




DAN RIVER BASIN	
	
ASSOCIATION	
Preserving and Promoting the Natural and Cultural Resources of the Dan River Basin through Stewardship, Recreation and Education	
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Director's Notes	2
President's Space	
3rd Saturday Outings	3
Stewardship Awards	
1st Saturday Outings:	4
April/May	
Spring Cleanups	
1st Saturday Outing:	5
June	
Stewardship Grant	
C-P Trail Dedication	
STEP Interns	
Memberships	6
DRBA Officers	7
Currents Staff	
DRBA Outing Schedule	8

Volume 6, Issue 3

Summer 2007

DRBA OPENS HEADQUARTERS OFFICE IN EDEN

The Dan River Basin Association has a new home in the historic Spray Mercantile building, at 413 Church Street, Suite 401, Eden, NC 27288. The Association's new telephone number is 336-627-6270.

Mike Dougherty, Director of Business Development for the City of Eden, welcomed the organization to the city. "On behalf of the city we are thrilled to have the Dan River Basin Association in the City of Eden. DRBA's work here complements our river promotion initiatives, and DRBA is critical to the City's efforts."

Over the past year, the City of Eden has invited DRBA representatives to serve on a number of river, tourism, and land development committees and work groups.

According to Executive Director Katherine Mull, "DRBA's new location is central to the area we serve, and the Spray Mercantile building, with its courtyard and views of the water, is a perfect setting for an organization such as ours. Our new location in Eden gives us easier access to our Virginia office and to the eastern half of the Dan River watershed."

The organization's office suite is located on the upper floor of the building, which was renovated in 1983 by Spray Cotton Mills. The building, located between the Smith River and the Spray Canal, also houses other businesses and, on the lower level, Three Rivers Outfitters and Troublesome Creek Outfitters.

Katherine Mull



Artist Leigh Rodenbough and his brother, Charles, have donated two prints of Leigh's painting, "October on the Dan River," to hang in the Dan River Basin Association's offices in Eden and Collinsville.

Both Charles and Leigh were involved in the creation of the work. Although they and their families were long-time residents of Madison, NC, living in sight of the Dan River, Charles, an avid history buff, had not seen the historic batteau structures in the Dan first-hand. At his request, Lindley and T Butler and Jeff Johnston took him on a day-long trip in late October 2001 to see the structures.

continued page 6

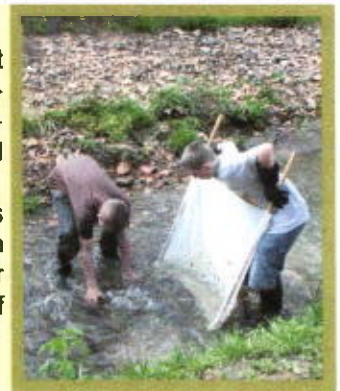
TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM 2007

"Oh, there goes my fish, I hope it will be okay, 'bye little trout!"

Excitement, trepidation, much joy and a little sadness could be found at each of the trout releases that brought this year's Trout in the Classroom program to a close. Since October, when students in five area school systems received the egg stage of the brown trout, classroom activities have revolved around a study of conservation of our natural surroundings.

DRBA's continued partnership with TIC began in early January as Wayne Kirkpatrick and Ashley Parham visited Carver Elementary to present a study on how healthy rivers and streams support the trout. A classroom "critter pickin' pond" taught the lifecycle of macroinvertebrates so important to survival of the trout.

continued page 6



Greetings from the Director



These past few months have been an exciting and busy time. There are so many important projects on behalf of our rivers and community, and volunteers are needed to help in so many ways. If you think you can spare even an

hour or two, please give us a call at 336.627.6270. Following is a small sampler of some of DRBA's recent activities:

Feasibility Study for a Mayo River State Park in Virginia and Scenic River Status of the North and South Mayo Rivers

In mid-June, DRBA hosted two river trips for the Virginia Department of Conservation. These trips allowed VA state parks planning staff to conduct field assessments for a state park feasibility study and for scenic river status for the North Mayo and South Mayo rivers in VA.



Members of the Mayo River study team enjoy the view from historic Byrd's Ledge on the North Mayo River near the NC/VA state line. From left to right, Roger Adams, Henry County Parks and Recreation; Doug Shumate, Troublesome Creek Outfitters; Benny Summerlin, Henry County Administrator; Derrel Jones, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation listen as Lindley Butler, Dan River Basin Association and Rockingham County, NC historian recounts the story of William Byrd's historic survey of the NC/VA "dividing line."

These two rivers join together to form the Mayo River at the Virginia/North Carolina state line. Joining the trips were staff from the NC State Parks and Henry County, VA. All were impressed by the remoteness and beauty of these two rivers, and it was clear that the North Mayo and South Mayo merit scenic river status.

This area is adjacent to the Mayo River State Park in NC. Any future state park in VA would provide critical protection for sections of this scenic river corridor. DRBA wishes to thank Three Rivers Outfitters of Eden, NC (www.3-r-o.com) for their loan of paddling gear and to NC State Parks and Lindley Butler for the loan of canoes.

More information is at www.danriver.org in DRBA News.

Tracking Water Quality in the Rivers

As part of a comprehensive stewardship initiative, DRBA is monitoring water quality in portions of the Dan, Smith and Mayo rivers. This information will allow DRBA and others to better target management actions in the region. Many thanks are due to Meritech Laboratories of Reidsville, NC and the Rockingham County, NC Partnership for Economic and Tourism Development for their generous contributions and financial support of this most valuable project. Thanks also go to former DRBA board member Mike Vaughan for his design of the Standard Operating Procedure, among other contributions.

Continued page 7

PRESIDENT'S SPACE

I would like to greatly congratulate David Jones, DDS and our DRBA Vice President, Wayne Kirkpatrick, for both being recipients of the 2007 Virginia Environmental Stewardship Awards in the individual and communications categories, respectively.

David Jones was the driving force in establishing the Trout in the Classroom program in the Martinsville and Henry County school systems, which will be discussed in more detail in this issue of *Currents*.

Wayne Kirkpatrick was trained by Virginia Save Our Streams in rocky and muddy bottom stream monitoring techniques. He has monitored countless

streams and taught many others how to do so by identifying macroinvertebrates. Wayne has been nominated by Governor Kaine to be on the Virginia Water Advisory Board.

I give much applause for these two men's effectiveness and tireless effort in promoting learning of the trout lifecycle and monitoring streams.

Other brief notes: The feasibility study is underway for a Virginia Mayo River State Park and possible designation of scenic river status. An open house meeting was held June 21 in Horsepasture to present the VA Dept. of Recreation and Parks' initial evaluation for each. Also, planning for the development of the

Gravelly Nature Preserve is underway, to include a picnic shelter, restoration of several tobacco barns, and a network of trails. This preserve is close to the new Marrowbone River Access on the Smith.



Will Truslow

SUMMER THIRD SATURDAY OUTINGS

1 APRIL 21 AT WHITE OAK MOUNTAIN

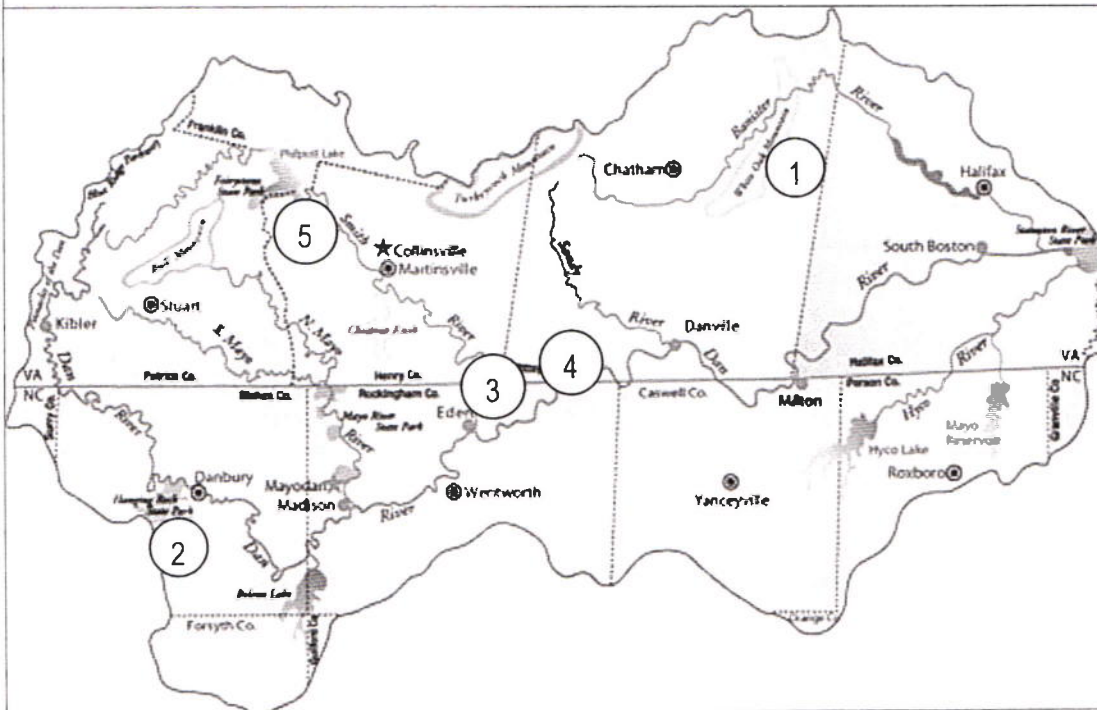
Nine DRBA members from five counties attended the season's first Third Saturday Outing, a hike of the Hiawatha Nature Trail in White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area. We descended from the parking area a half mile to the Banister River, which runs along the northern border of the area.

As we approached the river we found trout lilies, wild ginger and ironwood along the trail. Hikers who had never seen this stretch of the river were surprised at how wide and deep it is, thanks to a low dam downstream at Motley's Mill. After following

the Banister a short distance, the trail climbs through a thicket of mountain laurel ending at a scenic overlook. The impressive rock outcropping provided the perfect picnic spot with a grand view of the Banister.

We returned to the parking area on a half-mile road that passes one of the Wildlife Management's twelve small ponds. The highlight of our trip was seeing a beaver lodge on the shore of the pond, with recently chewed tree branches nearby. The open area around the pond was excellent for bird sightings.

—Paul Johnson



2 MAY 19 AT HANGING ROCK

Twenty DRBA members gathered on May 19th for a hike on private property that lies on the south side of Hanging Rock Mountain, extending to the rocky walls of the mountain and bounded on the north, west, and south by the State Park. Our group saw several species of wild flowers, including the Federally endangered Schwinitz sunflower. The mountain laurel was in full bloom, and rhododendron had just started blooming.

Ben Lackey

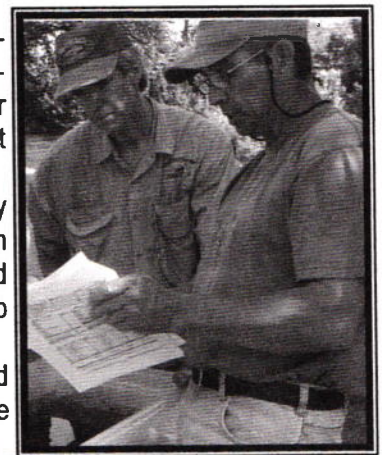
2007 VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

On June 26 DRBA members Wayne Kirkpatrick and Dr. David Jones received the 2007 Virginia Environmental Stewardship Awards in the Communications and Individual categories, respectively, at a luncheon hosted by VA Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant. Their honors, for their contributions to water quality monitoring and the Trout in the Classroom program, mark the first time two VES awards have gone to the same organization.

Wayne Kirkpatrick, vice president of DRBA, also serves on VA Citizens for Water Quality Monitoring and the VA Water Center Statewide Advisory Board. A semi-retired dairy farmer from Stuart, he teaches Virginia Save Our Streams water quality monitoring methods to students and teachers in Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, and Halifax county schools. He and his critter tub are a consistent presence at fairs, festivals, and school activities promoting our streams and DRBA.

Dr. David Jones, a member of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group and Trout Unlimited, has contributed his time and financial support to bring TU's national Trout in the Classroom program to the local school systems. His efforts have brought national attention to the TIC program as well as the Smith River and its trout population.

—Kathy Hebert



2007 Virginia Environmental Stewardship award winners Wayne Kirkpatrick, right, and Dr David Jones.