

# CURRENTS

Volume 9 , Issue 2

Spring 2010

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

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION



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Dan River Sojourn Is Coming!

*DRBA'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION*

Visit us on the web at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)



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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, April 21st at the Eden City Hall.

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MRSP picnic pavilion by Charlie Peek.

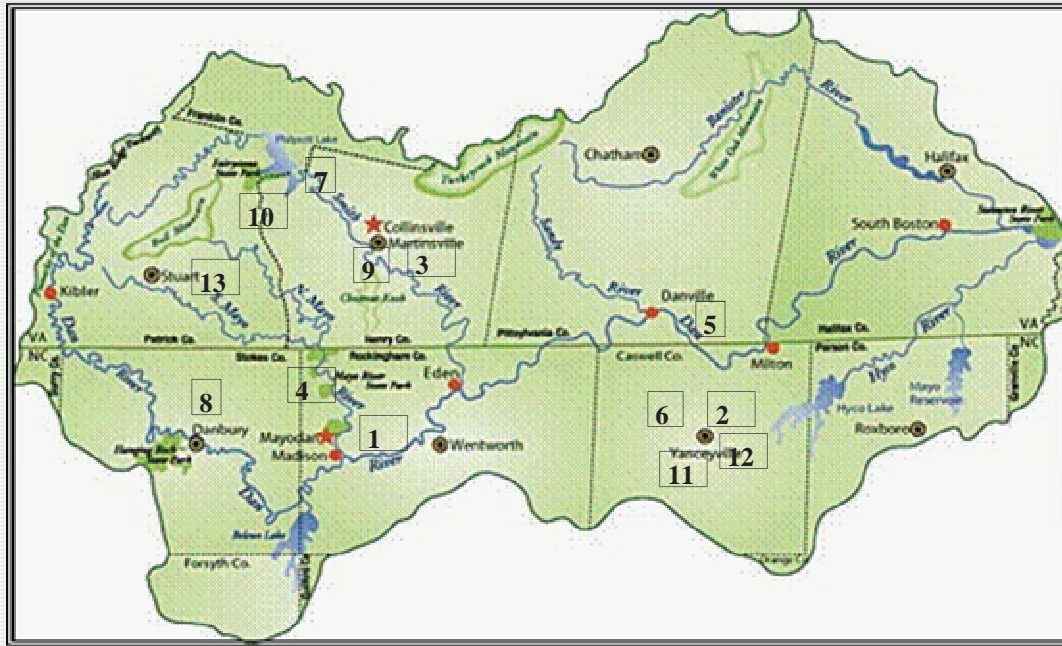
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## Greetings from the Director

After a long, snowy winter the fresh growth of spring is emerging. Along with new life come ideas, both old and new, for making the most of the Dan River region's special places, our natural, historic and cultural resources. DRBA is pleased to be asked to be a part of so many new initiatives, from a river-based economic development plan for Stokes County, NC to the scoping of a plan for parks and recreation in Pittsylvania County, VA to the kick off of a new program to develop a gateway, trail head and river access at a new bridge crossing in Halifax County, VA.

There is an emerging interest in rivers and trails master planning processes in Rockingham

County, NC and in crafting a heritage plan for the Dan River region. These activities, taken together with our existing Caswell Heritage Trails program in Caswell County, NC and the Rivers and Trails Program for Henry County and the City of Martinsville, VA and other activities, provide a powerful incentive for Dan River region communities to coordinate and collaborate across our 3,300 square miles.

With new energy all around, 2010 may be the year for all to share their visions for the future and to help map the way forward.

*Katherine Mull*



## PRESIDENT'S SPACE

It's paddling season! DRBA opens its First Saturday Outings on the water with paddles on the Dan from Pine Hall to Madison in April, followed by Fieldale to Doe Run in May and Anglers Pride to Milton in June. As we get back on the water, please remember to be safety conscious whenever paddling. Preparation and planning will help you and your family enjoy the natural resources of the Dan River Basin every time you get on the water.

Check out a recent try at negotiating Eggleston Falls by yours truly (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsotgsd6gOo>). My equipment and I both navigated

the rapid, just not all at the same time. Take note of the helmet, "nose and toes" pointed downstream, and no attempt to salvage my equipment, or my pride, for that matter.

Be safe, be smart, file a float plan, go with someone and most of all—have fun! The beauty, power and wonder of our natural resources are a treasure for us to enjoy.

*Wayne Kirkpatrick*



### 1 DAN RIVER SOJOURN IS COMING!

This summer passage through time DRBA will host the first as the Dan River tells its story on a sojourn on a 22-mile across a Triassic basin, through Native American fish weirs and past batteau mooring cribs.

Registration opens soon and is limited to the first one hundred applicants. Watch for press releases and information posted on the DRBA web site.

Starting at Lindsay Bridge and ending at the Eden Wildlife Access, we will enjoy a

### 2 HIKE ON "STREAM WALK TRAIL"

After DRBA's Annual wooded smooth surface gravel Celebration at the historic trail, Chad explained future Caswell County Courthouse plans for benches, gazebos, on March 6, two groups of additional trail loops and trail hikers gathered in the court-house parking lot. Our group will connect to a nearby sports field and a nursery school. In Caswell County Program Director, to the Caswell County for senior citizens, Chad was excited about the suggestion the "Stream Walk Trail" that opened in July 2009.

After the hike, we toured the Senior Citizens Center, which was impressive. Some among us started to consider retiring to Caswell County!

*Ellen Jessee*

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## Dick & Willie Passage Breaks Ground !



On March 31, a warm spring day, several dozen people gathered to celebrate the ground-breaking for the "Dick and Willie Passage," a 4.5-mile trail on the former Danville and Western Rail Line in Martinsville and Henry County. Planned to be complete by this fall, the trail will connect Collinsville to the City of Martinsville and the Uptown Spur Trail. The trail will eventually be extended to the Fieldale Trail and the

Smith River Sports Complex as part of the Smith River Trail System.

Congressman Rick Boucher, the keynote speaker, shared his vision of the Smith River Trail System as an economic engine to rival the immensely popular Virginia Creeper and New River State Park trails. He praised the partnerships among DRBA, Rivers & Trails, the City of Martinsville, and Henry County that have made this happen.

Congressman Boucher secured a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant for the project, which was augmented by other federal, Tobacco grant, and in-kind funding for a total of \$1.4 million for purchase and construction.

Other speakers included Deborah Bohannon, Chair of the

Henry County Supervisors; Kathy Lawson, Mayor of Martinsville; and Delegate Ward Armstrong, who shared some history of the railroad and spoke of the importance of the trail system to the region.

Among the dignitaries wielding a golden shovel was DRBA's own Ellen Jessee, Chair of Rivers & Trails, who has spent many hours on research to make the trail possible. Also breaking the ground was Jennifer Doss, former Rivers & Trails Project Manager, now Director of Tourism for Martinsville and Henry County.

Brian Williams, who coordinated much of the event, has posted more description and photos at the River & Trails Journal, <http://rivers-trails.blogspot.com/>.

T Butler

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## NC MAYO RIVER STATE PARK OPENS !

A long-term dream took another step toward realization as the interim facilities of the North Carolina Mayo River State Park in Rockingham County opened to the public on April 1. Long desired by the county's citizens, the park was authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly in May, 2003.

County officials had approached DRBA founders Lindley Butler and Jeffrey Johnston the preceding December, asking DRBA to work toward the park's creation. With resolutions of support from the Rockingham County Commissioners, all of the county's municipalities, and many civic and business groups, DRBA secured sponsorship of legislation from the county's legislative delegation, and the park became a reality.

According to Lewis Ledford, state parks director, "The development of North Carolina's 35th state park has truly been a result of close partnership with the community, and the state parks system is very proud to share this achievement with Rockingham County and its citizens. Mayo River State Park will grow in its conservation mission and its ability to offer exciting outdoor recreation."

The interim facilities are located on 398 acres just north of Mayodan on NC 220 Business, known lo-

cally as Mayo Park, which was developed in 1948 by Washington Mills as a community recreation area. The centerpiece is a restored pavilion-style picnic shelter designed by renowned architect Antonin Raymond. A protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright, Raymond introduced a Japanese style of architecture to the U.S., incorporating local materials and creating buildings that are in harmony with the native surroundings.

Land acquisition for the North Carolina Mayo River State Park continues. To date, the park has nearly 2,000 acres along the 12-mile river corridor from Mayodan north to the Virginia state line. It will be adjoined by a similar state park recently authorized in Virginia.

The interim NC park includes picnic grounds, playing fields, a former caretaker's quarters renovated as a ranger contact station, and two small ponds, one of which has been drained to allow dam renovation. Five individual picnic sites are being installed at the site. A half-mile hiking trail is in place, and volunteers and park staff are building another 1.8-mile trail.

Mayo River State Park has a permanent staff of four and two seasonal employees under the direction of Park Superintendent Fred Watkins.

T Butler



## Uranium Mining: Tailings—A Most Serious Unresolved Problem

The Virginia-wide uranium mining study undertaken by the National Academy of Sciences will not determine whether mining can be done safely in Pittsylvania County. The NAS study will also not address a wide range of other impacts resulting from uranium mining in Virginia.

DRBA applauds the Danville Regional Foundation's work to fill the gaps and commission a study to help address the socio-economic impacts of uranium mining on our region. The City of Virginia Beach, which withdraws water from a downstream reservoir, has also commissioned a study to help evaluate impacts of mining and waste storage on downstream drinking water supplies.

At the Uranium Mining Symposium in Richmond, a panel of international experts indicated that a major concern is the long-term storage of mining wastes or tailings in surface ponds.

While mining and milling operations present a host of problems, those activities will cease after a few decades. But the storage of the tailings will be a persistent problem for which there is currently no good resolution.

Tailings are wastes or byproducts of mining that contain 85% of the original radioactivity. Radioactive decay produces a long chain of by-products, including radon gas, radium, thorium, lead 210 and polonium 210. Many by-products are more toxic than the uranium itself, posing a threat for a very long time.

At the symposium we learned that:

- Thorium 230, with innate toxicity and mobility, has a half life of 76,000 years.
  - Polonium 210 is 250 billion times as toxic as hydrogen cyanide.
  - Radon emissions can be carried 1,000 miles by a light wind, resulting in deposits or fallout on the ground.
  - Seepage of wastes to groundwater has occurred.
  - Entire watersheds have become contaminated.
- Living creatures can spread contamination.

Most significantly, according to experts, after the first 1,000 years the tailings are as much of a problem as are the high level radioactive wastes or spent fuel from nuclear reactors (the type of waste intended for Yucca Mountain). However, if mining comes to Virginia the tailings will be stored not deep underground in a dry environment but near the surface in a region where as much as 100 or even 1,000 years of erosion can occur in a single storm event.

If industry history is any example, if uranium mining comes to Virginia, taxpayers will assume the health, economic and environmental risks and the costs of uranium mining long after the mining company has shut its doors.

*Katherine Mull*

NOTICE: Save June 19 for the Second Annual Silverfish for the Rivers Benefit Paddle 2010! Visit [www.silverfishfortherivers.com](http://www.silverfishfortherivers.com) for details.

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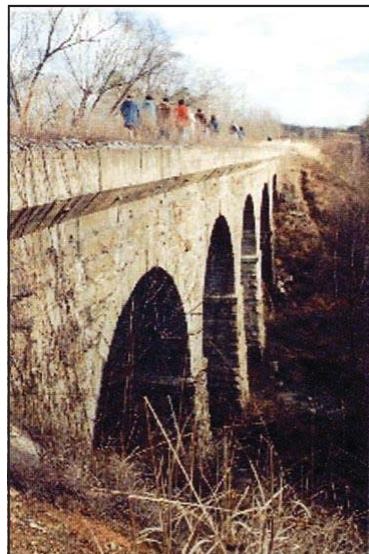
## JANUARY RAIL/TRAIL OUTING IN PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Ten DRBA members braved record-breaking cold on January 2 to hike the Richmond & Danville Rail-Trail, starting on Hackberry Road near Sutherlin, Virginia.

Before setting out, I shared a story from local Halifax County tradition about Kerns Mill, now in ruins just across the county line from the trail terminus. Napoleon's general Marshal Ney was reputed to have escaped the firing squad, made his way to America, and passed through Halifax County in his travels. A mysterious stranger believed to be Ney wrote the words "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite" on the wall of the mill, using a stencil newly purchased by the mill owner. His words are still faintly visible in the ruins.

We hiked a mile westward along the extensive wetlands above the Sutherlin Mill Pond. A group of birdwatchers greeted us but had not had many sightings on their first outing of the year due to the frigid weather.

Instead of hiking the full five miles, we drove to the western terminus of the hike, near the trail's "crown jewel": the



well-preserved five-arch stone trestle across Sandy Creek. Several hikers made their way down the steep bank to view the trestle from below, while the rest of us enjoyed the view from above.

We agreed to find a warm restaurant rather than picnicking in the 20 degree weather. All agreed that the adventure had been worthwhile despite the extreme conditions, but were glad to find hot food at the end of our morning outing.

*Paul Johnson*

## 6

## CASWELL HERITAGE TRAILS MASTER PLAN PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

During February and March, DRBA hosted public workshops for Heritage Trails at the Caswell Senior Center. At the February 3 kick-off, Program Manager Chad Hall described the needs and purpose of the Heritage Trails Master Plan, explaining the benefits ranging from the micro scale (physical health) to the macro scale (economic health).

The primary concerns for Caswell County property owners were liability and limiting the current use of their property.

From February 16-18, the GIS maps were rolled out and the sleeves were rolled up as 35-40 people discussed Caswell County trail options, ideas, and apprehension. This was beneficial to residents, business owners, and elected officials alike as we all learned the issues and opportunities facing the County and the role trails can play. This collaborative research and planning revealed many wonderful trail visions, but one in particular deserves special attention.

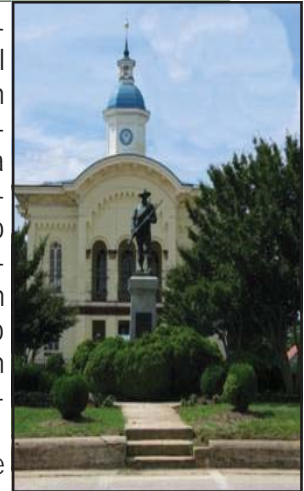
Caswell County has a magnificent natural feature called Country Line Creek, which begins in the southwest corner of the county and feeds into the Dan River in the northeast corner, roughly paralleling the scenic byway route of highways 150 and 62. This 40 mile stream boasts vast floodplains, feeds Farmer Lake, lies on the fringes of

the Gamelands, and is recognized as a Significant Natural Heritage Area, particularly from Yanceyville to Milton. It also offers the rare ability to link, via Milton, Virginia's Heritage Tobacco Trail and Beaches to Bluegrass Trail to NC's Mountains-to-Sea Trail in Rockingham County. The potential to join to these super economic tourism engines with a trail must be explored!

This was the message that was delivered on the March 3 wrap-up session. Next steps include case studies and forming a master plan steering committee. Locally, we will emphasize trails on school campuses over the next couple of years to provide an alternative to team sports. Walking, a family "sport," is an option that needs to be fulfilled.

Additionally, we are planning further trail development at the Caswell Senior Center. . extending last year's Stream Walk Trail and developing our mountain bike trails, using expertise from the Southern Virginia Mountain Bike Association.

*Chad Hall*



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## Philpott Lake News

It's been a long winter at Philpott Lake, with rainstorms, snowstorms, including "Snowmageddon," and all of the damage they caused. We estimate from \$50,000 to \$100,000 damage, some of which had to be remediated before we could open the gates to the public! The critical safety issues, such as hanging trees near the campgrounds, have been removed, but we still have a lot to repair and clean up. So, Spring has sprung, our summer staff and park attendants are back, and two of our parks, Salthouse Branch and Goosepoint Park, are fully open and ready for visitors. Whew!

Since we're starting the season with a full lake, we expect a banner year for visitation. To that end, we are making sure that our visitors will know what's going on here and in the three-county area around the lake. Two key projects were made possible through President Obama's stimulus program, ARRA. First is the sewer line improvement project that takes us one step closer to getting the marina we have been working toward for a long time. As William Clark would say, "we proceed on"!

Second, right after Labor Day we should begin upgrading the restroom at Salthouse Branch Park to a full shower house, and replacing the main shower house at Horseshoe Point Park.

Finally, we are building alternative loops and connector trails north and west of Jamison Mill Park through a Corps of Engineers Handshake Partnership Grant matched by Franklin County, which has agreed to build a substantial trail loop extension. So, Happy Trails to you! Come on up and enjoy all of our partnership's hard work.



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## STOKES COUNTY UPDATE

In Stokes County, NC we have exciting news about three important Dan River access points. First is the official public re-opening of the Hemlock Golf Course Access near Walnut Cove, resulting from a partnership between Hemlock Golf Course, DRBA and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission with their Fishing Access Area program.

To celebrate, DRBA is coordinating a river clean-up on Saturday, May 8, from the Snow Creek Access to the Hemlock Access. Non-boaters are encouraged to join us as both the Snow Creek and Hemlock accesses are in need of special attention.

The Fishing Access Area program is also being brought to the Snow Creek Access and Hart's Access at the Highway 704 Bridge. This program provides some resources for improvements and, more importantly, monitoring by Wildlife Enforcement Officers. In addition, watch for Hart's Access to receive a fresh grading and gravel later this spring, thanks to our local canoe and kayak clubs!

Much more is in the works. Watch the DRBA calendar and email distributions and the DRBA-Stokes blog, <http://stokesoutdoors.blogspot.com/>

*Dale Swanson*

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## M-HC Rivers &amp; Trails Update

In January we celebrated Jennifer Doss's new position as Martinsville-Henry County Tourism Director as we bade her a sad good-bye as Planning & Program Director for DRBA/R&T and gave her a warm welcome as a Rivers & Trails member now representing Tourism.

In February Scott Smith, Biologist with Virginia Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries, spoke on the "Smith River Trout Fishery."

We met at the Virginia Museum of

Natural History in March so we could attend "Remarkable Trees of Virginia," sponsored by Southwestern Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalists.

The Adopt-A-Trail Programs are going strong, with Friends of the Fieldale Trail and Friends of the Gravelly Nature Preserve working hard to repair trails from winter storm and flood damage. The downsized Fieldale Iron Bridge has been installed as trail art in the Fieldale Ballpark. With improved weather, we hope to con-

struct Phase III of the Fieldale Trail in the ballpark to traverse the iron bridge in time for the Fieldale Heritage Festival May 15.

DRBA staff and volunteers are working closely with Martinsville officials on further trail connections between the Martinsville City Reservoir (Beaver Creek Reservoir) and Patrick Henry Community College, and between the Martinsville Uptown Spur Trail and Church Street.

*Ellen Jessee*

## 10

## Fishing, Water Quality, and TIC!

*Fish Virginia First*, "Follow the Trail," has come to our rivers and streams. A new initiative featuring fishing as a tourism draw, this program of the Virginia Tourism Corporation has many partners, including Game & Inland Fisheries. DRBA's already established water quality efforts will be a natural complement to this effort, which focuses on the more than 800,000 anglers who visit Virginia to experience the state's renowned fishing sites.

The program promotes regional fishing trails by season, species, etc. Patrick County is listed on the web site and is part of the fishing trail. Other local waters listed on the web site include Philpott Reservoir, Fairystone Lake, Martinsville Reservoir, Smith River Tailwater and stocked trout waters. There are 122 streams (or sections) and lakes stocked with catchable size trout from October 1 through May 31 in Southwest and Southside Virginia. Learn more at <http://www.fishvirginiafirst.com/patrick-county-virginia-fishing-locations.html>

Stream monitoring on Philpott Lake tributaries continues, despite rough weather that caused some sessions to be rescheduled. Mike Shahan, DRBA member and recipient of the Outstanding DRBA volunteer award at this year's Annual Celebration, recently completed training and is now a VASOS Certified Stream Monitor. Congratulations, Mike!

DRBA recently presented a watershed education program with the tub of bugs to the 6th and 7th grades at Woolwine Elementary School. Thanks to community efforts for Trout in the Classroom (TIC) in Hardin Reynolds Memorial and Blue Ridge Elementary schools, all six elementary schools and the high school in Patrick County now boast hosting a TIC trout tank. The local TIC program, administered by DRBA, is the single largest TIC effort in the nation. This is the fifth year of our TIC efforts, and thirty one tanks are growing trout and educating students to enhance our natural resources. Congratulations on this ever growing effort to bring "Excitement to Education."

*Wayne Kirkpatrick*



## DRBA'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION, MARCH 6

DRBA's eighth Annual Celebration was held in the elegant historic Caswell County Courthouse where President Wayne Kirkpatrick welcomed 65 members and guests. Yanceyville Mayor Curtis E. Davis thanked DRBA for our work in the area, and Wayne Kirkpatrick reminded us that "Team DRBA" welcomes the time and the spirit of all of our members.

DRBA's strength is reflected in our 312 active memberships, with 57% at the family level or higher. Over \$95,000 in cash and donated support was contributed last year. Expenditures for 2009 totaled \$520,000 for more than 16 different grants or projects, and budgeted expenditures in 2010 will be \$550,000. Growth in unrestricted donations in the coming year is essential for our continued success.

Board members unanimously elected to serve until 2013 are H. Clay Gravely IV, Dr. David Jones, and Wayne Knox., all of Martinsville, VA, who are serving a second term. Serving a first term will be Perry Briggs (Martinsville), Amelia Dallas (Eden), Martin Gardner (Martinsville), Nathaniel Hall (Yanceyville), Tony McGee (Germanton, NC), and Allison Szuba (Wirtz, VA).

From staff members came impressive reports on the year's activities. Looking ahead, Katherine Mull stated that DRBA is working toward a healthy and economically vibrant community with a strong regional identity, building on our common landscape, condition, purpose, and spirit.

Julia Pyron and Wayne Kirkpatrick presented awards to some of DRBA's many outstanding volunteers. A walking staff made by Rebekah Rimmer was presented to Paula Wyatt, leader of the Friends of Fieldale Trail, and Mike Stanley, for his work on planning and helping to build Caswell Heritage trails. A framed photo by Darrin Doss was presented to Mark Bishopric, DRBA's treasurer, shuttle provider and river guide; David Jones, sponsor of Trout-in-the-Classroom and promoter of conservation easements; and Carl Espy, who is developing partnerships to plan a river access on the Banister and hiking trails in Halifax County. The Outstanding Service to DRBA Award was presented to Mike Shahan, for his exceptional work on water monitoring.

The following were also recognized: Linda Drage, President of Friends of Philpott; Katie Whitehead, Chair of the Uranium Mining Task Force; Dorcas Midkiff, Editor of *Currents*; Ellen Jessee, Chair of Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails; Lynda Purcell, developer of Silverfish for the Rivers benefit paddle; Bonnie Cornwell, coordinator of many events.

For the program, Craig (Rocky) Rockwell gave a lively, informative portrayal of Brigadier General William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition, who "at the age of 239" described the context and some of the experiences of his epic journey. "General Clark" praised DRBA's work for our emphasis on rivers and trails as a great tribute to our past and to make sure our rivers are healthy for the future.

After lunch at local restaurants, some 35 members and guests enjoyed one of two hikes on the balmy afternoon. Both are described elsewhere in this newsletter.



T Butler, Secretary

## DRBA AWARDED \$15,000 IN NATIONWIDE GRANT COMPETITION

DRBA was chosen as one of eight finalists across the nation to receive a grant from MillerCoors, one of the nation's top brewers, and River Network, a national non-profit working to preserve and restore clean and healthy waters.

DRBA came in second place in this online voting competition and will receive \$15,000 toward protecting the Dan River as a drinking water source by 1) protecting streamside

buffers, 2) promoting the Stokes Purple Sweet Potato as a less chemical-intensive replacement for tobacco, 3) monitoring/reducing bacterial levels, and 4) supporting conservation of streamside land. These funds will allow DRBA to work in areas for which we currently do not have project funding.

In its second year, this grant competition was made possible by a \$75,000 donation by MillerCoors to

River Network. MillerCoors believes that with great beer comes great responsibility and they help communities understand, protect and restore rivers and watersheds. Water flows through every part of the brewing process, which is why MillerCoors has designated water conservation as one of its key sustainable development priorities. You can learn more about what MillerCoors is doing on [GreatBeerGreatResponsibility.com](http://GreatBeerGreatResponsibility.com).

Katherine Mull

## KAT AND TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

DRBA and Trout Unlimited currently have a record 31 tanks in Trout in the Classroom for the 2009/2010 season. Dr. David Jones continues to be a major sponsor for the program.

A huge reason we can have a record number of tanks, with all of them doing well, is the great work and dedication of our TIC intern, Kathryn Bongarzone. Kat is from Weymouth, Massachusetts and is an Environmental Science Major at Averett University in Danville. She has been absolutely critical to the success of Trout in the Classroom this year.

Kat has been interning with us since October 2009 and has learned the trout tank set up and how to

care for eggs and fry. She is responsible for new teacher setups, delivering supplies, maintenance as needed, and speaking with the students about TIC. She has also helped us on numerous festivals and is becoming an expert in the Tub-O-Bugs display.

In fall of 2009 Kat learned to fly fish and caught her first Smith River Brown and Rainbow Trout!



*Brian Williams*

## TIC CHANGES LIVES

.My class as a whole has been extremely engaged with the trout. They have become very proud parents. As a class they voted to send out birth announcements when the eggs hatched. We have had several classes come to watch each stage, and as incentive we told any class that came to visit they could name an alevin [a newly hatched trout]. When we put the fish in the big tank, we had a Tank Party and had a cake.

There have been several students who have taken a special interest in the fish. One of the students completed a report on the Trout and presented it to the class, and although he is normally very shy, he had no problem doing his report. Another student who was new

to the classroom came in and bonded with the fish immediately. He came after Christmas and knew no one in the class, so this is been a great coping mechanism for him. The students have become more responsible as a group, keeping up with their Trout Journals and reminding me to keep an eye on all the chemicals.

*Sandy Gary*



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Yanceyville Hike, Annual Celebration Afternoon, March 6

The spring peepers were deafening as 15 members and friends wound our way behind the Dillard Middle School on a perfect pre-spring hike with Forrest Altman. The route was advertised as moderate to strenuous, but certainly the potential trail on the sewer easement road did not have many steep inclines or slippery slopes. The creeks and ponds were full of thaw and the road a bit damp, but the woods were full of promise.

The hills around Yanceyville are gentle. The beige beech leaves in the woods gave us that horizontal contrast to the vertical walls of the winter forest on either side of the grass covered road. If the trail was banked with sunny slopes of red clay, it was usually covered in weeping love grass with long blond manes.

Oddly, some deeper ponds did not have the

spring peeper's songs—yet. Perhaps the temperature was not yet 56 degrees at this low spot on the hike. Rocks along the way were targets of Milton Hundley's eye and expertise. The geology of the area is one of his specialties, and there was a side trip to stream bank for further exploration.

The strenuous part was the last 15 minutes as we entered civilization—vertical asphalt road to dumpster at the Sunvale Apartments in Yanceyville. There was a fine specimen of our native wax myrtle on the way up that hill, which made a great stopping place excuse for those of us who were not in the best of shape after this unusual winter.

We need to get back in shape with DRBA's upcoming paddles and hikes!

*Hollis Stauber*



# MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

December 19, 2009— March 25, 2010

## MEMBERSHIPS

### Protector

Hollis and Karl Stauber  
Terri Lea (Integrative Healing  
Arts Therapy Centre)

### Steward

David Bernard  
Margaret Gurley and Tom  
Edmonds  
Susan Anderson and Jennifer  
Edwards  
Jennifer H. and James Frith,  
Jr.  
Dr. David Jones  
John and Claire Helgeson  
Lamiman  
Kevin Moore  
Will and Mary Truslow

### Corporate

City of Eden

### Organization

Martinsville Parks and Rec-  
reation  
Rockingham County Natural-  
ist Club

### Friend

W. B. Rick Adams  
Larry and Brenda G. Baker  
Dennis Casey  
Nathaniel Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Love, Jr.  
Peggy Markham  
Bob and Pat Moore  
Kerry Mull  
Nancy Moltman and John  
Skipper  
Dawn Swanson  
Andrew, Julie and Alexandra  
Talbert  
Rodney Thacker  
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## DRBA Outings

**April 3**

Paddle, Pine Hall to  
Lindsay Bridge

**May 1**

Paddle, Fieldale to Doe Run

**May 15**

Hike, Fieldale Trail

**June 5**

Paddle, Anglers Pride  
to Milton

## Dan River Basin Association

413 Church Street,<sup>12</sup> Suite 401  
Eden, NC 27288-3242

**TO:**

Visit us on the web at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)

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## Rivers & Bugs Summit

The "Rivers and Bugs Summit" was held in March to thank and energize volunteer water monitors and recruit new volunteers. Speakers and session leaders shared exciting environmental projects and programs from across the Dan River Basin.

Minnie Moore, an educator in Patrick County, led a session on teaching her school children organic gardening. She started an organic garden on four blighted city lots in St. Louis during her decades-long tenure at an inner city school. She recently established an organic garden with students at Patrick Springs Elementary School where she brings in experts to talk about pesticide-free gardening and its nutritional benefits.

Jenny Hochstein, Director of the Halifax Improvement Council and co-owner of Pick-A-Pine, illustrated sustainable practices she and her husband employ on their Christmas tree farm, including a wind turbine that "on a good day makes our [electric] meter run backward," their low-carbon footprint wood stove that burns recycled sawdust pellets, drought tolerant trees and cow-share program.

Mary Lawson, Biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake, discussed Aldo Leopold's moral and philosophical reasons for a harmonious relationship with the natural world and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' changing attitudes toward environmental stewardship.

"How to" sessions included one led by Wayne Kirkpatrick, DRBA President, who is known for his famous "Tub O' Bugs" that introduces the macro-invertebrate life in our creeks. Last year that program reached more than 2,500 children and adults. Wayne led a session on how to build your own Tub O' Bugs for festivals, classrooms, library programs, and we've already had one taker! A participant will be creating her own Tub O' Bugs to present during the Town of Halifax's Earth Day celebration.

Marty Bullins, Master Naturalist, demonstrated his unique "Recycle Derby" game—how he built it and how it teaches the what, when and how of recycling. Jenny Edwards, DRBA staff, demonstrated the iIMPACT project that engages youth in learning about watersheds and speaking out about the environmental impact of litter by creating art from recycled plastic bottles.

The Rivers and Bugs Summit was held at Moral Hill Baptist Church, a historic African-American church in Axton, Virginia and lunch was catered by a local minority-owned business. Registration was limited to 37 people, and the event filled up well in advance, suggesting a great appetite in the area for environmental programs.

VEE funding for the Rivers and Bugs Summit was matched by support from The Harvest Foundation, Moral Hill Baptist Church, Charlie's Soap, Market America, Virginia Master Naturalists, and DRBA volunteers. 16 volunteers donated a total of 72 hours to the project with a value of \$1,300.

Jenny Edwards