

CURRENTS

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FOURTH ANNUAL DRBA MEETING A SUCCESS

On Saturday, March 25, the Association held perhaps the most successful membership meeting of its four years of life.

Retiring Treasurer Lindley Butler got to introduce Allen de Hart, his former colleague and a friend for 40 years.

The Awards Committee introduced some of the most active leaders of the Association to a group of more than fifty not-so active members.

The change in the By-laws to add a corresponding secretary to the officers' roster was passed unanimously.

And the new slate of officers was likewise elected without dissent. They are Will Truslow, President; Wayne Kirkpatrick, Vice President; Mark Bishop, Treasurer; T Butler, Secretary; and Barbara Solomon, Corresponding Secretary.

It was a friendly, spirited event, somewhat dampened by the absence of retiring President Tom Edmonds, recovering from major surgery three days previously. Vice President Barry Dunkley presided.

Lindley Butler's old friend Allen de Hart, a professor at Louisburg College in North Carolina and founder of De Hart Botanical Gardens in both Virginia and Carolina, gave a low-key, down-home talk and displayed charts of the

many hiking opportunities in some of the counties of the Basin.

Then he marched— ahead of the group (he'll be 80 his next birthday)— along a railroad track eyed by the Henry County group for conversion to a trail.

Recognized as Conservators of the Year with a plaque awarded by chairman Dunkley were T and Lindley Butler. Certificates were presented to Ellen Jessee for her organizational work with the Henry County group; to Dorcas Midkiff, editor of *Currents*; to Julia Pyron, Sales Chair; and to Karen Cross, trail planner with Danville's outdoor recreation program.

A framed photograph of the Smith River was presented to Harry Cerino, outgoing Executive Director of The Harvest Foundation, whose leadership is responsible for the creation of the Rivers and Trails group. In addition, the Harvest Foundation grant has enabled DRBA to employ Katherine Hebert as our Virginia Planning and Program Director. Katherine was introduced to the members at the meeting.



Guest speaker, Allen de Hart, leads DRBA members along an abandoned Henry County Virginia railroad track eyed for conversion to a trail.

Also recognized were Joey Bane, hike-coordinator; Ken Bridle, Stewardship Chair; Steve Carpenter, photo archivist and display committee member; Mike Covey for greenway promotion, batteau work and other feats of wood craftsmanship; Milton Hundley, champion Big Sweep participant; Wayne Kirkpatrick, stream watch activist; Paul Johnson, founding editor of *Currents*; *Continued page 4*

Submitted by Forrest Altman

MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY RIVERS & TRAILS GROUP GOES PUBLIC!

At its first official Public Outreach Meeting, held in Fieldale on February 16, the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Group (short name—Rivers & Trails) attracted 45 citizens for an enthusiastic discussion of outdoor recreational opportunities in the area. After a general session, participants divided into small groups to discuss Trails, Blueways, Community Relations, Fishery, and Water Quality Monitoring.

The most popular topic was creation of trails for hiking and biking, including the proposed rail-trail on the Danville and Western (Dick and Willie) line, for which Henry County and Martinsville have received federal grants. "The community is definitely excited about the development of these trails," commented Katherine Hebert, DRBA's Virginia Planning and Program Director, "and they are already looking for ways to volunteer their time to help make them happen." *Continued page 2*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DRBA in Stokes County Z. Smith Reynolds Grant	2
Photo Gallery	3
Procter & Gamble Grant Memberships	4
1st Saturday Outings Stokes Co DRBA Display De Hart Speaks Z. Smith Reynolds	5&6
January Board Minutes	7
Upcoming 1st Saturday Outings	8

STOKES COUNTY HOSTS TRIO OF DRBA EVENTS

The Dan River Basin Association will be well represented in Stokes County from March 1 through May.

On March 4 Dr. Ken Bridle, a conservation biologist from Walnut Cove, will conduct a stream watch workshop at Hanging Rock State Park and on Cascade and/or Indian Creeks.

On April 1 Tom Edmonds, Caswell County Economic Developer and current President of the Dan River Basin Association, will lead a float on the Dan River from Hanging Rock Access to Danbury, followed by an afternoon picnic at Moratock Park.

Along with these activities, the Danbury Branch of the Stokes County Library will host an exhibit of photographs depicting outdoor recreation in Stokes County, a map of river access points in Stokes and a model of a batteau, a nineteenth century floating "semi-trailer" provided by Larry Willard.

Both the Stream Watch Workshop March 4 and the Dan River float April 1 are a part of the Basin Association's ongoing series of events known as "First Saturday Outings," continuous since the first such outing in 2001, also a float on the Dan followed by a picnic at Moratock Park.

In the hands-on training March 4, Dr. Bridle will be assisted by Wendy Hartup, a water quality specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service for Forsyth and Stokes counties, and Wayne Kirkpatrick, a retired dairy farmer from Patrick County, Virginia. Kirkpatrick is certified in monitoring for benthic (stream-dwelling) creatures, the "canaries" of water quality.

Participants in the March 4 event are asked to meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitors Center in Hanging Rock State Park for an indoor session before adjourning to Cascade and/or Indian Creek for hands-on stream work. Those who have them are asked to bring hip waders, along with nets or other stream-monitoring equipment. Everyone should bring a picnic lunch and water.

For the April 1 event, participants are asked to gather at 10:00 a.m. at Hanging Rock Access, on Flinchum Road, with canoe or kayak, life jacket, rain gear, water and a picnic lunch.

Available in the Danbury Library along with the photographic display will be membership brochures for the Dan River Basin Association and other materials on the Batteau trail, the Chinqua-Penn trail, Rockingham County river recreation and on Stokes County treasures.

Z. SMITH REYNOLDS SUPPORTS RIVER STEWARDSHIP, EDUCATION

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has announced a grant of \$25,000 for the work of the Dan River Basin Association in North Carolina.

In making the grant, the Foundation stated, "Please know that our trustees are happy to share in the work of your organization."

The Dan River Basin Association will apply the money toward the employment of a full-time Executive Director to be located in North Carolina. Additional funds are being raised by the Association.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was

established in 1936 as a memorial to the youngest son of the founder of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. In that year the sisters of Z. Smith Reynolds, Nancy Susan Reynolds Bagley and Mary Reynolds Babcock, and the brother, R. J. Reynolds, Jr., arranged for their inheritance from their brother's estate to go to the establishment of a trust fund for the benefit of the people of North Carolina.

The 3300-square-mile Dan River Basin straddles the North Carolina-Virginia border and includes major portions of four North Carolina and four Virginia counties. The As-

sociation has already engaged a Virginia Planning and Program Director, Katherine Hebert, to supervise projects in Virginia from offices in the Henry County Administrative Building in Collinsville.

"The new Executive Director will manage the entire Association, concentrating on the North Carolina side of the border," stated T Butler, Secretary of the Association. "We are delighted to have the support of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to enable us to protect and promote the natural and cultural resources of the entire Basin."

RIVERS AND TRAILS GROUP GOES PUBLIC

continued from front page

Blueways, or river trails on the Smith and Mayo, will be provided by river access points, which Rivers & Trails is working to develop on both waterways. With guidance from DRBA's Wayne Kirkpatrick, Rivers & Trails' Walter Hairston is leading the water quality monitoring program in Henry County. Community Relations have been enhanced by appearances by Walter, Ellen Jessee, and Katherine Hebert before governmental and civic groups, a booth at the Martinsville Trade Show, and news stories in the *Martinsville Bulletin*. Improving conditions for the Smith

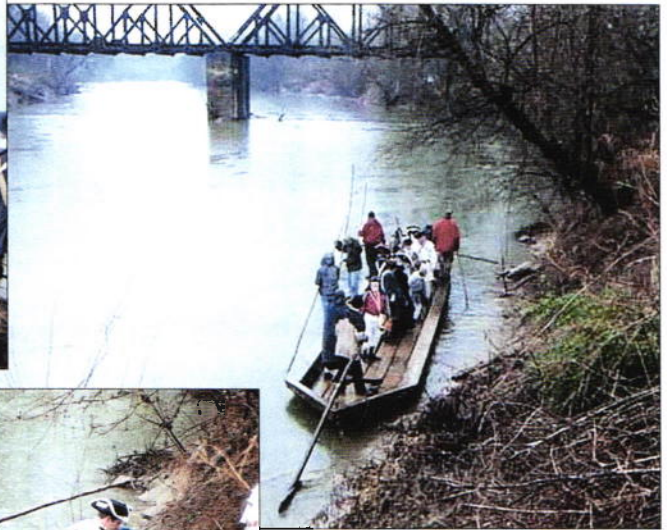
River trout fishery continues to be one of Rivers & Trails' priorities, with the very active local Trout Unlimited chapter leading the effort. On March 2 over 50 citizens met in Martinsville, including representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, Dominion Power, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Tech, and local government and tourism officials, to explore methods to restore the health of the fishery. The team effort approach to the Smith has already led to a significant improvement—opening Philpott Dam's turbines one at

a time to reduce the initial, damaging surge of downstream flow.

Rivers & Trails leaders hope that the volunteers recruited at the Fieldale meeting will join DRBA and help move these exciting projects along. Ellen Jessee, Rivers & Trails Chair, observed, "I was so pleased with the large turnout at the Fieldale Community Outreach meeting. People are really excited about trails and river access in our area. Their enthusiasm indicates that they will help us get it done and 'if we build it, they will come!'"

PHOTO GALLERY

DRBA Volunteers help re-enact The Crossing during the 225th Anniversary of The Crossing of the Dan.



For more information on this event please see the Winter 2006 issue of *Currents* and the web site for The Prizery in South Boston, Virginia at : www.prizery.com/Crossing/Celebration.htm



Photographs from the Fourth Annual Dan River Basin Association Membership Meeting and railroad trail excursion.



DAN RIVER BASIN
ASSOCIATION



DRBA RECEIVES PROCTER & GAMBLE GRANT

DRBA member Andrew Talbert has scored again!

As he did in 2003, Andy obtained a \$1000 grant for DRBA from the Procter & Gamble Volunteer Support Grant Program, his company's plan for donating to nonprofit organizations in which their employees volunteer. These funds are designated for creating educational materials, such as maps, festival displays, exhibits of photographs and models, or interpretive plaques for historically important river accesses and trails.

"I'm really impressed with how far DRBA makes its dollars go," Andy commented. "And I really believe in what the organization is doing."

"We're delighted to have this money for our educational programs," observed T Butler, who helped compose the grant request. "And we appreciate so very much Andy's making this happen."

MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED DEC THRU FEB 2006

Benefactor	Norman G. Dean III	Harold Knight	Economic & Tourism Development
T & Lindley Butler	Joel Deaton	William B. Moore	
Protector	Lorie & Joe Enloe	Robert Nesbit	Donations
Tom & Robin Taylor	Bitsy & Bob Futrell	Dixie Penn	Joey Bane
Steward	Bill & Cheryl Garrity	Mitch Pergerson	Lorie & Joe Enloe
Mark A. Boles	Lynn & Wayne Hale	Ben Pruitt	Clark Graves
Kenneth A. Bridle	Joe & Ellen Jessee	Hazel Puckett	Lisa R. Snyder
Tom Edmonds & Margaret Gurley	Harry & Joan Lecik	Joan Ragland	Lee Templeton
Earl Smith	Ted, Elizabeth, Mac, Clara, & Owen Lord	Marshall Ratliff	
Sam & Lea Thompson	Jonathan & Gina Mason	Janet Reid	In Memory of...
Ed & Laurie Wilson	Paul & Patty May	Bert Smith	Paul Comer, by Deborah & Gerald Comer
Friend	Gene Messick	Lisa R. Snyder	
Chris Adcock	Larry & Ann Parker	Cheryl Sutliff	In Honor of...
Forrest Altman	Julia Pyron	Lee Templeton	T & Lindley Butler, by Tom & Gloria Butler
Thomas & Maryann Barbour	Charles Rodenbough	David Tingen	
J. Bryant Haynes	Individual	Kate Wandscher	
Danny Love	Eddie Albert	Dan Wiggers	
Bob & Pat Moore	Joey Bane	Laurence M. Willard	
Ken & Margo Perkins	Gloria T. Best	Organization	
Edwin G. Wilson	Mike Burleson	Danville Parks, Recreation & Tourism	
Family	Paul G. Ferguson	Rockingham County Naturalist Club	
John E. Buck, Jr.	Clark Graves	Rockingham Co. Partnership for	
Arlyn & Susan Bunch	K. Paul Johnson		
Tom & Gloria Butler			

Benefactor	\$500-999
Protector	250-499
Steward	100-249
Friend	50-99
Corporate	100
Organization	50
Family	40
Individual	25

ANNUAL MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

continued from front page

Terry Painter, float coordinator and builder of the batteau trailer; Will Truslow, Outings Chair; and Mike Vaughan, active promoter of the Chinqua-Penn Trail

Hospitality for the meeting was provided by Barbara Jackman, Katherine Hebert and Roger Adams of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group.

Following the meeting newly elected President Will Truslow, a Greensboro physician, indicated that Paul Johnson, Director of Halifax County Libraries, has agreed to succeed him as Outings Chair. Truslow also stated that one of his early priorities would be to work on improving the outlook for river access in Stokes County.