



DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ADDS RIVER ACCESS & TWO TRAILS

Inside This Issue

- 3**
- Director's Notes
President/s Space
- 4**
- September First
Saturday Outing
- 5**
- Smith River Festival
and Cleanup
- 6**
- Uranium Studies
- 7**
- Caswell County
Heritage Trails
Grant
- 8**
- Stokes Co Update
June 5th Float
- 9**
- Water Quality
Trout in Classroom
- 10**
- July 3rd Outing
August 7th Outing
- 11**
- Memberships
- 12**
- Those Pesky
Beavers

The grand opening for Henry County's newest river access to the Smith River was Wed, Sept. 8th—the eighth access constructed in the past five years with leadership by DRBA/M-HC Rivers & Trails. The new access is on The Great Road across from Solutia Performance Films (formerly C.P. Films), which granted easements for the access and the adjacent trail and is promoting physical fitness & a walking club for their employees. According to Joe Stultz, Solutia plant manager, "This is our way of giving back to the community."

Henry County Board of Supervisors Chair, Debra Buchanan, hosted the ribbon cutting. She praised the access as an economic driver to bring tourism to the area as well as a recreational amenity for local families. With the new access, boaters can paddle 3.5 miles from the Bassett Access to The Great Road or 4.5 miles down to the Fieldale Access. The new access served as the take-out for the guided Family Fun Float during the Smith River Fest on Aug 28th.

Phase I of the Beaver Creek Reservoir Trail is complete. The trail is a joint effort between Martinsville Parks & Recreation and DRBA with a property easement provided by Patrick Henry Community College. It is a steep drop from the trailhead at the college to the reservoir, but Frith Construction did an outstanding job, building a comfortable grade to IMBA standards. DRBA is now working with the City on signage, trail

amenities and the next phase of the trail to connect across the dam to the reservoir's boat ramp.

The 4.5 mile Dick & Willie Passage Rail Trail nears completion, with the grand opening scheduled for October 11th (Columbus Day), 1:30 pm, at the Liberty Street Trailhead.

Ellen Jessee



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Meetings of the DRBA Board of Directors

are held on the third Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. All DRBA members are welcome to attend. The next Board meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20th at the Eden City Hall.

Dan River Basin Association Board of Directors

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Vice President, Fletcher Waynick, Reidsville, NC
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Greetings from the Director

DRBA works across this beautiful 3,300 square mile Dan River region, leading with robust programs funded by the Harvest Foundation for Martinsville and Henry County in Virginia and the Danville Regional Foundation for Caswell County, North Carolina. We are also working on river access, trails and heritage promotion in Stokes and Rockingham counties in North Carolina while supporting similar work in Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Halifax counties in Virginia.

Taken together, the region's natural and heritage resources are substantial. The next phase of DRBA's work will focus on strategic linkages to assist regional collaboration in working toward a bi-state, basin-wide rivers, trails and heritage planning process. This master planning process can showcase the places and stories that are unique to this region and enable partnerships and plans essential to taking advantage of funding opportunities.

A master planning process will likely begin with an assessment of existing and planned resources followed by identification of gaps or opportunities. Outcomes include the development of a blueprint for next steps. The project will look toward developing a framework for a leadership/oversight entity or authority as well as a funding mechanism.

The Dan River region has a lot to offer and much untapped potential. A region-wide master plan is needed to help tap that potential while building on and promoting the region's collective assets for greater local advantage.

Katherine Mull



PRESIDENT'S SPACE

It's festival season! The first cool mornings have arrived, stirring images of community gatherings and celebrations. DRBA volunteers and staff manage booths and displays at a variety of venues cross the basin, helping to further our mission and raise awareness of our organization. It may be hot, sometimes tiring work, but the contacts, networking and new friends brought to DRBA make festival staffing fun and a job well done. A hearty *Thank You!* to all who help with this effort.

And a hearty *Welcome!* to new Program Manager Andrew Jones. Andrew is a great addition to an already first-class staff. Go Team DRBA!



Wayne Kirkpatrick

1

FIRST SATURDAY OUTING SEPTEMBER

“A Sudden Knowing”

I am at a loss how to transport you, dear reader, into the experience of DRBA's September 4 First Saturday Outing on the Smith River. The day was that perfect and memorable. The facts are easy: the group met at Gravelly Nature Preserve in Ridge-way, VA; about 30 kayaks and canoes “put in” at the Marrowbone Access; old friends were there as well as new ones. DRBA volunteer, Lucas Conkle, ran “sweep”—making sure no one got left behind. Ellen and Joe Jesse and Brian Williams led the group down the river, offering advice here and there on how to navigate the small, but oh-so-fun rapids. A break for lunch on “lunch rock,” then slipping back into boats. Three Rivers Outfitters rented boats for people who needed them, and after we took out at the Mitchell Bridge, they also “ran shuttle.”

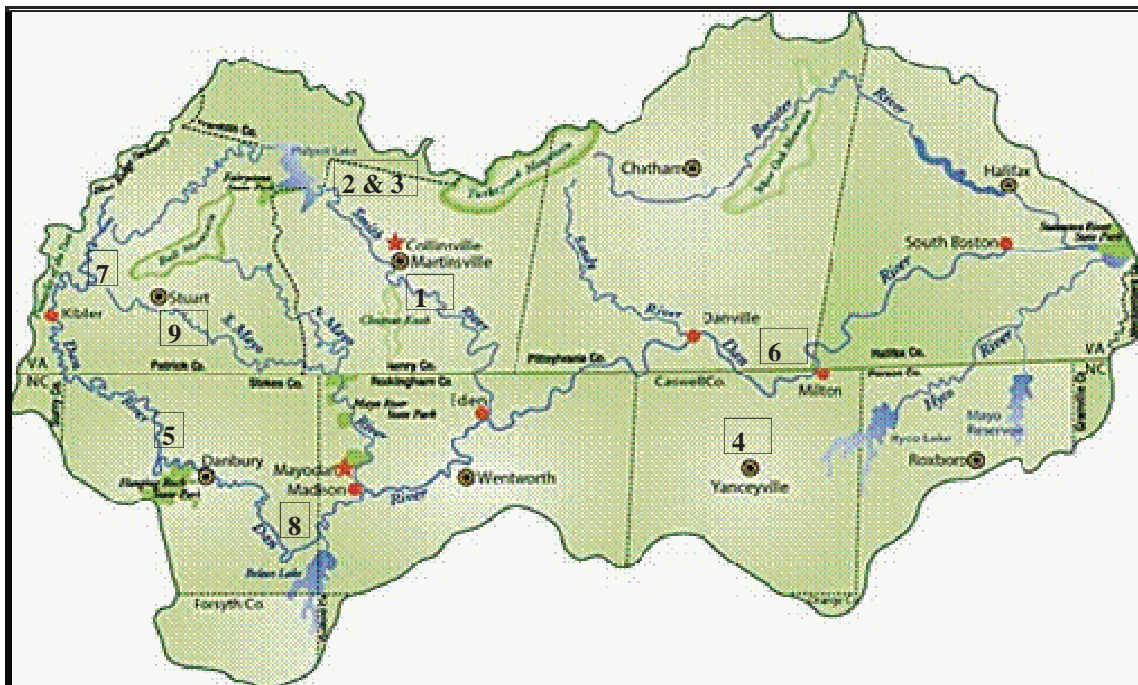
Here I lose words to convey

the sounds of the river: water rushing over rocks, dipping into rapids, and pushing the river along; bird songs carried high on breezes; the ineffable quality added to joyful human laughter when it skims across a sun-sparkled river. Both the day and the river were clear. Bright sun, just warm enough to sink into your bones, cast down from a blue sky. White clouds—the fluffy, friendly kind—wandering across it. A day like this you *feel* in your body as much as experience with your mind and emotions. Everything that doesn't really matter leaves you out there: jobs, “to-do” lists, concerns, anxieties—all evaporate into the ever present, *now*. These people. This paddle. This river.

Winnie the Pooh once uttered: “Sometimes if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge, and lean over to

watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you will suddenly know everything there is to be known.” I love that bear. He *gets* what a river can do for you. Most of us pass over these ancient, living, moving waters, high above them on bridges. We barely notice them. We rarely, if ever, pause to allow the river to work its magic on our nature-deprived, post-modern psyche. And who can blame us? You can't know something until you spend time with it. You can't love and appreciate our rivers until you give them a chance to show you their true natures—and I can tell you from first-hand experience that our rivers are worth getting to know.

Jenny Edwards



2

SMITH RIVER CLEANUP

The Smith River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SRTU) teamed up with DRBA on Saturday, August 21 to clean up a 1.5 mile section of the Smith from the Trent Hill Bridge through the "Horseshoe" and down to the Fairystone Parkway Bridge at the Bassett Historic Center.

We had an incredible turn-out of over 40 people, including 16 volunteers from Skyline Tree Service, several local Boy Scouts, Eric Capps of Gateway Streetscape, and many DRBA and SRTU members.

The Bassett Access ramp was the headquarters for the clean-up crews, and all trash was brought back to the site and removed on Monday by the Henry County Sanitation Department.

From 8:30 to noon we had people in the river with waders, john-boats and canoes. Those who did not want to get in the river formed road crews that cleaned over a mile of roadside in several locations near the river.

It was incredible to see so many in the community come out and join in to help water quality and habitat on the Smith River. We collected almost 4 tons of trash, and it's hard to believe that much came out of the river in only a mile and a half.

After the river clean-up we met back at the canoe access and had a big cookout to reward the volunteers for a job well done.

Brian Williams

3

SMITH RIVER FESTIVAL

The 3rd annual Smith River Fest was held on Saturday, August 28th in Bassett, VA. Over 500 attendees enjoyed the beautiful Smith River and spent some time at the festival browsing vendors and enjoying great food and free entertainment.

The second Smith River Race was held in conjunction with the event, with the family of Kirk Havens, former president of the American Canoe Association, walking away with the honor of most prizes won in the race categories. The first ever Sprint Squirt was held on a one-mile section of the lower race course, and it was well received by participants and bystanders.

The events of the week also included the second annual Smith River Film fest held in Uptown Martinsville at the Rives Theater where 9 films from local filmmakers were previewed to an enthusiastic crowd of over 75 people.

DRBA partnered with Henry County Parks and Recreation, Martinsville Parks and Recreation, Franklin County Tourism and Martinsville / Henry County Economic Development Council, Tourism Division to host this weekend festival. A special water release was obtained from Dominion to allow four hours of generation from Philpott for the event.

Based on a survey by Jennifer Doss, the total economic impact of the Smith River Fest was more than \$12,000. Attendees drove an average of

40 miles, coming from as far away as Denver, PA, Durham & Asheville, NC, the Richmond area & Charlottesville, VA. Many made purchases, and 11% stayed overnight.

Brian Williams & Ellen Jessee



FOUR STUDIES: URANIUM MINING, MILLING AND TAILINGS STORAGE IN VIRGINIA

Virginia Coal and Energy Commission (VCEC) Study #1 - by National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

SCOPE – “Examine the scientific, technical, environmental, human health and safety, and regulatory aspects of uranium mining, milling, and processing as they relate to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of assisting the Commonwealth to determine whether uranium mining, milling, and processing can be undertaken in a manner that safeguards the environment, natural and historic resources, agricultural lands, and the health and well-being of its citizens.”

FUNDING (\$1.4 million) by Virginia Uranium Incorporated (VUI) through the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research at Virginia Tech.

INITIATED by the VCEC, chaired by Del. Terry Kilgore.

REPORT EXPECTED – December 1, 2011.

REVIEW – The contract states: “The project timeline and budget includes a 5-month period after public release and delivery of the report in prepublication form, to allow for publication of the printed reports and extensive public outreach that will include public meetings in Virginia to disseminate the report’s findings.”

City of Virginia Beach (VB) Study PHASE #1 – by Michael Baker Corporation (engineering firm)

SCOPE – Estimate the water quality impacts in Kerr Reservoir from soluble contaminants and sediment transported into the lake during a worst-case storm event or accident and the additional impacts in Lake Gaston from contaminants and sediments that flow out of Kerr Reservoir. The results of VB’s study will be shared with NAS.

FUNDING (\$437,000) by VB which has \$150-200 million invested in Lake Gaston.

INITIATED by Tom Leahy, Director of Public Utilities for VB, and approved by VB City Council.

REPORT EXPECTED – October or November 2010.

REVIEW – Panel of 5 independent experts in science and engineering will review the final report.

VB Study Phase #2 – If Phase #1 indicates worst-case event threatens city’s drinking water quality, VB will want a multi-million-dollar detailed analysis.

Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) Study – contract to be awarded this fall.

SCOPE – Examine the regional socioeconomic effects of “the proposed uranium mine, mill, and long-term waste management on people, institutions and economies within 50 miles of Coles Hill.... Uranium mining’s benefits and dangers, including its effect on property values, taxes and institutions will be part of scope.” Two research groups, Resources for the Future and Research Triangle Institute, have submitted proposals. Proposal abstracts and public comments are viewable on the DRF website.

FUNDING (proposals average \$600,000) by DRF.

INITIATED by Karl Stauber, CEO of DRF, and approved by the DRF Board of Directors as part of the foundation’s commitment “to the development, promotion, and support of activities, programs, and organizations that address the health, education, and well-being of the residents of the City of Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Caswell County” (NC).

REPORT EXPECTED – December 31, 2011.

REVIEW – A diverse and independent panel of experts is reviewing the proposals.

VCEC Study #2 – RFP anticipated this fall.

SCOPE – Legislative staff have developed a draft socio-economic study scope based on oral and written comments received by the Uranium Mining Subcommittee through June 30, 2010. Subcommittee Chairman Del. Lee Ware has indicated there will be a second public hearing for comment on the scope of the study and what entity should perform the study. The draft is not yet available for public review.

FUNDING – The Tobacco Indemnification Commission, also chaired by Del. Kilgore, has approved up to \$200,000 toward the cost of the study. A study budget has not been developed.

INITIATED by the VCEC, chaired by Del. Kilgore.

REPORT DATE – Undecided.

REVIEW – Undecided.

*Updated September 10, 2010
Katie Whitehead and Hollis Stauber*

DRBA receives \$59,500 to expand Senior Center Trails System

The NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR) Division of Parks and Recreation has awarded a \$59,500 grant to Caswell County/DRBA for completion of certain trails in Yanceyville.

The project, Caswell Senior Center Trail Project - School/Stream Connector Trail, will complete the 1,188-foot Stream Walk Trail, including critical boardwalks and bridges. These structures are major and key elements that will make a vital link in the trail between a newly constructed senior center (with an average of 100 visitors a day) and an elementary school with a student body of approximately 400 children, as well as a day care and nearby public park.

This second phase of construction of the "Stream Walk Trail" will also provide a circuit, or loop, on the Senior Center property by linking to a sidewalk system.

The project is a partnership of Caswell County and DRBA, Caswell County Parks and Recreation Commission, Caswell County Health Department, Caswell Senior Center, and Piedmont Triad Council of Governments Agency on Aging. The project was made possible by the Danville Regional Foundation's support of DRBA's Caswell Heritage Trails Program.

DRBA Program Managers Chad Hall and Jenny Edwards prepared this successful grant application on behalf of Caswell County. In its award letter, NCDENR stated that the agency "is pleased to have Caswell County partnering with the Division of Parks and Recreation, the NC Trails Committee, and the State Trails Program to promote the development and management of trails and greenways across North Carolina."

Flatland Trail Complete

An additional 900 feet of trail has just been completed at the Caswell Senior Center. This new "Flatland Trail" boasts 840 linear feet of natural trail and three bridges, each nearly 20 feet long. It provides a different user experience from the Stream Walk Trail, which is more aimed at exercise. This flatland trail, while providing health benefits, is meant to be more scenic and passive.

DRBA Office Open House

Working with the Danville Regional Foundation, DRBA held an "Open House" on Wednesday, October 6 from 4-6 p.m. at the site of DRBA's new office space upstairs at the Richmond-Miles museum in Yanceyville.

Contact information for DRBA's Yanceyville office:

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*Chad Hall and
Katherine Mull*

5 STOKES COUNTY UPDATE

It seems like the Summer has flown by in record time. On the eve of the 36th annual Stokes Stomp the morning air strongly suggests the coming of Fall.

Progress continues on Stokes County tourism planning in which DRBA is a key member of the steering committee. If you don't have the latest Stokes Tourism Guide and Dan River map produced by the county's Economic Development Office with major contributions from DRBA, be sure to pick up copies at any of the county libraries or the DRBA office in Danbury.



A new water quality monitoring project got underway in July with 8 sites in Stokes and another 3 in Rockingham. Thanks to Mike Shahan, Jimmy Newsom, and Joey and Peter Swanson for helping with this important work. We're looking forward to continuing monthly sample collections through the Winter. If anyone would like to

assist with sample collecting, please contact me at 336-593-DRBA (3722) or dswanson@danriver.org

In June we had a wonderful time partnering with Stokes County 4H for a 3 day canoeing program. Twelve young paddlers learned about the history and variety of canoes in addition to water dynamics, river reading, and boat handling. We played with toy boats in a creek, tipped over full-sized canoes in a pond, swam and splashed and ultimately navigated the Hanging Rock section of the Dan River ... without anyone tipping over.

Keep your eyes open for DRBA Stokes activities this Fall. We'll have two work days in October and November at Moore's Spring Family Campground where we'll plant Willow and Dogwood 'stakes' along Cascade Creek, grade and gravel the camp's roads, relocate a number of campsites, and install streambank education signage. Specific dates will be announced through DRBA email notices.

If you have anything you'd like to report or discuss regarding the river, trails, or general watershed issues of Stokes County, please call or email our office. We are really looking forward to the joys of being outdoors with the cooler weather and unique qualities of Fall.

Dale Swanson

6 JUNE 5 FLOAT, DANVILLE TO MILTON

After more than 20 years out of a canoe, on June 5th my wife, Jenny, and I decided to get our feet wet again. Luckily, that was all that got wet. You never know when you travel down the Dan River, but it was fun after we got on the water.

We put in at Angler's Park outside Danville and got out at the bridge in Milton, ten and a half miles down river. Most people were in kayaks, with only a handful, like us, in a canoe. The kayak people seemed to have it easier, going faster with less effort than we did. At our age (past 60) we wondered if we could stand up to paddling the estimated three to four hours scheduled for the trip.

For the most part the river helped us. It was about a foot high and, because of the increased volume, pushed us along with less effort than normal. We had prepared by covering ourselves in sunscreen, bringing our hats, and carrying water to drink, but since it was the hottest day of the year (up to then), towards the end we were steering into any shade along the bank we could



find. That bridge was a welcome sight!

Overall it was a good experience. DRBA volunteers know how to do this sort of thing and are to be congratulated for being able to account for 50 people with different skill levels all the way. It was a trip we'd like to try again ...but maybe in the fall when it's much cooler!

Allen and Jenny Walton

WATER QUALITY—TROUT, CONFERENCES, MONITORING, AND TRAINING

Varied events highlight DRBA's water quality efforts of late.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) concluded a banner 2009-10 year in which thirty-one tanks of trout were successfully released into the Smith and Dan rivers by hundreds of students, teachers and invited guests. TIC 2010-11 is fast approaching (volunteers needed – Adopt-A-Tank at bwilliams@danriver.org). The program continues to promote positive awareness of DRBA, our communities and the region to a wide audience.

The Virginia Citizens for Water Quality (VCWQ) Annual Summit, held in August in Wakefield, VA, offered networking and educational opportunities for volunteer water quality monitors from around the state. Keynote speaker was former VA Secretary of Natural Resources, Preston Bryant, who highlighted the suc-

cess of monitors in helping achieve the DEQ goal of having at least 3,000 stream miles monitored by volunteer water quality monitors.

The Smith River clean-up was a definite success (see article in this issue). Hearty congratulations to all who helped in this successful effort.

The water monitoring around Philpott Lake is continuing through Friends of Philpott and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The streams are being checked each quarter, and the results have shown consistently high quality.

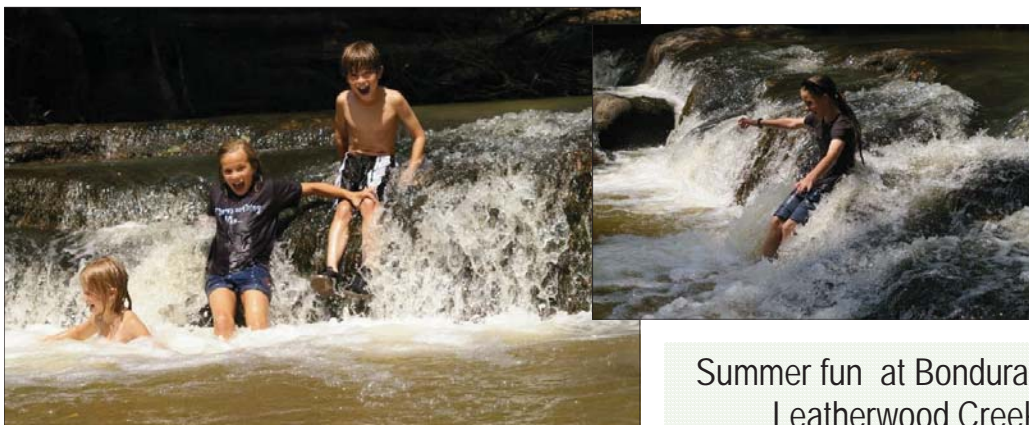
A water quality meeting in Richmond dealt with restructuring Virginia Save Our Streams (VASOS), a chapter of the Izaak Walton League. VASOS has lost its non-profit status due to lack of filed paperwork and is currently without adequate funding or

staff. Lisa Miller, an Izaak Walton League representative, is heading up the restructuring. Additional details will be known later this year.

Liz Pritchett, DRBA Summer intern, completed her macroinvertebrate water monitoring training on August 3rd by successfully passing the certification test. Way to go, Liz! Lora Coleman, her son Clay, and Liz monitored a section of Blackberry Creek where Brian Williams has a buffer planting established. The stream got a 12/12 ecological score - excellent water quality.

Fall water quality activities include the Tub o' Bugs at Stokes Stomp festival, and stream monitoring with Woolwine Elementary School, the VMNH Master Naturalist Class, and the PHCC Biology Lab.

Wayne Kirkpatrick



Summer fun at Bondurants Mill
Leatherwood Creek.

7

JULY 3 ON LAKE TALBOTT

For its July 3 First Saturday Outing, DRBA participants journeyed to the northwest corner of the basin to Talbott Reservoir. DRBA last paddled Talbott seven years ago in July of 2003.

This well-kept secret, known for its remoteness, great fishing, and pristine clear water, is located in the wild Dan River Gorge in Patrick County near the top of the Blue Ridge, not far from the Dan's headwaters. The reservoir catches and stores water above the Pinnacles Power Plant owned by the City of Danville. Charlie Williams, DRBA board member and Outings Committee Chair, led 28 paddlers in 23 craft through the winding gorge for the full length of the lake. The round trip was a relaxing and grand way to enjoy stunning mountain scenery.

Wayne Kirkpatrick



8

AUGUST 7 2010 OUTING

With a multitude of boat colors, approximately 37 paddlers in 32 boats joined together for the August First Saturday paddle trip on the Dan River from Hemlock Golf Course Access to US 311 Bridge in Stokes County. The weather was sunny with temperatures in the upper 80's, and the water was cool but comfortable. In a flurry of feathers, one of the paddlers released some homing pigeons, who instantly took off for, well, home.

Will Truslow, the trip coordinator, and DRBA president Wayne Kirkpatrick led our group of paddlers through the many rock obstacles in this section of river. As we approached Hairston Falls, Wayne and a few of the more experienced paddlers assisted the rest of us through the chutes. After that we stopped for a lunch break at the end of the is-

land. As we beached our boats the slippery rocks got the better of a few of us, but nobody was hurt, just their pride.

After lunch we paddled down to a gravel bar on river right to explore the old mill race and to see some of the foundation stones that haven't been buried by time and flooding of the river. As we paddled the last leg of our trip trying to avoid the shallows and rocks, we arrived at our take-out on private property, ending another refreshing and exciting day on the river.

A special thanks to Three Rivers Outfitters for providing shuttle service.

Eddie Sauls

MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS
July 1 – August 31, 2009

MEMBERSHIPS

Benefactor

Dan and Beth Mosca

Steward

Joe and Juanita May
 Triad River Runners
 Dr. Roy Truslow
 Michael Wenkstern

Organization

Backstreet Buzz Coffee House
 Outdoor Concepts LLC
 Smith River Valley Canoe Club

Friend

Thomas and Gretchen Cole
 Paul Ferguson
 Bob and Pat Moore

Family

James and Ursula Allen

Bonnie Cornwell
 Teresa and Vann Davis
 Jennifer and Darrin Doss
 Mark Hampton
 Phillip Hynes
 Larry and Ann Parker
 Michael and Joan Shahan
 Edwin Wilson
 Laurie and Edwin Wilson, Jr
 Judith Winston

Individual

Nancy Garner
 Nora Hedrick
 Adrienne Hermes
 Burke Herring
 Shari Hopkins
 Judy King
 Kyle Koch
 Lucrezia Lanford
 Mary McInerney
 James Minish
 Gregory Murphy
 Al and Lynn Neal

Mac Poteat
 Jo Proia
 Vance Sauls
 Carl Eddie Sauls III
 Robert and Marielena Schasse
 Angie Stallings
 Benny Summerlin
 Rebekah Tate
 Neil Tatum
 Jim Tobin
 Ronald Washburn

DONATIONS

Other

Bonnie Cornwell
 Adrienne Hermes
 Hazel Puckett
 Vance Sauls



DRBA Outings

October 2

Madison to Jacobs
Creek Cleanup

October 16

Kirkpatrick Third
Saturday Hike & Picnic

November 5

Mayo River, Anglin
Mill to 770

December 4

Hike, Hanging Rock Farm

Dan River Basin Association

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TO:

Visit us on the web at www.danriver.org

9

CHAPTER THREE—THOSE PESKY BEAVERS

The Fall 2008 *Currents* carried the last report on the pesky beavers that, for the second time, built a cornstalk dam across the Mayo River on the Kirkpatrick farm. Each high water event removed their handiwork, so they changed strategy and moved a short distance up a tributary, but still next to my corn fields.

This crop year has been a challenge for farmers all across the basin. Rainfall totals have been near normal as far as historical averages are concerned, but the spotty nature of the storms has created a feast-or-famine situation for many crops. Our corn crop tended to the feast side as we enjoyed timely and adequate rainfall near Stuart.

The plentiful supply of corn also provided the beavers with what they needed to dam a small tributary of the South Mayo, sending water across two acres of standing corn that was ready for harvest. This situation became evident when the silage harvester nose-dived into the mud, and corn cutting came to an immediate halt. Three dams and a



lodge six feet across by two feet high, built primarily of corn stalks, diverted a portion of the stream's flow away from the creek bed into the standing corn. The flooding was apparently recent, as the corn was fully mature and exhibited no signs of long-term water damage.

Now, I have a man versus nature dilemma. Chapter four begins....

Wayne Kirkpatrick