

CURRENTS

The background of the cover is a photograph of two divers in a river. One diver, an older man with a white beard, is leaning against a large, weathered wooden log. The other diver is wearing a red helmet and is partially submerged. The water is murky and greenish-brown.

Volume 9 , Issue 3

Summer 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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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 21st at the Eden City Hall.

Dan River Basin Association Board of Directors

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<i>T Butler</i>	Wayne	Kirkpatrick
	Kirkpatrick	Katherine Mull
	Brian Williams	Julia Pyron
	Charlie Williams	Alli Szuba

On the Cover...

Recovery process of the bateau *Dan River*,
photo by Brian Williams

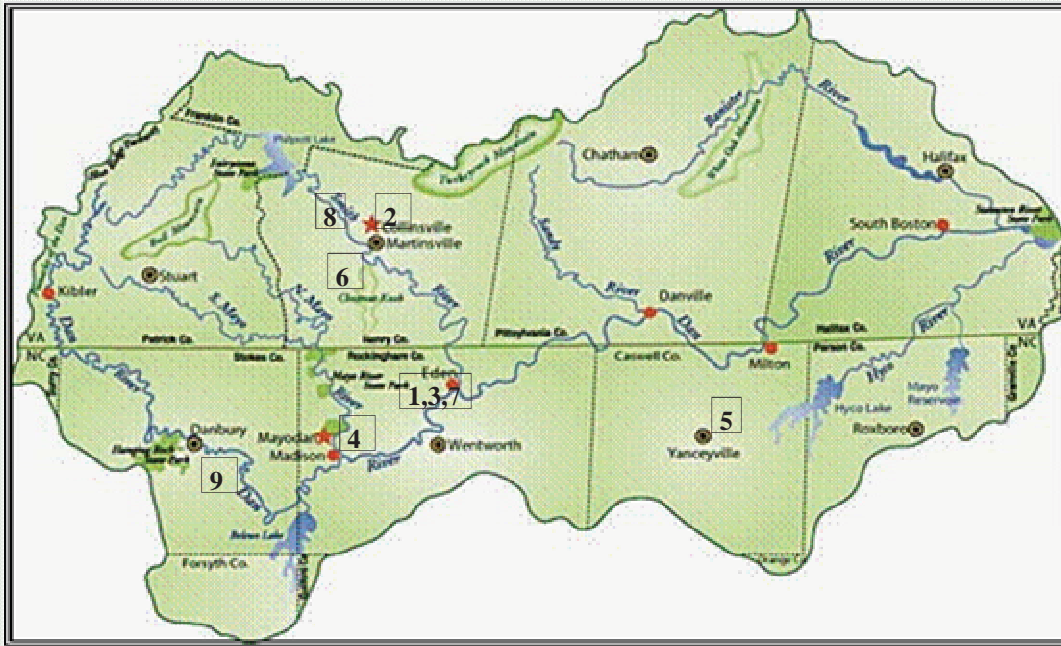
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Greetings from the Director

Uranium Mining: A LEGACY OF WASTE



Formed to preserve and promote the natural and cultural resources of our region, DRBA works for sustainable economic growth and improved quality of life as this rural area transitions to a new economy. As reported in previous editions of *Currents*, DRBA is monitoring activities associated with efforts to mine uranium in the Dan River watershed in the Roanoke River basin.

Under the leadership of Katie Whitehead, DRBA's Mining Task Force chair, DRBA representatives provided testimony regarding a technical study of "Uranium Mining in Virginia" to be conducted by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and a second study of social and economic impacts, for which a scope of work is being developed. The studies are being sponsored by the Virginia Commission on Coal and Energy (VCCE).

DRBA is concerned that the statement of task for the NAS technical study does not expressly include post-mining monitoring and maintenance of tailings impoundments, the long-term storage of radioactive wastes and heavy metals on the surface of the land. These activities are the most enduring phase of the uranium mining lifecycle, the phase for which the technology cannot be tested and for which dangers associated with high-level radiation persist for hundreds of thousands of years.

Virginia Beach, whose drinking water comes from the Roanoke River basin, is studying the possibility of a catastrophic breach of containment cells during a major storm event.

DRBA asked Delegate Ware of the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission to clarify the NAS statement of task

to ensure that post-mining activities associated with the long-term storage of tailings waste is explicitly included wherever the terms mining, milling, processing and reclamation are used. Delegate Ward Armstrong wrote a letter to Delegate Ware in support of DRBA's request.

The presence of tailings impoundments could influence regional investment decisions long after the proposed mines are closed. A study of social and economic impacts needs to evaluate post-mining phases, including impacts of public perceptions on real estate values, drinking water marketability, economic activity, safety of agricultural products, and use of rivers for fishing, floating and industrial purposes.

Recent events in the Gulf of Mexico have raised the bar for studies such as this, and outcomes will be influenced by public confidence in 1) technology, 2) the ability of government to regulate extractive industry, and 3) the willingness of mining companies to pay the full lifecycle costs of doing business.

Tailings management, the final and longest-lasting phase of the uranium mining lifecycle, should not be an afterthought. VCCE's study process is designed to determine whether to lift the ban on uranium mining in Virginia. If mining happens in Virginia, North Carolina will follow. And long after the mines are closed and the mining companies have gone away, the radioactive wastes will be a part of our rural landscape for generations to come.

Katherine Mull

PRESIDENT'S SPACE



I invite you to take part in the Dan River Sojourn next summer. Learn about the history of the navigational structures, the Native-American fish dams, and the Triassic Basin that the Dan River passes through in Rockingham County, North Carolina. Details will be forthcoming.

Our volunteers are the best! Thank you to all who have stepped up and stepped out to help with FSOs, special events, festivals and committee work. You make DRBA special and successful!

Wayne Kirkpatrick

1

SECOND ANNUAL SILVERFISH FOR THE RIVERS

On June 19 the 2nd Annual Silverfish for the Rivers Benefit Paddle gave participants a taste of the beauty of the Smith and Dan rivers and a chance to win great prizes. Silverfish, a group of "older" paddlers led by Lynda Purcell, chose DRBA to be the beneficiary to help care for the rivers they love to paddle.

Each of the 37 participants received a commemorative t-shirt, whistle, and punch card. Beginning the adventure at DRBA headquarters and Three Rivers Outfitters, cardholders could get their cards punched at each of six stations down the Smith and up the Dan. The more punches, the better the chance at the prizes.

As the sweep, making sure everyone was off the water safely, I had a big smile on my face as I passed each station volunteer. Some had pants rolled up to walk through the water to punch the paddlers' cards, others swam and fished in between customers, but all the volunteers really enjoyed themselves.

At the Leaksville Wildlife Access, paddlers enjoyed the music of Carolina Roustabouts while they ate lunch and waited for everyone to get off the river. At 1:30 we gathered at the prize table to draw for prizes. Thanks to our generous donors, Three Rivers Outfitters, Troublesome Creek Outfitters, Get:Outdoors, House of Health, Backstreet Buzz, In

Touch, Reidsville's Office City, Remington, and anonymous donors, all participants won prizes that ranged from gift certificates, flashlights, knives, and hats, to a new paddle.

The benefit raised over \$700 to help fund all the wonderful things DRBA does for our communities and rivers.

A big Thank You to all our volunteers who helped organize and who worked on the day of the benefit—and of course Thank You to the participants. Also, thanks to Whistle Jacket for allowing participants to park in their parking lot. We couldn't have done it without you!

Julia Pyron

2

ANDREW JONES JOINS DRBA

Making connections, building consensus and bridging canyons are common threads in the diverse work experience of Andrew Jones. He has spent time leading wilderness trail crews working on the continental divide trail, where he built actual bridges over canyons, ravines and wetlands. While working with public land agencies in Montana, Andrew gained experience building consensus where discord had prevailed as landowners, conservation groups and public agencies wrestled with new policies and old wounds. Most often the outcome was improved water access for cattle herds and bolstered protections for the local watershed.

As a program developer and instructor, Andrew has introduced portions of the Navajo Nation to new technologies that preserve native cultures and worked to help ex-offenders find work, housing and community in ways that neighborhoods could support. Combining a life-long love of rivers and trails with an academic background that includes a degree in Forensic Biology and graduate study in Agriculture Education, Andrew fosters an exchange that strives to balance historical needs and perspectives with the shifting demands of society, policy and time.

Raised in Virginia and relocating from Raleigh, Andrew is ready to guide projects involving the future of the Dan River Basin as an inclusive listener, new neighbor and outdoor enthusiast. Recognizing the changes and challenges of the region, he adds "I look forward to shining a light on the natural, cultural and social wealth that this region offers, while working to enhance economic and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors."

Andrew will lead DRBA's rivers and trails program for Martinsville and Henry County. Upon meeting Andrew, Brian Williams, DRBA's Education, Outreach and Conservation Coordinator, said, "I was impressed with his 'even keel' attitude and obvious love of all things outdoors. I think he's going to be a great fit for DRBA moving forward."

Adds Ellen Jessee, Chair of MHC Rivers & Trails, "Meeting Andrew was a pleasure. He has expertise, experience and personality very suited for our Rivers & Trails staff. I am thrilled to have him on our team and expect a very strong program nurtured by Jennifer Doss to continue to move forward and expand."

Katherine Mull



3

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

The tub of bugs has had a busy time at festivals, TIC releases, classroom sessions and special events, with volunteers assisting with many of the appearances. Two special DRBA volunteers, Milton Hundley and Cathleen McGarvey, have presented watershed education at summer science camps and summer library programs, which have benefited from their expertise.

Mike Shahan reports he and Mark Bishopric are continuing the coliform/sediment sampling at four sites on the Smith River in NC that has been ongoing for the past six months. In July, Mike, Mark, and Dale Swanson will resume monitoring the Dan River in Stokes and Rockingham counties.

DRBA collaborated with Trout Unlimited (TU) on TU's Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study (VTSSS), which gathers water samples to determine effects of acid rain on streams where native Brook Trout are known to exist. The sampling, done every ten years, was accomplished on April 24, and the samples were transported to UVA for analysis. An article can be viewed at http://www.tu.org/press_releases/2000/250-virginia-anglers-assist-with-acid-rain-research. DRBA is proud to work with TU on preserving and protecting our natural resources

Wayne Kirkpatrick

We don't tend to ask where a lake comes from. It lies before us, contained and complete, tantalizing in its depth but not its origin. A river is a different kind of mystery, a mystery of distance and becoming, a mystery of source. Touch its fluent body and you touch far places. You touch a story that must end somewhere but cannot stop telling itself, a story that is always just beginning. — (John Daniel, *Oregon Rivers*)

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DAN RIVER SOJOURN RESCHEDULED FOR 2011

The first-ever Dan River Sojourn has been postponed to Summer, 2011, at a date to be announced.

Plan to join us as we celebrate the Dan River's *Passage Through Time*. You'll become a time traveler, experiencing history as the river transports you twenty-two miles from Lindsay Bridge to the Leaksville Boat Landing.

We'll cross a Triassic basin where history, from the dinosaurs to the earliest Native Americans to today's modern civilization, is written in and on the landscape.

Paddle? Camp? Both? You'll be treated to great food, great music, great fun, leisurely

paddling, and overnight camping. You just might learn a thing or two about the basin and the river's history.

Plan on it!!



Dan River Sojourn 2011

a passage through time

5

CASWELL COUNTY UPDATE

Senior Center Trails to Increase by 900 Feet: Construction will begin in July on 900 additional feet of trail at the Caswell Senior Center in Yanceyville—840 feet of natural trail and three bridges, each nearly 20 feet long. Two of the bridges connect to the current trail, while the third crosses some of the deepest banks of the two tributaries of South Rattlesnake Creek.

Last year, the 850-foot Phase One of the “Stream Walk Trail” was constructed using crushed stone as a walking surface. This new trail, tentatively called the “Flatland Trail,” will feature woodland walking surfaces as it meanders through a flatland forest nestled between two streams. Ferns, beech trees and spectacular tulip trees are abundant along this section of trail, originally identified by the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments in their Senior Center Trail Plan.



The Flatland Trail will be relatively level, allowing access for users who may have difficulty on trails with greater changes in topography. Whereas the Stream Walk Trail is aimed at exercising and allowing access for wheelchairs and walking aids, the Flatland Trail will provide a different user experience. As it is narrower and more intimate with the nature of the site, it adds beauty and soothing qualities as the trail system extends into the woodlands behind the Senior Center.

Mountain Bike Trails near Senior Center: With assistance from the Southern Virginia Mountain Bike Association, refinements continue on routing the mountain bike trails, based on conditions during a wet spring. Expect subsequent news regarding trail construction later in the year...once the temperatures begin to decrease!

DRBA Office in Yanceyville: *Beginning in July, DRBA will be upstairs at the Richmond-Miles Museum in the heart of Yanceyville. The office is located at the intersection of Main Street and North Street, across the square from the historic courthouse where DRBA hosted this year's Annual Celebration. Stop by for a visit!*

Chad Hall

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M-HC Rivers & Trails Update

Fieldale Events: The 5th annual Fieldale Heritage Day Festival on May 15 drew a record crowd of over 3000 from as far away as NY, PA, NC, & SC. Featured were a Revolutionary War Encampment, music, food, sales, and walks on the popular Phase III of the Fieldale Trail in the Fieldale Ball Park where attendees viewed the plaques on the Smith River Iron Bridge. Linda Drage & Wayne Kirkpatrick staffed DRBA's Tub o' Bugs.

On June 5th 20 enthusiastic participants took part in the 2nd annual

Smith River Mini-Triathlon, sponsored by Henry County and Martinsville Parks & Recreation departments, with assistance from DRBA. Competitors ran 1.2 miles, paddled 1.2 miles, and biked 2.5 miles.

Trail Improvements: A portion of the 4-½ mile Dick & Willie Passage Rail Trail is now being paved. Expected completion date for the trail connecting Collinsville to Martinsville and the Martinsville Uptown Spur Trail is September 2010.

DRBA received a Harvest Foundation grant for amenities to the Uptown



Spur Trail, including a handicap access ramp and lattice roofed benches soon to be shaded by ivy. On June 17th, the Health & Wellness Coalition celebrated their 5-year anniversary with a “Walk for a Healthier MHC” attended by over 70 walkers on the Uptown Spur Trail

New River Access: Henry County has completed a new Smith River Access at C.P. Films

on The Great Road in Stanleytown, halfway between the Bassett and Fieldale accesses. The county also obtained an easement for a riverside trail on C.P. Films property, and trail clearing will begin soon. At C.P. Films' request the Health & Wellness Coalition is forming an employee walking group that will use the new trail and plans an employee paddling event using the new access.

Ellen Jessee



The Recovery of the Batteau *Dan River*

For two years the replica batteau *Dan River*, held fast in sand and mud upside down below Leaksville Landing in Eden, had resisted salvage efforts by owners and operators Three Rivers Outfitters. Purchased in 2003 by DRBA, *Dan River* had vividly brought to life the nearly forgotten story of the freight boats and batteauamen of the nineteenth century, but three times it had foundered in muddy high water. Finally, DRBA member Lindley Butler coordinated a cooperative recovery effort that focused the talent and resources of the NC Underwater Archaeology Branch (UAB), DRBA, Three Rivers Outfitters, Eden Tourism Development, the Eden Historical Museum, an Eden City Councilman, and the Eden Rescue Squad.

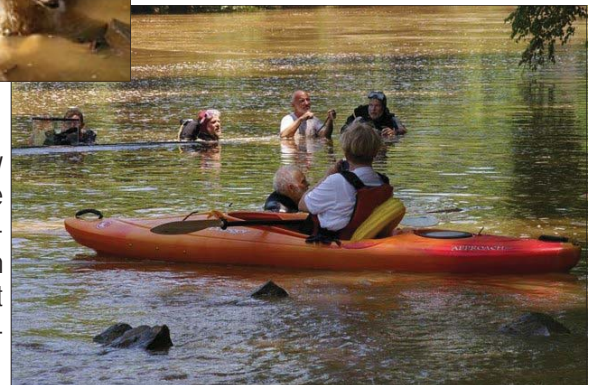
Based at Fort Fisher, the UAB oversees and documents North Carolina's thousands of shipwrecks, although they seldom venture far from the coast. While no one was sure the batteau could be raised in the two days allotted, the UAB is a master of creative improvisation, and with the river experience of Three Rivers and DRBA a formidable team was on site.



The UAB divers arrived late on June 2 at Jeff Johnston's farm, donned dive gear, and swam into the swollen Dan River to assess the wreck. The next morning after two hours of dredging sand and mud from the hull, with the aid of an airbag they had the waterlogged batteau floating, amazing the shore party and a growing number of reporters and television crews.

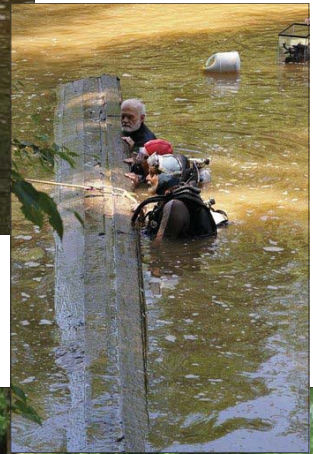


Dan River was turned right side up by early afternoon by hauling on lines rigged on pulleys on shore, assisted by divers in the water. Over several hours a five-inch fire hose was lashed to the batteau and inflated for additional buoyancy. An afternoon thunderstorm sent onlookers dashing to their cars and created a flash flood that roared past the divers, safely diverted from the wreck site by Johnston's wing dam.



Special thanks to DRBA members Lindley and T Butler, Betty and Wayne Kirkpatrick, Brian Williams, and Mark Bishopric, Jeff Johnston, and Julia Pyron, also of Three Rivers; Cindy Adams of Eden Tourism Development; Mike and Jane Haines and Julie Ganis of Eden Historical Museum; Darryl Carter of Eden City Council; and Captain Joey Boyd of Eden Rescue Squad.

When the Eden Swift Water Rescue boat arrived in late afternoon, the crew of divers shoved *Dan River* into the current for its last voyage. The submerged batteau and crew were accompanied by the rescue boat, Jeff Johnston and his white setter, Guy, in a canoe, and photographer Betty Kirkpatrick who had faithfully documented the entire day from her kayak. After some anxious moments when it barely cleared the towering stone bridge piling, the batteau arrived at the NC Wildlife Access where it was laboriously winched and manhandled inch by inch onto the trailer. With the stern hanging off to one side, the batteau was finally seated squarely on the trailer by a firm nudge from a front-end loader loaned and operated by Mike Haines. The entire process had taken just ten hours.



Television crews furnished a running commentary throughout the project, and the region awoke to a front-page story that brought newspaper readers to see the now famous batteau parked at Island Ford Bridge on the Smith River. No longer seaworthy, the weathered *Dan River* awaits a new future as an outdoor historic display that will continue to tell the story of the river and its river men.

Lindley Bkhutler

TROUT (AND OTHER THINGS) IN THE CLASSROOM

Year five of DRBA's partnering with the local TIC program grew to another successful completion with releases of 31 tanks of Brown Trout into the Smith and Dan Rivers. "Good-bye Trout" songs drifted up and down the river from several classrooms. Smiles, relief, worries and pride all combined as the fingerlings moved upstream and out on their own.

The TIC program touches lives of students and adults alike. As a powerful and broad educational tool, TIC has sparked a heightened interest in school for many children, allowed teachers better engagement of marginal students and spawned environmental awareness throughout the community. Offshoots of the program have begun in area schools—Catfish in the Classroom for warmer water streams and Trees in the Classroom, which helps to build the inventory of vegetative buffers along streams.

This expansion of TIC and related educational efforts is due to the tireless work of DRBA's Brian Williams. The in-school

success and positive community exposure of TIC is spreading into other parts of the basin and expanding educational opportunities for our students. DRBA is very proud of the program's success and accomplishments.

You can be part of the continued growth and success of TIC. DRBA needs help in individual classrooms to monitor the tanks and to help with in-class programs for the students. The watershed educational material is an easy and quick message to deliver. Teachers welcome it and appreciate DRBA's help. With tightening school budgets, volunteers from the community are more essential than ever to ensure our students receive the best education possible. Please consider adopting a TIC classroom; it takes less than hour a week from December through May. You will benefit as much as the students and the trout, I promise! Ask Wayne about it—540.570.3511.

Wayne Kirkpatrick

DRBA's New Volunteer Coordinator

DRBA welcomes John R. Kernodle in the new volunteer position of "Volunteer Coordinator." John will work with DRBA volunteers to help staff festival booths, perform educational outreach, build and maintain trails and much more. He also will assist DRBA in the critical task of keeping accurate volunteer time logs—very helpful in preparing reports to funding organizations.

A native of Greensboro, John comes from a primarily performing arts background. Receiving his diploma from Grimsley High School in 2001, he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Elon University in 2005. Trained primarily in the Meisner technique, John has appeared in a variety of roles and especially enjoyed performing children's shows at the Greensboro Natural Science Center. For the past four years John has been at Harvard Divinity School where his graduate studies have focused on

the historical and contemporary relationship between the performing arts and religious worship. During his time in New England, John initiated several theater workshops centered on themes of service and social justice.

Happily back in the South, he says he is "looking forward to working and learning from DRBA." He is particularly drawn to DRBA's mission of promoting economic development through preservation of the area's cultural and natural resources.

John's first mission is to call each DRBA volunteer and introduce himself. If you haven't received a call from John yet, he would love to talk with you! You can reach him at 336-301-2854 or john.kernodle@gmail.com

Jenny Edwards

8

MAY 1, FIELDALE TO DOE RUN

May Day was celebrated with 50 great people on the beautiful Smith River. Wonderful weather welcomed new and old participants as we gathered at the Fieldale Canoe Access. Charlie Williams, DRBA Outings Chair, welcomed one and all, getting everyone's waiver signed, equipment unloaded, cars shuttled to the take out and making sure everyone was ready for a safe and fun time! It does start out a little like herding cats, but by 11 a.m., with the help of Three Rivers Outfitters and DRBA volunteers, the crew was ready to roll.

Once on the river, the caravan of 45 brightly colored boats began the 5-mile paddle. This section of the river is calm, but the small rapids that greeted us demanded our attention. Most of us had our feet in the water for a little ways to help the boats to deeper water. But what is a good trip without a little adventure?! Water shoes can make all the difference in the chilly water on slippery rocks.

This section of the Smith is serene and peaceful. While civilization was literally just over the hill, the only conversations that could be heard were the ones on the river: "I remember when we came to the river as kids..." "My father told me stories..." "How do I steer..." "The rhododendron will be beautiful..." "T Butler is a wonderful lady..."

The river flattens out and is so still, it prompted one young man to ask if we were paddling upstream. A solid tailwind came along and pushed us gently to the take out at Doe Run Park where friends waited to help each other carry boats up a short road to the parking lot.

The beauty of the people on these trips matches the beauty of the rivers, and it is that companionship, floating along the gentle surface of the water and under the sun-dappled trees, that makes each trip more special than the last.

Alli Szuba

DRBA AWARDED GRANTS

<p style="text-align: center;">Roanoke River Watershed Public Lands Program</p> <p>The National Environmental Education Foundation has awarded \$5,000 to DRBA to implement water quality projects and improvements to the Moore's Spring Campground owned by NC State University in Stokes County. This project is a result of DRBA's partnership with StokesCORE, a nonprofit economic development corporation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tourism Promotion</p> <p>DRBA received a \$1,000 award from the Rockingham</p>	<p>County Tourism Development Authority to help offset the costs of updating and reprinting one of DRBA's most popular brochures: the "Dan River Batteau Navigation Trail – Paddle through History." The brochures are available at visitor centers, DRBA offices, and for download at danriver.org.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRBA also received \$400 in printing funds from Martinsville-Henry County Tourism for the printing of a new informational brochure and trail guide for the Richard P. Gravely Nature Preserve on the Smith River in Ridgeway, Virginia.</p>
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MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

March 26 2010— June 30, 2010

MEMBERSHIPS

Steward
Stanley and June Bowles
Karen Giles
Katherine Mull

Corporate
Rockingham County
Historical Society
Town Of Wentworth

Organization
Glenn Bozorth - Dan
River Campground

Friend
Greg and Phyllis
Gendron
Jerry Haga
Mike and Jane Haines
Chad Hall
Andrew Jones
Mike Linville
Jimmy and Jane Smith
Mrs. Lee Plummer
Templeton
Lindsey and Cindy Tuttle

Family
Greg Beasley
Arlyn and Susan Bunch
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Mary Hobbs
Joe and Jane Iten
Paul and Patty May
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McClain
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Julia Pyron
Dennis, Sharon, and
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Jarrett Sell
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Lisa and Clark Tyson
Robert Becker and
Martha Woody

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Aiken
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Gloria and Duane Best
Mark and Mary Hill
Bishopric
Howard Cross

Steve and Caroline
Cummings
Bonnie Eanes-Martin
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Rebekah Tate
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Gladys Sears
Will and Mary Truslow

The Ecology Wildlife
Foundation

Protector
Lindley and T Butler
Spray Mercantile, LLC
Fieldale Heritage
Festival

Steward
B. H. Cooper Farm &
Mill, Inc.
Joseph and Elizabeth
Clark
Dave Hoskins - Dan
River Company
Terri Lea – In Touch
M&M's Store LLC
Mary Sue Terry

Friend
Paul and Patty May
Karen Giles
Douglas Shumate

Other
Martinsville Historic
Garden Club

DRBA Outings

July 3

Paddle, Talbott Reservoir

August 7

Paddle Dan, Hemlock
GolfCourse to US 311

September 4

Paddle Smith,
Marrowbone to Mitchell

Dan River Basin Association

413 Church Street, Suite 401
Eden, NC 27288-3242

TO:

Visit us on the web at www.danriver.org



9

MAY 8TH CLEANUP ON THE DAN RIVER

On May 8th Dale Swanson led six paddlers on a Dan River cleanup in Stokes County from Snow Creek Access to Hemlock Golf Course Access. Among the items we found were tires, a trash can, plastic chairs, two rubber rafts, and a kiddie pool. It was a beautiful day and all worked very hard at getting whatever was attainable. We regret that some things had to be left behind, but Dale has marked the larger pieces, with his GPS, for a later cleanup. I would like to thank those who joined in the cleanup effort: Ward Triche, Eric Schaefer, Dale Swanson, Mary Mcinerney, Janet Schaefer and Charlie Williams.

Charlie Williams

