Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist helps refine Haw River Assembly's Stream Investigation Program

Issue

The Haw River Assembly (HRA) needed help refining and implementing their Stream Investigation Program (SIP) for middle to high school students for both the indoor classroom and outdoor streamside lessons. The SIP Program required better alignment with the NC Science Standards, and updated teaching materials were needed for the HRA's Environmental Educator.

Project

Master Naturalist Regina Baratta collaborated with Haw River Assembly's Environmental Educator, Jessica Black, and their Event and Program Manager, Hannah Welborn-Lewis, to design educational materials appropriate for both middle and high school that better aligned with North Carolina's science standards and that engaged the students in group work.



Baratta works with HRA staff, Jessica Black during a stream visit October 2025

The process included observing older classroom lesson materials in use, then meeting with HRA staff to determine what worked and what didn't. Slideshows, handouts, and matching games were created to help distill the most important information for a single classroom visit. Student engagement was the focus. Teachers gave input into the lesson successes and offered suggestions which were then incorporated into later edits. Regina also delivered and implemented streamside and classroom lessons including macroinvertebrate collection and identification.

The Haw River Assembly has been able to expand their classroom outreach and is currently working with Alamance-Burlington Schools to deliver lessons to all the middle schools. More about the project is on the Haw River Assembly's site: hawriver.org/news/volunteer-highlight-regina-baratta

Student

This project is the work of Regina Baratta

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.

Highlights

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.