# Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist support the Haw River Learning Celebration

## Issue

Each fall, the Haw River Assembly (HRA) welcomes 4th-grade students to three locations along the river. Since this program began in 1990, over 48,000 students have enjoyed activities, a picnic lunch, and learning about the river.

HRA's small staff relies on volunteers, giving generously of their time so students can observe, explore, and discover the life of the river. This is a chance for students to learn how to protect the river and engage with the natural world.

Master Naturalist student, Sharon Reilly, worked with several stakeholders to expand the capabilities of an area where educational activities were held.




## Project

The Reid Chapter of the NC Native Plant Society first identified the potential for this project. Then Dr. Janet McFall guided Sharon through property adjoining the river, helping her locate plants of interest and the changing shape of the river. Dr. William Dunson graciously shared his plant list, and Sharon was able to locate and identify key plants of interest. Shelly Mack and Mart Bumgarner, of the Orange County Extension Center, worked with Sharon to create plant labels.

Their combined efforts helped create a space where students could learn about the role native plants play in the food web and their interaction with the river.

## Student

This project is the work of Sharon Reilly

## Impact Projects

Beyond classwork, a key feature of the Master Naturalist Volunteer program is the Impact Projects students develop. These projects integrate course concepts and benefit a Partner Organization.

### Highlight

**Partner Organization**

Haw River Assembly



NC State University and N.C. A&T State University are collectively committed to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.