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Meetings of the DRBA Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November.

The next meeting will be held November 9, 2011, 5 p.m. at Eden City Hall.



Staff

Editor: T Butler
Graphic Design: David Pinney

Cover: Boaters on the Dan River. –photograph by Heather Meador



FROM THE **DIRECTOR**



This past August I experienced my first paddle. I am an avid hiker and know first hand the physical and mental benefits of a day trekking in the forest, but never really considered paddling. However, floating down the Smith River, my kayak

cutting through the cool water, the trees looming above, the sounds of nature surrounding me, fresh air filling my lungs – I finally understood why so many DRBA members had been encouraging me to "get on the river." Somehow I felt peaceful and exhilarated at the same time. Time stopped, stress vanished, my mind relaxed. It was truly an amazing experience that I hope to do again as soon as possible. In fact, I'm asking for a kayak for Christmas this year.

But DRBA doesn't just build trails, open up river access points, protect and preserve our land and rivers so people can enjoy themselves. Our efforts also ensure clean drinking water, improve health and perhaps most importantly, increase our region's ability to attract business.

Your financial gifts—memberships, River Legacy donations, sponsorships—make it possible for us to continue to develop and promote our region's greatest assets, our natural and cultural resources. Ultimately, it will be these assets that will improve our local economy.

Whether you are hiking, biking, paddling, fishing or simply sitting on a rock in the middle of the forest—you can't help but feel better, think clearer and sleep better at night. DRBA members know this better than anyone else. I ask you to share your nature experiences with your friends, your family, and your co-workers. Show them what nature can do for them. Encourage them to become DRBA members, volunteers, and financial supporters so that together we can build a brighter economic future for everyone who lives, works and plays in the Dan River Basin.

-Tiffany Haworth

PRESIDENT'S **SPACE**

What do these words evoke: abundance, scarcity, fragility, beauty, unlimited, invaluable, renewable, endangered? The natural resources across the Dan River Basin reflect all these things. Whether hiking, biking, paddling, jogging, or strolling, there is a place in the basin to provide a quality outdoor experience.

However, our basin's resources demand constant oversight, consideration of future needs, and the supervision of ever-expanding choices. This is DRBA's goal. DRBA works to preserve and promote the basin's natural features for the benefit of our members, our residents, our visitors and our future.

Investing in DRBA offers the privilege of keeping quality outdoor experiences close at hand. Investing in DRBA provides environmental education for our students, the next generation of conservationists. Investing in DRBA provides the stewardship necessary to preserve our natural resources for all to enjoy. Membership dues, gifts, and directed donations provide for the preservation and promotion of the Dan River Basin.

Please consider an investment for the future

today and help DRBA move the mission forward. Thank you!

-Wayne Kirkpatrick



Sharing the outdoors, learning to care for our resources, a quality experience with friends like these–a priceless return on investing in DRBA!

FEATURES

Trout In The Classroom



Krista Hodges and students –photo by Tiffany Haworth

As the children start a new school year, DRBA enters our 7th season of Trout in the Classroom and is still known as the official "home of TIC in Virginia"! TIC finished up last season in August with a trout release for homeschoolers and cannot wait to start with a whole new batch of fresh faces and more eggs. Teachers received

their letters this week with a warm welcome to all TIC heroes. With at least 30 tanks, we'll reach students and parents across four counties.

At Mike Bryant's HVAC department at Patrick Henry Community College the tank is already in place. PHCC students will learn about the system, primarily working on the chillers and making repairs if needed. They will care for their own batch of eggs and have their own release in May.

Soon DRBA will pick up chillers and set up tanks in preparation for the arrival of those special bundles of tiny pink eggs. We are excited to take TIC

to the next level achieving sustainability and getting the general public interested what we are about. DRBA plans to award TIC certificates to teachers in appreciation for their hard work and dedication. We are happy



Releasing trout –photo by Tiffany Haworth

to say that some teachers have been involved since the beginning!

In October we'll jump start the season with a very special trout release. Through a promo with Martinsville Speedway, TIC students will show a race car driver how the process works and then release some Brown Trout into the Smith River. Race to the River, Brownies!

-Krista Hodges

DRBA Partnerships

You may know that DRBA provides programs and services for kids, such as Trout in the Classroom, Trees in the Classroom and Tub-O-Bugs, to help youngsters understand the importance of conservation, preservation and protection of our rivers and forests.

But DRBA also offers programs to businesses that help improve employee and customer loyalty and expand sustainability. DRBA also collaborates with non-profit partners throughout the Dan River Basin to increase fundraising, marketing outreach and client programming.

To request information about DRBA in the Corporation, DRBA Community Partnerships with nonprofits, and DRBA in the Classroom, please contact DRBA headquarters at 336-627-6270 or drba.nc@danriver.org.

Senator Warner Visits Martinsville

On a visit to Martinsville in August, Senator Mark Warner met with DRBA staff members Brian Williams and Krista Hodges and Jennifer Doss, Director of Tourism for Martinsville-Henry County. They presented him with a T-shirt from the 4th annual Smith River Fest and discussed economic development and the Smith River.

Senator Warner's office and staff played a critical

role, along with Henry County, DRBA and EDC, in negotiations with Dominion and the Army of Corps Engineers allow Saturday water releases from Philpott Dam from July 3 to September 3. The Senator was informed



From left: Sen. Mark Warner, Brian Williams, Krista Hodges, Jennifer Doss

that many boaters and fishermen have taken advantage of the weekend water to get out on the Smith River, all part of helping boost the area's economic potential as a recreation destination.

-Brian Williams

Uranium Mining Threat Continues

The uranium industry has ramped up its lobbying this summer. According to AP and Washington Post, Virginia Uranium, Inc. took 12 Virginia legislators on an all-expenses paid trip to France in June, paying up to \$10,000 for each traveler. In September, VUI is taking 15 state legislators and local officials to visit an operating mine in a remote province of Saskatoon, Canada.

All interested parties had an opportunity to tour an operating mine as part of the National Academy of Sciences public meeting in Saskatchewan in June. A public meeting with both sides presenting would have been much more educational than a private tour organized and paid for by the industry.

In the past month Virginia experienced a 5.8 magnitude earthquake, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The earthquake caused a shutdown of two nuclear reactors at Lake Anna that may not be restarted for a while due to suspected damage to the reactor cores. Both Irene and Lee dumped several inches of rain, causing evacuations and road closures on the coast and in Northern Virginia. These natural disasters, while not unusual for Virginia, have highlighted the need to consider all scenarios and associated risks before opening up the state to uranium mining.

-Olga Kolotushkina

River Legacy Circle: Founding Forty Sought

If you believe in the spirit of place—that a walk through the woods can be transformative, or that a stream can feed the soul, DRBA wants you! River Legacy Circle is a new DRBA membership level for those who appreciate the region's abundant natural resources, and who want to do something extra to help preserve them. For a membership level of \$1000, you will be one of the "founding forty" River Legacy Circle members.

As a River Legacy Circle member, you will have opportunities to cherish nature with like-minded



people in settings throughout the Dan River Basin. You will help fuel DRBA's ability to preserve and protect our natural heritage. You will receive Action Alerts about environmental

concerns and provide important feedback on issues potentially impacting the region's natural settings. There will be ample opportunities for fellowship and fun, as well.

Courting a new client and want to show off the region? DRBA will provide river or trail tours to help you with this important task. Always wanted to learn to kayak? We'll teach you. Want to test your knowledge of local heritage or visit a new place? We'll plan a trip for you.

DRBA staff and volunteers are working on a Fall River Legacy Circle banquet of locally prepared fresh foods in a starlit setting with music and fellowship. Together we will work to ensure our natural resources are enjoyed and protected, as we strive to leave the gift of clear, clean water and verdant trails for generations to come.

-Nancy Bell

Your DRBA Membership Benefits

Soon the DRBA staff and board will begin our planning for 2012. We're continuing to develop new programs and services, teaching children and adults about the importance of protecting our natural and cultural resources, building more trails and river access points, and helping to boost our economy through promotion of the Dan River Basin. In addition, we are also re-evaluating our DRBA membership benefits.

We need your help! Please let us know how we can make your DRBA membership even more valuable. Please send your ideas to Tiffany Haworth at thaworth@danriver.org or call 336-627-6270 today!

Summer In Martinsville-Henry Co.

Another active summer has seen record numbers of river and trail users as we continue to develop opportunities for economic development and quality of life. Four additions to the Smith River Trail System are underway this fall:

The Fieldale Trail Phase III is marked and ready for trail construction. With additional funding from the Economic Development Corporation, it will be known as "The Textile Heritage Trail." The trail will be located on property bordering Jordan Creek and Fieldale Park and will include a 180 ft boardwalk and interpretive signs relating the history of textiles in Henry County.

The Silver Bell Trail, funded by Activate MHC, is a spur trail connecting the Dick & Willie Passage with the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the YMCA and surrounding neighborhoods. Named for a locally rare Carolina Silverbell tree, the trail runs through the heart of a beautiful section of hidden forest between residential neighborhoods. In partnership with the City of Martinsville, it will also include improvements to the crosswalk at the trail head, making this one of our "gateways" to uptown.

At Lauren Mountain Preserve, Dr. David Jones has offered a large tract of land for trail development. With carry-over funds from the Harvest Foundation, DRBA is developing the River View Trail, nearly one mile overlooking the Smith River in Bassett, VA.

Beaver Creek Reservoir Phase II will add 4000 feet of trail to the PHCC loop dedicated last March. Passing through a beautiful section of woodland with rock outcroppings, this will connect to an existing trail along the shoreline of the lake.

DRBA partnered with Gateway Streetscapes and Smith River Trout Unlimited again to clean up one mile of the Smith River in August from Fieldale to Koheler, removing over 2 tons of trash. Local TV station WYAT filmed the event, giving an opportunity to promote the river and DRBA.

A second successful "Rivers and Bugs" Summit was held in Patrick Springs with a variety of speakers and workshops that showcased efforts in our region, provided training to interested volunteers, and provided excellent networking.

New signage has been developed to promote healthy waterways and river safety. A series of "river life" signs were installed along the Danville River Walk in partnership with Danville Regional Foundation, the City of Danville and the Danville Science Center, just in time for Danville's first River District Festival

in October. Additional water quality signs have been developed for Draper Landing and Beaver Creek



Krista Hodges installing a new sign on the Danville River Walk – photo Brian Williams

Reservoir, and River Safety signs are now at numerous Smith River accesses.

The Fourth Annual Smith River Fest was a big success with over twice as many visitors as in 2010. The Smith River Sports Complex was a great venue, and a special water release from Martinsville Dam allowed excellent paddling all day. Our first ever "paddle board" competed in the river race...what a sight to see that going down the Smith River! We had over 25 vendors, food, climbing walls and bounce houses for the kids, and camping at the complex lower field.

- Brian Williams

Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group

The PCRTG met on 7.21.11 in the Community Room of the Stuart campus of PHCC. Agenda items included:

- Drafting a letter and resolution to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors for maintaining the current moratorium on Uranium mining in Virginia
- Initiating the development of a Recreational Use Plan for Patrick County
- Developing an adopt-a-trail policy for the Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department, modeled on the Henry County Parks and Recreation documents.

Once approved by PCRTG and PC Parks and Recreation, volunteers will be sought and coordinated by PCRTG for trail adoption.

Rockingham County Greenways Get Underway

On September 19, Rockingham County took a major step toward developing a master plan for greenways and multi-use trails in the county by holding the first Steering Committee meeting, hosted by the Rockingham County Soil and Water Conservation District in Wentworth.

With support from Reidsville Area Foundation and local municipalities, DRBA and Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) will engage business owners, civic leaders, students, and other county residents in creating the plan. Throughout the process, there will be opportunities for people to comment and help set priorities, such as linking places, kinds of access, types of trails, and cultural and natural features to highlight. DRBA and PTRC's goals are to assure that the master plan reflects the needs and desires of people who live and work in this beautiful county.

Putting plans into action already, DRBA is partnering with REI to build a trail connecting the Rockingham County Governmental Center and the new animal shelter. Besides offering a place for the public to enjoy the surrounding woodland, this will give a place for volunteers to walk shelter dogs.

Trails and greenways are good for people and good for business. They link people to the

outdoors and give children and adults safe places to exercise—and that improves community health and quality of life. For more information or to get involved, contact Jenny Edwards at jedwards@ danriver.org or (336) 339-6169.

-Jenny Edwards

Mayo River State Park Featured In NC Report

DRBA is recognized in the NC Division of Parks & Recreation annual report, which features the opening of the Mayo River State Park's interim facilities in April, 2010. Chad's dog Wilson checks out the The photo caption reads, "Lindley Butler of new trail the Dan River Basin Association speaks at ceremonies opening Mayo River State Park."

Established in 2003 as a result of DRBA's work with local and state officials, the 1,961-acre park attracted over 36,000 visitors during 2010. Most visited the renovated Washington Mills park near Mayodan with its restored picnic pavilion and associated

structures designed by renowned architect Antonin Raymond in 1948. A protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright, Raymond "introduced a Japanese style of architecture to the U. S. incorporating natural materials" of local wood and stone. The stunning picnic pavilion overlooks two small ponds and is near the first segment of hiking trails.

The NC parks system owns about 400 acres at the Virginia state line. Just north of the line, Virginia State Parks plans a connecting park, also promoted by DRBA. In a related action, DRBA sponsored the recognition of the North and South Mayo rivers as Virginia State Scenic Rivers. Both states anticipate acquiring more land to protect the river corridors, with long-term plans including both water- and landbased facilities.

DRBA looks forward to development of the two state parks where the public can enjoy this magnificent, unspoiled region of the Dan River basin in Patrick, Henry, and Rockingham counties.

-T Butler

Caswell Trails This Fall

The Stream Walk Trail, Phase 2, at the Caswell County Senior Center in Yanceyville is now complete! The new 900-ft portion, descending to a stream from

Firetower Road, features three boardwalks and a bridge that will allow future trail expansion. The falling topography mitigated with switchbacks, creating a more "level" walking experience. Begun in 2009, the entire trail offers an even half mile from end to end, and even farther if one walks a loop. Maps of the trail are being developed; trail signage is being ordered; and kiosks will soon go up at the trailhead. The next trail connections will link to an adjacent day care and to Maud

Gatewood Park.

The Caswell Heritage Trails Master Plan will be

a community-based blueprint for a county-wide network of trails, greenways, and blueways to connect people, places, and events. Over the past 2 ½ years, local citizens and officials have met; research has been conducted; and the Historical Association has helped validate findings. The first draft of the plan



-photo by Chad Hall

will be refined over the next few months. The "Trails of the Master Plan" chapter will highlight trail system opportunities throughou the county.

DRBA welcomes intern Hillary White, who is spending the fall semester working in the Caswell County office in Yanceyville. A biology major at Averett University, she will create plant identification signage along the Caswell Senior Center trails and help recruit volunteers for trail building and for festivals. With enthusiasm and a "make it happen" attitude, she has already produced a scenic Caswell County calendar and is working with schools to implement art and poetry exhibits based on the Dan River.

-Chad Hall

Happenings In Stokes County

While welcoming the smell and feel of autumn, we recall a summer of splashing in the river and creeks, hiking the lush trails of Hanging Rock, and working with our volunteers to maintain and improve recreational resources.

The summer's highlight was the canoeing program we sponsored in partnership with Stokes County 4H for pre-teens. and young teens. Over half



Boaters heading for the water –photo by Dale Swanson

of the children from the 2010 program returned and brought friends. The three morning sessions featured river ecology, the hydrodynamics of moving water, flat water canoe practice, and a concluding trip on the river. The natural talents of these youngsters really bloom: one young boater who had been nervous and unsure in 2010 finished this year's program with so much confidence that she piloted a canoe with her



-photo by Dale Swanson

mother in the bow for the final river trip. I'm not sure who was more proud that day.

The most persistent issue was litter, especially at the accesses and in the river around Danbury. While Big Sweep and other cleanups help, DRBA is working with local government, property owners and businesses to develop a proactive campaign to

cut down on the trash problem. It's important to manage our own litter and continue to pick up after others. Litter just attracts more litter.

This fall we anticipate Snow Creek whitewater releases in cooperation with Sheppard Mill; restoration work days at Moore's Springs Campground; and boulder barrier installation at the Davis Chapel river access. For questions and more information, please contact the Stokes County Field Office. Here's hoping you get to see the fall colors from a boat on the river near Hanging Rock State Park!

–Dale Swanson



-photo by Dale Swanson

ADVENTURES

July 2nd on Philpott Lake

My name is Skyler Prillaman. I was a member in the 2011 Explorers Club. On Saturday, July 2, I attended DRBA's First Saturday Outing. I enjoyed kayaking 5 miles on Philpott Lake at Ryans Branch with the group. It was only my second time kayaking, but it was great fun

I thought it would be easier than it was, because in Explorers Club we kayaked on the Smith River. The current was pushing us on the river, so we didn't have to paddle as much. My arms got tired from paddling on the still water, but having fun made me forget all about that. I was having an even tougher time kayaking, because the kayak I had borrowed didn't have a keel on the bottom. My new friend, Joan, whom I had met

just before getting on the water, was nice enough to trade kayaks with me. It didn't take me long to learn that the DRBA



Skyler Prillaman.

group was like one big family. Everyone was looking after each other. I felt comfortable knowing that there were so many people there to help me if I needed them.

When I reached the waterfall, I was ready for some rest, but the water had a surprise for me. It was cold as ice! I had forgotten that since the water was coming down from the mountains it would feel that way. Before I knew it I felt refreshed, and it was time to head back.

Once I reached the end of my trip on the water, I could smell grilled hotdogs cooking. I never once felt hungry while kayaking, but the aroma reminded me that it was lunchtime. Again, friendly faces were there, inquiring about my experience on the water. As I enjoyed my lunch, I talked with the many new friends that I made.

As I think back over the summer, the experiences that Explorers Club gave me will remain with me forever. The things I learned and the opportunities to see outdoors in a new way are now a part of me. I

would not have had this day with DRBA had it not been for Explorers Club. Now I look forward to my next experience on the water and owning my own kayak (one with a keel!). I hope to see you on the water too!

-Skyler Prillaman

Editor's Note: Skyler is 11 years old, one of the participants in DRBA's first Explorer's Club Program.

September 3rd on the Dan River

DRBA members and guests gathered in Madison in the shade beneath trees and the NC 704 Bridge. Unfortunately, due to a lack of rain and other unforeseen circumstances, the intended Mayo River trip had to be relocated. Nevertheless, the paddle took place, with 37 boaters entering the water. Getting all of the various craft into the water took some logistics and time, but by noon we were all settled into our respective boats and ready to begin our journey.

From the entry into the waters of the Dan, we were all transported physically and mentally to a quieter place. One could feel the importance of the river to generations of societies that had called the greater basin area home, as well as the fellowship it granted us on that particular Saturday. The river revives something in us, something that oftentimes in our day to day lives becomes buried beneath seriousness and the like. That would simply be "fun."

Not only did the river provide some challenges when navigating beneath the US 220 Bridge, the Madison and Slink Shoal Sluices, as well as various other features built on behalf of the batteau system, but we were provided with companionship as well as nature. Yes, there were some splashes and spills, along with rapids and riffles, but it is my belief that everyone in attendance had a pleasant trip. I would like to say a hearty "thank you" for the organization provided to this outing from the Butlers.

-Heather Meador

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June 16, 2011 | Sept. 15, 2011

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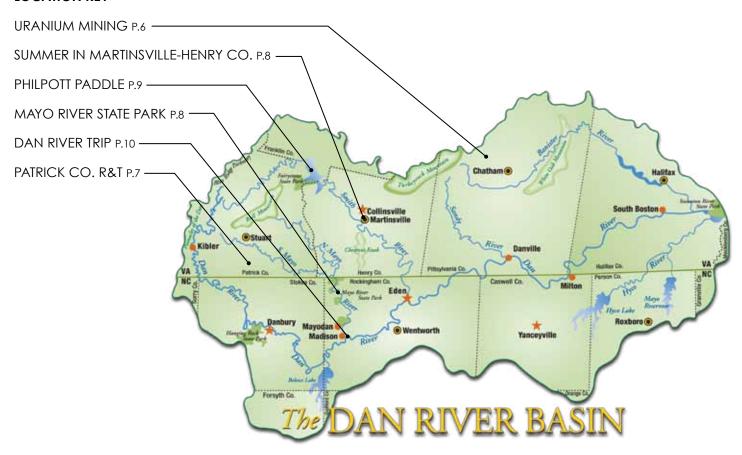
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