

Spring 2004

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### ***DRBA'S FIRST SATURDAY OUTING APRIL 3, 2004***

7-mile Float NC 704 to NC 89 in Stokes County

Our first paddle trip of 2004 will be on the beautiful Dan River in Stokes County from Hart's Access to just below Whitt's Store. With Class 1 and 2 rapids, the section is "interesting to the experienced and forgiving to the inexperienced boater," says Forrest Altman. "This section is especially pretty in the spring," according to Trip Coordinator Jay Newton.

Weather permitting, meet at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of NC 89 with County Rd. 1477 (Lynchburg Road), about six miles west of Danbury, NC to set the shuttle. Bring lunch, water, life jacket, boat, and rain gear. To reserve a space, or to offer a space in your boat, contact Jay Newton, 336-887-8022 or jayakIII@msn.com. See you on the river! (TB)

#### **First Saturdays Outings**

- February 7: White Oak Mountain hike
- March 7: Riverwalk trail in Danville
- April 3: NC 704 to NC 89 paddle (Stokes County)

### ***DRBA ANNUAL MEETING IN MARTINSVILLE MAY 13***

The third annual membership meeting of the Dan River Basin Association will be held at the Henry County Administration Building on Thursday evening, May 13, at 7:00 p.m. Major features of the evening will be election of officers and Board members and a presentation by Will Butler on the campaign for the Mayo River State Park.

William Butler, a native of Rockingham County, served as an intern for the Dan River Basin Association during the summer of 2002 as a part of his work toward a Master's degree at Virginia Tech. His project was a survey of the Mayo River. Subsequently he was hired by DRBA's Mayo River State Park Committee to create a plan for the park. Currently Will is a doctoral candidate in Virginia Tech's Environmental Design and Planning Program.

The nominating committee report will be given by DRBA Board member Steve Carpenter. Other members of the Nominating Committee are Julia Pyron and Forrest Altman. (F.A.)

Directions: From the south, take 220 business through Martinsville and Collinsville to Kings Mountain Road. Turn right on Kings Mountain and go 2-3 miles to the Henry County Administration Building on the left. From the east, take US 58 into Martinsville and turn right on Hooker St. Turn left on Commonwealth and go 1/2 mile to Liberty St., where you turn right. This turns into Kings Mountain Rd. and about 5 miles down will be the County Administration Building.

## ***APRIL 17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN EDEN***

The regular meeting of the DRBA Board of Directors will be held at Eden City Hall at 10:00 on Saturday, April 17. All Board meetings are open to DRBA members and guests.

Following the meeting, everyone is invited to join in helping to clean up an illegal dump at Town Creek, an otherwise beautiful tributary of the Dan River just south of Eden. This effort will be part of Rockingham County Spring Clean, which awards cash prizes to nonprofit groups based on the amount of trash delivered to the county landfill. Last year DRBA won the \$500 first prize for turning in over 31,000 pounds of trash during the two-week event.

To reach the Eden City Hall, take NC14 into Eden. Turn east onto Stadium Drive, which intersects NC 14 at a traffic light. The Eden City Hall is the large white building on the right just past the next traffic light, on the corner of Stadium Drive and Pierce Street.

## ***MAYO RIVER STATE PARK ENTERS NEXT PHASE***

Mayo River valley citizens who have property in or near the Mayo River State Park study area were invited to a public meeting on March 30. All landowners identified in this vicinity received a letter from DRBA's Mayo River State Park Committee informing them of the meeting, which was announced in a second letter from the North Carolina Division of State Parks. Held at McMichael High School, the meeting allowed property owners to meet individually with State Parks staff members to learn more about plans for the park and how they could participate in its development.

The Mayo River State Park Committee helped with logistics for the meeting and provided information about DRBA, the Mayo River valley, tourism in the county, and the proposed Friends of Mayo River State Park. Local support for the park has been strong, with the county and municipal governments and numerous civic groups passing resolutions endorsing the park. The State Parks website, [www.ncsparks.net/mayoriver](http://www.ncsparks.net/mayoriver), has detailed information about both the park concept and the lengthy process of land acquisition that will make it a reality. The DRBA committee's website is [www.mayoriverstatepark.org](http://www.mayoriverstatepark.org).

## ***DRBA NEEDS YOU FOR Spring Clean!***

Rockingham County's annual Spring Clean offers DRBA a unique opportunity to earn money by cleaning up roadsides and illegal dumps. Last year DRBA brought home the \$500 first prize for most trash collected by weight. This year the cleanup dates are April 12 – 24, with an "early-bird" session planned for Saturday, April 10.

We have even scheduled our April 17 Board meeting for Eden City Hall so that Board members can join in the cleanup effort afterward at the infamous Town Creek illegal dump just south of town. How can you help? We need your willing hands and pickup trucks to collect the debris and haul it to the county landfill. Any Rockingham County location can be cleaned, and we need to collect trash at multiple times and sites to earn the prize money.


T Butler is coordinating the schedule of times and places, and she has the necessary forms to present at the landfill so that DRBA gets credit for our efforts. Please contact her at 336-349-5727 or [members@danriver.org](mailto:members@danriver.org).

## ***FEBRUARY AND MARCH FIRST SATURDAY TRIP REPORTS***

It turned out to be a beautiful day on February 7. The wind had a chill to it, but that didn't keep everyone in. Seventeen brave souls and two eager dogs entered the woods of White Oak Mountain and survived. We began at Pete's Pond in the White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area by carefully picking our way across some ice left from a previous storm and entering the woods at the Saponi Trail sign. We did have to detour around the stream crossings due to high water levels, but that allowed us to enjoy the stream a little longer than we would have since the detour followed the stream's meandering passage. Our thanks go out to Berndie Lundsford for blazing the high-water trail a couple of days before the hike. Along the way we saw wild orchids, wild ginger, Christmas and other ferns, an abundance of mountain laurel, and a wide variety of trees. All too quickly the trail climbed out of the stream valley and onto a broad ridge taking us alongside an overgrown field. After passing through a thinned pine stand, we again entered the hardwoods where we continued just out of sight of the access road until we ended up back at Pete's Pond. From Pete's Pond in the southeast section of the area, we took a driving tour on five roads within the boundaries until we ended up in the northern section. From the Spring Pond parking area on Motley's Mill Road we then walked across a very muddy pond dam, and soon came to the bluffs. Someone had christened the spot as Rocky Ridge by burning this name into a tree at the top. The rain-swollen, muddy Banister River was clearly visible as it wound its way past the base of the cliff about 40 or 50 feet below. Across the way, the north facing cliffs were still covered in snow and ice, adding an emphasis to the already stiff breeze blowing in our faces as we admired the view. Nature provided our seating in the form of rocks and logs. Now who could come up with a better picnic arrangement? After lunch, the group broke up. Some headed back to their vehicles for the long journey home. The rest decided to take the long way back to the parking lot. We descended the bluffs to the river bank, and wound our way along a portion of the Hiawatha Trail, gradually ascending the hillside until we reached the parking lot.

Mother Nature gave us a break in February, but she decided on March 6th not to let us off so easy. Before heading to Danville, I checked the local radar and noticed rain extending beyond the mountains. After encountering heavy showers just east of Danville as I traveled toward Dan Daniel Park, I arrived at the park fully expecting to be the only one there. Much to my surprise, one by one folks began arriving. In all we had six people and one dog to show up prepared to hike. Before we began our hike, Karen Cross enlightened us with information on recent additions and future work to the trails. Looks like it's going to be quite a trail system there. We decided to separate into two groups and meet up along the trail. The group led by Ian Hughes, Assistant Outdoor Director of Danville's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, was chauffeured by Karen to the Crossing while the other started from shelter 13 in the park. The two parties met just east of the Norfolk Southern bridge which spans about 940 feet

across the Dan River. The first group had previously walked across the Southern's old steel trestle which rests upon stone pillars laid in the 1850's by the Richmond and Danville Railroad. The combined group then headed back eastward. We encountered some joggers as well as some folks out for a morning stroll. There were a couple of guys in a boat fishing just below the Brantley Steam Plant dam. While we were watching, one of them pulled a right nice fish out of the water. Well, it was evident that the weather was not bad enough to keep folks from fishing. We continued down the trail to about the waste water treatment plant and then turned around to go back to the park. Upon arriving back at the shelter, we broke out lunch and enjoyed the pleasure of each others' company. We noticed the clouds breaking in the west and figured the rain would soon come to an end. The rain never got more than a light shower, so the walk was never really in jeopardy. I guess it just goes to show you should never underestimate the determination of those who wish to enjoy the outdoors. I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Karen Cross and Ian Hughes, as well as the city of Danville for handling the arrangements and presenting to us such a nice opportunity for an enjoyable morning. (JB)



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**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:**  
**[HTTP://WWW.DANRIVER.ORG](http://www.danriver.org)**

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Promoting stewardship, recreation, and education in  
the Dan River Basin region

## *HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING*

DRBA's Board of Directors met on 17 January 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Halifax County-South Boston Museum of Fine Arts and History, South Boston, VA. T Butler reported 158 active memberships, with a renewal rate of 85%. Lindley Butler reported \$7000.83 in checking, \$2055.88 in savings, \$7058.43 in grant money, and \$1650.73 in the Mayo River State Park fund, for total assets of \$17,765.87. In 2003 DRBA had receipts of \$29,917.40 and disbursements of \$22,916.57, prompting the Board to decide to schedule an independent external audit by the close of the financial year in December 2004. Terry Painter presented plans, photos, and a budget for constructing the batteau trailer, for which he offered to donate over \$2000 worth of labor. The Board enthusiastically approved his plans and authorized his spending up to \$3000 without further Board action. Jeff Johnston reported that the City of Danville has asked for DRBA's support of a grant for a trail from the river to Cyberpark, which overlooks US 29. River Network's River Rally will be held at Wintergreen Resort in Virginia May 21 – 25 at a cost of \$600 per person. The Board decided that DRBA should plan to have a display at the conference and should apply for four scholarships. All DRBA members will be invited to attend all or part of the rally, with scholarships to be shared if possible. River Network's website, [www.rivernetwork.org](http://www.rivernetwork.org), offers a wealth of information for river advocates. For the passwords, contact T Butler or Jeff Johnston.

Marge Holtman of the South Boston Museum of Fine Arts and History informed the Board that the acclaimed Staunton River exhibit had been designed, funded, and constructed by an independent group of about 100 people separate from the museum. She had expected a similar arrangement for the Dan River display, whereas DRBA had expected to join an existing committee rather than to provide the leadership and create the exhibit. With the museum severely understaffed and DRBA members stretched thin, the Board discussed options for a scaled-back display, primarily of photography, to be set up for 3 – 6 months beginning in the fall. Barry Dunkley will cochair the committee with Steve Carpenter, and they will meet with Marge Holtman to outline what DRBA will produce. The committee will draw on the knowledge and resources of other members as needed.

The meeting concluded with reports from committees and localities.