



The Newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association

CURRENTS

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NEW BRIDGE SIGNS

GOT TROUT?

NEW INTERN FOR DRBA

CHINQUA-PENN TRAIL



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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 on November 13, 2013.

FALL OUTINGS

(details at DANRIVER.ORG)

October 5: Settle Bridge to Whetstone Creek Cleanup.

October 19, for members & guests: Kirkpatrick's farm and Smith River Cascades Hike.

November 2: Newton's Landing to Anglers Park in Danville.

December 7: Hike in Martinsville.

CURRENTS

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Cover Photo:
The Chinqua-Penn Summer House. Photo by Lindley Butler.

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Ward Collis on Philpott Lake. Photo by Betty Kirkpatrick.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



DRBA Director Tiffany Haworth.

I recently attended a lecture by Dr. Michael Bentley called, "Our Planet, Our Future: Trends & Consequences." He began his lecture by holding up an apple. He told us to imagine the apple was the Earth.

He scraped a small piece of skin off and demonstrated how thin the crust of the Earth is that we live on. Then he cut the apple into four sections. He put three of the sections on the table and explained that these three pieces represent all the oceans on the planet.

He held up the fourth quarter of the apple and explained that this piece illustrated how much land we have on the Earth. Then he cut the piece in half and noted that this much land is too dry, too wet, or too cold for people to live on. Then he cut the other piece in half. One of those halves, 1/8 of the apple, is inhospitable to humans. The other 1/8 is land where people can live.

We all looked at the remaining 1/8 of the apple. It

was startling to see that all of humanity shares that little piece of the Earth. Then he cut that piece of apple into four more little pieces, each piece 1/32 of the apple. He set two of those little pieces aside, explaining that those represented all of the earth covered by parking lots and buildings. One of those four pieces represented how much land could be used by farms. The final tiny piece represented all the drinkable water on the planet. That one piece, 1/32 of the apple, lay on the table in front of us – that was all the drinkable water – all the water we need to survive.

I thought about our region and the Dan River and its tributaries which provide almost a million people with their drinking water. Then I thought about the threats to our water from uranium mining, fracking, and litter.

I suddenly felt very thankful for the thousands of local DRBA volunteers who generously give their time to protect our streams and rivers by picking up trash, planting riparian buffers, doing water quality testing, educating their community, and contacting their governmental officials. Please visit our Volunteer tab at www.danriver.org and see how you can get involved. This little piece of the planet that we share is more than worth an hour or two of your time!

– *Tiffany Haworth*

PRESIDENT'S SPACE



DRBA President Fletcher Waynick.

Summer is winding down, and the first cool days of autumn are here. The DRBA Board turns its attention to next year's budget and planning for DRBA's future. Give us your concerns or suggestions—DRBA, after all, is first and foremost your organization.

As always, DRBA has been very active since our last newsletter. The new Sunline trail and parking lot in Caswell County, plus new signage and kiosks throughout the Basin will continue to improve branding. We are working more with our youth through our DRBA Club and many programs

at Philpott Lake. I invite you to visit www.DanRiver.org often to see all the things you are making possible in your community.

Fall is a great time to build and maintain trails. No bugs, no snakes, and no 90° days—a great time to be outdoors. Anyone who told you they are afraid of snakes no longer has an excuse not to visit a trail. We now have more trails and river accesses than ever before. With this comes an abundance of opportunities for outdoor activities and many chances for volunteers to pitch in and join in adopting a trail or access point.

So come out and join one of the many groups working to enhance our network of river accesses and trails. Let's make them even more enjoyable to visitors from inside and outside the basin. Have a great Fall with DRBA!

– *Fletcher Waynick*

Are you receiving your email notices from DRBA?

If not, please notify Robin Light, rlight@danriver.org
to be sure your email address is up to date!

EDUCATION / EVENTS

Got Trout?

A lot of students in the basin certainly have! Season 9 of Trout-in-the-Classroom (TIC) is underway. This TIC program is the largest in the nation, having nearly doubled from 20 tanks when initiated by Dr. David Jones in 2005. Brook, Rainbow and Brown Trout will be raised in schools in six counties—five in Virginia and one in North Carolina. DRBA has provided educational resources to the TIC teachers: sample lesson plans matched to Standards of Learning and a TIC manual detailing tank set-up, take-down, water quality maintenance, trouble shooting and suggested class activities. Look for trout releases next spring!

Meanwhile, DRBA's own Krista Hodges will share her knowledge of implementing TIC with other educators at the Environmental Education Conference in Orkney Springs, VA, October 16-18. Her presentation will include information developed for DRBA's TIC teachers, including how to start up the TIC program, maintain the system, and incorporate the program into their curriculum. Hodges will also share some of the lesson plans based on TIC that are aligned with Virginia Standards of Learning, smoothing the way for other educators with practical help gained from DRBA's experience.

DRBA salutes our dedicated volunteers and staff members like Krista who share the outstanding work DRBA does, reaching a broader audience across the region and the nation.

—Wayne Kirkpatrick & T Butler

Kids Fun Day

The Friends of Jamison Mill at Philpott Lake hosted an environmental education fun day on August 17th. Children of all ages enjoyed a display of macroinvertebrates seined from Jamison Mill Creek, indicating a healthy stream. A hands-on presentation by Chad Lange of Nature Freaks featured animal skulls, bones, antlers, and pelts, which revealed many facts about the animals' lives—what type of foods they eat, their defense mechanisms, and whether they were land or water-based.

This annual event is a great opportunity for DRBA volunteers to educate our youth about the natural resources of the basin. Watch for it in 2014!

—Wayne Kirkpatrick

Cleanin' Up the Rivers

At the request of Rockingham County government, DRBA is coordinating a cleanup of all 65 navigable miles of rivers in the county this fall. Beginning September 21, the 16-day program is synchronized with NC Big Sweep and NC DOT's Litter Sweep, both of which include land-based litter cleanups. Groups who have registered at www.RockinghamCountyCleanWaters.org, created by DRBA's Jenny Edwards, include county government volunteers, Boy Scouts, Silverfish, the Mayo River State Park, Friends of Chinqua-Penn Trail, House of Health, and Three Rivers Outfitters.

DRBA's October 5 First Saturday Outing is part of this project. Each participant will have an opportunity to enter a drawing for a cash prize that will benefit the charity of their choice in Rockingham County.

DRBA's leadership is made possible by the Reidsville Area Foundation and DRBA members as part of "Rockingham County Jobs, Forests and Rivers" to assure that the county is economically and environmentally resilient. Because tourism-related activities are a rising business trend in Rockingham County, DRBA is helping lead the effort to keep the county beautiful and attractive to visitors as well as raise the quality of life for our citizens. Each team captain will receive special recognition during the November 4, 2013 Rockingham County Commissioners' meeting for contributing to the county's sustainability.

—T Butler and Jenny Edwards

Art in Nature Auction



DRBA is having its first "Art in Nature" auction Thursday, October 3, in Martinsville. We've assembled an eclectic collection of things made in the basin, representing the beauty of the basin or up-cycled to preserve the basin's natural resources.

It's at 6 p.m. at Rucker's Antique Emporium, 35 East Church Street. Only \$25 for a ticket to an opening reception and entry into the auction. Limited number of tickets. Use this link to get yours! www.danriver.org/shop-drba

**Visit us on the web
DANRIVER.ORG**

STEWARDSHIP

Bridge Signs—At Last!

When you're paddling a Rockingham County river, have you ever wondered just where you are? Lots of people have! Now, thanks to efforts initiated by DRBA, signs with road names and GPS coordinates are installed on every bridge over the Dan, Mayo, and Smith rivers in the county. Signage will alert river users of what section of the river they are floating and where to leave the river should they need to. The signs also allow safety personnel to find boaters more



quickly in case of an injury or illness.

Rockingham County Government fabricated the green signs, and the NC Department of Transportation installed them, using the name and location on the county's 911 register. NC DOT's specs for the signs can be used statewide and copied in other states.

DRBA thanks the law enforcement, civic club, emergency rescue, and political leaders throughout the county who endorsed the project and helped make it a reality.

—T Butler

Water Quality Training

The annual summit of the Virginia Citizens for Water Quality is scheduled for November 9th at Union Bankshares in Ruther Glenn, Virginia (not far from King's Dominion). Volunteer water monitors from across the state meet to discuss experiences, learn monitoring techniques, and enjoy speakers/presentations on topics dealing with water quality. This year's focus is on sedimentation.

A DRBA volunteer will conduct a macroinvertebrate training for the 2013 Master Naturalist class sponsored by the VMNH. Kathy Fell's property in Bassett will be the site for a September 28th session to determine the water quality of Rock Run. DRBA is committed to promoting education

about the basin's natural resources and teaching protocols to determine stream health. DRBA's biological monitoring includes both macroinvertebrate sampling and testing for bacterial (coliform) concentrations.

—Wayne Kirkpatrick

Coliscan Monitoring Training

You're invited to DRBA's training session at the end of October to learn about coliscan bacterial testing. The Department of Environmental Quality will train participants to monitor local streams for E. coli. Contact Krista Hodges at khodges@danriver.org by October 18th to sign up. Class size is limited to 30.

FEATURES

Introducing DRBA Intern Amy Farinelli



Amy Farinelli

Meet Amy Farinelli, a Dan River Year Agent, sponsored by the Danville Regional Foundation, who will be DRBA's Education Outreach Coordinator for the next 10 months. Amy is organizing an Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee focused on the state of outdoor recreation in Danville and Caswell counties.

She is also creating a Volunteer Recruitment Plan and marketing volunteer opportunities for water quality testers, youth environmental education, recycling, clean ups, and other seasonal events.

Originally from Auburn, NY, Amy is an honor graduate of the University of New England in Maine with degrees in Environmental Studies and Sociology. While at UNE, Amy studied abroad in Kenya and cultivated interests in indigenous ecology, international development, environmental justice, food sustainability, and clean energy. Her professional goal is to work for a nonprofit dealing with environmental issues in a socially responsible and aware manner.

Amy says, "I am excited to be a part of an environmental organization that seems to have such an impact within the area, a fact which is a true testament to the enthusiastic and passionate members and staff which comprise it. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!"

Tiffany Haworth adds, "We are very excited to have Amy on the DRBA staff team. She brings a youthful perspective and impressive skills and experience to our work in Danville, Pittsylvania County and Caswell County. I know we can all expect great things ahead!"

Dan River Basin Rivers Declared Scenic

At the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond on Friday, October 11, statewide excellence in scenic conservation will be officially recognized in the 2013 Scenic Awards Ceremony. Three waterways will be officially honored with Virginia State Scenic River Designation—the Banister, Dan, and Meherrin rivers. DRBA members will recognize the Banister and Dan as two of the major rivers in the Dan River Basin. They join two other rivers in the basin—the North Mayo and South Mayo rivers in Henry County—in receiving this designation.

According to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) website, "Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's intent is to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations."

Karen Cross, Director of the Danville Parks & Recreation Department, coordinated a summertime paddle to enable DCR representatives to evaluate the Dan River from the North Carolina line at Berry Hill to Abreu-Grogan Park in Danville. The 14-mile corridor is pictured in Maps 42-35 of "An Insider's Guide to the Dan River,"



Boaters on the Banister River.

DRBA's waterproof river guide available at www.danriver.org/shop-drba.

Carl Espy, former DRBA Board member and manager of the Town of Halifax, participated in obtaining the designation of the Banister River. Espy says, "It has been an exceptionally rewarding experience to work with DCR and consultants alongside citizen stakeholders who have served as guides and stewards of our waterways under the collaborative support of our local governments."

First Saturday Outings have been held on both of these river corridors, providing DRBA members and guests with first-hand knowledge of their beauty. Both corridors were improved by the Roanoke Navigation Company for nineteenth-century commercial batteau traffic.

DRBA salutes these leaders who join others in stewardship of these two rivers. The Virginia Scenic Rivers designation will help protect these beautiful, vital streams.

—T Butler

Rockingham County Pathways

Calling all trail volunteers! Your help is needed in Stoneville, NC where DRBA will partner with the town to design and construct the town's first public nature trail. Contact Jenny Edwards, jedwards@danriver.org or 336-339-6169 if you can help!

The Rockingham County Commissioners have joined all municipalities in Rockingham County in accepting the Rockingham County Pathways Plan, the countywide plan for trails developed by Piedmont Trial Regional Council and DRBA. Funded by the Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF), the Pathways Plan identifies priority trails for each municipality and region of the county and proposes ways to connect them.

Implementation of the Pathways Plan has begun. In Wentworth, DRBA partnered with RAF in refurbishing and extending the nature trails on the wooded campus of Rockingham Community College, creating a five-mile network. Nearby, REI, a leader in the outdoor recreation industry, awarded a grant to DRBA that enabled DRBA and county government volunteers to partner in building the Animal Shelter Trail, which connects the governmental center with the animal shelter. This provides a place for volunteers to walk shelter dogs, for county employees to get exercise, and for dogs to become better socialized and thus more adoptable.

Now REI has awarded DRBA another grant of \$5,000 to partner with the Town of Stoneville on a new public nature trail. Jenny Edwards notes that volunteers are critical to the success of the project. Please contact her at jedwards@danriver.org or 336-339-6169 to volunteer.

—T Butler

On the Chinqua-Penn Trail



The Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail have been busy! With technical support from DRBA's Jenny Edwards, the Friends have created a website, www.ChinquaPennTrail.org, which includes information about the trail and a photo gallery of scenes along the trail. Be sure to see the

stunning photos of nearly 100 of the birds identified on the trail, taken by wildlife photographer Martin Wall.

David Pinney, who designs Currents, created the trail's logo, which depicts the iconic Summer House (gazebo), built in the 1930s for original owners Betsy and Jeff Penn. In July, trees undermined by heavy rains fell, bending the shaft and damaging the roof. Thanks to contributed expertise and equipment, the Summer House is now repaired.

A new Chinqua-Penn Trail brochure is being placed in doctors' offices, libraries, tourism centers, and fitness centers to encourage the public to enjoy the 1.7-mile loop through pastures, woodlands, and lakesides as an exercise venue.

Sales of bamboo harvested along the trail supplement donations to fund additional projects, such as repairing sections eroded by recent downpours. DRBA is serving as the trail's fiscal agent to provide tax-deductibility for donors' gifts to maintain and improve this treasure.

Visit our website, and come walk the trail with us!

—T Butler

OUTINGS

July 6 on Philpott Lake

DRBA's FSO for July was a flat-water paddle on Philpott Lake. As we launched out of Ryan's Branch with 44 boats, 45 paddlers and 2 seafaring dogs, calm winds created a mirrored surface reflecting a clear sky and imaged shoreline.

Observing Calico Rock was the goal for the day. A vertical wall rising sharply over 200 feet from the surface gets its name from the mix of minerals comprising the rock, giving it a mottled, or calico, appearance. The abundant rainfall during recent months had the lake level unusually high. As the flotilla progressed along the channel of Otter Creek, the shoreline was well up into the trees. Islands that normally offer an opportunity to enjoy lunch on land were submerged, keeping us in our boats for lunch.



Calico Rock at Philpott Lake. Photo by Wayne Kirkpatrick.



Ward Collis on Philpott Lake. Photo by Betty Kirkpatrick.

The 4.5-mile roundtrip paddle was leisurely, filled with laughter, chatter, and old and new friends who beheld one of Philpott Lake's most outstanding natural features.

—Wayne Kirkpatrick

First Saturday Cleanup on August 3rd

[Editor's Note: This outing served several purposes. It completed the Smith River Cleanup from Philpott Dam through Henry County, launched Rockingham County Clean Waters 2013, served as DRBA's August First Saturday Outing, and introduced some new paddlers like the author to DRBA. Participants removed 460 pounds of trash from the river that day—quite a haul!]

On Saturday, August 3, 28 paddlers in 28 boats put in near Morgan Ford Bridge and paddled down to just above the Spray Dam in Eden. This 4.7-mile float went very slowly because we were picking up trash along the banks.

We put in and took out on private property. (Special thanks to the wonderful people who had done major cleanup and preparation for us at both locations!) We stopped for a brief stand-up lunch on property belonging to my cousin Star and her husband William. A good time was had by all! (Now, those are the facts. Here are some random thoughts...)

This was my second paddle—ever! I had participated in one of Lynda Purcell's beginner paddles only one or two weeks before this. Hubby Lenzie was paddling, also; but he had paddled many years ago, and his tolerance for imminent danger is much higher than mine!

- Put-ins and take-outs: my least favorite parts. If you just sit down at the top of the slippery slope, some kind man will catch you at the bottom. At the take-out, extend your arms toward the strongest-looking men you see, and they will grab and lift. Also, don't be afraid to mire up to your knees in river-bottom mud!

- Memorize the names of at least two of the most capable-looking paddlers there. These are the names to yell in case you get in trouble on the water. The names I memorized on this paddle were Wayne and Bob. (Lynda was doing sweep that day, I think. At any rate, I was not near her, as I was out in front! More on that below...)

- Kayaks do not have brakes. (Oh, how I wish they did!) If you don't know how to slow your boat, ask someone to show you how to turn your boat and paddle backwards. (On this paddle, that was Julia for me. I knew I wasn't

you. What other hobby or interest could you possibly have that would put you right in the middle of such awe-inspiring beauty?!

Note: The paddlers I have met—both experienced and beginning—have been some of the nicest people I have ever met. I appreciate their helpfulness and patience with me, and I know they—and I—will be just as helpful and patient with you. See you at the river!

—Jean Light Kinyon

September 7 on Farmer Lake

Although this was only my second outing with DRBA, I can definitely say that I can't wait for my next! September's paddle took place in Caswell County at Farmer Lake, beautifully tucked away just outside the town of Yanceyville. With a total of 17 kayaks and canoes and 23 folks of all ages and skill levels in attendance, it truly made for a fun, relaxing and rewarding day.

The morning started out chilly, but soon warmed up to be an absolutely beautiful day with crystal blue skies and puffy white clouds. After making introductions all around, we were soon on our way. Farmer Lake is quiet and serene, allowing plenty of opportunities for admiring the scenery, bird-watching and, to our amusement, hog-watching! With attendees from all over North Carolina and Virginia, it was great to have several paddlers among us who were local to Caswell County to explain some of the area's history, landmarks, and points of interest.

After sharing lunch and companionship along the bank of the lake, we started back, and the return trip was just as pleasant. I enjoyed the trip so much I hated to see it end! Back at the boat ramp where we had put in, no one seemed in a rush for the day to come to a close, myself especially.

If you haven't yet had the chance to paddle with DRBA, you're missing out; if you're planning on making the next trip, I'll see you there!

—Lindsey Cook



Bob O'Neal on the August cleanup.
Photo by Betty Kirkpatrick.

supposed to pass Wayne, the leader of the paddle, but I couldn't figure out how to keep the river from moving me on!)

- Do not panic when you hear rapids ahead. The first ones I heard this day sounded like Niagara Falls to me. Turns out they were just little ripples that were fun to go through. Still, it made me feel better that some nice women had told me earlier to "head for the V" when encountering a little whitewater.

- Sit back and enjoy the wonder of nature all around



Boaters getting ready for Farmer Lake. Photo by Ward Collis.

Calling all Trout Lovers!

Get Your own Decorative Wooden Trout



Trout-in-the-Classroom is an environmental education program that serves thousands of children each year. Proceeds from the sale of wooden trout that they have decorated, will support continuation of the program. Display your trout proudly and know you are encouraging a new generation of river stewards.



See at Rucker's Antique Emporium, 20 E Church Street, Martinsville, and place your silent bid or online at www.danriver.org. LIVE auction event October 3. <http://www.danriver.org/shop-drba> for information and tickets!

MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS 6-1-2013 | 8-31-2013

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Participants on Farmer Lake in September. Composite photo by Betty Kirkpatrick, Patricia Anderson, and Ward Collis.



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