

# DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

## 2007 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

### RECREATION

#### RIVER ACCESS POINTS

- Continued responsibility for monitoring and maintaining Anglin Mill Access on Mayo River and Settle Bridge Access on Dan River in Rockingham County, NC; subcontracted duties to Three Rivers Outfitters and Bushhog with funding from Rockingham Tourism Development Authority
- Continued meeting with landowners in Stokes County, NC to plan accesses to the Dan River at Snow Creek and US 311 Bridge
- Served on Eden River Development Committee to plan access points on Dan and Smith rivers in Eden, NC
- Participated in location and design of Smith River access points in Henry County, Virginia: Doe Run (completed), Mitchell Bridge (in progress), Martinsville below dam (in progress)
- Presented at Southern Virginia Blueways Roundtable meetings in South Hill, Va.

#### PARKS

##### North Carolina Mayo River State Park

- DRBA members were named to first Park Advisory Committee.
- Four full-time staff were employed for the park, a project initiated by DRBA
- By end of 2007 North Carolina State Parks had acquired approximately 1900 acres for the park.

##### Virginia future Mayo River State Park and Scenic River Status

- Hosted field assessments by officials from Henry County and Virginia Department of Conservation on the North and South Mayo rivers in June, accompanied by NC State Parks staff.
- North Mayo and South Mayo rivers to receive State Scenic River designation in early 2008.
- Feasibility study for a Virginia state park was concluded and received a positive recommendation for future funding

##### Gravelly Nature Preserve

- Developed plans for low-impact trails and nature study center, and assisted Henry County staff in site cleanup and trail location
- Began assessment of natural resources on the property
- Interpretive and directional signs have been designed and ordered
- Ribbon cutting to occur in April 2008

#### TRAILS

##### North Carolina

- Participated in dedication of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail Boardwalk, June 12
- Participated in opening of 1.7-mile Eden Smith River Greenway, initiated by DRBA
- Initiated pilot trail concept for Caswell County, serving on Pilot Trail Design Workgroup of Piedmont Triad Council of Governments; worked with Trails Committee of Caswell Recreation Commission in development of senior center pilot trail
- Served on Eden Greenways Committee to plan citywide greenway system

- Participated in discussions regarding potential for funding for future Rockingham County recreational trails master plan

## Virginia

- Opened first mile of Fieldale Trail in ceremony on July 11, with U.S. Congressmen Rick Boucher and Virgil Goode as speakers; project initiated by DRBA with grant from Dominion Foundation and other donations
- In partnership with Henry County, continued conversations with Norfolk Southern Railway and conducted deed research for Martinsville-Fieldale Rail Trail
- Attended Martinsville-Henry County Complete Streets Program and Bicycle-Friendly Communities, Safe Routes to School, and New Partners for Smart Growth presentations
- Attended trail building school presented by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) sponsored by Henry County, Franklin County, and Activate Martinsville-Henry County
- Participating in Friends of Philpott-sponsored trail building monthly workdays at Philpott Lake Jamison Mill Park
- Ongoing coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding trails at Philpott Lake
- Participating in Henry County Bicycle Club-sponsored trail building workdays in Chatmoss area of Henry County

## FIRST SATURDAY OUTINGS (open to the public)

January:	Hike Chinqua-Penn Trail, Rockingham County
February:	Hike beside Mayo River, Anglin Mill to Virginia line, Rockingham & Henry Counties
March:	Hike & house tour at Reynolds Homestead, Critz, VA, Patrick County
April:	Hike beside Smith & paddle Smith from Spray to Boat Landing, plus annual picnic, Eden, Rockingham County
May:	Paddle Dan from NC 700 in Eden to Berry Hill Bridge at Virginia line, Rockingham County
June:	Paddle Otter Creek, tributary of Philpott Reservoir, Franklin County
July:	Paddle Mayo River, Anglin Mill to US 220, Rockingham County
August:	Paddle Dan River, Whitt's Store (NC 89 Bridge) to Dan River Company, Stokes County; also Dan River Boat Race, Madison, Rockingham County
September:	Paddle Banister River, Halifax to South Boston, Halifax County
October:	Cleanup paddle, NC 135 on Mayo to Jacob's Creek on Dan, Rockingham County
November:	Paddle Dan River, Whetstone Creek to Eden Wildlife Access, Rockingham County
December:	Spring Outing on Upper Little River—Harnett County, NC

## THIRD SATURDAY OUTING (for members and guests)

March:	Annual Meeting in Mayodan; optional guided tour of Old Mayo Park, Rockingham County
April:	White Oak Mountain hike, Pittsylvania County
May:	Hike on Ben Lackey's land near Hanging Rock, Stokes County
June:	River Trip with Paddling Pointers (Richard Hopley & Alison Snow-Jones), Dan River, Madison to Settle Bridge, Rockingham County
October:	Hike on Buffalo Mountain, Floyd County, and covered dish at Wayne &

Betty Kirkpatrick's home, Stuart  
November: Hike at Angler's Ridge, Danville, Pittsylvania County

## STEWARDSHIP

### WATER QUALITY

- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality establishing partnership between DRBA and DEQ on efforts to protect and restore water quality in the basin
- Participated in Total Maximum Daily Load meetings to clean up Dan, Smith and Banister rivers in Virginia; served on Technical Advisory Committees
- Supported and housed two summer Service Training for Environmental Progress (STEP) interns, Doreen Davis and Philip Hash, for study of water quality problems in Jordan Creek in Fieldale
- Continued bacteria monitoring on portions of the Dan, Smith, and Mayo rivers.
- Provided leadership in establishing Virginia Citizens for Water Quality as statewide representation of volunteer stream monitors; Wayne Kirkpatrick is Board Chair
- Conducted stream monitoring certification training sessions for teachers and other citizens in Patrick, Henry, and Pittsylvania counties
- Participated in planning for DRBA/TIC program for 2007-2008 Henry County School year
- Participated in US Army Corps of Engineers committee regarding releases from the Philpott Dam and impacts on fisheries and river recreation (216 study).
- Partnership with Piedmont Land Conservancy on stewardship of Dan and Mayo rivers in Stokes and Rockingham counties; initiated implementation of PLC study recommendations
- Partnership initiated with Piedmont Conservation Council

### WATERSHED LITTER CLEANUP

- Collected trash at five sites during Rockingham County Spring Litter Sweep; received \$50 prize through random drawing from county beautification council
- Received \$100 second prize for Most Unusual Litter found during NC DOT's spring cleanup (a treadmill beside NC 14)
- Spearheaded cleanup of illegal dumpsites on property acquired for Mayo River State Park
- Collected over 16,000 pounds of trash (out of 56,000 pounds) during Rockingham County Big Sweep in October, involving 186 volunteers in 19 teams
- Collected several thousand pounds of trash during Smith River Cleanup in Fieldale
- Participated in NC Big Sweep in all NC counties in the basin

## EDUCATION

### TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

- Presented the DRBA/Trout in the Classroom program to 17 school classes and organizations, including over 1000 students and their teachers and leaders in Henry and Patrick counties
- Participated in release of over 2000 brown trout fingerlings in Smith River at Bassett with VA Gov. Tim Kaine and cabinet members

## **FESTIVALS, REENACTMENT, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- Annual Membership Meeting at McMichael High School, Mayodan, NC, with program by superintendents of Fairystone State Park and Mayo River State Park
- Public Meeting in Fieldale for report from STEP interns on Jordan Creek project

## **BOOTHS**

- Martinsville-Henry County Trade Show, March
- Martinsville Earth Day, April
- Rockingham County Folk Festival, Wentworth, May
- Fieldale Heritage Days Festival, May
- Patrick County Covered Bridge Festival, June
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration in DeHart Park, Stuart, July
- Kibler Valley Run, July
- Dan River Boat Race, Madison, August
- Eden Riverfest, September
- Stokes Stomp, Danbury, September
- Patrick County Agricultural Fair, Stuart, September
- Caswell County Brightleaf Hoedown, Yanceyville, September

## **STREAMSIDE FOREST BUFFERS**

- Designed and produced three educational signs to be installed at river access areas along the Dan River regarding the benefits of streamside buffers
- Developed brochure for landowners and others regarding the importance of trees along waterways
- Initiated development of festival displays and web resource.
- Hosted 30 minute radio show regarding the benefits of riparian buffers, with experts from the North Carolina Wildlife Commission

## **DISPLAYS**

- Henry County Administration Building—locally-oriented photo display, with frequent updates on local projects and boating safety
- Martinsville-Henry County Visitors Center—two-sided display highlighting opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation in the area
- Halifax Soil and Water Conservation District – DRBA display
- Floyd Historical Society
- Philpott Lake Environmental Expo

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- Rivers & Trails Programs—Mayo River Trail in Patrick County; Activate Martinsville-Henry County; National Trust for Historic Preservation in M-HC; Virginia tourism program; Martinsville Garden Club, Va.
- Eden, NC History Club
- Eden, NC Rotary Club
- Roanoke River Basin Commission – Advisory Committee
- Southern Virginia Trails Roundtable
- Southern Virginia Blueways and Canoe Trails Roundtable
- Hosted Smith River float for visitors from Martensville, Saskatchewan, Canada, at request of Martinsville Mayor Kimble Reynolds

- Patrick Henry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- Stoneville, NC Rotary Club
- Blue Ridge Ski and Outing Club
- Bassett, Va. Garden Club
- Floyd, Va. Historical Society

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Quarterly newsletter, *Currents*
- DRBA Website redesigned by Interactive Communications, Inc. (icom)
- Trout in the Classroom Project Website—Matthew and Betty Kirkpatrick, Webmasters
- Streamside Forest Buffer educational brochure

## **PUBLICITY**

- Feature article and full-page back cover ad in Fall, 2007 issue of *Piedmont Magazine*
- Numerous newspaper articles regarding DRBA activities and programs;
- Press releases for monthly First Saturday Outings, annual meeting, and special projects and events

## **BASIN MAPPING**

- Developed a sixteen-section map of the Dan River basin, featuring recreational, natural and cultural sites for print and on-line use

# **TOURISM AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

## **TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Initiated contacts with river-based businesses in the region to develop program and products to increase visitor spending in the Dan River region.
- Assisted City of Eden in proposal preparation to attract national association to relocate in the area. Assisted in hosting association representatives during visits to the area.
- Participating in the planning for future sponsorships of events by national corporations
- Assisted in nomination of local areas to the NC Birding Trail

## **REGIONAL COMMUNICATION**

- Encouraged cross-border collaboration between NC Division of Water Quality and VA Dept. of Environmental Quality to protect and restore water quality in the Dan River
- Participated in Southern Virginia Trails Roundtable to identify potential trail locations and future opportunities for coordination of activities across state lines
- Participated in Southern Virginia Blueways Roundtable

# **CAPACITY BUILDING**

## **FUNDRAISING**

- Received major matching challenge gift from two members of DRBA's Board of Directors
- Developed corporate fundraising packet
- Solicited donations from individuals and corporations
- Solicited matching contributions from DRBA members

## **GRANTS AND IN-KIND DONATIONS**

### **North Carolina**

- Z. Smith Reynolds grant for general operations in North Carolina
- NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant for bacteria & sediment monitoring
- Golden LEAF Foundation grant for Dan River Nature & Heritage Tourism Initiative
- Rockingham County Tourism Development Authority grant for maintaining Settle Bridge and Anglin Mill access points
- Donations of furnishings for North Carolina office and art for both offices
- Spray Mercantile, LLC donation of rent subsidy and in-kind support for NC office
- Economic incentive grant from Town of Eden for North Carolina office

### **Virginia**

- Harvest Foundation grant for work toward comprehensive system of river accesses, trails, parks, and open space in Martinsville and Henry County, and coordination of education and outreach to support stream monitoring, trout in the classroom, and water quality initiatives
- VA Department of Conservation & Recreation for planting ten acres of streamside trees
- VA Environmental Endowment grant for Teachers Meeting Macroinvertebrates program
- Continued donation from Henry County of furnished office, equipment, and major administrative support for Virginia office
- Dominion Foundation for Phase II of Fieldale Trail

### **Basin-wide**

- Miller Brewing Company for water quality and batteau navigation heritage study
- CONTECH Stormwater Solutions grant for education regarding streamside forest buffers
- Club-Fostered Stewardship Grant from L. L. Bean and American Canoe Association

## **SALES AND SPONSORSHIPS**

- Sponsored Eden Riverfest river heritage displays and presentations
- Sold lot at Leaksville Landing Access to City of Eden
- Developing new merchandise items for sale at on line DRBA Store and at festivals

## **OFFICE AND STAFF**

- Moved NC office to Spray Mercantile Building in Eden, May
- DRBA represented at River Network's River Rally in Stevenson, WA, May
- Conservation Network Retreat in Brown Summit, NC in March
- Interviewed candidates for three positions, December and January
- Completed Employee Handbook
- Initiated technology assessment; initiated development of centralized, on-line data base

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

- Board development session facilitated by Tiffany Hayworth, United Way Nonprofit Leaders Network
- Conducted focus group regarding outreach to African-American communities
- Board and staff Conflict of Interest Policy adopted

## **FINANCES**

- DRBA's first audit conducted by CPA firm