautiful sign for the Bynum Community Garden!

Our Sponsors:

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

PLATINUM SPONSORS:

North Carolina Storytellers Guild

Pittsboro Landscape Supply

pittsborolandscapesupply.com

162 Hatley Road

Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-869-7123

GOLD SPONSORS:

Clarence Durham & Tony Mann

Friends of BFP

Weaver Street Realty

www.weaverstreetrealty.com

116 East Main Street

Carrboro, NC 27510

919-929-5658

SILVER SPONSORS:

Hope Crossing Animal Hospital

www.hopexcrossing.com

58 East Cotton Rd

Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-542-1975

Paradocs Farms:

The Michael and Suzanne Stoskopf Foundation

artsciencesonline.com

"At the Intersection of Art and Science: Philanthropy for a Better Planet"

BRONZE SPONSORS:

Anna Blackshaw, Tim & Rio McKee

Chatham Portables

Portable Toilet Rentals

919-742-7300

Chatham Ridge Trailer Park

Ellis Disposal

Trash & Recyclables

919-542-2208

Roof Crafters

ncroofcrafters.com

Mark Stith

919-542-5530

Many thanks to all those who have supported BFP through various Facebook Fundraising Drives.



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.*

Over the fence news:

newbies, farewells, births and deaths since the last newsletter.

New neighbors:

- Vivian Davis
- Diana Garside & River Dukes
- Ava & Becky Hatcher
- Lucas Kyle & Grace McLaughlin
- Lauren Phillips
- Sarah Pohlig & Tyler Patterson, Annie & Lillian
- Andrea Rodriguez
- Shirley Romero

Births:

- Mariela Juliette - parents Elizabeth & Tom Boyer
- Lillian - parents Sarah Pohlig & Tyler Patterson

Deaths:

- Bernice Ellis
- Carolyn Eubanks
- Gary Tyson Howard
- Carlene Jacobs
- Jean Ledlie Partin
- Ruth Sparrow Thomas

Moved away:

- Adrienne Drum
- Steve Evans
- Kellyn, Charlie & Jordan Haight & Moose
- Greg & Marie Mortimer
- Tim Taylor
- Bobbie Wallace

Bynum Zip Code is Tied to Kiosk PO Boxes – Keep Your Kiosk Box in Use

There's still time to help maintain the Bynum Zip Code – all we need to do is maintain the kiosk Bynum PO Boxes. If you want a Bynum mailing address, the Pittsboro postmaster has opened some PO boxes at the kiosk near the ballfield on Bynum Hill Rd. Just go to the Pittsboro Post Office, ask to see Peter or Solita and request a PO 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 those boxes owned and 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.

BFP Wish List

- Solar Powered Lights
- Roofer – There are some small leak areas that need attention.
- White/Clear Rope Lights
- 36" Smart TV & Wall Mount

Ways you can help Bynum Front Porch

- Volunteer on one of the BFP Committees
- Donate Items from the BFP Wish List
- Join the BFP team as a Corporate Sponsor
- Join the BFP Friends
- Become a BFP Board Member

2023 community calendar

MAY

- 5 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Katharine Whalen's Jazz Squad
- 6 - HRA Festival in Saxapahaw
- 12 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Nixon, Blevins, and Gage
www.nixonblevinsandgage.com
- 13 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm
- 19 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Hooverville
www.hoovervillemusic.com
- 26 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - John Howie Jr. & Rosewood Bluff
www.johnhowiejr.bigcartel.com
- 27 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm

JUNE

- 2 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - The Goodloves
- 9 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Nantahala www.nantahalamusic.com
- 10 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm
- 16 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - The Radio
- 23 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - To Be Announced
- 24 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm
- 30 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - KneeDeep Band

JULY

- 7 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Mystery Hillbillies
www.mysteryhillbillies.com
- 8 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm
- 14 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Too Much Fun www.tmfband.com
- 15 - BFP Workday to 9am-12pm
- 21 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Durham Ukulele Orchestra
www.durhamukuleleorchestra.com
- 22 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm
- 28 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - The Whiskey Honeys
www.thewhiskeyhoneys.com

AUGUST

- 4 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Orange County Lockdown
- 11 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Neville's Quarter
www.nevillesquarter.com
- 12 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm
- 18 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - GrassStreet www.grassstreet.net
- 25 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Vintage Blue
- 26 - Acoustic Bluegrass Round Circle Pickin Jam 10am-12pm

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Friday Night Music 7-9pm - Bluegrass Experience
- 16 - BFP Workday to 9am-12pm

Volunteer Corner Volunteers Welcome!

Hello neighbors and friends. Welcome to another exciting season in Bynum!

- Would you like to support the work of Bynum Front Porch and all while having fun?
- Would you like to meet more of your neighbors and make new friends?
- Would you like to ensure the success of Bynum Front Porch's many events?
- Would you like to be enthusiastically appreciated by the Bynum Front Porch organization as well as by the community?

If any of your answers is "yes," you can accomplish all of the above and more by becoming a volunteer! Help out with the summer music series! Participate in quarterly work days! Join one or more of our committees! Keep the spirit of Bynum alive and well!

For more details, and to submit your contact information and area(s) of interest, visit our website at

www.bynumfrontporch.org/contact

WiFi Available!

Bynum Front Porch is pleased to remind everyone that there is community WiFi available at the store, 24/7. Sit on the porch or use it from your car. This speedy fast wireless network brings critical connectivity to residents and visitors giving everyone access to everything from education materials for kids, information about Bynum's rich history and attractions, to everyday needs like paying bills, checking library hours, or even just keeping tabs on your favorite sports team. The password is posted in the store windows.



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