



DAN RIVER BASIN



ASSOCIATION

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

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SPRING 2007

DRBA'S 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Some wore green and some wore DRBA shirts as 65 members and guests gathered at McMichael High School in Mayodan on March 17 to celebrate the Association's first five years and to learn about our organization's banner year.

What a difference Executive Director Katherine Mull and Virginia Planning and Program Director Kathy Hebert have made!

DRBA's membership has grown by 31%, and Treasurer Mark Bishopric reported dramatic growth in our financial status, thanks to grants, a challenge gift, and members' donations.

President Will Truslow summarized our 2006 activities (see his column, page __ and a detailed 2006 Annual Report on our redesigned web site, www.danriver.org).

Projections for the coming year were shared by Katherine Mull and Kathy Hebert. We can expect a feasibility study for a Virginia Mayo



Speaker John Grooms, from Fairy Stone State Park

River State Park, work toward expansion of National Register designation for the Dan River batteau navigation structures, and consideration of establishing a National Heritage Area for our basin.

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ANNUAL MEETING :A SESSION OF SWEET SURPRISES

Here's the way it is with some organizations:

Their Annual Meeting is a chore required by the By-Laws. It's an effort to prove the organization is still alive despite the absence of vital signs.

Not so with DRBA. In fact, it's just about the opposite.

We're so busy doing things that we have to be forced by the By-Laws to take time out once a year to catch our breath and pat ourselves on the back.

Pity the poor Awards

Committee. There are never enough certificates to honor all the eager and worthy workers.

We learn at the Annual Meeting what the rest of our colleagues are up to. We hear things that even our colorful quarterly newsletter can't find space for.

For example, I didn't know what a busy girl Ashley is when she's not on one of our Outings hugging everyone and walking someone's dog.

I didn't know we were growing so dramatically, getting so many noble jobs accomplished,

growing in fiscal solvency, dreaming such big dreams and experimenting so credibly at joining outstanding professionals with our gung-ho volunteers.

It's good to stop and reflect on how far we've traveled in a mere twelve months. It's good to hear our invited speakers' information, plans and viewpoints.

So please share the word. Tell our fellow members why you think they'd get a kick out of the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Forrest Altman

Greetings from the Director



TREES: NATURE'S DRINKING WATER FILTERS

waterway.

Recognizing the importance of trees along streams, DRBA applied for and was awarded funds from CONTECH Stormwater Solutions of Portland, Oregon to launch a 3-pronged educational campaign regarding the importance of maintaining forested areas along our streams, rivers and lakes.

Why? Because trees are a stream's last and best defense against pollution. Trees are nature's water filtration plant, flood control system, and protector of wildlife. By slowing and filtering rain water and preventing erosion, forested streamside areas help keep our drinking water clean, resulting in savings in treatment costs and lowered utility bills.

Spring and fall are the times of year to think about planting a tree. And there is no better place to plant a tree than along your backyard stream or other local

Unlike grass, the roots of trees help to cement in the soil, preventing it from washing down the river. When trees are absent, erosion and sedimentation occur. River banks cave in, and sediment may transport pathogens or disease-causing organisms. This sediment also can smother fish eggs.

Trees are vitally important along our small headwaters streams, where they can have a profound impact on movement of sediment and the food chain. Streamside trees also keep the water cool for better fish habitat. And they provide places for wildlife to live and travel. Trees along a river improve its recreational values – making for more attractive places to wade, fish or float, improving economic values of outdoor recreation.

So, for your family's health, for your river enjoyment, for wildlife, and for your community, find a bare spot along a river or stream and plant a tree!

For information: www.danriver.org

Katherine K. Mull

PRESIDENT'S SPACE

This is the initial "President's Space" note that will give updates and progress about DRBA's ongoing projects.

I would like first to give a big thank you to Dr. Lindley and T Butler for the tremendous support, time and effort they give. They epitomize the spirit of DRBA and provide a great deal of wisdom and insight toward meeting our goals of preserving and protecting the Basin's resources. The Butlers have also given a challenge gift, which was matched, thanks to contributions from many people. I give an enthusiastic thanks to T and Lindley!

The last year has seen a great many accomplishments, and I would like to summarize a few. We have gained outstanding leadership with the

hiring of our Executive Director Katherine Mull and Virginia Planning and Program Director Kathy Hebert. They are highly qualified and greatly improve our effectiveness. Offices were opened in Mayodan, NC and Martinsville, VA for Katherine and Kathy.

Four new river accesses were opened—Leaksville Landing on the Dan and three on the Smith, in partnership with the City of Eden and Henry County. Led by Dr. David Jones and Wayne Kirkpatrick, the Trout in the Classroom/Water Quality Monitoring program has been introduced into Henry and Patrick County schools. The students raise trout to a size that can be transferred to a river, which is tested before the trout are released.

Construction has started on the

Fieldale Trail, and major improvements have been made on the Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail. Greenways are being developed in Eden. DRBA is providing regular maintenance at the Settle Bridge and Anglin Mill accesses. The First Saturday Outings continue and have grown in attendance, and Third Saturday outings will be offered to DRBA members during several months this year. The Mayo River Park continues to grow and develop.

Much appreciation goes to so many who give of their time and resources.

Will Truslow

SPRING THIRD SATURDAY OUTINGS

First Saturday hikes have been so well attended recently that the Board has decided to offer four additional hikes on the third Saturdays in April, May, October, and November this year. This will double DRBA's hiking adventures from previous years and will be a benefit of membership, since Third Saturdays will be advertised only to DRBA members. (First Saturdays will continue to be announced to the public through press releases.)

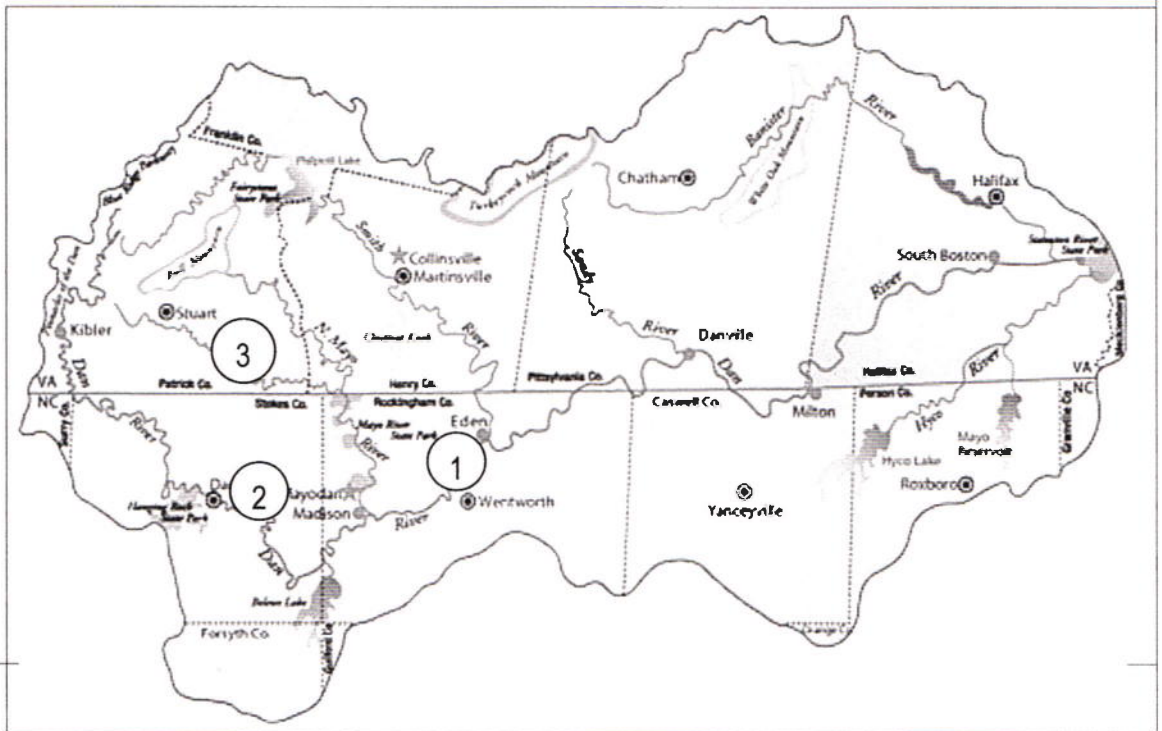
Due to unexpected changes at the Mitchell bridge access, the First Saturday paddling trip in April has been moved to Eden and will include the option of hiking along the lower Smith River. On **April 21**, we will hike the Hiawatha trail at White Oak Mountain in Pittsylvania County. The First Saturday Outing in May will be a paddling trip on the Dan River from NC 700 in Eden to the Berry Hill Bridge at the Virginia

line. Private land near Hanging Rock will provide hikers a varied Third Saturday hike through woods and meadows on **May 19**. The First Saturday Outing for June will be a paddling trip on Otter Creek, a scenic tributary of Philpott Reservoir in Franklin County. A bonus outing on **June 16** will be a river trip with pointers at a location to be announced.

Notices will be sent out to DRBA

members for each outing providing details and contact information. Future Third Saturday Outings may sometimes include more challenging options or be more limited in space than those advertised to the public—yet another reason to be a DRBA member!

Submitted by Paul Johnson



2007 OUTINGS SCHEDULE SET

April 7: Hike beside Smith & Paddle Smith from Spray to Boat Landing, Eden

April 21: Third Saturday, WhiteOak Mountain hike

May 5: Paddle Dan from NC 700 in Eden to Berry Hill Bridge at Virginia line

May 19: Third Saturday, Hike private land near Hanging Rock

June 2: Paddle Otter Creek, Halifax to South Boston tributary of Philpott Reservoir, Franklin County

June 16: Third Saturday, River trip with pointers

July 7: Mayo River, Anglin Mill to 770 (

August 4: Dan River, Stokes County Dan River Boat Race, Madison

September 1: Banister River,

Halifax to South Boston

October 6: Dan River cleanup trip, Rockingham County

October 20: Third Saturday, Hike DeHart Botanical Gardens, Stuart. Covered dish at Kirkpatrick home

November 3: Danville River-walk

November 17: Third Saturday, Fieldale Trail hike

December 1: Sprig Outing, Little River, Hamett County

All outings subject to change due to river or trail conditions.

Please watch for individual notices to members.

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JANUARY 2007:CHINQUA-PENN WALKING TRAIL

Our first outing in 2007 was a hike on the Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail in Wenzworth, NC, led by Mike Vaughan, DRBA member and president of the Rockingham County Naturalist Club. This public trail is on lands of the Upper Piedmont Research Station of NC State University, adjacent to Chinqua-Penn mansion. DRBA partnered with the Naturalist Club and the Research Station in 2004 to develop and maintain the trail, which was started by the Station in 1997. Our partnership has secured two grants for enhancing the trail, most recently for improving the trail's surface and constructing a boardwalk on a narrow, potentially hazardous section.

Thanks to good press coverage, this event was well attended; 60 people enjoyed the hike. The highlight was the new boardwalk, which had only recently been finished. It is over 450 feet long and extends along a beautiful lakeside, enhancing the experience of walking the trail, while

making it safer and accessible to more users. This is a project that all DRBA and Naturalist Club members can feel good about. It will increase public enjoyment and use of the trail for generations to come.

In addition to winding through beautiful woods and alongside two lakes, the trail passes through extensive pastures on which the Station's prize Black Angus cattle graze. A special feature of our hike was the opportunity to observe this year's first new-born calves and their mothers.

After our hike a number of people stayed on to take a tour of Chinqua-Penn mansion, which has recently been re-opened to the public. It is already clear that the combination of the attractive walking trail and the interesting, historic mansion benefits both.

Submitted by Mike Vaughan



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FEBRUARY 2007 : A RIPARIAN EXCURSION

Approximately sixty adventurers braved a cold February 3 morning to hike alongside the Mayo River upstream from Anglin Mill Bridge. Although the trail was narrow, the sunny sky and clear river water provided a scenic walk to two prominent destinations—the Fall Creek waterfall and Byrd's Ledge, an outcropping on the North Mayo River at the NC / VA border. Led by Dr. Will Truslow, DRBA president and frequent kayaker, and Dr. Lindley Butler, North Carolina historian, the two and half miles were

enjoyed for a couple of hours.

The conversations amongst the group demonstrated our historical, geographical, recreational, literary and botanical knowledge. The featured waterfall and the border location provided an observation of our ancestral develop-



ment and exploration. In 1728, William Byrd surveyed the Virginia and Carolina border for benefit of the King of England's purchase of the future southeastern United States. Remains of the mill serve as a reminder of the nineteenth century use of the waterfall.

Crossing Fall Creek, we passed the

North Mayo and South Mayo rivers' confluence and continued up the North Mayo to visit the spot where Byrd camped and hunted, as related in his journals describing the boundary survey from Currituck Sound to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Group participants who had read Byrd's writings mentioned his account of the abundance of game and the natural beauty of the wilderness. Truslow described the river challenges and pointed out sportsmen's favorite runs through the rapids. Butler commented extensively on the practicality of the mill's location at the waterfall and its importance to local commercial activity. Others spoke of the resurrection ferns, various worts, unique trillium and flora specific to this environment.

The turnout attendance and enthusiasm will no doubt be repeated in future First Saturday Outings. Thanks to high interest, good weather and shared respect for our watershed, we are inspired by our mission—to preserve and promote our resources through stewardship, recreation, and education.

Submitted by Blair Madren

