



DAN RIVER BASIN



ASSOCIATION

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

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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

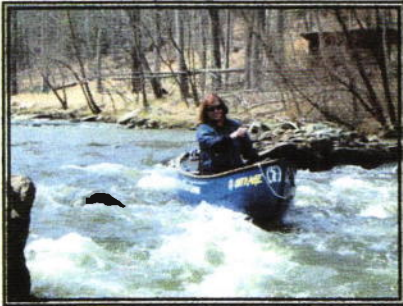
DRBA FEATURED IN Z. SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION REPORT

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.

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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.

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.

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

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.

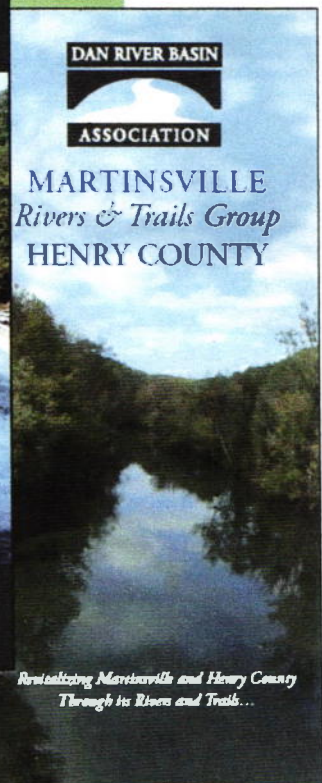
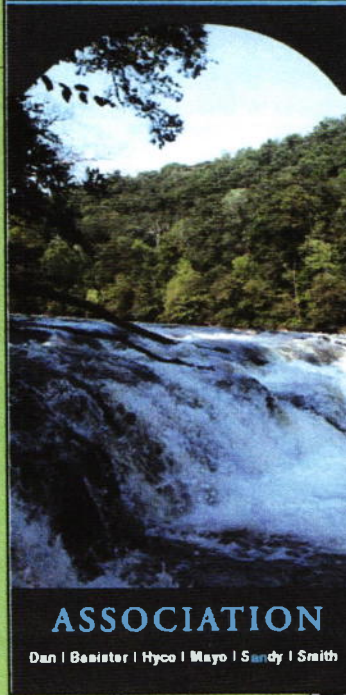
Water quality monitoring activities, bicycling, wildflowers, and a photo of the batteau on last year's Danville to Milton float grace the opposite side. The cover shows the Lower Falls of the Mayo River, located within easy walking distance of DRBA's office in Mayodan, NC.

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 ex-

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pertise 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.

2 LEAKSVILLE LANDING ACCESS AND PARK

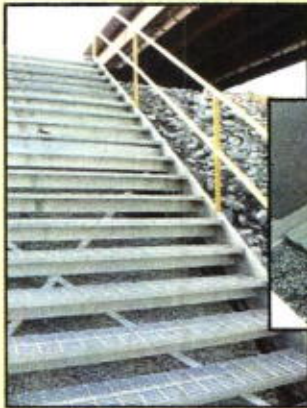
CONGRATULATIONS! WELCOME!

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 Leaksville Landing River Access adjacent to the new Leaksville 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 Leaksville 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.



submitted by Gloria Best and T Butler

1 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

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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 Dan River 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.

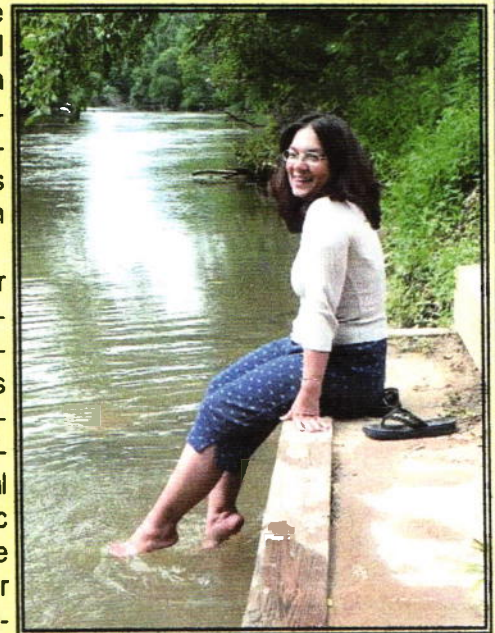


In addition to participating on the water, DRBA set up an information and sales booth at the NC 704 Access where racers and fans could mingle near the finish line, listen to Kirby Wilkins's music and enjoy lunch in the shade. Joining Forrest

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.



Deepa Sanyal meets the Dan River