



*... protecting and promoting the Dan River Basin through education, recreation and stewardship.*

## **2013 Annual Activities Report**



**In 2013, DRBA partnered with over a dozen communities to build trails, construct river access and develop master plans for outdoor recreation. DRBA was in almost fifty schools providing environmental education and conservation presentations. DRBA cleaned up over 100 miles of river and 30 miles of trails during the year.**



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## **RECREATION**

### RIVER ACCESS

- In Martinsville/Henry County, VA, improvements to the river access area at the Sports Complex include construction of new access steps and Eagle Scout enhancement projects.
- In Stokes County, NC provided signage at Moore's Campground river access.
- In Rockingham County, NC
  - Continued to provide oversight for maintenance at Settle's Bridge access and assisted with access enhancement at Drapers Landing.
  - Advisory role for proposed river access at Berry Hill Bridge, Rockingham County
  - Signs on all river bridges in Rockingham County, NC
  - Ongoing assistance to Mayo River State Park to establish new river access at 135 bridge
  - Participation on river access improvement committee for Town of Madison

### TRAILS

- Rockingham County, NC
  - Began building Farris Memorial Park Mountain Bike Trail
  - Completed 5 miles of trail at Rockingham Community College
  - Completed trail at Animal Shelter. (.5 miles)
  - Became fiscal agent for Friends of Chingua Penn Walking Trail
  - Provided training to Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail on creating website
  - Completed Pathways Plan (greenway and trail plan)
  - Advisor to Reidsville Area Foundation on local trail grant applications
- Caswell County, NC
  - Completed natural surface trails for walking and bicycling at Animal Shelter, Yoders Market and Wizards Cauldron sites. (3 miles)
  - Completed Heritage Trails Master Plan (adopted by County, February, 2013)
- Martinsville/Henry County, VA
  - Completed Beaver Reservoir Trail (1 mile)
  - Completed Silver Bell Spur Trail at Dick & Willie (.5 mile)
  - Completed Textile Heritage Trail in Fieldale (.25 mile)
  - Provided interpretive signage at Gravely Nature Preserve, Ridgeway, VA.
  - Henry County Board approved plans to extend the Dick and Willie Passage



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- In Spencer, VA, completed Spencer Penn Centre Trail (.25 mile).
- In Patrick County, VA provided trailhead signage at Mayo Rail Trail.
- At Philpott Lake, helped to add trails at Jamison Mill Park, Horseshoe Park and Salthouse Park (3 miles).

#### ACTIVITIES

- Monthly outings for the public on rivers and trails across the basin.
- Special member outings, including a tour of a LEED Certified Buffalo Farm in Patrick County, VA
- The Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee (ORAC) was formed in Fall 2013 as a forum for discussion regarding the current state of outdoor recreation in Danville, Pittsylvania, and Caswell Counties. Results of an online survey emailed to stakeholders indicate that ORAC should continue as one singular committee focused on inter-organizational collaboration with a clear facilitator or organizer (DRBA). There was also overwhelming agreement that the committee's focus should be on promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities available in the area.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL/WATER QUALITY

- Organized trail and river cleanup for MillerCoors employee volunteers at Island Ford Access on Smith River in Eden, NC
- Continued partnership with VDGIF and TU on Smith River Trout fishery issues
- Participated and commented on Eden Watershed Restoration Plan
- Installed rain/pollinator garden at Douglass Elementary (Eden), Lake Reidsville, and Town of Stoneville Memorial Park
- Organized various cleanups on rivers and trails throughout the basin
- Litigated against riverside landfill in Rockingham County, NC
- Assisted with local citizens to stop bioremediation site near Dan River in Stokes County

#### STREAMSIDE FOREST BUFFERS

- "Riparian Tea" on Chinqua Penn Trail, streamside forest education event



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- TMDL Implementation grant from VADEQ through West Piedmont Planning Division will address riparian areas on the North and South Mayo
- Planting at Smith River Access sites

## **EDUCATION**

### **TROUT IN CLASSROOM**

- Completed 9th year of Trout in Classrooms (TIC) with 42 tanks in five county school systems.
- Provided education for over 2,000 students and adults about the importance of healthy rivers and trout fisheries through DRBA's TIC program.
- Held 20 trout release events on the Smith River with additional educational activities including Tub-O-Bugs for students and public.
- Engaged state and local government officials in trout release days
- Secured funding for and hired part-time TIC coordinator for Rockingham County

### **ACTIVITIES**

- iIMPACT: Speaking Out for Rivers through Art & Action travelling display in Rockingham County and displayed in Danville, VA.
- Provided 12 hours of environmental training for the Upward Bound/MHC After 3 Summer Camp to over 100 students
- Guided 3 hikes for MHC Boys & Girls Clubs for Summer Camp
- Presented Trout in the Classroom Program to numerous clubs and organizations
- "Bug Daze" and other events to educate children about importance of macro-invertebrates
- Facilitated numerous Eagle Scout projects in MHC; River access ramp improvement, tree ID sign project at Gravelly Nature Preserve, Wildlife observation deck at Smith River Sports Complex.

### **VOLUNTEER WATER MONITORING**

- Citizen Water Quality program was launched in Martinsville/Henry County focused on the Smith River and local streams. Training was provided by DEQ and monitoring began



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with ten volunteers at 6 sites.

#### WATERSHED LITTER CLEANUP

- Organized 30-mile cleanup of Smith River
- Developed Rockingham County Clean Waters event ( 60 miles of navigable rivers)
- Organized various cleanups on rivers and trails throughout the basin
- For Engage Dan River Region's "Day to Engage" on October 3, 2013, DRBA hosted a clean-up of the Riverwalk Trail in Danville, VA. The Averett Men's Soccer team (approximately 20 people) participated in the service project. As part of the clean up, participants used Flip Ultra Video Cameras to record the project, footage of which is being used to generate a volunteer recruitment video for DRBA.
- DRBA signed a Cooperative Agreement (effective 12/13-5/14) with the Caswell County Partnership for Children (CCPFC). CCPFC's Teen Outreach Program has agreed to adopt the Caswell County Senior Center trails in Yanceyville, NC as a service learning project. The students from Dillard Middle School and Bartlett Yancey High School are responsible for cleaning the trails twice a month, completing a nature survey of the trails, and creating promotional brochures to promote the trails in the community.

#### FESTIVALS, EVENTS, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Smith Riverfest, River Race and Mud Run
- Danville Nonprofit Leaders Network
- Danville River District Festival
- Eastman Employee Fair, Fieldale, VA
- Eden Riverfest
- Environmental Education Expo, Philpott Lake
- Farmland Protection Planning Committee, Rockingham County, NC
- Fast Track Trade Show, Martinsville, VA
- Fieldale Heritage Festival
- Jamison Mill Kids Day, Philpott Lake
- Keep the Ban Committee Meetings
- Martinsville/Henry County Nonprofit Leaders Network
- Patrick County Agricultural Fair
- Piedmont Triad Partnership, Piedmont Triad Council of Governments events
- Representation at 2013 River Network's River Rally national conference
- Safety Expo, Philpott Lake
- Smith River Film Fest



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- Stokes Stomp

#### PRESENTATIONS

- Danville Rotary Club
- MHC Garden Club
- MHC Rotary Clubs (various)
- MHC Kiwanis
- Reidsville Kiwanis
- Eden Kiwanis
- Eden Women's Club
- Sierra Club, Greensboro
- Various Church Groups across basin
- Trout Unlimited, Greensboro
- Southern Piedmont Master Naturalists
- Patrick County Radio
- Patrick County Supervisors
- Rockingham County Commissioners
- Caswell County Commissioners

#### WORKSHOPS

- Planned Rivers & Bugs Conference offering 10 workshops for all ages about environmental topics at the Virginia Museum of Natural History
- Launched Outdoor University, an online resource that highlights environmental workshops and training
- Provided workshop at annual APPL Conference on Cooperative Partnerships
- Provided trail building workshops.
- Positive Youth Development Action Plan – Youth Passport Challenge

#### AWARDS

- DRBA staff member Brain Williams received River Network's River Hero award
- Received Cooperative Association award from Army Corps of Engineers



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#### PUBLICATIONS

- Caswell County, NC Heritage Trails Plan
- Patrick County Master Plan
- Philpott Lake Strategic Planning Guide
- Rockingham County Pathways Plan
- Rockingham County: Jobs, Forests & Rivers
- Small Towns Collaborative Plan

## **TOURISM, REGIONAL COLLABORATION, AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

#### TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Hosted eco-tourism delegation from Tajikistan
- Participation in Kate B. Reynolds Healthy Communities Initiative
- Partnered with Franklin County, MHC and Patrick County tourism offices for promotion of Philpott Lake

#### REGIONAL COMMUNICATION

- Updated website trails map
- Municipality Membership – 100% participation in Rockingham County, Halifax County
- Keep the Ban
- No Fracking, NC Conservation Network

#### SALES AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Polo shirts, hats and River & Bugs shirts
- Whistles, dry bags, bags made from recycled plastic bottles
- Collapsible water bottles

#### MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING

- 97 new members, 222 renewed members
- 203 First Saturday Outing participants from 11 counties in the Dan River Basin (10 participants were from outside the Basin)
- Individual & Corporate Contributions: \$55,000



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- Memberships: \$20,000
- Grant Awards: \$150,000
- Fundraising events, DRBA sales & other sources: \$16,395

#### OFFICE AND STAFF

- New RC TIC Coordinator
- Danville Intern (supported through Danville Regional Foundation grant)
- Patrick County Coordinator
- MHC Summer Intern
- MHC Intern hired December, 2013
- Rockingham County Intern