

# CURRENTS



Volume 6, Issue 4

Fall 2007

DAN RIVER BASIN



Preserving  
and  
Promoting  
the  
Natural  
and  
Cultural  
Resources  
of the  
Dan River  
Basin  
through  
Stewardship,  
Recreation  
and  
Education

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director's Notes	2
President's Space	
Saturday Outings	3
July/August	
Saturday Outings:	4
September	
Kibler Valley Race	5
Students at Jordan	
Creek	
Grant Received	
Memberships	6
Teachers Trained	7
Scenic Rivers Studied	
DRBA Officers	
Currents Staff	
DRBA Outing Schedule	8
Corny Beavers	
Water Quality Study	

## DRBA Signs Agreement with Virginia DEQ

At an October 2 ceremony at The Crossing in Danville, the Dan River Basin Association became the first nonprofit organization to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ Director David K. Paylor and DRBA President William Truslow signed an agreement that establishes a partnership between DRBA and DEQ on efforts to protect and restore water quality in the Dan River Basin.

Director Paylor, accompanied from Richmond by DEQ's Chief Deputy Rick Weeks, noted that seeing the Dan so clear when they crossed it today is unusual, since the river often runs red. "We hope to improve that problem," he declared. Reminding the audience that protecting our rivers is "the collective responsibility of all citizens," he stated that one key to dealing with impaired waterways is a partnership like this one, which "helps us learn more" while it makes more people aware of the need to protect the river.

*continued page 6*



*VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) sign Memorandum of Understanding establishing a partnership between DRBA and DEQ on efforts to protect and restore water quality in the Dan River Basin.*

*Photo, left to right: Dr. William Truslow, DRBA President; David K. Paylor, Director of DEQ; Amanda Gray, DEQ Water Planning Engineer; Katherine Mull, DRBA Executive Director; Tom Henderson, DEQ South Central Regional Director; Fred DiLella, DEQ Water Compliance & Assessment Manager; Rick Weeks, Chief Deputy Director of DEQ; Julie Guyenet, DEQ Consultant on Dan River Study; Raed El-Farhan, DEQ Consultant on Dan River Study*

## FIELDALE TRAIL OPENING, AND OTHER RIVERS & TRAILS NEWS

With rousing speeches by 9<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher, 5<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Rep. Virgil Goode, and Henry County Supervisor Debra Buchanan, the Fieldale Trail was officially opened on Saturday, July 11. H.G. Vaughan, Chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, opened the event and acted as master of ceremonies at the trail head, which is just beyond the water treatment facility on River Road next to

the Smith River Access at Fieldale. At its strategic planning retreat in April 2005, the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Group conceived the one-mile walking and bicycling trail along the Smith River in Henry County as the first segment of a much larger Smith River Trail system. Approximately 100 area officials and residents gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the trail, which is the

culmination of 2 years of work by DRBA/Rivers & Trails volunteers and staff, Henry County officials, Henry County Public Service Authority, and Henry County Parks and Recreation

According to Rep. Boucher, "The trail is the forerunner of something that will be important for the revitalization of this community.

*continued page 6*

## Greetings from the Director



Along with colorful leaves, the autumn of 2007 brings DRBA many exciting new projects. This issue of *Currents* features a few of DRBA's recent grant awards to support DRBA's on-the-ground work to make sure our local rivers and

streams are clean and safe for fishing, floating and for our drinking water supplies.

DRBA's new projects include tracking water quality and monitoring the rivers to target action to restore streamside areas and to promote similar activities. The net result will not only be improved water quality but an improved quality of life in the region.

In addition, DRBA member Kyle Hoover has developed a map of the 3,300 square mile Dan River basin. The new basin map shows river access points, parks, heritage sites and other features. DRBA hopes to use this map as a springboard for the development of river guide maps and heritage touring guides for the Dan River region.

While all of these projects are important, the activities that make our work most visible are the well-loved monthly First Saturday Outings on the rivers and trails. DRBA's outdoor events are scheduled and coordinated by DRBA volunteers, including Outings Chair Paul Johnson and President Will Truslow. Many thanks are also due to DRBA's many trip coordinators.

In between the outings, volunteers spend many hours staffing booths at fairs and festivals across the expansive Dan River region. Members and volunteers are the face of DRBA, and their commitment is unparalleled! Below is an honor roll of this year's volunteers to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm.

*Katherine K Mull*

### DRBA VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

#### First or Third Saturday Outing Coordinators 2007

Forrest Altman  
T Butler  
Carl Espy  
Ellen Jessee  
Paul Johnson  
Jeff Johnston

Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Ben Lackey  
Katherine Mull  
Will Truslow  
Mike Vaughan  
Kirby Wilkins

#### Festival Booth Volunteers 2007

Jim Allen  
Forrest Altman  
Mark Bishopric  
Gregg Bryant  
T Butler  
Bob Carter  
Charlene Collins  
Donna Cook  
Bonnie Cornwell  
Randy Crum

Clark Graves  
Kathy Hebert  
Milton Hundley  
Ellen Jessee  
Betty Kirkpatrick  
Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Edith Knight  
Harold Knight  
Bonnie Kober  
Ben Lackey

Mildred Mann  
Katherine Mull  
Ashley Parham  
Jennifer Phillips  
Hazel Puckett  
Lynda Purcell  
Julia Pyron  
Will Renyer  
Allen Walton

## PRESIDENT'S SPACE

Over the last year, we have made significant progress in our efforts to make available recreational opportunities and protect the water quality in the Dan River watershed. Some of these achievements include opening the Leaksville Landing for boating, water monitoring projects, starting the development of the Gravely Nature Preserve, three new boat accesses opened on the Smith River, and the opening the Fieldale Trail in conjunction with the Martinsville/Henry County Rivers and Trails Group. You are a vital part of these accomplishments by your membership and gifts to DRBA.

I would like to encourage you to assist with our donor campaign. Your tax-deductible contributions are the most significant source of funding that continues these projects. Many of you have given extra monetary gifts to DRBA and I am asking that you will strongly consider doing so again. We are hoping to have 100 gifts of \$100 or more in this campaign. Your contributions are powerful as they make up close to 40% of our budget. Your gifts keep the momentum going in our efforts to preserve and promote the Basin's special natural and cultural resources

Thank you very much for your support and generosity.

*Will Truslow*





## FALL SATURDAY OUTINGS

1

### JULY FIRST SATURDAY ON THE MAYO

Our trip for July was down the beautiful Mayo River from Mayo Beach to the Business 220 access, with expert paddler Kirby Wilkins coordinating. We had at least twenty boats. There were many regulars, but many more were new people who joined us. It was nice to see so many young people with their families.

The put in was just below the Boiling Hole. Several people were brave enough to paddle across the river and maneuver the infamous S-turn first thing. While the majority watched the brave few—some made it with no problem and some got stuck and/or tipped—we kept our thoughts of relief to ourselves.

The Mayo still remains one of my favorite stretches of river, even at low water. There are few signs of civilization on this stretch of the river. I still laugh to myself when I think back to my maiden voyage on the river in my new tandem kayak with my sister. We navigated down the Mayo, getting stuck on rocks galore. I had a great time and even found humor in the cow that came to the river's edge to laugh at us while

we were stuck on yet another rock. My sister was not amused.

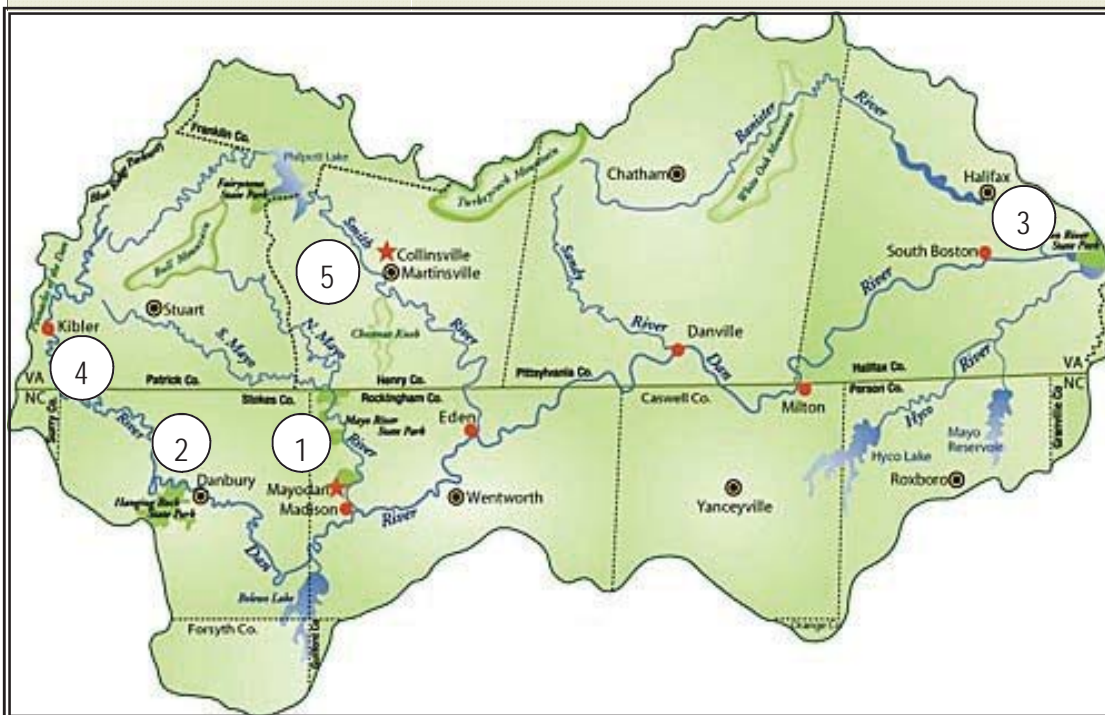
This trip was no different, in that the water level was low, making navigation tricky for everyone. The canoes seemed to have the most difficulty getting through the rock maze. A few, after successfully clearing a small rapid, became up close and personal with tree branches hanging over the bank. Of course, the tandem's crew always blamed their partners for not paying attention—they were too busy celebrating conquering the rapids. During lunch break, many sat on rocks and stuck their feet in the cool river.

For me, the most memorable aspect was the last leg of the trip. Betty had never been in a canoe, so we asked two gentlemen if they would switch their canoe for our kayaks. They were in shock at our request, but willingly took us up on our offer. They were so happy not being in the canoe together, I do not think they would have switched back if we had asked them—would you, Jeff and Donnie?

For the last hour of the trip, Betty and I laughed most of the time at our skills. Amazingly, the legend of a tandem canoe/kayak being a divorce boat did not hold true. Betty and I are still friends, although we

will never canoe together again! But we laughed so hard at ourselves that our sides hurt, and we were a great source of entertainment for those around us. We got stuck on rocks and had to get out and push. Betty decided she wanted to have the full experience of a canoe, so she proceeded to stand up and walk to the back to switch places. When she was in the stern, she so excellently steered that she made me fall backwards in the canoe. Isn't making memories and laughing at ourselves (and others) what life is supposed to be about?

*By Julia Pyron*



2

### AUGUST 2007: STOKES COUNTY FLOAT

On August 4 DRBA's regular first Saturday outing took place on the Dan River in Stokes County. Approximately 32 boats and 40 participants were treated to a wonderful day of paddling fun and fellowship. Our flotilla consisted of young and young at heart with skills ranging from very experienced to complete beginners. Addresses were from local to as far away as Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

We began with coordinated assistance from employees of the Dan River Company Outfitters providing needed parking and transport services. The weather was a swelter-

ing 90ish degrees, but this was never a factor due to the constant shade and cool water.

During the float we encountered a blue heron, numerous Canada geese and a small water snake headed for shore. The river was somewhat low, but this didn't deter from the beauty surrounding us. 40ft cliffs, numerous rock outcroppings, trees of all sizes/varieties and lush undergrowth greeted us at every turn.

One highlight occurred when we stopped at "faux" Demon Rock, (ask tour coordinator Dr. Will Truslow about this), for lunch. A large banner was unfurled in the river acknowledging a Happy Birthday to one of our group. A rousing chorus of Happy Birthday was sung

and cup cakes were enjoyed in celebration.

Our excursion ended at the Dan River Company Outfitter's access point where we left the river and loaded our boats for the return home. The day was capped by Dr. Lindley Butler passing out his wife's homemade brownies that were "out of the oven" warm after being in his vehicle all day.

It can safely be said that a good time was had by all and we look forward to further trips. Special thanks are offered to The Dan River Company Outfitters for all their assistance in making this a very enjoyable day.

*A first time paddler—Price Watt*



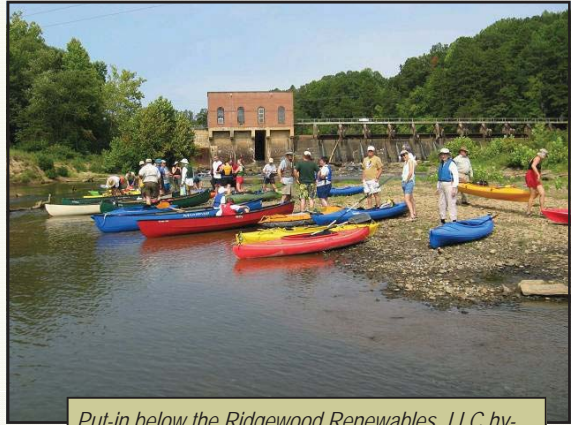
## 3 SEPTEMBER FIRST SATURDAY OUTING EXPLORES NEW TERRITORY

Thirty-four members and guests of DRBA met on the morning of September 1 at the Banister Lake boat landing for a long-awaited trip down the Banister River. The weather was comfortable with temperatures staying below 90 degrees, a relief after a long heat spell. Our group brought 27 kayaks and canoes, which had to be shuttled in several shifts to the put-in on the north shore of the river, just below the dam. Maps provided by Dan Shaw of Halifax Web Worx and the Halifax County Tourism Office

access, bat-  
teau inter-  
pretive sig-  
nage, blue-  
way and  
greenway  
trail system,  
and riparian  
restoration  
program as  
a major  
"gateway"  
enhance-  
ment into the his-  
toric County Seat.

The strong turnout for DRBA's outing helps strengthen the need for these amenities, Espy emphasized.

All the rapids we enjoyed were class 1, but the current was surprisingly swift for most of the trip and mild whitewater appeared just often enough to maintain our interest for the 4½ hour journey. A canopy of hardwoods provided shade throughout most of the trip, although the river widened considerably by the time we reached the take-out at US Highway 360. DRBA thanks Halifax County Building



Put-in below the Ridgewood Renewables, LLC hydro-electric dam



Lindley and T Butler with Dr. Trout

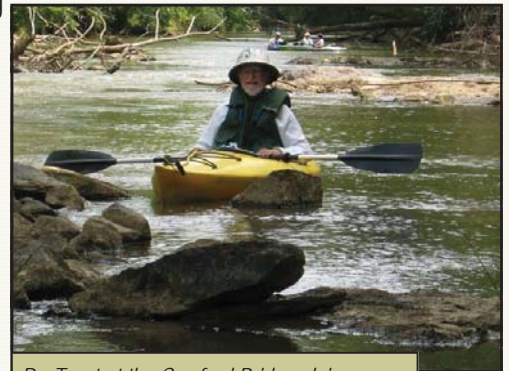
helped to orient everyone on the logistical details. DRBA thanks Ridgewood Renewables, LLC, owner of the hydro-electric dam and private landowner Brenda Hudson for permission to traverse her family's Sedge Hill Farm to reach the river.

Trip leader and Halifax Town Manager Carl Espy had scouted this stretch of river the previous week with Chief of Police David Martin, but otherwise it was virgin territory for almost everyone present. The section of the Banister below Halifax has been little traveled due to difficulty of access, but DRBA was delighted to welcome Bill and Nancy Trout, of the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society, who studied the Banister in detail for their *Dan River Atlas* (2003) which includes charts of the Banister from Meadville to the Dan.

The Trouts were able to identify and explain all the man-made navigational improvements in the river, beginning with a wingdam next to the piers of King's Bridge (circa 1839). Carl Espy explained that the Virginia Department of Transportation is currently funding a multi-year temporary bridge and bridge replacement project for the 1930's truss span on VA Scenic Byway 360 in proximity to the navigation structures. He noted that as identified in its Comprehensive Plan, the Halifax Town Council is supporting a contextual bridge design with the inclusion of improved canoe



Paddlers at the VA Scenic Byway truss bridge



Dr. Trout at the Cowford Bridge sluices



Paddlers at the VA Scenic Byway truss bridge

and  
Property  
Maintenance  
Supervisor  
Bill Wolfe  
and his  
crew for mowing  
the access area at Terry's Bridge, making the steep ascent much more manageable.

by Carl Espy and Paul Johnson



4

## KIBLER VALLEY RACE

DRBA had a strong presence at the 25th Annual Kibler Valley River Run. Several members, including Executive Director Katherine Mull, joined the racers challenging the Dan River in Patrick County. Katherine's time netted her second place honors in her category. Congratulations, Katherine!

Participants from many states, including Ohio, New Jersey, North and South Carolina and Virginia, enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere, beautiful weather and intense

racing. The DRBA display booth staff had a busy day talking to the racers and spectators about our projects and activities. As usual, Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick attracted a crowd of people, young and old, who were interested in learning about how bugs can tell the story of a stream's health.



*Katherine Mull & Will Truslow*

5

## STUDENTS STUDY JORDAN CREEK

Very few streams are considered pristine, and recent state water quality reports highlight the need for further study to determine how to best address sources of pollution, particularly bacteria and sediment. Working in support of clean streams in Henry County, DRBA applied for and was awarded two interns through the Virginia Service Training for Environmental Progress (STEP) program.

The STEP program is operated by the Virginia Water Resources Center located at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. STEP places students from Virginia colleges and universities in local communities to work on water quality problems.

In Henry County, Jordan Creek was among

those waterways listed by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as not meeting water quality standards due to the presence of bacteria.

Jordan Creek is a tributary of the Smith River, and DRBA is in the process of implementing a riparian or streamside buffer protection and restoration program along the Smith River corridor. Streamside forests are a waterway's last and best defense against pollution.

STEP interns Do-reen Davis, a senior at the University of Mary Washington, and Philip Hash, a senior at Roanoke College, received training in field assessment methods by DEQ, which enabled the students to evaluate the stream corridor.

The students' assessment included an evaluation of aquatic life in Jordan Creek, a characterization of the stream channel, and the identification of potential sources of pollution. They made note of discharging pipes, cattle access, eroding stream banks and other potential sources of pollutants. Among other recommendations, the students identified where forested streamside buffers may need to be restored.

The study's findings were presented at a community meeting in Henry County in late July. DRBA anticipates making good use of the students' findings and recommendations. DRBA hopes to target opportunities for voluntary management actions, particularly the

planting of streamside forest buffers where trees and woody vegetation are needed to filter runoff and improve water quality in Jordan Creek.

DRBA is extremely grateful to Ellen and Joe Jessee, who graciously provided housing for the two interns, and to Wayne Kirkpatrick, who spent many hours with them assisting with their field research.

The final project report is maintained by the Virginia Water Resources Research Center and is available to the public. For additional information about the Virginia STEP Program and the Virginia Water Resources Center, contact Alan Raflfo at 540.231.5463.

*By Katherine Mull*

## DRBA RECEIVES GRANT TO PLANT TREES ALONG RIVERS

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has awarded the Dan River Basin Association a grant of approximately \$33,000 to establish, enhance and protect trees and other vegetation along waterways in the Virginia portion of the Dan River basin.

The project will target key locations for the establishment of forested riparian buffers on non-agricultural land. Riparian areas are

located along the banks of rivers, streams or lakes.

Selection of sites will be based on physical characteristics of the site and the ability of the buffer enhancements to improve water quality by slowing and filtering surface runoff, encouraging infiltration, moderating water temperature, and contributing to habitat, scenic and recreational values.

Sites for buffer restoration will also be

evaluated for their visibility and ability to deliver long-term educational benefits beyond the life of the project. Streamside enhancements will be accompanied by public education and outreach activities.

The project will not only help to restore water quality but will help share information on the role of landowners and others in being good stewards of the banks of our rivers, streams and lakes. *By Katherine Mull*

## FIELDALE TRAIL OPENING

*continued from front page*

"Here in Southwestern Virginia, we have some of the greatest outdoor experiences in Virginia, and I would argue in the United States. We have the highest mountains, the most interesting rivers – including the Mayo and Smith rivers – and some of the best backpacking, horse riding and recreational areas around." Boucher envisions a trail system traversing Henry County and connecting to neighboring counties. In 2005, Rep. Boucher led an effort to earmark \$400,000 in federal transportation enhancement funds to convert a 7-mile section of the old Danville & Western Rail Line (often called the Dick & Willy) to a trail that will eventually connect the Smith River Trail to uptown Martinsville.

Rep. Goode said, "This trail is the work of many. And when this trail system gets completed, we will be able to count in the



*Congressman Rick Boucher is speaking, while Congressman Virgil Goode and DRBA President Will Truslow look on.*

millions the people who come to it. It will be a great asset to this community." And Debra Buchanan, supervisor for the Horsepasture District, called the trail a part of the revitalization of not only the Henry County-Martinsville area, but also of Fieldale, the first step in a long journey for Fieldale.

Will Truslow, President of DRBA, presided over presentation of framed certificates to those whose efforts made the trail a reality. Dominion Foundation, a division of Virginia Power, and the Virginia Department of Forestry provided much of the funding. Boxley Materials and Piedmont Surveying and Design also contributed. After the ribbon cutting, officials and attendees made the first official walk down the lovely tree-lined trail. DRBA/Rivers & Trails and Henry County have already begun negotiations to extend the trail several more miles down the Smith River.

In other news, Rivers & Trails continues to discuss trail connections and activities with its neighboring counties. At the July meeting, Karen Cross presented information on the Danville River Walk and Angler's Park in Danville as well as the Ringgold-Sutherlin Rail Trail in Pittsylvania County. Scott Martin from Franklin County joined Rivers & Trails for the August meeting to discuss how Franklin County and Henry County can interact, particularly with respect to our shared border with Philpott Reservoir and the Smith River. Franklin County is committed to help the newly formed citizens group, Friends of Philpott, be successful in creating trails, with the first segment of 5 miles already complete. At the September meeting, Jeanne Frisco from Patrick County presented an excellent program, showing photos and maps of the site for the planned 3-mile Mayo River Trail in Stuart.

Work continues on accesses to the Smith River in Henry County. The Doe Run Access above the Martinsville Dam is being built, and construction on the Mitchell Bridge Access in Ridgeway will begin soon. Negotiations with a willing landowner for another access are in progress.

*By Ellen Jessee*

## DRBA SIGNS AGREEMENT

*continued from front page*

Specifically, DEQ will support DRBA's efforts to build its citizen monitoring program in the Dan River Basin; to collect scientific data on the health of the watershed; to implement Best Management Practices in the basin to reduce nutrient, bacteria and sediment inflows; and to provide education and outreach opportunities to local communities in the Dan River Basin.

In turn, DRBA will support DEQ in its efforts to complete Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies for pollutants that exceed state water quality standards in the Dan River Basin; improve understanding of water quality dynamics in the Dan River and its tributaries; understand better how land use changes are affecting stream health in the basin; and promote the implementation of Best Management Practices in impaired watersheds.

Will Truslow thanked DEQ for their confidence in DRBA and pointed out that this agreement has triggered a stronger working relationship between DRBA and NC's Department of Environmental and Natural Resources for the North Carolina portion of the basin.

Additional DEQ officials who participated in the ceremony and subsequent TMDL meeting included Tom Henderson, South Central Regional Director; Fred DiLella, Water Compliance & Assessment Manager; Amanda Gray, Water Planning Engineer; and Raed El-Farhan and Julie Guyenet, consultants on the Dan River Study.

*By Katherine Mull and T Butler*



*DRBA President Will Truslow and VA DEQ Director David K. Paylor at the signing ceremony.*

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS JUNE — AUGUST 2007

### Memberships

#### Family

Jim and Phyllis Baker  
Joe Hicks  
Robin and Sam Jensen  
Ruth and Sam Morgan  
Kent Phelps  
Charles and Jean Rodenbough  
Christine Stinson and  
Cathryne Schmitz  
Mike Vaughan

#### Individual

Douglas Belcher  
Charlene Collins  
Bonnie L. Cornwell  
Paul Ferguson  
Karen L. Giles  
John Hall  
Kyle Hoover  
Phil Hunnicutt  
L. Alex Jordan  
Megan Joyce  
Mildred Mann  
Ted Penn  
J. Hall Roberts  
Leigh Rodenbough  
Robert Schasse  
Angie Stallings  
George E. Sweazey  
Mary Ann Swift

Jim Tobin

**Donations**  
**Protector**  
Ted Penn

**Benefactor**  
Ridgewood Power  
Management

**Steward**  
J Randolph

**Friend**  
Chester G. Ratliff

**Other**  
Nancy P. Mangum





## TEACHERS MEETING MACROINVERTEBRATES

With funding from the Virginia Environmental Endowment, DRBA Volunteer Wayne Kirkpatrick is busy training seventh grade science teachers in four school systems in the Virginia portion of the watershed.

Teachers are being trained to determine the health of local streams by evaluating the number and diversity of the types of tiny organisms, or macroinvertebrates, found living in the bottom of a stream. Using methods developed by Virginia Save Our Streams, teachers are learning how to collect, identify and rate their findings to determine the health of their streams.



Teachers from Pittsylvania County

The program aims to involve students in interactive environmental literacy programs. It is hoped that "Teachers Meeting Macroinvertebrates" will foster the development of additional educational programs and water quality monitoring efforts in southern Virginia where such opportunities have been very limited.

By monitoring their local streams, teachers, students, and par-

ents develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the role of clean waterways. The program's goal is to foster local leadership in the protection of rivers and



Teachers from Martinsville and Henry County schools.



streams for future generations.

Please check the following web site for information on the Virginia Save Our Streams program: <http://www.vasos.org/>



## Feasibility of Virginia Mayo River Park, Scenic Rivers Studied

Earlier this year, the Dan River Basin Association worked in support of passage of a feasibility study by the Virginia General Assembly for a state park along the North Mayo and South Mayo Rivers in Henry County, Virginia. The resolution passed unanimously, and the study is yielding very positive results.

The bill also called for an evaluation of the potential for scenic river status for the rivers. To assist in the completion of the study, DRBA recently guided river trips for officials from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Rec-

reation on the North Mayo and South Mayo rivers. Virginia officials were joined by officials from the North Carolina State Parks and Henry County, Virginia on some of the trips.

While the study report has not been issued, the response from the field assessments was uniformly positive. Officials observed the beauty of the rivers, with excellent wildlife habitat and striking rock formations along the river corridor. It was noted that the land is zoned for development far more intense than that which exists at the present time.

A state park in the area would help ensure that the rivers and a portion of the undeveloped land between them will retain their scenic values and ability to support wildlife so that these beautiful places will be enjoyed by generations to come

DRBA wishes to thank Three Rivers Outfitters and Troublesome Creek Outfitters for assistance with the trips.

By Katherine Mull

*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 17 at the Eden City Hall.*

### Dan River Basin Association Officers

President, Will Truslow  
Vice President, Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Treasurer, Mark Bishopric  
Secretary, T Butler  
Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Solomon

### CURRENTS STAFF

**Editor**  
Dorcas Midkiff

**Associate Editor**  
T Butler

**Contributing Writers**  
T Butler

Carl Espy  
Ellen Jessee  
Paul Johnson  
Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Katherine Mull  
Julia Pyron  
Will Truslow  
Price Watt

**Photography**  
Lindley Butler  
Lynn Crump  
Carl Espy  
Amanda Gray  
Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Betty Kirkpatrick  
Katherine Mull  
Ashley Parham

## DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

KATHERINE MULL  
Executive Director  
413 Church Street, Suite 401  
Eden, NC 27288-3243  
336-627-6270  
[kmull@danriver.org](mailto:kmull@danriver.org)

VIRGINIA OFFICE  
P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, VA  
24078  
276-634-2545  
[drba.va@danriver.org](mailto:drba.va@danriver.org)

Visit us on the web at  
[WWW.DANRIVER.ORG](http://WWW.DANRIVER.ORG)

### DRBA Outings

**October 20**

*Third Saturday,*  
Hike and covered dish at  
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick's  
home in Stuart

**November 3:**

Dan River:  
Whetstone Creek to Eden

**November 17:**

*Third Saturday,*  
Danville Riverwalk

**December 1:**

Sprig Outing, Little River, Har-  
nett County, NC

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of Ben Dixon Lackey, Sr. on October 4, 2007. Ben was a long-time member of the Rockingham County Naturalist Club, an avid conservationist, and a member of DRBA's Board of Directors. His warmth and wisdom will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy is with his wife Josephine and his family.

## DRBA TO STUDY WATER QUALITY

The Dan River Basin Association has been awarded a grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Fund to carry out a water quality planning initiative. The project includes ongoing water monitoring, data collection, and analysis to better identify, target and prioritize management actions needed to ensure that local waterways support recreation and aquatic life. DRBA's study will help identify the location and the extent of bacteria and sediment in the Dan River and its tributaries in Rockingham and Stokes counties in North Carolina. Building on existing studies and water quality reports, this project will more finely assess conditions and identify pollutant sources for cost-effective and better-targeted management actions. Management actions include voluntary activities or programs designed to prevent pollution, such as planting trees along waterways, repairing failed septic systems, no-till farming, or fencing cattle out of streams.

## CORNY BEAVERS

"Value added" is an ongoing theme in business for profit building. Take an already existing product and enhance its value by developing an alternative or non-traditional use.

I am definitely in favor of value added and alternative uses of the crops raised on our farm, K-P Hill, here in Patrick County. We have traditionally processed our crops through cattle for milk/meat production.

But adding value by the direct harvesting of corn for dam construction is a new concept. Never too old to learn, I

guess. These beavers have certainly been busy building a dam across the Mayo River, creating a twelve inch difference in water height.

We will harvest our remaining corn as silage in early

September and will add value by feeding beef steers for meat production. In the meantime, stocking



fish is looking promising as a new alternative.

By Wayne Kirkpatrick

