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▶ Molly Matlock on ChathamArts

CHATHAM studio tour

Illustrator's studio debut

By Forrest Greenslade New artists on this year's tour include...

Emma Skurnick has created nature illustrations for American Scientist Magazine, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, North Carolina Aquariums, and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. She teaches illustration and design courses at Central Carolina Community College, the ArtsCenter and North Carolina Botanical Garden. Skurnick is among the seven new artists who join the Chatham Artists Guild in the 17th annual Chatham Studio Tour.



Emma Skurnick



Deborah Sanks



Mariah Wheeler



David Botts



Lara O'Keefe



Peter Ross



Michael Thompson

underside of a leaf, or the way color shifts along the length of a bird's feather — is reward enough. The finished artwork often feels like mere artifact to me: proof of the time I have spent and of the awe I feel, for each subject of each painting."

Skurnick's studio in Bynum is just one of the 51 artists studios throughout Chatham County open to visitors from all over the region the first two weekends of December. The Chatham Studio Tour, a model for arts tourism, is organized and funded by the artists themselves.

"Our members work all year long, preparing artworks, educational demonstrations, and informational materials so that visitors can enjoy The Tour, and learn more about the creative process in the artists' own environments," explains Maggie Zwilling, Executive Director of the Chatham

TOUR continued on page 8.

Durham says Jordan Lake moved west

By Michael Pollock

The Durham Board of County Commissioners held the final hearing about using a developer's surveys to change the map of Jordan Lake on October 12. The Commission ended up voting to accept the developers survey. Commissioners Joe Bowser and Chair Michael Page, both supporters, could not find the proposed development, 751 South, on the maps during the Planning Department's overview.

Staff recommended using the surveys. Seventy-one people signed up to speak, though a fourth or more yielded their time or signed up by mistake. There might have been fewer people and groups than at the meeting April 13. The hearing was also polite. The Commissioners could be gracious because it was practically a foregone conclusion how the vote would go, as indicated by a closed door vote on firing County Attorney Kitchen. The Commissioners also tried unsuccessfully to keep the Haw River Assembly out of the developer's lawsuit against the Durham County.

The first speaker was Steve Bocckino, who marveled that it was so expensive to move the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, but the Lake allegedly moved west by itself. A man came from Richmond to say his family had sold their land on the east side for less than it would be valued if the County accepts the survey. His story was mirrored by a landowner from the west side, with the opposite problem. The

JORDAN LAKE continued on page 7.

Shakori GrassRoots Festival a treasure, rain or shine



Neena Freelon sings; Paperhand Puppet kids beside the biodeisel bus. PHOTOS BY KEVIN M. JAMES

By Sara Waters

A few years ago, sometime in April, folks in Chatham County might have looked up at the sky, watched the rain starting to fall, and said to themselves, "It must be time for the Shakori Hills festival again." In its first few editions, it seems rain was a big part of the Shakori Hills GrassRoots festival of Music & Dance. Stories are still told, and they have become legends, of cars lost in the mud. People still talk about how their favorite boot is still buried out

in the parking lot, and the kind strangers that pulled their camper out of the mud.

The people telling these stories, though, are still coming to Shakori Hills. They recognized that they had experienced something special, even in the deluge, and they told their friends, who told others; this is how grassroots works. Shakori Hills GrassRoots began as a little sister festival of a successful endeavor in Trumansburg, New York called the Fingerlakes GrassRoots Festival of Music and Dance, created as a non-profit to raise money for

AIDS education and treatment. Some of that festival's organizers, including Jordan Puryear, decided that the goodness and lessons learned from the NY version needed to be spread elsewhere, and began to look for a location. A friend, Robert Michener, lived on a farm in Chatham County with 75 acres of rolling hills and ancient oaks, and invited Puryear to visit. When he got to the farm, he loved it. Since the two were friends through old-time music and festivals, they began discussing the possibility of having the festival right there. And thus, in the spring of 2003, Shakori Hills was born.

The festival had a diverse and stellar lineup including some friends from New York next to a

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