PIEDMONT MAGAZINE FEATURES DRBA

Have you seen the new Piedmont Magazine? Subtitled "Positive Voice/Positive Growth," the full-color quarterly magazine covers economic development in the four counties of Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, and Rockingham—all within the Dan River Basin.

And the Dan River Basin Association is featured in a beautiful full-page ad and a major article, entitled "It's a New Era on the Rivers! Activists Reclaim the Dan River Basin and Its Heritage, Building a New Economy Along the Way."

Publisher Gary Coms states the magazine's vision as "promoting the good about our area and all that it has to offer—our exceptional educational systems, our outstanding health-care facilities and the potential that each community holds not only for its existing residents but future residents also."

Volume 1, No. 1 of the magazine is a special report on "The New Energy in Tourism" in the region. Editor and writer Cheryl Hopkins covers tourism initiatives in each county and the cooperative efforts to market the region as a whole to potential visitors.

Besides the DRBA article, the magazine includes stories about Three Rivers Outfitters, Crooked Roads and Covered Bridges in Patrick County, the new Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, tourism plans for Danville and for Rockingham County, motor sports in southern Virginia, regional wineries and a legal moonshine producer in Madison.

A copy of the magazine may be picked up at the DRBA office in Mayodan, and most libraries and all Chambers of Commerce in Rockingham, Pittsylvania, Henry and Patrick counties. For more information, including subscriptions to the magazine, visit www.piedmontmagazine.com.

submitted by T Butler

DRBA FEATURED IN Z. SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION REPORT

The 2005 annual report of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has come out, and the Dan River Basin Association is one of the organizations prominently featured. Entitled "A Sense of Place," the report profiles a few of the groups that received grants from the Foundation in 2005.

On Pages 32-33 of the report, T and Lindley Butler are pictured on a clear winter's day at the Mayo River, alongside their essay about their sense of the Dan River Basin's rivers as places of significance.
Greetings from the Director

Thank you for your warm welcome and for your energy, enthusiasm and support for our rivers and the people who share them. I am delighted to join you in your work in the Dan River Basin and to have the chance to share a few words.

Much has happened in the short time I have been here. As new river access points have opened, DRBA is being asked to help with additional river accesses and trails in counties across the basin.

One of the more challenging issues we are facing is the recent release of state water quality reports indicating that certain sections of the Dan and some of its tributaries do not meet water quality criteria for fecal coliform (FC) bacteria and sediment. The Dan watershed is not alone in facing these challenges, and one of the first steps needed is a bacteria source tracking analysis so we have a better understanding of probable contributors to the problem. FC is an indicator of the possible presence of pathogens, which, if ingested, could cause illness. The affected uses do not include secondary contact recreation such as canoeing and kayaking.

Going forward, DRBA will be looking for opportunities to assist state and local governmental agencies in their efforts to address the problem. In the meantime, I would like to echo the words of health department officials with whom I worked on similar impairments in Virginia: Use common sense precautions. Don't drink the water and wash off when you get out.

Katherine K. Mull

DRBA's New Brochures

Membership Brochure and Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Brochure

With two new offices and staff members, new addresses and phone numbers, the time has come for a new membership brochure for the Dan River Basin Association. A committee of the Board of Directors worked with professional designer Fran Smith at DEZA, Ltd. of Charlottesville, who designed DRBA’s Batteau Navigation Trail brochure, to revise the brochure this year.

Based on the design of DRBA’s original brochure, the new publication opens to reveal a map of the basin, which from the beginning has been the most compelling part of the pamphlet. The latest brochure surrounds the map with photos of outdoor recreational activities across the Basin, including DRBA First Saturday Outing pictures, and the map shows many of the most prominent physical features of the region, such as mountains, lakes, and parks.

Water quality monitoring activities, bicycling, wildflowers, and a photo of the batteau on last year’s Danville to Milton float grace the opposite side. The cover shows the Lower Falls of the Mayo River, located within easy walking distance of DRBA’s office in Mayodan, NC.

Thanks in part to a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry, DRBA’s Rivers & Trails affiliate is also publishing a membership brochure that highlights the Smith River Trail System and explains the benefits of greenways along rivers.

An educational tool as well as a promotional tool for Rivers & Trails, this brochure shows a map of Henry County with locations for river access points, the Smith River Demonstration Trail at Fieldale, the rail trail, and future parks.

Also designed by DEZA, this brochure draws on the expertise of Katherine Hebert and Katherine Mull for its informative text.

For both brochures, DRBA is fortunate to have excellent photography from our members, including Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick, Dr. David Jones, Jeff Johnston, Julia Pyron, Floyd Rich, Lindley and Tom Butler, Katherine Hebert, Kay Slaughter and VisitStokesNC.com.
LEAKSVILLE LANDING ACCESS AND PARK

CONGRATULATIONS! WELCOME!
Yes, you are welcome to put your canoe or kayak, your tube, or just your feet in the Dan River within the city limits of Eden, NC. Some folks simply may want to view the water while picnicking on a park table. Others may enjoy listening to nature during a stroll on the paths.

The Leaks Ville Landing River Access adjacent to the new Leaks Ville Landing Bridge at Hamilton Street was dedicated on Tuesday, August 22. Open dawn to dark, the site provides a metal-grate stairway as an easy water access.

Designed by Jeff Johnston, the stairway is set up to be self-cleaning, so that mud will not accumulate on the steps when the river rises.

Even Ernesto’s high water flowed through the open grating and washed the steps nice and clean.

Eden Mayor John Grogan welcomed a happy crowd for the dedication ceremony, where he recognized former county planner Faye Shelton, contractor Sam Smith, members of the Eden City Council, members of the city’s street and maintenance departments, and DRBA leaders Jeff Johnston, Lindley and T. Butler, all of whom had a hand in bringing this river access and park into being.

Historian Lindley Butler noted that this is not the first time this location has been important to boaters and to Eden. Throughout the nineteenth century shallow-draft batteaux docked at the port of Leaks Ville Landing, whose rocky wharf and mooring cribs are visible from the site. Headed downstream toward Weldon, they carried the products of the river valley’s farms, such as tobacco and cotton. On return trips they brought goods from all over the world, including such exotics as a piano and Chesapeake Bay oysters.

African American crews and captains ran the batteaux both before and after the Civil War, becoming highly respected members of the riverside communities.

At Eden Riverfest on September 16, DRBA planned to offer batteau rides from the park, however, high water had flipped the batteau on its moorings, and the volunteer crew spent most of the day helping to right the boat while visitors enjoyed DRBA’s riverside booth.

MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY RIVERS & TRAILS

River Access Points
Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails (R&T) proudly announces three new public access points on the Smith River in Henry County. Designed for non-motorized boats, each has a short ramp, parking lot, trash can, and the necessary signage.

Special thanks go to Jeb Bassett of Bassett Furniture who kindly allowed one of the accesses to be built on Bassett Furniture property near the Trenthill Bridge across the Smith River. The other two accesses are on Henry County property—at Fieldale off River Road at the Upper Smith River Treatment Plant and off Eggleston Falls Road where Marrowbone Creek enters the Smith River in Ridgeway.

R&T provided planning & technical assistance, while Henry County supplied funding, technical assistance, equipment and labor. Henry County Parks & Recreation will maintain the accesses.

Many, many thanks to Henry County Administrator Benny Summerlin, Parks & Recreation Director Roger Adams, Henry County Mapping and Engineering, the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and the Public Service Authority. R&T can’t praise Henry County employees enough for all they have done to make these accesses a reality.

Additional Projects
Virginia Planning and Program Director Kathy Hebert has proceeded with plans for the Fieldale Demonstration Trail and the rail to trail project from Fieldale to uptown Martinsville.

We have received funding for the Fieldale Trail from the Dominion Foundation and the VA Department of Forestry; a brochure has been published; easements from landowners have been signed; and the trail is awaiting construction. Federal and state transportation funds earmarked for the rail to trail should soon be available, enabling negotiations for the right of way to begin. Hebert has also spent many hours on the Master Plan for river-related recreational opportunities in Henry County.

Dr. David Jones & Wayne Kirkpatrick continue with the Trout in the Classroom and stream monitoring projects. Four thousand Brown Trout eggs will be supplied to 25 classrooms in Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania counties in
**AUTUMN RIVER CLEANUPS**

**COME ON OUT AND HELP US CLEAN UP OUR RIVERS!**

North Carolina Big Sweep and Clean Virginia Waterways are coming to a place near you! We'll scour the rivers, the banks, and—if you'll help—your very own neighborhood's roadsides, parking lots, ditches, and streams. Since water flows downhill and carries litter with it, all of our efforts improve the health of our rivers and lakes.

Here's a schedule of DRBA-sponsored events from which you can choose:

**Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m.**—NC Big Sweep cleanup of roadside and creek banks off Hamlett Road near Eden. Contact Milton Hundley, 336-623-8681, or T Butler, members@danriver.org.

**Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m.**—NC Big Sweep cleanup in Stokes County. Contact Carolina Canoe Club, Kelly Norton, 336-254-7434 or knorton@highpoint.edu.

**Monday, October 2 – Saturday, October 7**—Rockingham County's NC Big Sweep cleanup. Multiple sites and groups to join, or set up your own. All ages welcome! Contact T Butler, 336-349-5727 or members@danriver.org.

**Friday, October 6—** "on your own" Road Sweep pickup day in Henry County. Contact Lois Christensen, 276-634-4674 or gateway@co.henry.va.us.

**Saturday, October 7, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.—Smith River Cleanup at Jordan Creek Park in Fieldale. Contact Lois Christensen, 276-634-4674 or gateway@co.henry.va.us.

And here are the NC Big Sweep coordinators for other North Carolina counties in the Basin. They'd love to hear from you!

Caswell—Brandi Boaz, 336-694-4158
Person—John Hill, 336-597-7806
Stokes—Sara Jo Durham, 336-593-2847x3

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**DAN RIVER BOAT RACE IS SUCCESS AGAIN**

The Dan River Boat Race, sponsored by the Madison-Mayodan Recreation Department, held its 17th annual race on August 5. As it has been for the past five years, DRBA was a sponsor of the race and provided a safety team.

Former Board member Neill Watson and other DRBA members handled safety for the 69 teams, which competed in multiple categories for both solo and tandem kayaks and canoes. Paddlers ranged in age from 16 and under to 60 and over, and teams were divided among men, women, mixed, and family.

With many paddlers returning year after year, the boat race provides a sort of reunion on the river that boaters look forward to each August. Dixie Penn, Director of the Madison-Mayodan Recreation Department, pronounced the 2-1/2 mile race a huge success again this year.

In addition to participating on the water, DRBA set up an information and sales booth at the NC 704 Access where racers and fans could mingle near the finish line, listen to Kirby Wilkins's music and enjoy lunch in the shade. Joining Forrest Altman and Dave Hill from Caswell County and Lynda Purcell and T Butler from Rockingham County was Deepa Sanyal from Henry County.

A member of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group, Deepa directs the local office for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Race day introduced her to the historic architecture of Mayodan and Madison and provided her very first opportunity to see the Dan River. Like many of the Boat Race contestants, Deepa hopes to come back to the Dan River often.
AUGUST 2006 FIRST SATURDAY OUTING: North Mayo River

On Saturday, August 5th, 15 boats and 17 people arrived at the Mayo River for the DRBA "First Saturday." Hey, there's our trip leader, Will Truslow! We quickly shook a few hands and drove to the starting point for the ride down the river.

I had a flashback to the last time we made this trip, when rain had turned the North Mayo into a real fast ride. Today was very different. We were looking at a mostly shallow cruise. This water was clear instead of the rushing muddy water we had seen on the last trip.

There were some really nice rapids that excited a few folks and there were generally smiles all around. The great thing about a DRBA event is there are all kinds of skill levels with some really nice people who all look after each other. Safety on the river is always number one.

We stopped for lunch at what I will call the "break rock." Given the afternoon temperature it was very hard to stay out of the water! There is nothing like a nice lunch on a clear rocky river.

Before we knew it we were approaching our take-out point just under the bridge. Everyone had a great time. Want to have some fun with some really cool people? You need to get out to the next "First Saturday DRBA event." See you there.

JULY OUTING TAKES UNEXPECTED TURN

On July 1, 12 DRBA members in 10 boats welcomed our new Executive Director Katherine Mull to her first First Saturday Outing, which was to have been just below the Banister Dam near Halifax to view historic batteau slouscas and Native American fish dams in the Banister River. However, owners of the dam chose that day to work on the turbines, making the river completely out of the question for paddlers.

The unanticipated trip up the lowered Banister Lake yielded some unexpected rewards. Three great blue herons accompanied our upstream trip to our lunch spot at the picnic shelter of a former Girl Scout Camp, which provided welcome shade in the woods. After a relaxing half hour, paddlers continued upstream to a Halifax County landmark called the Rock House. As Banister Lake narrowed into the original banks of the river, we approached a wilderness area called "the Swamp" and encountered a wild eagle and later a river otter swimming along the bank.

At the Rock House we admired the cave formation that towered over our boats, and stopped to wade, swim, and rest before the long haul back to the put-in. Although we had only paddled 3 1/2 miles each way, by the time we arrived back at the put-in the group was more than ready to leave the sweltering lake for our air-conditioned vehicles.

Many thanks to the organizers, DRBA President Will Truslow and Barbara Solomon for spreading the word. All had a great time.

submitted by Paul May

SEPTEMBER 2006 FIRST SATURDAY OUTING: Stokes Float

The DRBA Stokes Float was held Saturday, September 2, and was a wonderful success. Eighteen boaters enjoyed the float, manning a flotilla covering a broad range of river traveling, personal craft. Canoes, both open boats and bagged and blown white water crafts, were racing with the current. The kayaks brought to the river were also varied: included were rec-boats, touring, sit-on-tops and skirted, white water, and tricksters.

All were at home on this span of the Dan, from Snow Creek to the Hemlock Golf Course. Mother Nature provided the beautiful scenery, lots of late-summer wildflowers, and enough flow in the riverbed to allow for some small wave surfing and easy passage for all boaters. The cool water was inviting and a few enjoyed a short dip.

Lindley Butler pointed out a number of fish traps, which date back to the prior residents of 1000 years ago. I think we all stretched our imaginations as we passed under the high cliff known as "Mount Horrible," noticing a huge dislodged boulder, imbedded in the river.

Many thanks to the organizers, DRBA President Will Truslow and Barbara Solomon for spreading the word. All had a great time.

submitted by Paul Johnson
At the July 12 Board meeting, the first order of business was welcoming Katherine Mull, DRBA’s first Executive Director, who began work on June 19. Another important new item of business was organizing fundraising efforts to support the new Mayodan office and staff.

Reports were received on the many activities of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group and the organizing of Caswell Trails.

In the area of water quality monitoring, Ken Bridle was to send comments about North Carolina’s report that listed sections of the Dan and Smith rivers as impaired. DRBA continues to hold water quality monitoring workshops and educational programs in Virginia and North Carolina under the leadership of Bridle and Wayne Kirkpatrick.

Plans were made for upcoming outings and festivals and an open house for the Mayodan office.

Next Board of Directors Meeting: The next meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2006.

The very last page of the report is a dramatic picture of the Boiling Hole at the Mayodan area, which, although mislabeled as the Dan, shows the stark beauty and romance of this special place.

A few copies of the printed report are at the DRBA office at 103 South Second Avenue, Mayodan, NC.

The report is online at [www.zsr.org](http://www.zsr.org). Click on Forms & Publications, Annual Reports, and the 2005 Annual Report to see a PDF copy. Page 32 of the printed report is found on page 18 of 33 in the electronic version.

The Annie Penn Community Trust (APCT) has awarded a $24,999 grant to DRBA for the Chinqua-Penn Trail. Partnering with the Rockingham County Naturalist Club and the Upper Piedmont Research Station, owner of the property where the 1.7-mile loop is located, DRBA received the grant to improve a portion of the trail and build a boardwalk alongside Betsy Pond, replacing a narrow path. The boardwalk should be completed by mid-October.

This is the second APCT grant for the trail. A 2005 grant funded erosion control, a parking lot, and a full-color brochure, which has been distributed across Rockingham County through fitness centers and doctors’ offices. As stated in its mission, the trust supports programs that “improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of the people in Rockingham County.”

Notes Mike Vaughan, Naturalist Club president and former DRBA Board member who has administered both grants, regular trail users include heart patients, those recovering from surgery, elderly citizens, and families. A guest register at the trailhead lists a wide range of individuals and groups, including numerous youngsters.

The trail winds up and down hills through a mature hardwood forest; past two ponds that harbor muskrats, water birds, frogs and turtles; beside stone structures built in the 1920s by Jeff and Betsy Penn for entertaining their guests; and next to pastures where prize-winning Black Angus cattle graze.

Located just west of Reidsville adjacent to Chinqua-Penn Plantation, the trail is open seven days a week, year-round. Leashed pets are welcome. For specific directions, call the research station office at 336-349-8347.
Join us for a Fall Hike!

Welcome to DRBA's FIRST Third Saturday Outing
October 21, 2006

Hike the beautiful DoHart Botanical Gardens and enjoy a cookout after at the home of Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick 144 Commerce Street* Mayodan, VA

Agenda
11:30 arrival at the home of Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick in Mayodan, VA
Carpool to the DoHart Botanical Gardens to enjoy a hike amongst the fall foliage
Return to a "Potluck" Cookout

Don’t feel like hiking? “Looks like rain!” Come for the meal at 6:00!

Bring it with you!
*RSVP with your "potluck" to Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick: wyntby@earthlink.net or call 336-694-4449 by Sunday, October 15.
*Rense HWY 28 Street, left on Woodland Road, left on Commerce, over the river, first house on the right (30 minutes from FB 318 entrance)

Email your questions to Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick at wyntby@earthlink.net or call 276/694-4449.
RSVP with your "potluck" by Sunday, October 15.

CASWELL TRAILS;
THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD

There’s lots of good news from Caswell Trails. Here’s a partial list:
In the first half of 2006, Caswell membership in DRBA more than doubled!
A couple of faithful members are having fun and rolling up sleeves.
Trails are popping up all over Caswell County.
The Caswell County Recreation Commission asked the County Commission for permission to create a Trail Task Force.
The county Commission Approved.
We’ve made contact with the Horsemens’s Association, The Historical Association and many officials.
We’re picking up speed and support, with the help of our new Executive Director. DRBA’s November First Saturday Outing will be held on prospective trails in Caswell County.
The only bad news is that attendance at two hiking/picnic events in August and September was less than stellar.
If you’re a member of Caswell DRBA and not yet connected, come and join in the fun!

submitted by Forrest Altman

HATS ARE HERE!

Stop by the Mayodan office to purchase your new Dan River Basin Association hat, embroidered with the DRBA logo by Ann Ramsey of Madison. The khaki caps are stylishly trimmed with a navy adjustable strap so that one size fits all. A few lucky members wore them on the September paddle trip and enjoyed the good fit and the glare-reducing navy lining on the bill. We thank Harold Knight for handling the selection and arranging the embroidery. Caps are $15 at the office and $18 by mail.

MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED
JUNE - AUGUST, 2006

Family
James Allen
Claire Helgason
and John Lamian
Karen and Steve Oestreicher
Kim and John Steffan

Steward
Scott W. Younkin

Corporate
Caswell County Historical
Association

DONATIONS RECEIVED
APRIL - AUGUST, 2006

Sponsor
Mark and Carol Boles
Ken Bridle
Joe and Ellen Jessee
Dr. Roy Truslow
Will and Mary Truslow

Protector
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick
Ted Penn

Steward
Barry Dunkley
Paul Ferguson
Garland Rakesaw

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David Rotenizer
Robin Yount
I have never seen a river that I could not love. Moving water . . . has a fascinating vitality. It has power and grace and associations. It has a thousand colors and a thousand shapes, yet it follows laws so definite that the tiniest streamlet is an exact replica of a great river.

Roderick Haig-Brown

DRBA OPEN HOUSE SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 9

Mark your calendar for the Dan River Basin Association’s open house and ribbon-cutting for the new Mayodan office on Thursday, November 9 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Over refreshments you’ll have an opportunity to chat with the Association’s officers, staff and Board members and to see the office, located at 103 South Second Avenue in Mayodan, NC.

Look for an official invitation closer to the occasion.

HELP MEET THE CHALLENGE!

After four years of extraordinary success as an all-volunteer organization, the Dan River Basin Association decided to seek grants for professional staff to continue the organization’s momentum. The Virginia staff was fully funded by a generous grant from The Harvest Foundation, but grants for North Carolina operations funded only one-quarter of DRBA’s needs.

Realizing that full-time staff was crucial for DRBA’s growth, two Board members offered a challenge gift for the Association to match. The Board accepted this challenge and to date has raised about 50% of the match in individual and corporate gifts.

It is not often that you have the opportunity for your gift to double. We call on each DRBA member to make a tax-deductible contribution toward this challenge. Each dollar that you donate will be matched. Your gift of $50 will become $100; your $100 will become $200; your $500 will become $1000.

Please mail your contribution to DRBA, Box 65, Mayodan, NC 27027, and mark your check “Challenge Gift.”