

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005

ORGANIZATION

1. OFFICE AND STAFF

- a. Hired Katherine Hebert as Virginia Planning and Program Director
- b. Established Virginia office in Henry County Administration Building

2. MHCRTG MERGER

- a. Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group (MHCRTG) merged with DRBA—affiliate model for basin-wide organization
- b. Elected six new Board members, with total of four MHCRTG members on DRBA Board of Directors and one on Executive Committee

3. STRUCTURE

- a. Adopted Strategic Plan
- b. Adopted Organizational chart
- c. Amended bylaws to allow tiered memberships

4. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- a. President Tom Edmonds and members Cheryl Sutliff and Marshall Ratliff attended River Network's River Rally in Keystone, Colorado
- b. Ellen Jessee attended Virginia Governor's Conference on Greenways, Blueways, and Trails in Richmond

FINANCES

1. STRUCTURE

- a. Appointed Finance Committee
- b. Adopted financial sustainability plan
- c. Developed report on economic impact of DRBA's activities in NC
- d. Adopted tiered membership schedule

2. GRANTS AND IN-KIND DONATION

- a. Received Virginia Department of Forestry grant for planning Demonstration Trail along Smith River in Fieldale
- b. Received Rockingham County Tourism Development Authority grant for Dan River Batteau Trail brochure
- c. Received Annie Penn Foundation grant for Chinqua-Penn Trail: joint project with Rockingham County Naturalist Club and Upper Piedmont Agricultural Research Station.
- d. Received Harvest Foundation grant for Virginia Planning and Program Director and office
- e. Received Z. Smith Reynolds grant for general operations in North Carolina
- f. Received donation from Henry County of furnished office, equipment, and major administrative support for Virginia office

3. SALES AND SPONSORSHIPS

- a. Sold batteau to Three Rivers Outfitters over three-year period, available for DRBA to use for displays, outings, and reenactments. DRBA members continue to provide volunteer crew and technical support.
- b. Gave sponsorship to Eden Riverfest for river heritage displays and presentations
- c. Added polo shirt with embroidered logo to sales items

RECREATION

1. RIVER ACCESS POINTS

- a. Leased DRBA's lot to City of Eden for 90 years. Eden opened initial phase of Leaksville Landing Access for Eden Riverfest. Access and park are to be completed in 2006.
- b. Began discussion of river access point at US 58 bridge in Halifax County with landowner.
- c. Town of Stoneville resumed responsibility for maintaining US 220 Business access point on Mayo River.

2. TRAILS

- a. Completed parking lot, first phase of trail improvements, and brochure for Chinqua-Penn Trail at headwaters of Wolf Island Creek in Rockingham County.
- b. Initiated Smith River Demonstration Trail in Fieldale in partnership with Henry County, which has completed preliminary survey
- c. In partnership with Henry County, participated in initial contacts with Norfolk Southern Railway and conducted deed research for Martinsville-Fieldale Rail Trail

3. FIRST SATURDAY OUTINGS

- January: Ringgold-Sutherlin Rail Trail hike—Pittsylvania County
- February: Snow Creek Stream Restoration, revisited—Stokes County
- March: Fairystone State Park hike—Patrick and Henry counties
- April: Rock Castle Creek Gorge hike—Patrick County
- May: Upper Dan River paddle (NC 89 to Dan River Company)—Stokes County
- June: Middle Dan River paddle (Madison to Settle Bridge)—Rockingham County
- July: North Fork of Mayo River paddle (Moore's Mill to Anglin Mill)—Henry and Rockingham counties
- August: Dan River Boat Race, Madison—Rockingham County
- September: Batteau voyage, Danville to Milton—Pittsylvania and Caswell counties.
Attracted over 60 participants, including 20 batteau passengers, for largest DRBA outing to date.
- October: River cleanup, lower Mayo River to Dan River and Jacob's Creek—Rockingham County
- November: Mayo River, Anglin Mill to NC 770—Rockingham County
- December: Sprig Outing on Upper Little River—Harnett County

EDUCATION

1. FESTIVALS, SYMPOSIUM, AND PUBLIC MEETING

- a. Had booth and batteau at Rockingham County Folk Festival, Wentworth, in May
- b. Had booth at Dan River Boat Race, Madison, in August
- c. Shared booth at Riverfest, Eden, in September (Batteau rides by Three Rivers Outfitters)
- d. Had booth at Stokes Stomp, Danbury, in September
- e. Had booth at Patrick County Agricultural Fair, Stuart, in September
- f. Shared booth at Brightleaf Hoedown, Yanceyville, in September
- g. Participated via planning, presentations and booth in Danville Trails Symposium in October
- h. Participated in Virginia Outdoors Plan public meetings in Martinsville in November

2. DISPLAYS

- a. Mike Covey and Dorcas Midkiff constructed two 1/10 scale models of batteaux with figures

- b. Placed display at NC Welcome Center, US 29 for several months—photos, posters, small loaned batteau model
 - c. Placed display at Eden City Hall for several months—photos, batteau model
3. PRESENTATIONS
- a. Batteau history in Eden—PowerPoint program for African American church and minority business groups (Lindley Butler)
 - b. History of DRBA—PowerPoint program presented at NC Big Sweep teleconference (T Butler)
 - c. Introducing DRBA—PowerPoint program, batteau model and display boards at Stuart Rotary Club (Wayne Kirkpatrick)
 - d. Introduced MHCRTG to Henry County Commissioners and Martinsville City Council (Ellen Jessee and Ben Murdock)
4. PUBLICATIONS
- a. Brochure: “Dan River Batteau Navigation Trail,” 10,000 copies
 - b. Brochure: “Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail,” 10,000 copies (in partnership with Rockingham County Naturalist Club)
 - c. Quarterly newsletter, *Dan River Currents*
 - d. Press releases for monthly First Saturday Outings, annual meeting, and special projects or events
 - e. Website redesigned—David Tingen, Webmaster

STEWARDSHIP

1. WATER QUALITY MONITORING
- a. Held workshop on water quality monitoring as program for annual meeting at K-P Hill Dairy in Stuart, VA
 - b. Posted stream monitoring forms and instructions on website
2. WATERSHED CLEANUP
- a. Received \$500 prize for collecting over 29,000 pounds of trash during Rockingham County Spring Clean
 - b. Collected 13,700 pounds of trash during Rockingham County Big Sweep, involving 279 volunteers and using batteau *Dan River* as “garbage barge”
 - c. Collected 6,000 pounds of trash during Smith River Cleanup in Fieldale
 - d. DRBA members participated in NC Big Sweep in all NC counties in the basin
3. MAYO RIVER STATE PARK
- a. DRBA organized meeting of NC state parks and historic properties officials with Dr. William Whitaker, Univ. of PA, about Antonin Raymond-designed buildings at Old Mayo Park in Mayodan.
 - b. NC Legislature allocated \$1.5 million for restoring Raymond buildings at Old Mayo Park and building interim park facilities.
 - c. By end of 2005 North Carolina State Parks had optioned or acquired 1588 acres and were in negotiation for 1145 more for the park.
 - d. NC Legislature funded four positions for Mayo River State Park—superintendent, ranger, maintenance person, and office manager.
4. Negotiated to preserve USGS river gage on Dan River at Wentworth
5. Supported request for \$216 federal study of Philpott Dam operations to improve Smith River trout habitat.
6. Supported negotiation by Trout Unlimited for staggered release and shutdown of power generation at Philpott Dam to benefit trout fishing