



Editor: K. Paul Johnson

Contributing writers: T Butler
Pat Sisson

Technical Assistance: Carol
Beadles

DRBA Officers:

President: Jeffrey Johnston

Vice President: Mike Covey

Secretary: T Butler

Treasurer: Lindley Butler

First Saturdays Outings

- January 3: Snow Creek

SNOW CREEK HIKE JANUARY 3 OUTING

What do you know about modern attempts to restore watersheds? What is the difference between restoration and enhancement? What does it mean to do mitigation? What are the costs and benefits to landowners and to society?

In its January 3 First Saturday Outing, DRBA will observe an important stream restoration project on Snow Creek in Stokes County, one of the major tributaries of the Upper Dan River. A hike of two to three miles will take us along the 4000 feet of the creek slated for restoration, which will begin later in January.

Since construction has not begun, we can see the problems and the methods that are used to access stream condition and recommend restoration. Trip Coordinator Ken Bridle, who is Stewardship Chair of DRBA and principal biologist of Ecologic Associates, has said that Snow Creek has interesting species of plants and animals both in the water and on the banks. Bridle will describe plans for the creek and will demonstrate the techniques used to determine channel geometry and stability, as well as the dynamics of stream flow and sediment transport.

We will learn about the system of natural channel design and how it is being used in all the watersheds in North Carolina and around the world. In addition, we will meet members of the design team and learn how interdisciplinary teams use the talents of hydrology, biology, and engineering to design a stream restoration. We will hike along the bank and in the channel of the creek, so be prepared to see a creek in a whole new way. We will learn to read the river and understand how changes in land use in the watershed are reflected in the health and stability of our creeks and rivers.

Meet at 10 AM at Moratock Park in Danbury, which is located on the northwest side of the Dan River Bridge at the intersection of NC 8/NC 89 and Moir Farm Road. Wear warm clothing and hiking or wading boots, and bring lunch and water. To join the outing, contact trip coordinator Ken Bridle at 336-591-5882 no later than Thursday, January 1. Come see this "before" view of Snow Creek, and later we will revisit the site during and after the restoration so that you can see first hand what restoration entails. (TB)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met on 18 October 2003 at Mayo Mill in Mayodan, NC. Secretary T Butler reported 150 active memberships, with a renewal rate of over 75%. Treasurer Lindley Butler reported \$2384.73 in checking, \$2000.00 in savings, \$7000.00 in grant money, \$1550.73 in the Mayo River State Park fund, and the Dan River Atlas loan completely paid off, for total assets of \$12,935.46.

Lindley Butler displayed the new T-shirt with the batteau design, which was printed in time for the Eden Apple Festival today. Tom Edmonds volunteered to obtain blank T-shirts from a Caswell County company that makes them on site. The Board discussed the use of our logo designs and asked Lindley Butler to determine the cost of copyrighting our official logo image. The policy is that members may use the designs at their own expense; however, if someone wishes to use a design for commercial purposes, permission must be obtained from the Executive Committee with review by the Board. Richard Miller of Madison Dry Goods has designed Dan River Expedition and Mayo River Outfitter T-shirts, and he is donating 50 cents per shirt from his sales. With our permission, he will advertise that donation on posters and the shirt hang tags. The Board decided to allocate 15% of grant moneys for administrative costs. We will attempt to ensure that a company's donation of money to DRBA will imply their support of us, not our support of them.

Batteau: The batteau was on display at the Eden Apple Festival, where gifts of Floyd Rich wildflower photos were given to Brenda Williams and Cathy Wright of Miller Brewing Company. They have authorized our spending part of the Miller grant money for a batteau trailer. Terry Painter will draw blueprints for the trailer and get bids. The Board decided to name the batteau *The Dan River*.

Stewardship: Mike Vaughan spoke about his directive to determine water quality in the basin. In North Carolina, DENR supplies little money to municipalities on the Dan since the state does not consider that the river has pollution problems. Mike and Ken Bridle were to find out the situation in Virginia, look for gaps in the data, and determine how DRBA can take part in filling those gaps. Ken Bridle pointed out that Kyle Hoover is setting up testing stations on the Dan, Mayo, and Smith Rivers in Rockingham County as part of his graduate studies. Currently, the major pollutant is sediment, which ideally would be monitored on each tributary during storms to determine its origin. Ken stated that the most important part of a watershed is the little streams at the headwaters. He recommended the American Rivers website, www.americanrivers.org, new report on Where Rivers are Born. He also mentioned grant money available for cattle exclusion and wetland restoration projects. He will speak to Tom Taylor and the Grants Committee about these possibilities.

Office: The Board gratefully decided to accept the offer of a furnished office in the Mayo Mill building.

Next Meeting: The next Board meeting will be at 10 AM Saturday January 17 at the Halifax County- South Boston Museum of Fine Arts and History, 1540 Wilborn Avenue, South Boston. (TB)

DRBA RECOGNIZED FOR RIVER CLEANUP

DRBA participated in a big way in this year's North Carolina Big Sweep and Clean Virginia Waterways. Our September 6 First Saturday Outing was a 12-mile cleanup paddle trip on the Smith River from Mitchell Road in Henry County, VA to Eden, NC. Forty members and guests collected over 1000 pounds of debris, including a boombox, ten tires, a sign for Morgan Ford Road, and a motorcycle frame that Forrest Altman's determination inspired a team of young men to excavate from the river's edge.

According to the NC Big Sweep website, 1678 volunteers in Caswell, Person, Rockingham, and Stokes Counties collected 61,322 pounds of debris from the Dan River watershed. Rockingham County was recog

nized by the state organization for a record-breaking 1016 volunteers, and Stokes County had the largest number of volunteers per capita of any county in North Carolina.

Thanks to a grant from Miller Brewing Company, the Rockingham County Beautification Council awarded two prizes to randomly-selected nonprofits that participated in Big Sweep. As luck would have it, DRBA won the \$250 first prize! T Butler, Rockingham County Big Sweep Coordinator, expressed her delight at DRBA's win. "Seventy-five DRBA volunteers held cleanups on the Smith, Dan, and Mayo Rivers and at Lake Reidsville," she said. "In addition, several DRBA members participated with other civic groups, including the Rockingham County Naturalist Club, the Rockingham County Historical Society, and the Eden Lions Club, all of which are DRBA member organizations." (TB)

JOIN THE \$10 CLUB!

The Rockingham County Naturalist Club has issued a challenge to DRBA. At the Naturalist Club's December meeting Mike Vaughan showed several of Floyd Rich's spectacular wildflower slides, which Mike and Jeff Johnston have converted to digital form, thanks to DRBA's very first grant. Lacking the appropriate electronic equipment, Mike had to show Floyd's original slides, which are irreplaceable. Following a suggestion from Milton Hundley, also a member of both organizations, the Naturalist Club created a "\$10 club" to raise money, \$10 at a time, to help DRBA purchase a laptop computer and a projector for Power Point programs.

It is clear that DRBA needs a laptop computer both for our records (now on the secretary's personal non-portable computer) and to use with a projector for Power Point programs for schools, civic clubs, and governmental groups. Board members have agreed to set up a DRBA \$10 Club to raise money for these items to further our educational program. If you can make a donation to help meet this challenge, send your check—in any amount—to DRBA, P. O. Box 103, Wentworth, NC 27375. Like all memberships and donations to DRBA, your contribution will be tax-deductible. (TB)

BATTEAU TEAM NEEDED

DRBA's new batteau, named *Dan River* at the October Board meeting, needs lots of support to make it successful as a recreational and educational tool. Here's how you can help! Mike Covey is coordinating a maintenance crew, whose job will be to prepare the 40-foot-long boat for its launching this spring. He needs members with carpentry and machinist skills to fill the seams in the boat, construct boxes for seating and for storing life jackets and supplies, and build a hooped, Conestoga-style awning. When the boat is launched, we need a reenactment crew to steer and pole the boat through the water. And the crew members need costumes appropriate for the nineteenth-century replica batteau, as well as storytellers and musicians to recreate the world of these "eighteen wheelers" of their day.

If the *Dan River* visits the river towns of Eden, Danville, Milton, and South Boston, all of which currently have boat accesses that can accommodate such a large craft, the crew will need logistical support in each town for publicity, food and lodging, and liaison with schools and civic clubs. Imagine the sound of a horn reverberating on the water as the *Dan River* pulls up to the shore, unloading passengers who have spent a few hours learning about the commercial use of the river over a century ago, and drifting back in time as they listen to the voices of the water, the breeze, and the wildlife. If you are interested in participating in this exciting project, whether in construction, crewing the batteau, helping the educational program, creating costumes or handling logistics, contact Mike Covey at 336-623-6650, or email T Butler at members@danriver.org. (TB)

Dan River Basin Association
P.O. Box 103
Wentworth, NC 27375

Email: news@danriver.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:
[HTTP://WWW.DANRIVER.ORG](http://www.danriver.org)

Promoting stewardship, recreation, and education in
the Dan River Basin region

MAYO RIVER STATE PARK UPDATE

North Carolina State Parks staff members have visited several land parcels along the Mayo River this fall and are in the process of having them appraised. The procedure requires landowner permission to have two independent appraisals made at the state's expense, which provide the basis for the state's purchase offer. The state has allocated funds for land purchase, and we expect legislation to authorize park staffing to be passed in the next General Assembly session. Meanwhile, the park plan is being developed and expanded, and the local Mayo River State Park Committee is receiving endorsements from civic and governmental groups in the area. All property-owners in the affected region will be invited to meet with State Parks staff this spring to discuss the park and the various possibilities for participating in its creation. (TB)

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TRIP REPORTS

On a stunningly beautiful, warm, blue-sky June-like day in November, 18 of us floated down the Dan River from Hanging Rock Park to Moratock Park. The sun was warm; the water was gentle and clear. We saw one beautiful view after another and many impressive rock cliffs. There was a story going around amongst us that a cave in one of the larger rock formations had been used as a hiding place by deserters and draft dodgers during the Civil War. There were several Turkey Vultures soaring around that same area and skulking in trees. One can only imagine why they were hanging around. Be that as it may, it was a marvelous short trip on a perfect Autumn day. A great big thank you goes to Dave of Dan River Canoes for shuttling us to the put-in. (PS)

For its December "First Saturday Outing," the Dan River Basin Association joined the 19th Annual "Sprig Outing," December 6, on the Upper Little River (Cape Fear tributary), near Lillington, NC to collect mistletoe and other evergreens for the holidays. This is an easy trip on mostly flat water. Along the way, Forrest Altman shared some of his wealth of knowledge about the mysteries and mythologies of mistletoe. (TB)