

CURRENTS

Winter 2006

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HEBERT BEGINS FULL-TIME DRBA POSITION

"I believe it is crucial that we as a diverse and united community preserve our natural resources, protect our historical treasures, and promote our local economy." So says Katherine Hebert, DRBA's new Virginia Planning and Program Director.

Katherine, who began work on December 5, has a spacious, fully furnished office in the Henry County Administrative Building at 3300 Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, part of a major in-kind donation by Henry County.

Her last name is pronounced "A Bear," prompting Forrest Altman to comment, "A Bear has arrived in Collinsville. Her last name is spelled differently but pronounced like that of the 19th century Army Corps engineer S T. Abert, who surveyed the Dan from Clarksville to Danbury in 1879-80."

A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Appalachian State University, class of 2005, Katherine studied community planning, sustainable development, nonprofits, and environmental studies. Her senior thesis, "Not in Our Backyards: The Role of Specificity and Unity in Obtaining Environmental Justice in the United States" should provide background for working with environmental activists throughout Virginia.

Supervising Katherine is Ellen

Jessee, a member of DRBA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and Chair of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group. Also working closely with Katherine is Kay Slaughter, who organized Rivers and Trails and obtained the grant from the Harvest Foundation that is funding the position.

Ellen, who has helped orient Katherine to the area, says, "I am thrilled to have Katherine on board. She's young, bright, and energetic and has a vision for our community and our broader region as well. I'm already seeing the advantages to having a point of contact in our area for the public and other planning and economic development groups as well as for our membership. We'll begin to see our goals become reality a lot faster now."

Katherine expects to attend DRBA's meetings and outings, as well as the regular meetings of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group. In welcoming her at the December 8 Rivers and Trails meeting, Forrest Altman presented Katherine with *The Dan River Book* and a wreath he had constructed of sprigs collected on the DRBA's December 3 outing.

Katherine has been introduced to river access possibilities, the new rail trail, and parks in Henry County. She adds, "I look forward to



Katherine Hebert in her office in the Henry County Administrative Building in Collinsville, Virginia.

working with the Dan River Basin Association and the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group as they strive to accomplish these ultimate objectives."

Katherine may be reached by mail at Katherine Hebert, Planning & Program Director, DRBA/ Rivers and Trails, PO Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078. Phone: 276-634-2545; Fax: 276-634-2513; Email: khebert@co.henry.va.us or drba.va@danriver.org.

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DRBA RECEIVES Z. SMITH REYNOLDS GRANT

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem, NC has announced that the Dan River Basin Association has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to support general operations of an office and activities in North Carolina. Since its founding in 1936, the Reynolds Foundation has made grants of more

than \$375 million in all of North Carolina's counties. The Foundation currently supports community economic development, the environment, democracy and civic involvement, pre-collegiate education, and social justice and equity in North Carolina. *Continued page 2*



ROBIN YOUNT JOINS DRBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DRBA's Board of Directors welcomes Robin G. Yount, Rockingham County's Vice President of the Partnership for Economic and Tourism Development and director of the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). A charter member of DRBA, Robin has worked closely with DRBA leaders to promote river tourism in the county.

The Rockingham County Rivers Guide, a major publication of the TDA, includes a map that directs visitors to public access points on the Dan, Mayo, and Smith rivers. Local paddlers may recognize a photo of the barefoot Jeff Johnston carrying his canoe to the river, as well as several pictures of Marshall Ratliff kayaking the Boiling Hole on the Mayo.

Robin also was instrumental in DRBA's receiving a TDA grant to publish the Dan River Batteau Navigation Trail brochure this summer.

"We're delighted to have Robin filling the vacancy left when Brenda Martin had to resign from the Board," said Tom Edmonds. "The Board unanimously appointed her to serve out the term, which continues until 2007."

Z. SMITH REYNOLDS GRANT from front page

The Dan River Basin Association was established in 2002 as a regional environmental organization dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River basin and using these resources for public recreation and education. The all-volunteer Association has established an enviable record, initiating the Mayo River State Park, acquiring a replica of a historic batteau that furnished river transportation and commerce throughout the nineteenth century, supporting festivals and museum displays, and advocating greenways and river accesses.

"This grant comes at an ideal time," said T Butler, DRBA's secre-

tary. "We are opening an office in Virginia with a full-time staff member, and the Reynolds Foundation grant enables us to establish an office in North Carolina."

DRBA has rapidly become the river preservation group and the promoter of the rivers in the central North Carolina-Virginia border region. The Association looks forward to even more accomplishments as professional staff and offices in both North Carolina and Virginia work to build on the efforts of DRBA's many dedicated volunteers.

Submitted by Lindley Butler

FIRST SATURDAY OUTING November 5th, 2005

Mayo River Float, Anglin Mill to NC 770: *Two Perspectives... Neophyte and Old Hand*

For my first First Saturday Outing, I admit I was expecting a peaceful ride down a lazy river, which was what Will Truslow promised. I wasn't expecting to drag my kayak through the brush and get "beached" atop river rocks. But then, life rarely goes the way you expect.

On a clear day with the fall colors at their peak, we met the other paddlers at Anglin Mill. We were greeted by Will, who was waiting with release forms and pen in hand. I dutifully agreed nobody would be responsible should I meet a tragic end. As the vehicles were being driven to the take out point at the 770 bridge, T Butler – ever the environmentalist – suggested to several of us that we should use our time wisely and pick up trash left by others to make the Anglin Mill area more pleasant.

By the time we were ready to launch our kayaks and canoes into the clear river, we had a group of 24 people and 17 boats. The water was low and I was secretly glad of it. We put in the river just downstream from a Native American fish weir below the falls.

It was a casual float – exactly what I had envisioned. Then we hit the rocks. A few of us, and yes, I was one of them, got stuck. Mary Truslow did her best paddling, literally

blasting through the pileup and knocking on the river was like a gift of the season. boats free.

That wasn't so bad and I was feeling pretty good about everything. Then the water got a little faster. Like a fool I decided to follow Will, thinking he knew the river and would choose the safest path. I had forgotten that Will likes a challenge and soon realized that he was choosing the fastest, not the safest, way.

The best part was listening to Lindley Butler, who continues to educate, pointing out interesting facts about the river and the area surrounding it.

About halfway down the river we enjoyed bag lunches on a sand/rock bar. As we ate, we chatted and got better acquainted with one another. What a diverse and interesting group of people this was!

We all had a great time being outside doing something we enjoyed. Just when I was beginning to dread the thought of a dark, cold winter, this day

Submitted by neophyte Sharon Dietch

On November 5th more than 25 paddlers in 17 canoes and kayaks gathered at the Anglin Mill access point to enjoy a day on the Mayo River. The weather was great and the beautiful fall colors enhanced the experience.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO GALLERY

See article on page 4



Launching at farm of Rose Johnson. **Left to right:** Scott T. Sauer, Kenneth Yates, Christine Sauer (granddaughter of Forrest Altman), Audrey Diener (granddaughter of participants Larry and Sue Yager), Tom Goodwin (Lumber River Canoe Club).



Left and above: Randy Eakes (DRBA member); Charles West (Lumber River Canoe Club, Carolina Canoe Club); Forrest Altman grappling for mistletoe (DRBA, LRCC, CCC, Triad River Runners); Ken Yates (DRBA member) Christine Sauer guest; Scott T. Sauer, guest (LRCC, Sampson County Manager)



Below: Launching after lunching on grounds of American Legion Hut left to right: Christine Sauer waving to departing boaters; Scott T. Sauer; Kenneth Yates.



Above: Christine Sauer and father Scott T. Sauer grappling for mistletoe.

December 3, 2005 21st Annual Sprig Outing



Above: Lunch time at American Legion Hut on Joel Johnson Road.



Left: Forrest Altman and Guest Kate Wand scher garnering holly sprigs



Two Perspectives... Neophyte and Old Hand

continued from page 2

These groups of paddlers have become a familiar sight on the rivers of the Northern Piedmont and Southern Virginia thanks to the Dan River Basin Association's "First Saturday" events. These events are planned throughout the year with hikes in the winter and river trips in the spring, fall and summer on the Dan, Mayo, Staunton, and Smith rivers.

For this trip, paddlers started gathering at Anglin Mill around 10:00 a.m. and by 11:00 were off and running. Some started at the "Boiling Hole", an area of Class III rapids, while others opted for the calmer waters below the rapids. This section of the Mayo offers the opportunity to go from Class III to flat water in less than a quarter of a mile. In fact, most of the rapids on this section of the Mayo are man made, according to Dr. Lindley Butler, well known Rockingham County historian. Butler pointed out the numerous fish dams built by Indians who used to occupy the area, which were later used by early settlers.

Due to low water caused by an extended drought several new fish dams were exposed.

The trip also offered a first look at the new Mayo River State Park property. The park will assure the preservation of the Mayo in its natural state and provide for safe and easy access to the river. Several of these "string of pearls" parks are scattered across the State. They are so called because the park property is scattered along the river instead of being a continuous tract of land.

All in all it was a great day on the river with beautiful weather, calm water, and numerous sightings of Kingfishers, Hawks and Geese. I look forward to the next "First Saturday" excursion.

Submitted by old hand Fletcher Waynick

FIRST SATURDAY OUTING *December 3, 2005*

It was with much anticipation that I drove 100 miles to this annual event, created and led by Forrest Altman. We met at Hardee's in Lillington; it was an easy drive from Reidsville (four lane road almost the entire trip, very little traffic).

We had an outstanding cast of characters, 8 boats and 13 souls, hailing from Se-mora, Roxboro, Clinton, Raleigh, Cary, Apex, Benson, and Reidsville, and representing not only DRBA but also several NC canoe clubs. Forrest calculated that a new attendance record has been established for the most DRBA members at the sprig outing.

"The river here opened into a broad and straight reach of great length," as Henry David Thoreau put it, "which we bounded merrily over before a smacking breeze, with a devil-may-care look in our faces."

This was my first sprig outing and it was such a good trip, new river, new acquaintances, new experiences. It started off similar to other trips but this one was different, and we could sense the difference, we had a charge—a charge to collect mistletoe sprigs but more importantly, we had been entrusted with the continuation of a tradition; the tradition of gathering the kiss magnet.

Every person on in our group was serious about the collection of the kiss magnet. What other plant, known to man, empowers you like this—stand beneath it, and you will be kissed. In the words of poet Allen Tate,

*The day's at end and there's
nowhere to go,
Draw to the fire, even this fire is
dying;
Get up and once again politely
lying
Invite the ladies toward the mis-
tletoe.*

The Upper Little River in Lillington is very still, a very calm river; we started paddling upstream from a gracious host's farm. Once underway it was a contest, sort of, to find the best and most mature mistletoe sprigs, as well as some very lovely holly.

Gathering the sprigs is definitely a team sport; we intertwine our kayaks and canoes bracing the "gunnels" (spelled "gunwales") with our hands, our bows pressed into the brush. Whoever is standing or reaching the farthest is supported by the others and will not fall into the river. We trust one another.

With Captain Forrest directing, we gather the mistletoe for a couple of hours or so, then head upstream for lunch. The mistletoe becomes scarce as we head up river.

Upon arriving at our dining destination we all get our various and sundry sandwiches out, except for Forrest's paddling companion



Heading upstream on flat water of Upper Little River; left to right: Charles West; Scott T. Sauer and Christine Sauer; Forrest Altman with Kate Wandscher (not visible).

Kate, who unpacks a very nicely prepared picnic. My hat's off to Forrest for his selection of paddling partner. Just upstream we observe about 50-plus yards of Class II water; next year, we should run those rapids.

After lunch, we paddle back down the river. It is an overcast melancholy afternoon, very quiet. In front of me I hear 11-year-old Christine. In her Santa hat singing Christmas songs.

I will definitely return next year!

Submitted by Kenneth Yates

EXCERPTS FROM OCTOBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Next Meeting: The next Board of Directors meeting will be at **4:00 p.m. on January 11** at the Danville Water Treatment Plant.

Annual Meeting Plans: Lindley Butler has invited Allen de Hart, author of numerous books and foremost authority on hiking trails in Virginia and North Carolina, to speak at our annual meeting in the spring. The Board agreed to ask the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group to host the meeting in Martinsville.

Organizational Structure: The Board unanimously approved the organizational structure as presented (attached). Ellen Jessee has agreed to serve on the Executive Committee and to supervise the Virginia Planning and Program Director, who will be in the DRBA office in the Henry County Administration Building, until an Executive Director can take over the responsibility. After some discussion, the Board agreed that additional members should be appointed to the Executive Committee as needed, and that new Board members should be added for any new chapters or affiliates.

Personnel Committees: The Board confirmed Rivers & Trails' Personnel Committee (Lindley Butler, Tom Edmonds, Ellen Jessee, Kay Slaughter, Benny Summerlin), who have prepared the job description for the Virginia Planning & Program Director and will handle initial screening of applicants. As recommended by Ben Murdock, the sequence will be as follows:

Personnel Committee reviews resumés and conducts first interviews, referring two or three top choices to DRBA Executive Committee.

Executive Committee conducts follow-up interviews and recommends first (or first two) choices to DRBA Board of Directors.

DRBA Board ratifies the choice either in person or via email.

The position has been advertised in Martinsville and on websites of major Virginia universities and planning associations. Applications are being sent to the Henry County Human Resources Director. The October 15 deadline may be extended and the position readvertised.

A Personnel Committee for the Executive Director was appointed, to include Lindley Butler, Tom Edmonds, Ellen Jessee, Jeff Johnston, and Ben Murdock. They will develop a job description and follow the same hiring procedure.

Finance Committee: Mark Bishopric, Lindley Butler, and Tom Edmonds were appointed to the DRBA Finance Committee. The MHCRTG Budget Committee members are Jan Albaum, Lindley Butler, Tom Edmonds, Kay Slaughter, and Benny Summerlin.

Discussion followed about bookkeeping and auditing requirements. Bookkeeping will eventually be

done under the auspices of the Executive Director, and the Planning and Program Director will keep financial records for the Virginia position. Benny Summerlin has offered to handle payroll services for the Planning & Program Director. We expect to hire financial services for the North Carolina office. Each project grant should be set up separately, with a project manager who has the skills to handle the financial details, recognizing that the grant defines how the funds are spent. Finally, audits must be handled by a separate firm.

Henry County Facilities: T Butler described the office space donated to DRBA in the Henry County Administration Building. In addition to furnished office space and hiring and payroll services, Henry County will supply computer, telephone, and local car use. In addition to Ellen Jessee, Roger Adams and Benny Summerlin will be on-site. Ellen commented that her highest priority for the new Director will be building trails.

Nominating Committee: Forrest Altman, John Buck, and Julia Pyron (pending her agreeing to serve) were appointed to the Nominating Committee. With regret, the Board accepted Brenda Martin's resignation from the Board.

Crossing of the Dan Celebration: Paul Johnson announced the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan at South Boston on February 10-11, 2006. At 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 11 a symbolic crossing of the river will take place, in which DRBA and the batteau are invited to participate. Paul will find out what is specifically wanted, and we agreed to help with advertisement through our newsletter and website. Jeff Johnston suggested offering batteau rides after the commemoration as a fundraiser for DRBA.

Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Group: Ellen Jessee, who now chairs the group, reported on the Smith River cleanup October 10, which drew over 100 participants despite rain and high water. She made contact with a property owner at Moore's Mill Bridge on the Mayo and talked with Scouts interested in building shelters for the Fieldale Demonstration Trail. Rivers & Trails is working to preserve the iron bridge at the head of that trail. In addition, they are considering purchasing Smith River property willed to the Virginia Museum of Natural History by Richard Gravely, which can be used only for recreation, education, and conservation.

Ellen and Ben Murdock are speaking to the Martinsville City Council and the Henry County Supervisors about Rivers & Trails. Ellen reminded the Board about the October 28 Trails Symposium in Danville, at which she and Julia Pyron hope to have a DRBA display. Trout Unlimited representatives will take David Crockett, the keynote speaker, fishing in the Smith River after his presentation. In addition, Ellen announced the Virginia Outdoors Plan public meetings in Martinsville on November 2 and South Hill on November 3.

Access Points: Clark Graves reported that since the Va. Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries currently has no money for accesses, the hoped-for ramp at the new US 58 Bridge will not be built. The land-owner is considering a future access point on the north side of his property.

Jeff Johnston reported that today the Town of Stoneville uncovered the nearly forgotten steps at the Mayo River Access at Business 220 and has accepted responsibility for keeping the access point open.

Outings: Will Truslow, Tom Edmonds, Forrest Altman, and Jeff Johnston will work on outings for 2006.

Streamwatch: Ken Bridle has scheduled a Streamwatch training workshop at Hanging Rock on the first Saturday in March. He asked for an appropriate venue in the eastern part of the Basin. Forrest Altman will check on a Caswell County site.

Finances: DRBA has received a \$95,000 grant over two years from The Harvest Foundation but did not receive the grant requested from the Public Welfare Foundation and will not know about the Z. Smith Reynolds grant until November. Lindley Butler presented a summary of operating income and receipts from sales from January 2002 – September 2005, which revealed about \$4500 - \$5000 income from dues, donations, and awards per year, with less than \$400 total realized from sales over the four years.

Lindley suggested that we send a letter to all DRBA members asking for year-end contributions, which the Board approved. We are to remind members of the benefits they get from their membership.

The Board discussed setting up a tiered dues structure, with several suggestions made. The Finance Committee will send a proposed dues structure to the Board for approval so that letters can be sent out before the end of the year. Members will be given the opportunity to indicate that we have permission to publish their names in the newsletter. Without that permission, the names will not be published.

Membership: Noting that the majority of our members are from Rockingham County, Mark Bishopric suggested setting a target number of members for each of the core counties in the Basin. Tom Edmonds commented that we will need a fundraising event in each county. We hope an Executive Director can be hired to devote full time to activities that will attract new members.

Minutes: Special Meeting (see page 6)

Dan River Basin Association

28 November 2005, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Spray Mercantile Building

Eden, NC

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROSSING OF THE DAN

The celebration of the 225th Anniversary of "The Crossing of the Dan", a highlight of Halifax County's participation in the Jamestown 2007 Celebration, will be held February 10-11, 2006 at the Prizery in South Boston, Virginia.

In the Southern Campaign, Morgan's retreat that began at Cowpens became a race following the Council of War at Guilford Court House on 9 February 1781. The race ended with the successful Crossing of the Dan at Boyd's and Irvine's ferries on the 13th and 14th of that month.

Praise came from both sides. "Bloody" Tarleton later recounted: "Every measure of the Americans during the march from Catawba to Virginia was judiciously designed and vigorously executed." Otho Williams 10 years later corresponded with Light-Horse Harry Lee: "The retreat of the southern army to the Dan River, though now forgotten, was, in my estimation, one of the most masterly and fortunate maneuvers of our beloved Greene."

Beginning in the evening of February 10, 2006, there will be a Gen. Greene interpretation by D'oye G. Moore in the Prizery theater along with period music prior to the presentation.

Living history exhibits including the batteau Dan River will begin at 10:30 on Saturday the 11th, and continue through most of the afternoon. Batteau rides will be available. Brunswick stew and pork barbecue will be sold on the grounds near the Boyd's Ferry site.

General Greene - D'oye G. Moore - will arrive on his horse, MacAwesome, for another presentation outside prior to guest authors John Buchanan and Dr. Lawrence E. Babits providing lectures concern-

ing this historical event inside at The Prizery theater.

A permanent exhibit of "The Crossing" will be opened in 2007 at the Prizery in South Boston.



Donations are welcomed for the funding of the permanent exhibit of The Crossing scheduled to open in 2007 in The Prizery overlooking Boyd's Ferry.



This event is free to the public.

For More Information go to: www.prizery.com/Crossing/Celebration.htm

DRBA CLEANS UP OUR WATERSHEDS :BATTEAU BECOMES GARBAGE BARGE

During September and October DRBA participated once again in North Carolina Big Sweep and Clean Virginia Waterways across the basin. Most of the cleanups were held on a single Saturday and concentrated on rivers, streams, and lakes.

In Henry County, despite heavy rains on cleanup day, 110 volunteers collected about three tons of debris during the Smith River Cleanup centered in Fieldale. Coordinator Lois Christensen reported participation by members of DRBA and the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group, assisted by the Bassett Deep Water Rescue Team and a wrecker from the Henry County bus garage, which pulled portions of cars out of the river.

In Caswell County, 42 volunteers collected 1157 pounds of debris, including a vacuum cleaner. Person County fielded 37 volunteers, who collected 460 pounds of trash, while Stokes County's 68 participants retrieved 32,000 pounds of debris, including 63 tires, the skeleton of a pony, and a porta-john.

DRBA volunteers played a major role again in Rockingham County's record-setting participation, with an all-time high of 1179 volunteers collecting 52,000 pounds of trash during the county's week-long effort, concentrating on the Mayo, Dan, and Smith rivers and Belwus Lake.



Frank Cipoletti and Larry Parker pole the batteau, carrying several hundred pounds of trash, plus helpers.

Members of DRBA and Boy Scout Troop 567 loaded the 40-foot-long batteau *Dan River* with debris from the Dan near Eden, including a double kitchen sink and 300 pounds of rebar from the recently demolished bridge.

Joined by the Eden Lions Club and the Rockingham County Naturalist Club, DRBA volunteers cleaned up the developing Smith River Greenway in Eden in late September. After tackling several land-based dumpsites in the county, DRBA held a paddle cleanup on the Dan and lower Mayo rivers

as October's First Saturday Outing.

Recognizing that roadside ditches drain into the rivers and streams, Rockingham County's 64 teams collected trash over some 300 miles of the county's highways, byways, and waterways. Rockingham County Coordinator T Butler reported that the teams included youngsters from schools, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4H Clubs, as well as civic organizations and church groups. Unusual items included a 45-lb. ceramic insulator for high tension wire retrieved from the Mayo River, a man's toupee, and a chamber pot— "with holes in it," according to the team that found it.

Thanks to support from Waste Management and other donors, Rockingham County awarded prizes to five nonprofits and ten individuals selected by random drawing. DRBA team members Ken Yates, Phil Atkins, and Jacky Miller were among the lucky winners.

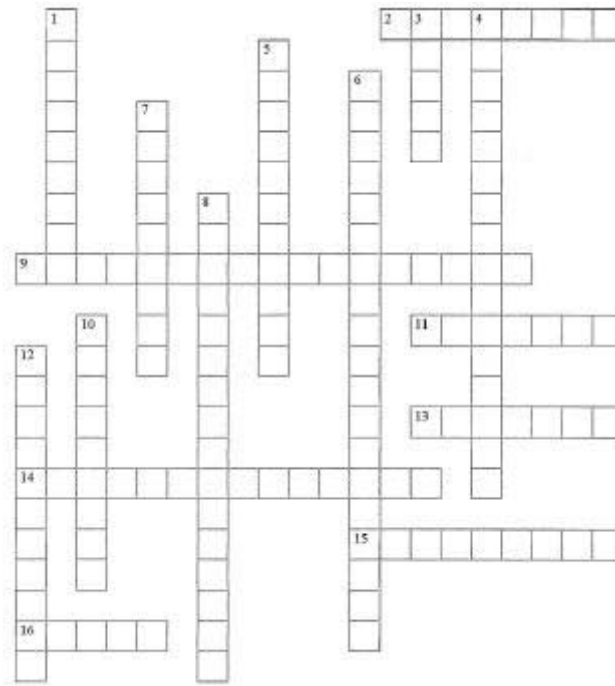
"Actually, the real winners from all the cleanup activities are our watersheds," commented T Butler. "We are deeply grateful to all the wonderful, dedicated volunteers all across the basin who gave their time and energy to increase the health and beauty of our precious resources."

submitted by T Butler

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 2 Sun reaches an extreme northward or southward motion.
- 9 Site south of Eden on north shore of Dan River used as a mooring area for a batteau to load and unload supplies.
- 11 A flat bottomed boat use to transport goods along the Dan River over a century ago.
- 13 1890's tobacco warehouse renovated as Arts and Welcome Center in South Boston Va.
- 14 Architect who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright and designed pavilion at Mayo River State Park.
- 15 A river or stream flowing into a larger river or stream.
- 16 A light pointed-end narrow boat moved by paddling



DOWN

- 1 A green plump leaf cluster with white berries gathered during the Holiday Season...a sure way to get a kiss.
- 3 Jute fiber treated with pitch used to caulk seams in wooden boats or ships.
- 4 Volunteers test local streams twice a year to watch for changes in water quality.
- 5 Two weeks set aside in April of each year to clean up roadsides, streams, etc.
- 6 Monthly gathering of DRBA members and friends for recreation, education, and stewardship.
- 7 The region or area drained by a river system or other body of water.
- 8 Walking path on the grounds of Jeff and Betsy Penn Farm.
- 10 One who serves or acts on his own free will.
- 12 Citizen group that "adopts" a waterway or portion of one and becomes its primary caretaker.

MINUTES : SPECIAL CALLED NOVEMBER MEETING continued from page 5

Bylaws Amendment: The bylaws were amended by deleting the following section:

Membership, Section 2: There shall be one class of membership.

30% of the DRBA membership participated in the vote, which included 22 email proxies, 26 postal proxies, and 8 votes in person. The tally was 51 in favor of the amendment and 5 against.

T Butler distributed copies of the proposed membership tiers that the Finance Committee has recommended to the Board. She made it clear that each membership carries one vote, no matter the level of financial support. The membership tiers as approved by the Board will be announced to every DRBA member by letter.

Announcements: Lindley Butler reported that DRBA is filling the position of Virginia Program and Planning Director, pending ratification by the Board.

T Butler announced receipt of a postcard from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation informing us that we have received funding at some unspecified level, to be revealed in a few weeks.

Wayne Kirkpatrick reported that he is now certified to teach water quality monitoring in Virginia. He hopes to assist Ken Bridle at the March meeting so that they can teach the techniques for both North Carolina and Virginia. Wayne is working with Walter Hairston in Henry County on monitoring Blackberry Creek, a Smith River tributary. Wayne will research grant possibilities from the Founda-

tion for Natural Resources of Virginia.

Mike Covey stated that the next step for the Smith River Greenway in Eden is the legal work, placing a recreational easement over the sewer easement. The new mayor and councilman support the greenway, and the city is seeking a grant for the master plan.

Barbara Solomon reported on the Stokes County river access problems. Ron Morgan, the county's tourism development officer, held a meeting with paddlers in Greensboro to discuss the problems. The 15-year leases have not been renewed, so that many of the access points have been lost, largely because of trash and vandalism. We need to increase our membership in Stokes County and work with Morgan and other officials to help reopen the river to recreation.

The Dan River Basin Association

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*To preserve
the Natural
and
Cultural Resources
of the
Dan River Basin
by promoting
Stewardship,
Recreation
and
Education*

In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes; so with present time.
Leonardo da Vinci

First Saturday Outings January thru April 2006

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- Jan 7** Doe Run Park. Hike along the Smith River Martinsville, VA led by Roger Adams
- Feb 4** Trip to Roanoke Rapids, NC to the Canal Museum and hike led by Forrest Altman
- March 4** Stream monitoring workshop at Hanging Rock State Park led by Ken Bridle
- April 1** Paddle Dan River from Hanging Rock to Moratock Park led by Tom Edmonds



Come Join Us!

Paddlers negotiating a small ledge in back ground and other trip members enjoying a lunch stop on the Mayo River at the November 5th outing.

