



# CURRENTS

Volume 7, Issue 3

Summer 2008



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

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## RICHARD P. GRAVELY, JR. NATURE PRESERVE

Nature enthusiasts have a new place to explore in Henry County now that the Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. Nature Preserve has opened to the public. Located on Eggleston Falls Road in Ridgeway, the preserve offers visitors two miles of interpretive walking trails and an outdoor classroom for nature study.

Over fifty guests attended the preserve's grand opening ceremony on April 26, including representatives from Henry County, the family of Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. and descendants of the Burgess families who owned the land in the 1800s when it was a thriving plantation.

Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, commented on the preserve's self-guided tour, saying that visitors "will not only get the benefits of the beautiful park surroundings as they walk the trail, it is also an opportunity to learn of the history of the property."

Since the nature preserve has opened, it has been frequented by hikers and history buffs alike. The property has also hosted several educational and recreational events such as a nature



photography workshop, a historic presentation on the Burgess Plantation, monthly fitness walks, and training workshops for educators. Work is underway to continue extending trails on the property as well.

You are invited to the following summer events:

**Tuesday Morning Strolls, July 1 & August 5, 8:00 – 9:00 am**—One-mile easy-paced walking tour, featuring many beautiful plants and the history of the Burgess Family Plantation that once stood on this land.  
**Virginia Museum of Natural History Summer Day Camps**—

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## BURGESS AT GRAVELLY NATURE PRESERVE

If you build it, they will come! And that's exactly what happened at the Gravelly Nature Preserve Outdoor Learning Center during a warm and beautiful Memorial Day weekend. On Saturday, DRBA's very own Jennifer Doss coordinated a presentation by a seventh generation descendant of the Burgess family—owners, in

1781, of the plantation where the Gravelly Nature Preserve now stands. John Burgess 7<sup>th</sup> provided a chronology of his family's history and read from the personal letters and diaries of his ancestors. He discussed the genealogical research so many members of his family have contributed to the history we know

today. Attending the presentation were several members of the Burgess family—descendants still making their home on the original property.

Following his presentation, over fifty participants hiked their way to the Burgess family cemetery. With Wayne leading the less agile (but equally determined)

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Richard Burgess at Burgess Family Cemetery at GNP



## Greetings from the Director



As we enjoy warm summer breezes and lazy floats on the river, a special word of thanks is due to DRBA's dedicated members. You recently received an appeal for membership renewals and donations to help meet challenge grants from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and Miller Brewing Company. Many of you generously stepped up to the plate. On behalf of those working for clean and healthy rivers, we thank you!

We also appreciate your patience with late or duplicate notices of membership renewal. DRBA will soon receive data base assistance, and with updated technology, we hope to serve you better.

Protecting our rivers, streams and natural areas can be a challenge, and we have a fantastic staff to lead the charge. A grant to DRBA from the Harvest Foundation made possible a partnership to develop Henry County, Va.'s first nature preserve, located along the Smith River.

But the new Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. Nature Preserve is

more than park facilities. DRBA project manager Jennifer Doss researched the history of the property and its small cemetery. She contacted descendents of the families who owned, lived or worked on the land. Along with the opening of this new park and interpretation of its abundant natural resources, the human stories can now be told.

Upstream on the Smith River, the Trout in the Classroom program is about much more than fish and their habitat. Teachers tell us that not only have grades improved and Standard of Learning targets been met, but the experience for the children in raising the fish in the classroom has literally turned around lives. We thank incoming board member Dr. David Jones, DRBA vice president Wayne Kirkpatrick, and DRBA education coordinator Brian Williams for their leadership.

So, while we all work for our rivers, land, wildlife and history, we also connect with people – past, current and future generations who make their home here in the Dan River basin.

For more pictures and stories, check out [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) and click on DRBA blog.

Katherine Mull

## PRESIDENT'S SPACE

I would like to welcome our four newest Board members who bring a great deal of expertise to DRBA. They are Alison Snow-Jones, Fletcher Waynick, Milton Hundley, and David Jones.

Alison lives in Forsyth Co. and brings a wealth of talent to the Board, helping with grant writing and working with Stokes Co. government and businesses to help establish Dan River accesses. She is an assistant professor at the Wake Forest Medical Center and is an avid paddler. Fletcher, a Rockingham Co. native, has served in numerous volunteer capacities, being a past-President of the County Chamber of Commerce and the current President of the Rockingham Co. Tourism Development Authority. Milton, also a Rockingham Co. native, has been a major force in the success of the county's litter clean-ups. He is

very active with the Naturalist Club and has tremendous knowledge of plants, geology and local wildlife. Alison, Fletcher and Milton were elected in March at the Annual Celebration in South Boston.

David, an orthodontist in Henry Co., is our most recently elected Board member. David is a true ambassador of conservation and brings great enthusiasm for working towards the ideals of DRBA. He started and strongly supports the very successful Trout in the Classroom project.

Welcome, again, to the Board.

Will Truslow



Keith Bullin, Paul Johnson, and Katherine Mull enjoy azaleas in Keith's Bauxwood Gardens.



Jennifer Doss, Katherine Mull, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Will Truslow, Brian Higgins, and Brian Williams pose beside the Streamside Trees sign installed at Moratock Park before the April 5 outing on the Dan.

# SATURDAY OUTINGS

1

## APRIL 19—BEAUTY AT HORIZONS PARK AND BAUXWOOD

Led by our host, Keith Bullin, retired park ranger and plant professional, a small but eager group of DRBA members enjoyed a great variety of spring wildflowers along the Nature Trail in Forsyth County's Horizons Park on April 19. Purple dwarf iris, starry giant chickweed, bright yellow green-and-gold, pink showy orchis beside foamflower on stream banks, and creamy Mayapples drooping below their umbrellas greeted us in full display. Keith revealed that the park boasts many wildflowers rare to this area, and we were convinced that is true.

After our leisurely hike, we drove to Keith's home and gardens, Bauxwood in nearby Stokes County, where we picnicked on his patio and then were delighted by a tour of his amazing formal gardens. Paths wind through banks

of deep pink azaleas; vines climb arched trellises, dangling fragrant blossoms; shady green bamboo and cypress sway in the breeze; rock-lined pools harbor frogs and goldfish; allées lead to classical columns topped with reflecting balls; and the forest further down the hillside features laurel, rhododendron, and spring bulbs alongside a babbling stream.

Our elegant afternoon was capped with tea and homemade blueberry scones on the patio, followed by a tour of Keith's beautiful home, including his sparkling 1940's-vintage kitchen and stylishly furnished living room. We left our gracious host, thankful that our stomachs, eyes, and spirits had been treated to an unforgettable feast.

*T Butler*

2

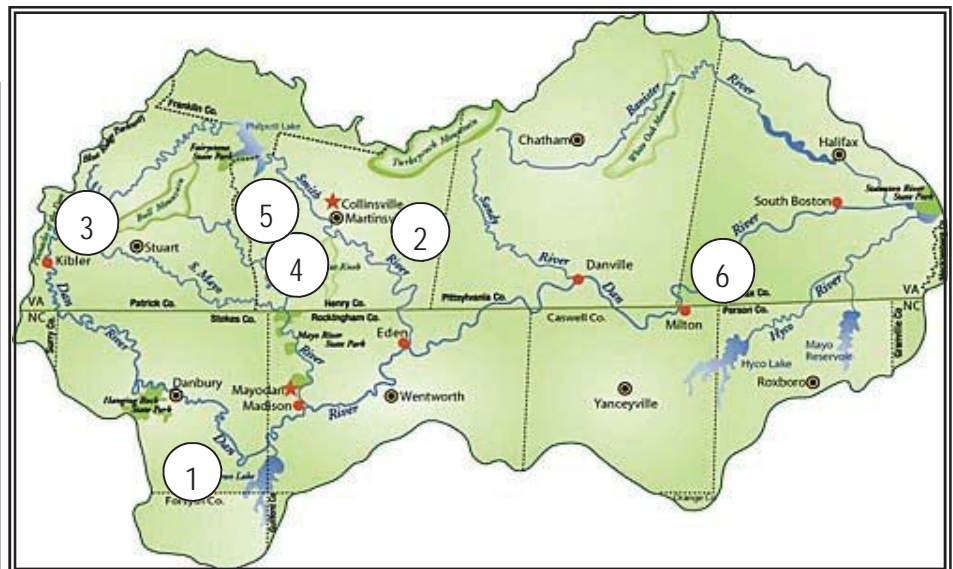
## DOE RUN IN MAY

Henry County has led the way in the Dan River Basin in creating new boating accesses in recent years. The newest addition was celebrated at DRBA's May 3 First Saturday Outing, as we paddled up the Smith River from the new Doe Run Park Access to the Dupont Nature Preserve at the Big Bend of the Smith (as described in the Dan River Atlas.)

The parking area for the new access is atop a forested high ridge with a scenic view of the Smith below. We carried our boats down the new access trail to the shoreline and found ourselves on a tranquil lake that visibly narrowed back into a river within a half-mile of our departure. For another mile and a half we enjoyed the Smith's clear, clean waters and the rocky shoreline with an occasional glimpse of Chestnut Knob, until the current became so strong at the Nature Preserve that we headed back downstream to enjoy a picnic at the Doe Run Park across the road from where we had parked.

The picturesque picnic area lies along Doe Run Creek next to a small pond and near a wooden bridge leading to the hiking trails. Our group numbered 20 paddlers in 19 boats, and most stayed to enjoy the picnic.

Continued page 6



## WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water quality efforts this spring and summer include educational outreach at the Philpott Environmental Expo, the Fieldale Heritage Day Festival, the VMNH Outdoor Fun Festival, the VMNH Wet and Wild on June 26, the Fayette Festival on June 28 and at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Kibler Valley River Run on July 26.

DRBA is collaborating with the Reynolds Homestead on presentations for the Explorer's Club, a Girl Scout troop from Blacksburg, and an elementary school gifted and talented group from Roanoke. Brian Williams and Wayne Kirkpatrick are scheduled for a Cub

Scout watershed education seminar at Camp Lee Ford on June 16. A trout release at the Bassett Historical Center for CHILL (Communities Helping Improve Local Lives) clients will be on June 19.

The Virginia Environmental Endowment grant work has concluded with 12 teachers successfully completing training as certified monitors and nine schools receiving monitoring kits to implement a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience into the curriculum for their students.

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FOND FAREWELL FOR BARBARA SOLOMON

I first met Barbara Solomon when she attended the 2006 DRBA Annual Meeting at my dairy in Patrick County. As I was helping to park vehicles and greet folks, a very petite lady driving a very big pickup truck came in, shook hands with me and uttered a shy "hello." And she never spoke another word all day. That certainly left me wondering, "Who was that lady?"

Almost a year later I figured out just how integral a part of DRBA Barbara had become. Quiet and steady, working many volunteer hours behind the scenes, helping to honor volunteers at the annual meetings, making it possible for DRBA to have a welcoming and public face, and being a wise and measured voice interviewing



potential staff candidates—Barbara has been devoted to DRBA's success. And now, all too soon, she is off to begin the next chapter in her life and is moving to Florida. She is a quiet, genteel, thoughtful, devoted and kind lady whom DRBA will greatly miss.

A gathering hosted by T and Lindley Butler at their home allowed a few of us a chance to say thank you and God-speed to Barbara for being an anchor among the swiftly moving waters of DRBA life. Will Truslow and T presented mementoes of the basin, while Will read a Board proclamation and Forrest Altman recited a poem selected for the occasion.

Change may be our only constant, and the work of DRBA will continue, but the unique style Barbara presented with press releases and letters will be sadly missed. We thank you, Barbara, for sharing your life, your skills and your love of our basin. We wish you the best in your next adventure.

Wayne Kirkpatrick

3

MAY 17- MEADOWS OF DAN HIKE

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, I accompanied my aunt, Janice Denny, on DRBA's hike at the Meadows of Dan area. We started the hike at Townsend Dam, which uses the power of the Dan River to generate electricity to the City of Danville located about 82 miles away. This is part of the Pinnacles Hydro-Electric Development owned by Danville since 1938.

The huge wooden pipeline which was used to

divert the water to the power house was recently replaced with a steel pipe, and the trail we hiked followed this new pipeline. You could hear the water running through the new pipeline. A section of the old wooden pipeline was present and showed very little deterioration even though it had been used for close to 60 years.

The trail was an easy flat walk which could be enjoyed by anyone, not just accomplished hikers. It was

only about 2 1/2 miles round trip with many foot bridges crossing over gullies and creeks. However, some of the bridges were very high and you may not want to look down if you are afraid of heights.

As so families with children would need to use caution on the footbridges.



We saw several water falls and many beautiful wild flowers. Others on the hike were very informative, identifying many of the flowers and providing information about the area. We could see the Pinnacles of Dan, but did not climb it.

I enjoyed hiking this trail and seeing the beautiful spring flowers, but I also think this trail would be very pretty in the fall when leaves on the surrounding trees would be in full color.

Jessica Carter



Brian Williams

4

STREAMSIDE BUFFER PROJECTS IN HENRY COUNTY

The Streamside Buffer Planting Projects are underway in Henry County, supported by a grant from the Dept. of Conservation & Recreation.

Eagle Scout candidate Grant Price coordinated 18 Boy Scouts in planting a 100'x 50' buffer along the banks of a small Smith River tributary near the Fieldale Trailhead. The 30 saplings and shrubs they planted included the native species of sycamore, willow, dogwood,

oak, jasmine, and rugosa rose, supplied at a substantial discount by C. D. Prilliman's Landscape Dimensions of Ridgeway, VA. The Scouts also installed split rail fencing to prevent foot traffic across the stream at that location.

At Fieldale Park, about a mile away, three seniors from the Carlisle School. Jack Johnston, Chris Taylor and A.J. Hice, planted over 30 trees and shrubs along Jordan Creek to help mitigate stormwater run-off from the

park's ball fields.

Streamside Tree buffer signs will be installed at both locations to help educate the public about the importance of buffer protection in maintaining healthy waterways. Several additional areas will be planted in the winter 2009 planting season along Smith River tributaries.

DRBA thanks all the participants and donors in this important project!

5 TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM COMPLETES ITS THIRD SEASON

Another successful TIC season has come to a close, with students from schools in four counties releasing their trout into the Smith River at Bassett. Some 2000 students and their teachers raised brown trout from eggs to fingerlings in their schools, learning about trout habitat and care and water quality monitoring.

Martinsville orthodontist Dr. David Jones, recently elected to the DRBA Board, initiated and continues to sponsor the TIC program for in Southwest Virginia. DRBA staff member Brian Williams provides technical assistance and frequent classroom visits, encouraging experienced teachers to mentor teachers new to the project. Wayne Kirkpatrick, DRBA's Vice President, trains the teachers in stream monitoring techniques and gives presentations on water quality monitoring.

Dr. David Jones says, "Trout in the Classroom is more than just hatching trout and watching them grow. Teachers present students with issues such as water quality standards and habitat management. We see the results in the environmental awareness of the students. It's wonderful what these teachers are doing; they are the real heroes. The main goal of Trout in the Classroom is to connect youth to their natural environment. The byproduct is a stream or river that ends up with an increase in its naturally reproducing population of trout, and that's a bonus for everyone."

Special guests at the trout releases this spring included Senate Candidate and former Governor Mark Warner, Congressman Virgil Goode, representatives of the US Army Corps of Engineers and Game & Inland Fisheries, and local governmental and school officials.

Bonnie Phillips, Project Manager for the Stewardship Virginia Program at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, presented certificates of appreciation to Henry County Schools for Stewardship of Virginia's Natural Resources and an award to Dr. David Jones for his part in bringing TIC to Southwest Virginia.

Lisa Bowman, the Principal at Henry School, reported, "We

had our tank in the hallway where all the kids could visit it and see the trout growing. This program has helped our students achieve 100% pass rate on science SOL's this year. That is something we have not seen in Henry School in the past, and we directly attribute it to the Trout in the Classroom Program. It's created an excitement and desire to learn, and we use the program by integrating math, science, writing and art into the curriculum surrounding the raising of these trout. It's also a 'hook' for reaching out to the less enthusiastic students who may not respond to traditional teaching methods. It's great for struggling students and just as great for gifted kids."

Sally Moore, one of the trout care teachers said, "We really had fun with this program and can't wait to get started again next school year!"

Brian Williams



Students help former Virginia governor and Senate candidate Mark Warner release trout into the Smith River, aided by David Jones, Brian Williams and Wayne Kirkpatrick.

5 THURSDAY'S TROUT RELEASE, OH MY!

You just can't beat a day with a bunch of kids, a tub-o-bugs and cups of fish!

Trinity Christian School came out today to release their trout. Its a small school and they brought 10 kids.

We had a good crowd of on-

lookers and David had also invited a whole mess of home-schoolers to come out and watch. Trinity only had about 30 fish and we like to let each child release a fish so we had plenty for them but I was worried about having enough for all the home-schooled kids. Even

though they did not raise trout, David thought it would be good if they could release some too...and it was, they loved it.

Well, as with everything David is involved in...things have a way of working out. It reminded me of the

Bible story about the 5 loaves and 2 fish.

I had brought some extra trout from my tank at home, just in case, and then the next thing I know, Donnie Jones shows up from the Virginia Museum of Natural History with a cooler full of trout from his tank (bless you Donnie!) Wonderful...now we had trout to go around and every kid there got to release a trout, some more than one.

We even got the "Big Kids" in on the action and had Earl Wright, J. Prilliman, Mary Lawson and others from the Army Corp of Engineers, as well as Ron Henry Chief Conservation Officer with VDGIF

releasing a trout today. (Looks like they all got a kick out it)

Even DRBA's own Jen "Tigger" Doss got in on the action with her own fish to release... (I think she named it Darrin before she set it free.)

Thanks to all involved, Wayne and David of course, along with Al Kitterage who faithfully makes the 150 mile drive from North Caroline to support and help out, and many of the usual Basset Locals that come out to help as well. Special thanks to Basset Historical Society for always graciously letting us take over their river front for these events.

Brian Williams





## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

### MARCH - MAY 2008

### Memberships

#### Friend

Nancy Bell  
William and Sharon Kirby  
Peggy Markham  
Andrew, Julie, and  
Alexandra Talbert

#### Organization

Southern Environmental  
Law Center

#### Family

Janice Denny

Bonnie Eanes-Martin  
Mike and Betty Geisinger  
Brian and Jill Higgins  
Jim and Myra Holmes  
Nancy Moncrief and Phil Holleran  
Paul and Patty May  
Eloise F. Nenon and Bob Martin  
Richard and Joyce Price  
Mike Ward

#### Individual

Sammy Allred  
Cathy Blankenship  
William T. Butler  
Dan Cockman

Jim Corum  
Chris Cousins  
Trent Fentress  
Connie Harman  
Blair Harris  
Adrienne Hermes  
K. Joanne Hill  
Mildred E. Mann  
Jennifer Phillips  
Randy Sweatt

### Donations

#### Sponsor

T and Lindley Butler

Dr. David C. Jones

#### Steward

Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick

#### Friend

Elizabeth Gravely

### Honor Gifts

#### In Honor of:

Frank T. Gravely, Sr., from  
Elizabeth Gravely

## DOE RUN IN MAY

*continued from page 3*

A few of us explored Doe Run's network of trails after lunch, and found ourselves on a mountain laurel and rhododendron-covered high ridge. Trails on one side lead down to Doe Run Creek where it is filled with rocks and rapids, and views down towards the Smith are on the other side of the ridge.

Doe Run Park is just on the edge of Martinsville within a few minutes of any location in the city, yet it feels like an escape to the mountains and the edge of the wilderness.

*Paul Johnson*



Left: Ashley Parham assists Girl Scouts from Blacksburg, VA in stream monitoring program.

Right: Jerry Decker assists a young Philpott Expo attendee to get up close and personal with a crayfish.



## RIVERS & TRAILS UPDATE

Rivers & Trails all working together for the held its annual all-day Strategic Planning Session on May 28. Jennifer Doss of DRBA & Jeannie Frisco of Activate Martinsville/Henry County showed maps of completed and future river accesses & trails. Work sessions developed visions for blueways, trails, education/stewardship, and community involvement/marketing. The steering committee, which meets monthly, includes a wonderful cross-section from local businesses, non-profits, recreational organizations, the city and county

“protection, enhancement and promotion of Martinsville and Henry County’s natural resources for the benefit of its residents and businesses and to attract visitors to the area.”

#### Completed projects:

- Grand Opening of Gravely Nature Preserve on April 26
- Opening of trail along Smith River at GNP on National Trail Day, June 1
- Stream buffer plantings and trout releases (see stories)

#### Projects in progress:

- Smith River access below Martinsville Dam under construction; Mitchell Bridge planning underway
- Fieldale Trail extension funding

obtained & planning underway  
- Rail Trail awaiting action from Norfolk Southern & VDOT  
- Trout in the Classroom continues with huge success & much publicity

#### Recent Programs:

- February: Diane Ramey Sawyer, Healthy Community Initiative, after-school & summer programs for youth.
- March: Jennifer Doss, Gravely Nature Preserve
- March: “Walk, Boat, Bike” community outreach meeting at Patrick Henry CC
- April: Denny Casey, VMNH, Virginia Master Naturalist Program.
- May: Susan Perkins, Henry County Bike Club’s programs & activities.

*Ellen Jessee*

Check out our blog at :  
[www.rivers-trails.blogspot.com](http://www.rivers-trails.blogspot.com)

## WATER QUALITY

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Kimberly Martin, librarian for the Collinsville Library, has scheduled the tub of bugs on July 15 for their Summer Story Time theme, “Catch the Reading Bug.” The morning session will involve small children up to age five and the afternoon session ages six to eleven. These older children will star in Jennifer Doss’s adaptation of *Stream – the Movie*, an interactive skit about life in the fast stream.

DRBA will participate in the August Virginia Citizens for Water Quality Summit, which will feature discussions about the upper Virginia fish kills presented by the Shenandoah River Riverkeeper, updates about water quality efforts of volunteer monitoring groups around the state and concurrent breakout instructional sessions to hone skills with various monitoring techniques.

*Wayne Kirkpatrick*

## RALLY HO!!

Six DRBA members attended the 2008 River Rally held May 2-5 at the Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio, on the shore of Lake Erie. Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick and our entire staff—Katherine Mull, Jennifer Doss, Brian Higgins and Brian Williams—participated in this annual event.

River Rally caters to organizations like DRBA, making available information about all aspects of starting, funding and operating a non-profit group for rivers and providing opportunities to network among like-minded

people. Over 70 workshops dealt with environmental issues and regulations or individual projects. DRBA staff coordinated their schedules so as to cover the widest variety of workshops. We found that River Rally excelled in satisfying our purposes for attending—curiosity, education, professional enrichment and networking.

Wayne Kirkpatrick led a workshop, co-presented by Brian Williams and Betty Kirkpatrick, titled “Bringing the Environment into the Classroom,” discussing the DRBA/TIC program, now in its third year. We described the

watershed education, trout raising in classroom tanks, releases into the Smith River and the community’s involvement and embracing of this local educational effort. The large group of educators and community environmentalists were excited by this program that has captured national attention and is now growing all across Virginia.

This was a weekend well spent! We all have our stories to tell, but as they say, “What happens at River Rally stays at River Rally.”

Wayne Kirkpatrick

## RICHARD P. GRAVELY, JR. NATURE

*Continued from front page*

Day trip included for campers, ages 12-17. Pre registration required. Contact Robin Jensen, Youth Education Coordinator, [robin.jensen@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:robin.jensen@vmnh.virginia.gov) or 276-634-4188. Day camp sessions:

- **June 23-26: Wet & Wild**
  - **July 7-10: Forest Explorers**
  - **August 4-7: Eco-Adventure**
- Geo-Caching Day, June 28, 9:00 am--** Learn the sport of

geo-caching, a fun adventure game for GPS (Global Positioning System) users. No experience necessary. Register by calling 276-634-4185, and indicate whether you have your own GPS unit or need to borrow one. Sponsored by VMNH.

For more information on the Gravelly Nature Preserve, contact Jennifer Doss, DRBA’s Rivers & Trails project manager at 276-634-2545 or [jdoss@danriver.org](mailto:jdoss@danriver.org)

Jennifer Doss

## BURGESS AT GRAVELY

*continued from front page*

way, folks of all ages found their way. Jennifer’s interesting presentation at each of the interpretive points highlighted the mile and a half loop many chose to follow. What a wonder she is! This was the first time yours truly had actually seen the ‘new’ Program Manager in action, and WOW—impressive!

through the pipeline right of

DRBA members, if you’ve not had the opportunity 1) to see and hike the Gravelly Nature Preserve, or 2) to learn about the people and the land behind it, put it on your list of things to do this summer! I know it will be one thing you’ll come back to time and time again.

Oh, and if there’s a program involving Jennifer’s work and studies, get there early—you’ll want to get a parking space!

Betty Kirkpatrick

*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, July 16 at the Eden City Hall.*

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Treasurer, Mark Bishopric  
Secretary, T Butler

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**DRBA Outings**

**July 5 :**

Mayo River, Below  
Anglin Mill– 220

**August 2 :**

Philpott Reservoir,  
Jamison Mill – Beards  
Creek

**August 16 :**

Staunton River, Long  
Island – Brookneal

**September 6 :**

Smith River, Marrowbone  
– Mitchell



**DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION**

*Nature is ever at work building and pulling down, creating and destroying, keeping everything whirling and flowing, allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion, chasing everything in endless song out of one beautiful form into another.* John Muir

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**JUNE OUTING BECOMES TWOFOLD**

The paddle from Milton to Paces on June 7 was planned to include a stop at the historic Barksdale Depot site where Col. Henry Estabrooks began his "Adrift in Dixie" Civil War adventure. However, a log jam blocked the entrance to Double Creek, where the railroad trestle is located, and a forecast of over 100° forced a last-minute change of plans.

With heroic efforts by Carl Espy and Mark Bishopric in handling shuttles in two directions, plus help from other DRBA members, half of the group—21 boaters—made the full 13-mile river trip, while the other 20 boaters sought refuge from the heat with me on After Bay Reservoir in Person County.

According to Wayne Kirkpatrick, the river paddle was very pleasant on this particularly scenic part of the Dan, with a good variety of bank structure, plants, flowers and trees, a surprising amount of wildlife, and even an air show plane doing stunts. The plane did "twists while climbing to a stall and then falling back through the smoke—the coolest one was a heart drawn with smoke and then an arrow put through it."

Meanwhile, on After Bay Reservoir the boaters had a most enjoyable time at a favorite local swimming hole, a rocky/sandy area along



the bank of the south shore of the reservoir. Most of us got in the water, and we spent a good hour picnicking and splashing before continuing our exploration of the shoreline. A third of us were interested in seeing the dam that creates After Bay, so we paddled down to it and took the trail up to the ridge that offers a view of Hyco River as a narrow rocky stream heading into Virginia.

Because the original goal of hiking around Barksdale Depot and lunching at the Double Creek trestle was not attained in our June outing, we are actively preparing to visit Mr. Jack Butler's land in the fall at his kind re- invitation, as a historical hike led by Forrest Altman. See the next newsletter for details.

*Paul Johnson*